EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT EXTENSION
By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

In addition to all the wonderful produce and products offered at the Market in the Park every Saturday (closed now for the summer), April 18 turned out extra-extra special!

Exhibits and experts shared tips and fun ways to protect the environment, save energy and conserve natural resources. Extension experts gave free presentations on how to green your home and save money by going green!

Families helped their children learn simple things to do around the home to reduce the environmental impacts of their everyday lives. Children also took part in nature-friendly activities and crafts.

As promised, the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation gave a gift of a native oak tree to several people for becoming a member of the FBGF.

Cindy Peacock wishes to thank the many volunteers that helped with our Earth Day Celebration. Special thanks to John Best and Mary Chernesky who showed the children caterpillars and talked about butterfly gardening. Ellen Mahany and Lillian Johnson played a recycle game with the children and adults. Evelyn Motry, Andrew Woolley and two other Native Plant Society members helped the children make recycle crafts. Amanda and Daniel Peacock tattooed the children and read earth stories to the groups. Belinda and Cheyenne Lambert educated children and adults about nature by doing a nature quiz and Donna Zacharczyk and Cindy made custom fitted hats out of newspapers for our visitors. Cindy says “You all are great!! I would not have been able to do this event without all of you !!”

It was such fun. About 200 happy Earthy families and children attended.
**EARTH DAY AT SOUTH COUNTY**  
*By PHYL LAWSON, MG*

Since January, a monthly gardening workshop has been held in the West Branch of the St. Petersburg Library. April's class fell on Earth Day. What better topic for the occasion than Florida Native Plants? What better speaker than Jason Beck? Jason is a graduate of the 2006 MG class. He is legendary for his passion for the environment and the use of natives in the landscape. Armed with an extensive collection of plants and plenty of slides showing landscaping techniques, he quickly had the crowd responding to his enthusiasm. Attendees were struck by the wide diversity of plant material and had lots of questions. Usually our classes last about 1½ hours but this workshop lasted 2 hours and people still lingered. On class evaluation forms attendees wished there had been more time.

The workshop was filmed by the county for channel 18. No date has been set for airing but we will be notified in the future. Jason was also featured on Fox 13’s morning show on April 17th. Now that is outreach!

Michaele Adams, Bessie Morse, Shay Blough and Phyl Lawson have been active in getting these classes started. If you would like to join in, we could definitely use the help. Please contact us at pjlawson@tampabay.rr.com or call Phyl at 736-0067.

Once again our thanks to Jason.

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**THE FBG FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!!**  
*By VIVIAN HAICKEN, President, FBG Foundation*

We are in need of new Foundation members and are looking for the expertise of Master Gardeners to fill these slots. As an active supporter of the FBG for several years I know that Master Gardeners not only have the knowledge but also the passion to keep the FBG strong over the coming years.

The Foundation’s mission is to help the FBG continue to move toward becoming a world-class botanical garden. Our focus over the next year is to increase membership and use those funds to help ensure that the FBG continues to thrive. What better way to do this than to include more Master Gardeners in the Foundation. Please join me in planning and implementing new programs and events that will enhance the FBG. Your help is needed and I hope I can depend on you.

Interested MGs can contact me at either my home phone 581-6740 or via email at vhaicken@tampabay.rr.com.
A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY
By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

Did we think we could surprise Jack Moss for his 85th birthday? Well "our MG gang" that Jack founded about 10 years ago decided to turn the tables on Jack. The last few years Jack graciously organized my birthday party. Now it was time to surprise Jack. He called everyone to come to my party as we planned his party. The conspiracy worked and we all gathered at the Olive Garden for lunch to surprise Jack. It was a success. Jack and Phoebe were the last to arrive, fortunately, and were greeted as shown in the picture below.

Jack and I have the most wonderful relationship. We met 9 years ago when he asked me if I would join him in authoring IFAS awards for outstanding MGs and their projects. At the time I did not know Jack's background or the work he was involved in as a MG. He more than impressed me with his obsession about using correct words and I held back my opinions of that. Needless to say we did win a few awards for our MGs and it was due to the partnership that we had formed.

Well my curiosity got the better of me-I wondered who this man is? My research found a bio of Jack written by Jean Field in November of 2001. After reading it all I can say is wow.

Jack has touched so many people at Extension since his first volunteer day from the class of 1987. I have his bio in the volunteer office for your perusal. He truly is one of our outstanding MGs attested by the numerous honors and awards he has received.

Our friendship led to many tours we did at FBG, our infamous trips to the IFAS conferences, the visits to gardens, and a variety of other activities at Extension.

Time does pass quickly and Jack has cut back some of his time at Extension. At the party to honor him I asked Jack if it was all right to mention his age and he said in his typical fashion, "Yes, I'm proud to be 85".

Gardening helps to keep us young and provides good fellowships!

Attending the party were Jack and Phoebe Moss, Chuck and Joan Scaffidi, Charlie Iserman, Donna Zacharczyk, Joanne Drake, Marsha Williams-Colin and husband Neil Colin, Carrie Shelby, Dick Davies, Carol Suggs, Brandy Spillman, and Peggy Vincent.
MY EXPERIENCE AT THE DIAGNOSTIC DESK

By SUZANNE GIRVES, MG

I became a Master Gardener in October 2004. To put my experience in perspective, I had only lived in Florida a few years and wanted so badly to learn about all of the beautiful, tropical plants that were so foreign to where I had previously lived. As a class requirement, I spent a lot of hours out in the garden maintaining the different areas, which was great, but I did not feel that I was learning enough about the issues I was dealing with in my own yard.

One of the volunteer options presented to our class was to work at the “Hort Desk” and assist clients with their landscape questions/problems. I certainly did not feel qualified to do that at the time, but knew that it would be a great learning experience and that I would be working alongside a Horticulturist. Once I realized that I was not expected to know all of the answers nor was expected to be able to identify every plant, insect or disease, I started to relax and became fascinated with the variety of problems that are presented and that started my insatiable appetite to learn more.

There is a wealth of information available to me when I work at the Hort Desk. Besides the specimens that I see first hand, there is a wonderful library, a microscope that has opened up a whole new world to me and supportive, knowledgeable horticultural professionals to help me. I quickly became hooked and have been volunteering at the Hort Desk ever since. Do I know every answer? I wish that I could say yes, but I can’t. I can say, however, that I finally had the “aha” moments of what was presented in class and that I know much more about how to diagnose problems and where and how to get answers. I really enjoy it!

Suzanne now works at the Palm Harbor Library Diagnostic Desk with a knowledgeable team that works independently each Wednesday from 10:00-2:00. -J.Field

A JOB WELL DONE!

Recent Master Gardener graduate Stan Warner received a letter of thanks from our director, Mary Campbell after giving a tour to Commissioner Neal Brickfield on April 10th. “Very accommodating and pleasant” were the words the Commissioner used to describe Stan, who met the Commissioner while working at the diagnostic desk on Friday. Thanks, Stan, for taking good care of our customers and for representing the Master Gardener program and Extension in a professional and friendly manner.

HERBFEST 2009

A message from Cindy Peacock

Thank you everybody that volunteered for the annual Herbfest event. We had a wonderful turn out! - 120 people attended the programs. The programs were given by Allen Cordell, Ruth Davies, Karen Watson and Marian Hill. They were great and very informative.

The herb garden Master Gardener group gave out information and sold plants in the Market. Other herb vendors did well too. Thank you to the volunteers that helped with the children’s program, tour of the herb garden and the room monitors and greeters. You all made this event successful and you are a wonderful group to work with!

The event was a lot of fun and I hope to do it again next year!
BUNNIES, AND HIPPOS, AND FROGS—OH, MY!
A VISIT TO THE ROBERTSON'S
By PAT DIETERICH, MG

On Monday, April 20th Master Gardeners treated themselves to a visit at Gail and Bruce Robertson’s thriving garden. A large bed of mimosa in full bloom greeted us, and led the way to one Florida Friendly planting after another. Under several trees in the front yard bromeliads flourished, sheltering “Bullwinkle”, the moose-in-residence, as well as a collection of pelicans. The side yard boasted one of nine rain barrels, all painted wonderfully. Plants adorn the fence and spread from pot to pot, in a riot of texture and color.

Entering the back yard of their wooded lot is like discovering a secret, magical place where whimsical figures and clever accessories abound. When they moved to this house from St. Petersburg seven years ago, they potted up many favorites, and most remain in pots, able to be moved easily, and avoiding competition with the tree roots. One corner boasts a potting shed, and separate seating areas beg repose. A large bottle tree with many hand-painted bottles takes center stage, just across from the frog collection. Always on the look-out for environmentally-friendly products, the Robertson’s have acquired several unique solar-powered lighting features. One, with dragonflies, is from RosenMart, 7217 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg (347-1923), and Gail reports that the owner is very accommodating and open to new design ideas.

The Robertson’s other side yard is home to compost bins and an arbor draped in Confederate jasmine in full bloom. Continually striving to “re-use and recycle”, they have capitalized on opportunities to obtain distinctive huge pots from folks in transition, and Gail frequently adds paintings to the found objects that provide special focal points. She spent the morning generously sharing cuttings with eager MG’s. Another MG garden visited—another magical morning, full of inspiration. We are truly grateful for these opportunities, and for the generosity of our garden friends.
PLANT OF THE MONTH
By JAMES STEVENSON, Public Education Specialist, FBG

Fascinating Fasciation!

Sometimes being strange is not good enough. Take the succulent euphorbias. This group of plants includes the “cactus” equivalents of deserts in the Old World. In a situation called “convergent evolution” distantly related organisms adapt to an environment or ecological niche by devising the same morphological characteristics. In the case of the Old World succulent euphorbias, this includes the same characteristics as the cacti in the Americas. The ability to store reserves of water in the stem, reduced or absent leaves, chlorophyll distributed in the stem tissues and an ability to close the millions of tiny pores (stomata) during the heat of the day and respire in the cool of the evening, are a few of these shared adaptations.

Succulents have attracted the attention of plant enthusiasts for centuries. Most botanic gardens worldwide have some display of this interesting group of plants. Of course there are many more succulent plants than the euphorbs and cacti. Succulence has arisen in many distantly-related plant groups over time.

Strange shapes, beautiful flowers, sinister spines and toxins all make succulents a target for the collector of oddities. But sometimes that is not enough. Take, for instance, a specimen we've got growing in a container here at the Botanical Garden. this succulent euphorb did not stop at being a desert oddity. This specimen has been cloned from an individual plant that has a condition know as "fasciation." Fasciation, or “crested” as it is referred to in horticultural circles, involves some sort of damage to the growing tip of a stem or branch. The resulting growth is flattened and often contorted. This condition may be the result of mechanical damage, bacterial or viral infection, or genetics. Fasciation is found on the branches and stems of many plants, with the results often gruesome and startling. In some instances, like with our specimen, this condition is valued and preserved through cloning. Perhaps the best example is found in the flattened inflorescences of the normally plume-like Celosia. The fasciated form is referred to as the "cock’s comb" and is a popular bedding plant. Our strange South African desert succulent is made even more interesting by the fact that its stems have been genetically programmed to be flat and twisted. Fascinating fascination!

Pictured above is a fascinating euphorbia being extracted from the Cactus Garden. Bob Albanese had requested the garden to be “refurbished” so moving this succulent was part of the job.
The Green Thumb Festival, St. Petersburg’s annual Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration returned to Walter Fuller Park, on April 25 and 26. In its 23rd year, the free family festival featured horticultural and environmental exhibits, programs and seminars highlighting ways to landscape effectively, conserve natural resources, recycle, and improve the environment. More than 140 exhibitors and vendors participated and more than 25,000 visitors were expected to attend. Although the final count is not in, expectations were met and the crowds were as large as ever for this beautiful event.

Extension occupied a large booth where many MGs and staff provided plant and rain barrel guidance and assistance to the public. Also, Extension staff were among the many scheduled speakers to educate the public about gardening and sustainability principles.

The Garden Club of St. Petersburg, where many of our MGs are members, featured ”Once Upon a Time in a Garden”, a standard flower show presented by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs- District VIII. The competition awards excellence in floral design based on horticulture, artistic design and special exhibits. Children bring their plants for judging. Annual award ribbons were given for school displays and individual plant displays. Bauder Elementary was one of the winners. Several MGs encourage and participate in their school gardening at Bauder Elementary.

Thanks again to the many MGs that scheduled their time to help on this wonderful festival weekend.
Andy Wilson provided the following from the April MG Update. This is the reference list with links to fact sheets used in his presentation, "From the Help Desk and Beyond".

- **Eastern lubber grasshopper**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN132
- **Citrus leafminer**: http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/mannion/pdfs/CitrusLeafminer.pdf
- **Entomosporium leaf spot of India hawthorn**: http://cfextension.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/IndianHawthorn.pdf
- **False smut of palm (Graphiola leaf spot)**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP140
- **Green scale on citrus**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/document_in436
- **Brown spot on Yucca**: http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/pathology/pathcirc/pp79.pdf
- **Powdery Mildew of cucumber**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HS321
- **Thrips damage to ivy geranium flowers**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/document_mg327
- **Galls on southern hackberry (caused by a type of gall midge)**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/document_in022
- **Red bay galls**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN99
- **Cercospora leaf spot of ligustrum**: http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/pathology/pathcirc/pp22.pdf
- **Powdery mildew of tomato**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/document_pp109
- **Golden rain tree bug, Jadera haematoloma**: http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/mannion/pdfs/GoldenRainTreeBug.pdf
- **Oedema of ivy geranium leaves**: http://www.ppdl.purdue.edu/PPDL/weeklypics/11-14-05.html
- **Pestalotiopsis petiole blight of palms**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP141
- **Cercospora leaf spot of Crinum**: http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/blog_commercial_connection/ipmu_2009/IPMU%20Disease%20Harmon.pdf
- **Florida Pellitory**: http://erec.ifas.ufl.edu/weeds/florida%20pellitory.html
- **Yellow or creeping woodsorrel**: http://erec.ifas.ufl.edu/weeds/creeping%20woodsorrel.html
- **Virginia pepperweed**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/document_in793
- **Pokeweed**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG254
- **Brazilian pepper tree**: http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/405
- **Camphor tree**: http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/101
- **Tree of gold**: http://polkmastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu/faqs/tree_with_yellow_flowers.shtml
- **Wild Geranium or Cranesbill Geranium**: http://erec.ifas.ufl.edu/weeds/cranesbill%20geranium.html
- **Perennial Kyllinga**: http://erec.ifas.ufl.edu/weeds/per%20kyllinga.html
FOR YOUR REFERENCE—RAIN BARREL SOURCES
By DALE ARMSTRONG, Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Coordinator

Many Master Gardeners take questions from clients wanting to know where barrels can be purchased. Since Extension is currently selling rain barrels only at the workshops, and only one per address, our clients are looking for other sources. Please refer to list below.

DO IT YOURSELF - RECYCLED BARREL SOURCES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas King</td>
<td>13042 Gibson Lane</td>
<td>Odessa</td>
<td>(813) 920-8112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TR Drum and Freight</td>
<td>3910 US Hwy 92 E.</td>
<td>Plant City</td>
<td>(813) 754-4255</td>
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<tr>
<td>D &amp; C Brothers (Chris)</td>
<td>Hercules Road</td>
<td>Clearwater</td>
<td>(727) 447-1733</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don's Marine Salvage</td>
<td>5601 126 Ave. N.</td>
<td>Clearwater</td>
<td>(727) 576-8577</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twigs ’n Leaves Nursery</td>
<td>1013 Dr. MLK Blvd. S.</td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
<td>(727) 822-5400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilcox Nursery</td>
<td>12501 Indian Rocks Rd.</td>
<td>Largo</td>
<td>(727) 595-2073</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly's Rain Barrels</td>
<td></td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
<td>(727) 347-6467</td>
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<td>Some Ace Hardware, Lowes, &amp;</td>
<td>various</td>
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<td>(727) 804-5311</td>
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<td>Home Depot</td>
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COMPLETE RAIN BARRELS

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FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER
CONTINUED TRAINING CONFERENCE
November 2-4, 2009, Hilton Ocala, Ocala, Florida

Dear Master Gardeners,

The planning for the 29th Annual Master Gardener Continued Training Conference is well under way and we are sure this will be one of the best conferences yet. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Florida Master Gardener Program and we will be recognizing the founding fathers of the Florida Program and maybe even a volunteer from the very first class. The conference will again include a learning field trip and great speakers. Check back often for more updated information and a complete schedule: http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/

I look forward to seeing you in November.

Sincerely,

Tom Wichman
Florida Master Gardener Coordinator
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MG Update Meetings
- Palm Care
- Palm Harbor Plant Clinic
- Garden Tours
- Facebook
- Nominate a Gardening Hero
- Volunteer Hours Sign in
- Garden Fairies Tour
- Floriculture Field Day

RECORDING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

Please Remember to Sign Out!
The computer program for logging volunteer hours is in the volunteer office.
- You must sign in and sign out when you are at Extension.
- You can still log your time in the book or use e-mail, but it is preferred that you use the computer sign-in sign-out method.
- With over 200 volunteers at Extension it becomes a considerable burden on the volunteer coordinators to manually enter your hours.

If you have been sending your hours by e-mail, use the form in the log book as a guide and send to: MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us.
Please direct your questions to coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or an assistant, Susan Baughman or Mary Crowe.

Master Gardener Update Schedule - Mark your Calendar!

Please note-change in schedule

Friday, May 8, 9AM—an introduction to the new propagation, design and installation project by Bob Albanese. Bob will tell us about the Florida-Style Landscape Project that is about to begin out front.
Everyone who signed up last month will want to be sure and attend.

Monday, June 8
9AM Mentor meeting.

Palm Care - MG Program

Wonder which palms can be successfully grown in Pinellas and how best to care for them? Learn about palms with help from Master Gardener Denys Walk, at a free program at the Palm Harbor Library. A Palm Care Program will be offered twice Wednesday, May 13, at 2 PM. and 6:30 PM.
Participants may attend either session. The library is located in Palm Harbor at 2330 Nebraska Ave. Admission is free, but space is limited. Register online at www.pinellascountyextension.org with a click on the “Online Class Registration” button or call (727) 582-2100.

MG Plant Clinic at the Palm Harbor Library

To get answers to gardening questions, a Master Gardener Plant Clinic is open at the Palm Harbor Library on Wednesdays from 10AM to 2PM.
Master Gardeners offer diagnostic services that include soil testing along with information about identifying plants, treatment for insects and ideas for Florida-friendly landscaping.

MG Garden Tours

Wednesday, May 20, 10-12 noon at Carrie Shelby's -1810 Kay Drive, Largo. Carrie’s been upgrading her garden to be Florida Friendly since completing the MG 2006 class. It's a work in progress. June tour will be of Patsy Schamber’s garden on Clearwater Beach. Details to be announced.

Garden Tour & Plant Sale at Historic Holloway Haven

Sunday, May 17, 10AM to 3PM Across from Seminole City Park (East Side), 11500 74th Ave, Seminole. Open To Public-$1.00 Donation. Come early for best selections. Wide variety of plants including butterfly attractors: great prices, original art, garden art and free publication, The Guide For REAL FLORIDA GARDENERS (while supplies last). Bring your wagons for shopping ease. Historic Holloway Haven: http://www.thefloridarentalcottage.com/hollowayhaven.html

Florida Master Gardener Group on Facebook

Sue Edwards, MG, has set up a Facebook site for Master Gardeners or even people wishing to become a MG in our state, to meet, network, exchange helpful info, etc. Here is the link: http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=54727895901&ref=mf

Weekend Gardener—Nominate a Gardening Hero

Joanne Drake provided the following regarding a competition sponsored by the Weekend Gardener website: “I know there are a lot of Master Gardening heroes in Pinellas County. I think our gardeners will enjoy it, along with a story of a past winner. Enjoy!”
http://www.weekendgardener.net/gardening-hero/contest2009.htm
- **Garden Fairies "Art in the Garden" Tour– Saturday, May 23**

  Spread the word, invite your friends.

  **Self-guided tour- 9:30AM to 4:30PM** (garden art for sale and snacks n' beverages at every stop) with a post tour party (wine/beer and lovely food) at Clay & Paper/ Painted Fish Gallery in Dunedin at 5:00PM.

  **Cost-** $25 up to a week before the tour, $35 week of the tour, $40 day of tour.

  Tickets ($25) and specially priced raffle tickets (6 for $20) by mail until May 16th. Send checks to Garden Fairy Nancy Harmony 997 Greywood Ave. Tarpon Springs 34689. Indicate how many tour and raffle tickets you are purchasing.

  **Tickets are also available at numerous locations:**
  - Clay Paper Gallery/ Painted Fish located at 350 Main Street, Dunedin. 727-736-0934
  - Gallery Blue- 210 South Pinellas Avenue/ Tarpon Springs. 727-942-2382
  - Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce- 1 East Orange Street, Tarpon Springs. 727-937-6109
  - BB&T Bank/ Lake St. George Branch- 3400 Tampa Rd, Palm Harbor. 727-781-8229
  - Craftsman House Gallery- 2955 Central Ave. St Petersburg. 727-323-2787
  - Wilcox Nursery- 12501 Indian Rocks Rd Largo. 727-595-2073
  - Earthscapes Nursery- 816 Alt. 19 N. Palm Harbor. 727-786-4859

  **Message from Sue Hamill**
  This is a very special event of which I am part of. If you want further information, please call me at 727-785-3445. It’s definitely worth your while to attend. The gardens range from Trinity to Belleair. It’s for a good cause.

  All proceeds to go to upcoming community enhancement projects. Two years ago The Garden Fairies donated $155,000 worth of in-kind time and materials to a community courtyard garden/ outdoor classroom in St. Pete which helped The Front Porch Community Redevelopment Association procure $200,000 in funding from the State of Florida. See [http://www.ourfpneighborhoods.org/](http://www.ourfpneighborhoods.org/) For 2009- we will be doing a project in Tarpon Springs, 2010 we have preliminary plans to do a project in Safety Harbor. For more information visit the website [www.wedigdoinit.com](http://www.wedigdoinit.com), or contact Siobhan Nehin, Queen of the Garden Fairies, [siobhan@designandtime.com](mailto:siobhan@designandtime.com)

- **Don’t Miss the 2009 Floriculture Field Day**

  Mark your calendar for **Thursday May 14** and plan to attend the **2009 Floriculture Field Day** held in Gainesville, FL. Now in its 18th year, this program has grown from slide presentations in a local nursery to one of the most flourishing regional symposiums on herbaceous perennials. With all of the traditional educational elements in a slightly different format, this year’s program is filled with top-notch educational sessions. [http://www.fngla.org/flori-seminar/gen-info.asp](http://www.fngla.org/flori-seminar/gen-info.asp)

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**Pinellas County Employee Appreciation Night**

**WHEN**  
Saturday, June 13th, 6:08 PM  
**All volunteers welcome**

**Washington Nationals vs Rays-Highlights...**

Miss Saint Petersburg **Katie Crews** will be performing the National Anthem

Pre-game reception in TBT Party Deck starting at 4:30 p.m.

Pre-game Ceremony with City and County Officials

**Upper Deck Tickets/Food Voucher** (Hot dog, Cracker Jack and Pepsi) **$15**

For more information contact **Carol Strickland** to reserve your tickets at  
(727) 464-3945 or email cstrickl@co.pinellas.fl.us.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

For May & June

- Florida Style Demonstration Landscape
- Tropical Garden

- Volunteers Needed Tuesday Mornings in the Tropical Fruit Garden

The dedicated tropical fruit garden team has asked for some “new blood” to train as their future successors.

Want to learn all about managing bananas, carambola, pineapple and other fruits? Learn from a long-standing team of Master Gardeners.

Call Charlie Kohnken for more information at 727-531-0008.

- NEW PROJECT: Florida-Style Demonstration Landscape

If you are looking for a large group project, one that is every bit as large as the plant sale, take a closer look at the newly-forming Florida-Style Demonstration Landscape team. Tasks will include plant propagation, landscape design and installation, plant research via the internet and books, irrigation design and installation, etc… The area to be transformed will begin at the east end of the Native Plant Garden, crossing the front of Extension, and ending at the wetlands near the bridge. Volunteers will have the choice of working on the following teams:

- Design low water use
- Design moderate water use
- Design rainfall only
- Irrigation low water use
- Irrigation moderate water use
- Plant selection low water area
- Plant selection moderate water area
- Plant selection rainfall area
- Signage
- Propagation

An orientation meeting will be held in mid-May. Thirty volunteers have signed up so far, but we need many more. Sound interesting? Please email Bob at ralbanese@pinellascounty.org or call him at 582-2081 to learn more.
FIELD NOTES
By JEAN FIELD, Extension Specialist
Hello Volunteers and Friends:

Based on the feedback I have received from many of you, the April update was rather popular, thanks to Andy’s hands-on diagnostic presentation. Mary kept us updated with potential changes in Extension and she was available to answer questions and address concerns and suggestions. Thanks for everyone’s patience while we covered the announcements and updates.

Back by popular vote is the old-fashioned potluck luncheon after every other MG update. Starting in June, please bring a dish to share and your table setting (plate, cutlery, napkin, cup) to help cut costs.

There will be a drop box for toiletry and grooming items for men and women residing at Tent City in St. Petersburg. The box, in the volunteer office, will be distributed by Marie Singer June 1st. For larger donations, please contact Marie Singer at mfsinger@aol.com or call her at 585-1989.

I’m starting to get excited about the landscape project out front. The timing couldn’t be better for an all-hands gathering and meeting of the horticultural minds. There will be something for everyone to do, so please join us.

Farewell to our snowbird friends who spend the summer in a cooler place. We look forward to seeing you again this fall.

Gratefully, Jean Field

Thank you for appreciating volunteer week by providing the “goodies” all week for all volunteers.
On behalf of the volunteers,
Chuck

2009
May

FRI MAY 8, 9AM
- MG Update-Bob Albanese
  presents the Florida Style Landscape Project

WED, MAY 13
2 PM & 6:30 PM
- Palm Care at the Palm Harbor Library

THURS MAY 14
- Floriculture Field Day in Gainesville

SUN, MAY 17, 10AM TO 3PM
- Garden Tour & Plant Sale at Historic Holloway Haven in Seminole

SAT MAY 23, 9:30AM-4:30PM
- Garden Fairies "Art in the Garden" Tour

Looking Ahead!
MON JUNE 8
- 9AM-MG Mentor Mtg
- 10AM-MG Update
- James Stevenson—Conservation in the Florida Botanical Gardens

SAT JUNE 13
- Appreciation night ballgame

For details on some of the events listed go to the calendar on the Pinellas County Extension Lawn & Garden website.
Good Work Volunteers!

Reminder—Mark Your Calendar!

- **MG Update**
  - Friday, May 8 at 9AM
  - Bob Albanese - "Florida-Style Landscape Project".

- **MG Mentor Meeting**
  - Monday, June 8 at 9AM

- **MG Update**
  - Monday, June 8 at 10AM
  - James Stevenson - “Conservation in the Florida Botanical Gardens”. **Potluck lunch to follow**