MGs Join Other County Volunteers at Awards Ceremony

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, Editor

After honoring 20 Master Gardeners at our own U of F/IFAS Extension volunteer recognition luncheon in March, we had a contingent of 14 MGs at the County’s annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony and meeting with County Administrator Robert LaSala and members of the County Commission, including Chair Karen Seel, Vice Chair Susan Latvala, Neil Brickfield, Nancy Bostock and John Morroni. Kenneth Welch and Calvin Harris were unable to attend. (See the April issue of Green Leaf for the article and photos of MG service award winners.)

Some 300 volunteers from throughout the county—representing interests ranging from the Garden’s next door neighbor, Heritage Village, to Fort DeSoto were thanked by County Human Resources Director Peggy Rowe, Commissioner Seel and Administrator LaSala for all they/we do to make a difference in the quality of life in Pinellas County.

So important are volunteers to the county during these times of budget restrictions and cuts that Administrator LaSala told the gathering he would like to increase the County’s volunteer work force tenfold! This is a challenge to all of us to maintain the same level of services and to continue to keep our precious parks, gardens, trails, cultural sites and open spaces available for the enjoyment of all. I know we will rise to the challenge.

In recognition of special volunteer efforts, Commissioner Seel presented Lifetime Achievement and Partners In Public Service awards. The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation to Helen Waechter for 26 years of volunteer service. Would you believe she is 100 years old?! We should all be as blessed and use that accomplishment as a standard.

I almost forget to mention the many door prizes... our MG group came away with three as pictured on page two.
We are especially appreciative of staff, MGs, and others who contribute articles, events, and other items of interest to *The Green Leaf* each month. Please submit your input by the 20th of each month. This will help us assemble and publish the newsletter in a timely manner. Please limit your articles to 700-800 words or less. Limited newsletter space does not allow for full photograph viewing. If you would like a copy of any photograph presented in the newsletters, please contact me at (727) 582-2117.

*The Green Leaf* is published by Pinellas County Extension for the County Master Gardeners and depends on submission of articles from Master Gardeners, Extension Staff and other authors.

MANAGING EDITOR: Chuck Scaffidi, MG

COPY EDITOR: Kathleen Jamison, volunteer

Please send articles to cascaffidi@juno.com *The Green Leaf* is available online by clicking on “newsletter” at:

http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/home_landscape/mg/

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**Long Time MG on the Road to Recovery**

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG EDITOR

Sorry, Bob, that you missed out on our recent appreciation celebrations. After a long stay in the hospital, Bob Abben is home and doing well. He said daily therapy sessions, especially from his Russian physical therapist, would cause anyone to recover in a hurry!

Bob had an unexpectedly long stay in the hospital. After an uneventful hip replacement, he contracted three infections, infections that we all fear contracting in the hospital.

I enjoyed an hour-long visit trading a lot of old time stories. Bob and I were sports rivals with Bob rooting for Duke while I cheered for Maryland. Bob made it home the night of the NCAA final where Duke became the champion. That lifted his spirits.

During his 15 year tenure, Bob has brought much strength to Extension as a Master Gardener. That was another reason for the visit: I presented him, as pictured, a 15 year plaque from U of F/IFAS for his outstanding service. We know about his butterfly expertise, teachings and mentoring, but he also found time to spend in our diagnostic clinic answering questions from the public.

As I left, Bob said “give me a few more weeks and I will be back at the help desk.” We can’t wait!
Demonstration Trees Donated to our Florida Friendly Landscape

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, EDITOR

Progress Energy Florida has donated $1,500 to the FBG Foundation to provide a demonstration of trees that are suitable near power lines.

I thank Dennis Spellicy, forestry specialist, South Coastal Region, Progress Energy Florida for his efforts. Dennis worked with MG Bob Albanese to make it happen.

“Progress Energy Florida is proud to participate in the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree Line USA program which recognizes best practices in utility arboriculture,” Dennis said. “Using proper pruning methods helps to provide reliable electricity to our customers while maintaining the health of the urban forest. One key fundamental of a sound vegetation management program is to educate our customers on the importance of planting the right tree in the right place.”

“As part of our ongoing public education efforts, Progress Energy is donating some ‘power line friendly’ trees to be planted at the Pinellas County Extension Office facility,” he noted. “One of the species selected, the Simpson Stopper Myrcianthes fragrans, is a low-growing, eco-friendly, native species which is ideal for planting near power lines. In addition to the plantings, Progress Energy is donating signs to designate other power line friendly species at the facility.”

“By selecting proper species for planting near power lines customers can minimize contact with overhead lines and the need for pruning by utilities. Most importantly, they will enjoy the beauty of their efforts for years to come,” Dennis explained. ■

At left: Bob Albanese supervises Richard Berube, center, and John Best.

At right: MGs John Best, Richard Berube and John Hood, l to r, prepare the
“Fore,” I heard someone cry out, followed by laughter. I looked up, expecting to see a golf ball heading my way. Instead, I was greeted by a riot of color, surrounding a lovely putting green. This was part of the spectacular backyard on Pat and Dave Dieterich’s property. Pat, a Master Gardener of eight years as well as a member of the FBG Foundation Board, graciously opened her home on April 20 for the monthly Master Gardener tour.

When Pat and Dave moved to their home in Wind Tree Oaks, what the developer might have wished for, they made come true. The huge, beautiful oaks surrounding the property were lovingly planted by the Dieterichs over 20 years ago. Pat confessed that she had pruned them “incorrectly” years ago, leaving them with large V shaped trunks. No matter, they are exquisite!

When Pat was a child, her parents owned the local hardware store in a small town on the outskirts of Chicago. Every spring her mom took the unsold seeds home from the store and scattered them in the yard. Flowers of every imaginable size and color sprouted in the garden. Now, with a garden of her own, Pat has recreated the colorful “cottage garden” that her mom began.

Near Dave’s putting green, is a lovely butterfly garden including dianthus, both solid white and mixed magenta and white, yellow coreopsis, lion’s mane, pink cat’s whiskers and red pentas. On the rare afternoon that Pat is home to enjoy relaxing in the garden (as opposed to weeding!), she can sit at the flagstone patio and have lunch at a most attractive, artistic, basket weave metal table. If Dave is home and putting on the green, she enjoys watching him through the vista of a brilliant red array of geraniums that thrive in a special “grow box,” a Master Gardener door prize from several years ago. The grow box sits in a wooden decorative wheelbarrow, just one of several art features in the garden. The Dunedin artist Karalinda’s whimsical metal dragonfly adorns the back fence.

The central portion of the garden is an enclosed swimming pool and patio area. Pat served her guests a mouthwatering homemade blueberry bundt cake and lots of delicious fruit. On the way to the edible goodies, we tourists passed by a stand of succulents: rope plants, donkey sedum, a deep green pencil cactus, and different varieties of hoyas of several shades of green. All 24 visitors simply could absorb all the colors, shapes, and sizes of the plants that abounded. Every three to four feet there was something else to behold. A five-foot tall “Knock-out” rose tree here, golden nasturtiums snaking up the corner there, a 10-foot cane dracena, and on and on.

Probably one of the nicest features of the garden is the combination of evergreen plants, large and small, beautifully interspersed with plants that will be blooming in different seasons of the year. There were many agapanthus promising their tall purple spherical flowers, deep green liriope, weeping red bottle brush, orange and yellow gallardia, native purple salvia, pink and white cosmos, red jatropha and more. Orchids ready to bud hung from trees and dangled near rosebushes already showing off their pale yellows, bright reds and pinks.

As I was ready to say goodbye to our hostess, who was giving an inside house tour, I passed by large yellow blooming streptocarpus in the kitchen. I found Pat in the master bedroom where a quick glance around left my brain swimming with African violets.

Pat’s mom’s heart would swell with pride to see how the seeds of her idea have grown into the garden Pat shared with us last week. Thank you, Pat!
**Master Gardener/IFAS Annual EPCOT Venture**

Every year some of our MGs have the opportunity to serve as U of F/IFAS Extension ambassadors to the annual Epcot Flower Show at Disney World in Orlando. April 1 was the first of three planned trips. The plantings are breathtaking, designed on Disney themes especially for families and their children.

This year's contingent met many visitors and were asked some interesting garden questions, (Unfortunately for us, some of the questions were related to EPCOT facilities.) Some extraordinary displays are pictured below.
**Volunteer Hours**

**Urgent!!** - This is an important reminder to all volunteers to update your volunteer hours. During this critical budget crisis, volunteer hours show the support from the community for the valuable resources and the amount of time that volunteers are willing to provide to support the gardens and Extension. The County Administrator is hoping for a continuance of your support and even more if possible to fulfill the needs of many of the County departments. Knowing how many volunteers we have and the number of hours they are contributing will help define the volunteer expectations for assisting during the shortfall of County resources.

**Recording Your Volunteer Hours - Please Remember to Sign Out!**

The computer program for logging volunteer hours is outside the volunteer office, near the Help Desk. Make this your first stop and last stop. You must **sign in and sign out** when you are at Extension. When the computer is not functioning you can still log your time in the book. For those who volunteer at other facilities, e-mail your hours after your visit. With more than 200 volunteers at Extension, it becomes a considerable burden on the volunteer coordinators to manually enter your hours. **When not at Extension, please e-mail your hours to: cascaffidi@juno.com.** Direct questions to volunteer coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or assistant Emma Eshbaugh.

**Master Gardener Updates - Mark Your Calendar!**

- **Friday, May 7, 9 a.m.** - Jonathan Simkins, president of Insect IQ, will discuss “Bee Control.” Potluck lunch to follow.

**MG Garden Tour**

May's garden tour is at Emma Eshbaugh's house. She has graciously opened her yard up to us on **Tuesday, May 4**. The tour will be from 10 a.m. to noon at **9672 107th Ave in Largo**.

From the intersection of Bryan Dairy and Starkey, go west to the first traffic light at 109th Avenue. Turn right. Turn left at 106th Ave, right on 96th St and then left on 107th Ave. It is the last house on the left (at the corner of 107th and 97th St).

From the intersection of Seminole Blvd and 102nd Ave, go east to the second traffic light at 109th Ave. Turn left and then follow the directions above.

This is a good time to commiserate over all our losses and help each other with suggestions on what did do well during this past winter. This tour is open to all MGs and volunteers (and guests). Let's all get together to celebrate spring. Hope to see you there.

**Series of Extension Classes - Mark your Calendar!**

The following classes will be offered at Extension for **free to MGs, Volunteers and FBGF members** who register. When you attend you must show one of the membership cards. All others pay a nominal fee of $15. Please see Extension's [on-line calendar page](#) for details and to register.

- **Saturday, May 1, 9-10:30 a.m.** *Backyard Composting Workshop*
- **Saturday, May 8, 9-10:30 a.m.** *Butterfly Gardening*
- **Saturday, May 22, 9-10:30 a.m.** *Rain Harvesting Workshop*
Master Gardeners and the FYN Newsletter

"The Neighborhood Gardener," the monthly e-newsletter from the University of Florida Master Gardener and the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods programs, shares information on state happenings and useful resources. It is available on the Florida Master Gardener Web site http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/

30th Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference
Oct. 25-27
Hilton Sandestin Beach, Destin, FL

Message from Tom Wichman, Florida Master Gardener Coordinator

Dear Master Gardeners,

Planning for the 2010 Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference is underway and I am pleased to let you know that this year we will be headed to northwest Florida. The conference is scheduled for Oct. 25-27 at the beautiful Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort and Spa. The conference provides a unique opportunity to get the latest information directly from the specialists, and is a great place to escape to for a vacation. You can also see the awards program where your fellow volunteers are recognized for their service and excellent projects.

If you enjoy playing golf or tennis, swimming in the indoor and two outdoor pools or any other outside activity, this is the place for you and your family. There is plenty of high-end and outlet shopping and a wide variety of restaurants nearby. The Florida panhandle has many great places to visit and incredible sights to see. Make this trip to the meetings a vacation by including your family for some quality time before or after the conference to enjoy this unique area of Florida.

I look forward to seeing you in October!
Learn more: http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/

Volunteer Immediately needed

VOLUNTEER POSITION TITLE: Assistant Newsletter Editor
LOCATION OF WORK SITE: 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo
POSITION DESCRIPTION: Assist with design and layout of various newsletters using MS Publisher and Adobe Acrobat/Reader. Knowledge of E-newsletters and web design helpful. Experience with Microsoft Office products also helpful. Computer skills are mandatory.
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: Office position safety requirements apply
REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: PC application software and design/graphics skills
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: Pinellas County Extension, Natural Resources
VOLUNTEER SITE COORDINATOR: Chuck Scaffidi
SUPERVISOR: Chuck Scaffidi
PHONE: 727-582-2117
E-mail: cascaffidi@Juno.com

Hold This Date - Saturday, July 17 - Group Hug for Greg Charles at Fergs Sports Bar

Last July, we had a fabulous fundraiser for Greg Charles. Please plan to attend again this year at Ferg’s on Central next to the Tropicana. If you don’t know Greg, he has been a great supporter of Extension and CEL. Even if you don’t know Greg, you’ll have a great time.
Earn Continuing Education Credits
Master Gardeners can earn continuing education credits by completing Plant ID Modules.
http://gardeningssolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/outreach/plant_id/index.shtml
MGs can earn 1 CEU per module by studying the plants and earning a passing score of 80% on the “Test Yourself” feature. Once a score of 80% has been reached, MGs simply print the page and submit it to the Volunteer Office. This is an option Master Gardeners can use for a maximum of four CEUs.

Palm Harbor Library MG Class Series
Classes are offered on Wednesdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. at the Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Avenue. To register for these classes, go to www.pinellascountyextension.org, click on the “Online Class Registration” button and then the “Lawn & Garden” tab. You may also call (727) 582-2100 to register.

Container Garden Design - Wednesday, May 12, Learn the principles of container garden design. Denys Walk, UF/IFAS Pinellas County Master Gardener, will discuss design elements such as color, form, texture and focal point. She will also present a design concept to help you combine plants and will share examples of container garden ideas and plants which work well in containers.

Garden Tour and Plant Sale at Holloway Haven
This event on May 16 is sponsored by the Rare Plant Network and Seminole Historical Society. Holloway Haven is across from Seminole City Park with two acres of beautiful "old Florida" gardens. The tour and plant sale will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is $1. Rare and unusual plants for sale along with original art, garden art, and live music by the "Gypsy Winds".
Holloway Haven is located at 11500 74th Avenue in Seminole.

St Petersburg Community Library MG Class Series
Classes offered free at the West St. Petersburg Community Library, 6605 5 Ave. N. To register, visit www.pinellascountyextension.org, click on the “Online Class Registration” button and then the “Lawn & Garden” tab. You may also call (727) 582-2100 to register.

Bromeliads, Easy and Beautiful—Wednesday, May 26, 2-3 p.m. UF/IFAS Master Gardener John Hood will present an overview of bromeliads, covering everything you need to know from the different types, their sizes and growth habits as well as how to care for them, propagate, pot and mount them. Bromeliads do quite well in a Florida landscape; they require very little care and thrive in shady locations.
Check Your Tools

Your gardening tools may have taken a long rest during this cool, dormant season. Before you get back into the garden with these tools make sure they are ready to work. Check that tool handles are attached securely.

- Examine wooden handles for defects and potential splintering
- Replace worn handles or dispose of tools that can't be repaired safely.
- Sharpen pruning and lopping shears in preparation for the major pruning jobs ahead.

SAFETY NET

People love this helpful, pretty, little beetle

By Jessica Basham

People love to see ladybugs. They are pretty and shiny with tiny, black dots on their little red bodies. Ladybugs are also orange, yellow and pink. A ladybug, however, is not a true bug but a member of the beetle family.

Many cultures think ladybugs bring good luck. Long ago, tiny aphids (plant-eating bugs) attacked crops. The farmers prayed to the Virgin Mary for help. Ladybugs, they said, arrived and ate up the aphids, saving the crops. So farmers called them Our Lady's Beetles, and they became known as lady beetles. Now we call them ladybugs, even though some of them are boys. There are more than 400 species of ladybugs in the United States and nearly 5,000 worldwide.

A ladybug's color helps protect it from predators. Red, yellow, orange and black are all colors that warn enemies they are about to eat something that will make them sick or tastes yucky.

A ladybug also protects itself by playing dead. If grabbed or touched, the ladybug will squirt out a small amount of blood from its leg joints. This blood smells really bad. Because the beetle looks and smells dead, a hungry bird will skip this snack. When the danger has passed, the ladybug may fly away.

Its little body is really a hard shell that covers its wings. When it wants to fly, it lifts up the two sides of its shell and beats its wings. It can beat its wings up to 85 times per second.

Ladybugs and their larvae (young ladybugs) love to munch on aphids. Ladybug larvae look like tiny alligators and are black and orange or black and pink. Ladybugs can eat up to 50 aphids a day. Eating so many not only fills them up but protects farm crops and gardens from aphids and other bugs. Aphids suck the juice out of leaves and cause them to curl up and die.

When you go searching for a ladybug, look in places where aphids might hang out, such as milkweed plants, rose bushes, farm fields and orchards. Go outside and look on the top and bottom of leaves. Are some leaves curled up and dead-looking, or covered with a blackish mold? Look closely; you may see aphids, which means a ladybug might be nearby.

Be part of the healthy Get Outdoors Florida! movement by getting outdoors and helping scientists find ladybugs. All you need is a camera. In an effort to study and track ladybugs, Cornell University’s Lost Ladybug Project wants to know where ladybugs live. If you see a ladybug, take its picture, showing its top. If you can, get it to crawl on a piece of white paper, so its spots and colors show up better in the photo. Then write down where and when you saw the ladybug. Next, you or your parents can visit www.lostladybug.org to fill out more information and e-mail the picture to the Lost Ladybug Project.

Contact: Jessica.Basham@MyFWC.com
**Attention Master Gardeners!**

I have been contacted by a small private school with special needs kids in Palm Harbor. They have land and money to create a vegetable and herb garden and they are looking for a consultant to help them get started. This is a great opportunity for you to earn some hours in a North County location. The school is hopeful that the kids will be able to eat the garden’s bounty and even have a restaurant that may use the produce and herbs if it is particularly successful.

I expect a lot of excitement for a project like this, so please e-mail or call me right away if you are interested. I think there is room for a few people (2 or 3) to get involved. If I get a really large response, for example, we might have a team of one herb specialist, one vegetable specialist, and one project organizer?

I look forward to hearing from some of you very soon!

Theresa Badurek, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent,

727-582-2109 or tbadurek@co.pinellas.fl.us

**Calling All Volunteers!**

Your skills and expertise are needed in various ways throughout the gardens. Among other Extension opportunities there are specific requests for the following:

- Installation of micro-irrigation
- Hand watering
- Thursday morning landscape crew

If you are interested in contributing your time and earning volunteers hours, contact Bob Albanese at (727) 582-2081 or ralbanese@co.pinellas.fl.us

The formal gardens need continuous weeding, planting, pruning and general upkeep. If you would like to help with this, please join the Wednesday morning crew at 8 a.m. starting May 5. We will work under the direction of Bob Funari, the county horticulturist assigned to the formal gardens. Questions or concerns can be sent to me at tberube@tampabay.rr.com. Thank you. Terry Berube

**Mother’s Day is May 9!**

Don’t forget to pick up a special somethin’-somethin’ for mom from the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop. You know that Moms always appreciate being remembered. It’s the thought (and the card!) that counts. We’ll wrap your gift for you so it looks like a million.

As always, we appreciate your support. Thank you!

Stacey Zidi, Gift Shop Manager

Use the coupon on the last page for you #1 girl!
Are You a Facebook Fan Yet?

Our fans continue to add beautiful photos of the gardens to our FBG Facebook page. It's wonderful to see the fan base grow. We are up to more than 180 fans and the number keeps going up.

If you haven't signed up, it's easy! Use the link below and click on the green sign up button at the top of the page. Become a fan today so that you can view visitor photos and comments. If you have photos of the gardens you would like to share on our Facebook page, please visit the site and add your photos. You also can share your experience at the gardens on the “Wall”.

Become a fan, check out all the wonderful photos and invite your friends to become fans as well! Link to the FBG Facebook

Foundation Update

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, FBG FOUNDATION CHAIR

We are about to enter into another contract with the county to sponsor the holiday lights event again this year. The lights team, co-chaired by yours truly and Vivian Haicken, had its first meeting recently and we are excited about planning an even bigger, better and brighter event than last season’s smashing success. We will be partering with the county to accomplish this. Since we are already heading towards another wonderful holiday light event I am announcing an early call for volunteers. We have a variety of exciting challenges and you can become a member of the lights team in preparing for this event. We also will be recruiting volunteers to work evenings during the event.

The foundation thanks all the volunteers, especially the leadership of Terry Berube for her persistence and dedication, and to CEL personnel for their work in making the formal gardens come back to life. The hardscape and structures are becoming sparkling clean, the winter damage removed and new plants are starting to appear. The Foudation is purchasing new benches and will be purchasing new plants.

I am also excited about entering into a contract with i-Design, a web design company. While working with the County Commissioners to find mutual benefits from Friends of State Parks, I met the president of Friends of Island Parks. This is the company that does their web design and he agreed to propose a design for the FBG Foundation. We now have a prototype developed and will be available for Beta testing soon. The last MG newsletter The Green Leaf was sent to foundation members by using MailChip, a beginning to converting to an E-newsletter. I will be looking for help with these projects.

On a final note, see the Gift Shop Mothers Day ad and get a 25% discount by using the coupon on the last page of the newsletter.
**MY Thoughts**

**BY THERESA BADUREK, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent**

Spring is finally here! What a beautiful time of new growth after such a difficult winter season. The Gardens are really coming back now and I want to thank the many volunteers who have put so much time and care into them. Without your hard work the gardens would not be flourishing the way they are. Thank you! I would also like to thank the Lawn and Garden Diagnostic Desk volunteers - including those at the satellite locations of this service. This is an invaluable service for our community and you do a great job. Finally, for all of you who go out into the community and educate, I want to say thank you. This is another great way to reach people and we could not accomplish the Extension mission without you. All of our Master Gardeners are an asset to the community and I hope you all know how much you are appreciated.

I have been here for about a month now and I would also like to thank all of the volunteers, staff, and faculty for making me feel so welcome. I have had so much help and support and that is really making this transition easier for me. There is so much to learn here! I also want to encourage those of you who I have not yet met to give me a call or stop by and say hello.

We are going to have such a great time ahead of us! I know there have been a lot of growing pains over the years as budgets and staffing have shrunk, but I also know that we can take this as an opportunity to shape the program as it grows again. We, as all Americans are learning in these difficult times, must adapt to thrive, and I know that the Master Gardeners will do just that. Let’s all come together to start a new beginning for our organization and make this the best Master Gardener group in the state of Florida. Remember what I said at the beginning of the article? What a beautiful time of new growth after such a difficult winter season. This is our spring - let’s get our garden growing!

As a reminder, we will have out next Master Gardener Update on Friday, May 7 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. Our speaker will be Jonathan Simkins, president of Insect IQ. He will be talking about bee control - what an exciting and critical topic for Master Gardeners. Your knowledge on this matter could save someone’s life! I look forward to seeing you all there.

We have a lot of new opportunities to volunteer, so please contact me if you need hours. I will be starting a weekly e-mail soon to bring specific opportunities to light, so please be sure we have your current e-mail address on file. If you know of anyone who needs to update his or her info, please pass this information along to them.
Thank You, Volunteers!

ANNUAL GREEN THUMB FESTIVAL

The Green Thumb Festival, St. Petersburg's annual Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration, returned to Walter Fuller Park on April 24 and 25. In its 24th 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 150 exhibitors and vendors participated and more than 30,000 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 had 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. Children brought their plants for judging. Ribbons were given for school displays and individual plant displays.

Thanks again to the many MGs who donated their time to help on this wonderful festival weekend.

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