Children's Trail Opening “Wow!!”

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

Saturday November 1, a series of coincident events took place, the opening of the Market in the Park, the 4-H Open House and Apple Cook-Off, and the opening of the Children's trail were celebrated. What a day for these celebrations, the weather cooperated bathing the large crowd in sunshine and moderate (just right) temperature.

The 4-station Children’s Trail chaired by Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti and her team members diligently worked together planning and implementing the trail over the past several years. The opening's marvelous success was rewarding to the many that participated and were acknowledged by Dianne and Vivian Haiken, FBGF Chair during the opening ceremony.

As an old adage states “a picture is worth a thousand words” so following, within limited newsletter space, are a few from today's children trail activities.

Top-lft: Butterfly Station: Cindy Peacock crowded by children getting ready to release the butterflies.
Top-rt: Wildlife Station
Btm-lft: Donna Z explaining trees at trees station.
Btm-rt: Enjoying fruit at the Fruit Station.
At right: Todd Still artist extraordinaire, designer of the children's station display signs and Dianne Wheatly.

Top-lft: Butterfly Station: Cindy Peacock crowded by children getting ready to release the butterflies.
Top-rt: Wildlife Station
Btm-lft: Donna Z explaining trees at trees station.
Btm-rt: Enjoying fruit at the Fruit Station.
At right: Todd Still artist extraordinaire, designer of the children's station display signs and Dianne Wheatly.
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. Also, to save mailing costs, 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 @ 727-582-2117.

Chuck Scaffidi
MG Editor

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: Pam Brown, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent
PRODUCTION EDITOR: Chuck Scaffidi, MG
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Carrie Shelby, MG

Please send articles to cascaffidi@juno.com or pwgbrown@co.pinellas.fl.us
The Green Leaf is available online by clicking on newsletter at: http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml

Bee Aware
By JANE MORSE, University of Florida/IFAS, Pinellas County Extension Agent

Bees buzzing all around you, stinging everywhere, bees crawling up your nose, getting into your mouth and swarming around your eyes and face. This is a defensive bee attack. Like locusts descending on a field of wheat to devour it, these bees descend on a perceived attacker to defend their hive. With each venom-injecting sting they sacrifice themselves to protect their queen and hive.

People, pets and livestock have been killed by Africanized (cross between African and European) bees seeking only to protect their hive. Bees that are on flowers collecting pollen or nectar are not usually hive defensive. What makes the Africanized bee dangerous is that it is much more protective and defensive of its hive than the European honey bee. An Africanized honey bee responds quickly to disturbances by people and animals 50 feet or more from the nest, and can sense vibrations from power equipment 100 feet or more from the nest. They will defend their hive much further than a European bee, as far as ¼ mile. And, yes, Africanized bees are in Pinellas County.

Prevent hives from forming around your house by using screening to close off vents, drains, downspouts, or other plumbing. Use caulk to seal cracks, crevices, or other voids. Foam sealant may be used for sealing cracks and holes in walls (if bees are already present in walls, they must be removed before sealing). Wood filler or concrete patching can also be used to seal crevices or voids in walls where foam or caulking is not appropriate. Duct tape can close off holes in water meter covers or other small holes.

Protect yourself by inspecting your living area and staying alert when going anywhere. Common nesting sites include empty containers, fences, lumber piles, manholes, water meters, utility infrastructures, old tires, trees, garages, sheds, walls, chimneys, crawl spaces under houses or buildings, cinder blocks, even BBQ grills. Any opening to a void can be used by these bees. Listen for buzzing and look for bees entering or leaving an area, indicating a swarm or nest. Carefully enter areas where bees might be nesting.

If you are stung by any type of bee, you need to leave the area immediately. Run in a straight line and take shelter in an enclosed area. Cover your nose and mouth with your shirt as you run. This restricts bee access to your airways. Some bees will probably enter the shelter with you, but not as many as will remain outside. You need to get away from the agitated bees. Furthermore, do not hide in thick underbrush or water. It may take the bees thirty minutes or longer to leave an area! If you witness an attack, do not go to the victim and try to help. It is better to stand at a safe distance and yell to the person to run from the area as quickly as possible. Call 911 if the person is unresponsive. Fenced or tethered animals are at extreme risk since they cannot get away.

To remove stingers scrape them from the skin with a blunt object such as a credit card or finger nail as soon as possible. If the stinger is not removed it will continue to inject venom. Wash the area with soap and water and apply ice to relieve pain and swelling. Seek medical treatment for allergic reactions or if there are several stings.

Bee colonies must be removed by a professional pest control operator. Do NOT try to do this yourself. For a list of bee removal experts or for more information contact the Extension Service at 727-582-2100 or visit http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/ or http://afbee.ifas.ufl.edu/.

Information for this article was obtained from University of Florida and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services publications.
Master Gardener Class of 2008 from a Student's Point of View
By SHARON L. BOND, Master Gardener Student

Twenty nine students have finished the classroom portion of the Master Gardener Program at the Pinellas County Extension Office. They will spend the next year logging in 75 hours of volunteer work to earn their Master Gardener Certification. Among them was Lou Pollicino, who decided to apply for the program after visiting the Florida Botanical Garden at the extension office. This is where master gardeners put in some of their volunteer hours. "I live in a condo, and I wanted to get back into gardening. I wanted to meet people with the same interests," Pollicino said.

Part of the volunteer work the gardeners did while in class and will continue as they work toward certification is manning the help desk for Pinellas residents who have questions about plant identifications, types of diseases and pests or want their soil and water tested. The 2008 class is the first in which hours on the help desk were part of the class schedule. Fifteen hours were required of each student and took the place of a class project, said Pam Brown, urban horticulture extension agent. "There is a real need now for people to help on the front desk," Brown said, referring to county budget cuts that resulted in staff cuts. John Leazar, a student in the current class, said his use of the help desk as a Pinellas resident prompted him to apply for the Master Gardener Program. He is chairman of the grounds department at the retirement complex in Dunedin where he lives. "I got very interested in what were the proper procedures for Florida (gardening)."

Many of the students were overwhelmed by the amount of information they received during the class hours, which included sessions with the horticulturists in the extension office and video conferences with experts at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Class discussions ranged from identifying plants, weeds, diseases and pests to how to plant a Florida-friendly yard to what position in a yard to plant which fruit tree. Handouts stacked more than three inches by the time the classes were over. "I was overwhelmed at times," said Pollicino. "But they (horticulturists who taught the classes) were very helpful."

"It was a ton of information," said Carolyn Piper. "I enjoyed learning it so much. It opened my eyes to things I never noticed before. We will be learning from now on." "It was over my head," said Phyllis Zarnas, a student in the current class. At the same time, she said the information load invigorated her. "I looked forward to learning more so I could try it in my own yard." One of the first things Zarnas did in her own yard after starting the Master Gardener course was to pull up a bed of Mexican petunias. Students learned early on the petunias are considered a non-native invasive plant. The Master Gardener Program started in Florida in 1982 and has trained hundreds of volunteers, according to the extension office. As was the case in past years, the 2008 class turned out to have a lot of good cooks who brought dishes for each class ranging from homemade chicken pot pie, cookies and cakes made from scratch, bowls of fresh fruit salad and homemade pimento cheese.
Mark Your Calendars for March 13, 2009
Celebrate the 4-H Centennial in Pinellas County
By JANET GOLDEN, Distance Education & 4-H Program Leader

2009 will be here before you know it and with that comes the Florida 4-H Centennial Celebration! Did you know that nationally 4-H celebrated 100 years in 2002, but in Florida we reach 100 next year? Pinellas County 4-H would like to celebrate that milestone here locally. The Pinellas County 4-H Foundation is planning a fundraising dinner with a centennial theme on March 13th at 6:30 p.m. at Banquet Masters in Pinellas Park. Tickets will be $50.00 for adults and $25.00 for youth. This will include a buffet meal, guest speaker, and plenty of entertainment. The proceeds will go to the Pinellas County 4-H Foundation to support the operating expenses of the 4-H programs and to pay for youth scholarships. More details along with invitations will be coming, but we wanted to make sure you saved the date now.

4-H fund raiser. Plenty of pecans and apples available:
Halves = 103, Pieces = 49, Cinnamon = 22, Milk Chocolate = 39, Dark Chocolate = 32, Clusters = 38
See Betty Lipe 582-2528

Apple Crumble Recipe
By JOANNE DRAKE, MG

A tasty way to enjoy apples in a simple dessert.
Ingredients:

Filling:
6 to 7 cups peeled, cored and sliced apples
3/4 cup white granulated sugar
dash of lemon juice

Crumble topping:
1 cup rolled oats
1 cup flour
1/3 cup granulated sugar
1/3 cup packed brown sugar
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
nutmeg and allspice to taste
1 stick butter or margarine

Instructions:
Peel, core and slice the apples. Add sugar and lemon juice and mix with apples.
Place mixture in greased 7” X 11” baking dish.

Now for the crumble. It's simply a mixture of dry ingredients that you sprinkle over the top. Just combine oats, flour, granulated sugar and brown sugar.

Next add salt, cinnamon and nutmeg and allspice to taste. Take a stick of butter and chop it up with the dry mixture into bits about the size of a pea. Now just spread the crumbles over the apples and bake it at 375 degrees for about 45 minutes.
It's just that simple. Enjoy!
Plant of the Month in our FBG
By JAMES STEVENSON, Public Education Specialist, FBG

Bismarck Palm - Bismarckia nobilis

The Noble Bismarck Palm

In several places in the Botanical Gardens grows the silver form of the Bismark Palm, Bismarckia nobilis. This palm is rather "new on the horticultural scene," and still costs a pretty penny at the garden centers. Given that, I've noticed some homeowners giving this lovely silver plant pride-of-place in the landscape, sometimes very close to the house or right next to the mailbox.

However, visitors to the Gardens might be amazed at the mature size of this magnificent palm. Eventually reaching 30 feet tall by 30 feet wide, a nearly full-grown specimen can be found along the Tropical Walk holding its fronds like giant silver salvers above the pathway.

The plant is named for 19th century German Statesman, Otto von Bismarck, the Iron Chancellor, who was famously quoted as saying something like "laws are like sausage; it is best not seeing them being made."

Found naturally on the island of Madagascar, Bismarckia may be seen in two color forms: silver and green. This is similar to our saw palmettos here in Florida, with the green form predominant in the wild, and an east-coast silver-leaved form, var. cinerea, often seen in landscapes.

It is thought that silver leaved plants might do better in very bright sun than green counterparts—the theory of reflectivity of sun off the leaves helps keep the plants "cool." Several plants of Mediterranean origin, like dusty miller, lavender, and sage have silver leaves, possibly for this competitive edge.

In Madagascar, Bismarckia grows in grasslands that occasionally burn, like our pine flatwoods. Bismarckia has similar adaptations to burning, most notably a thick, stout trunk and enormous leaves that can smolder for a long time, and hopefully burn out before reaching the growing heart of the palm. The Madagascar grasslands are also very dry, making Bismarckia a very drought-tolerant species.

Pay special attention to the two specimens located on the south side of the small bridge in Extension's parking lot. These handsome plants were purchased for the gardens by the Master Gardeners and will grow to form a natural arch over that end of the bridge. In time this will be quite a sight to behold!

New Season Brings Change! Greetings from Botanical Bounty!

The FBG Foundation would like to welcome the new Master Gardener class! We have all your supplies: shears, gloves, hats, books and more, to keep you comfortably outfitted since you earned your certificate. We'll be changing our schedule for the season which will begin here on November 1: Tuesday thru Saturday. We'll have more volunteers on board to extend hours as available. Speaking of change, we've got lots of new items: evening bags, jewelry, new books, new tees, as well as many new gifts for children. Stop by and see us!

Welcome Martin County Master Gardeners!

Mark your calendars for the November 5th arrival of 40 Master Gardeners from Martin County, Florida. A potluck lunch and MG update will precede a tour of our beautiful Florida Botanical Gardens. Our guest speaker, Jason Beck, will lecture on Florida Native Plants. The FBG Foundation warmly welcomes the Martin MG's and offer our 10% MG-shopper discount while you're visiting.

Support our gardens – shop! See ya!
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MG Advisory Association
- MG Update Meeting
- Looking Ahead
- Field Trip
- Winner
- Volunteer Hours Sign in
- Update on the Children's Trail
- Landscape Palm Care Class
- Shade Gardening Class
- 2009 MG Conference in Las Vegas
- 2009 Costa Rica MG Trip

Important Change for Signing Out
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, Carrie Shelby, Susan Baughman or Mary Crowe.

- MG Advisory Association, Chuck Scaffidi, Chair

  I want to thank all MGAA members for continuing to support suggestions for liquidating our funds. The next board meeting will review what we have spent to-date.

  The current plan is to transfer our remaining funds and future MG earnings to the FBGF. This plan has been agreed to by Vivian Haaken, FBGF Chair and Mary Campbell, Extension Director. However, a lot of detail needs to be worked including a Memorandum of Understanding and cost and audit accountability.

  Minutes for the September Board meeting were distributed to all.

  Next Board Meeting December 8, 10:30am-noon.
  Since this may be our last meeting please make every effort to attend.

- MG Update Wednesday, November 5

  Mark your calendar – we will be hosting Master Gardeners from Martin County with a "pot luck" lunch and educational program. This is also a MG Update training day for November. You will earn CEU credits. Donna Z and I have been coordinating this effort with Wendy Pattison, Master Gardener Coordinator, Martin County Extension. The following is a tentative itinerary.

    Arrival-Nov 5 Wednesday between 11:00am and noon.
    Lunch & Welcome by Pam Brown, County Agent & Chuck Scaffidi-Noon to 1:00pm. Magnolia room.
    Up-date Training-1pm to 2pm Native Plants by Jason Beck, MG
    Informal Tour of FBG-2pm-5pm
    Departure-5pm

  Gail Robertson and Carol Suggs are coordinating the Magnolia room set-up and need help the morning of November 5th at 9AM.

  Martin County MGs prefer to “wander around” after the program instead of participating in a formal tour. Donna Z and I will host and coordinate these informal tours. We are asking for volunteers in specific areas of the gardens to answer questions from our guests during the afternoon. It would be great to have at least two MGs in each of the following garden areas:  Herb Garden, Fruit garden, Wedding Garden, Tropical Walk, Bromeliad Garden and any other area you may suggest.

  Forty Master Gardeners will be coming from Martin county and I would like an RSVP response from our MGs so I can get an approximate head count. Also, be "gracious plenty" for those that are contributing your best culinary delights. Please contact me for questions and if you can volunteer. Chuck Scaffidi, 582-2117, cascaffidi@juno.com

- Looking Ahead:
  MG Update Wednesday, December 8 9am-10:30
  " Secret Life of Soil" presented by Pam Brown, Pinellas County agent

- November Field Trip

  We will be leaving at 6:30 AM on Tuesday, November 18 for ECHO and the Edison and Ford Winter Estate in the Fort Myers area. Lunch is at your expense. You need to sign up for the trip, then select and pre-pay $8.50 for lunch. The sign up sheets are in the volunteer office, in manila folders next to Chuck's computer. There are plenty of seats still available. Come join us for a fun, and educational outing! Any seats still available after November 7th will be raffled to the new Master Gardener class.

- Winner Announced!

  Congratulations go out to Terry Berube, the Silent Auction highest bidder of a Longaberger Basket at our Master Gardener’s update September 15th. She bid on the May 2000 series - Early Blossom Set. Thank you Terry for participating.
Highlights from the October 6 Children’s Trail Committee Meeting

- Advertising plans have all been implemented.
- All four stations ready for opening day.
- NOVEMBER 1ST OPENING: Cindy still needs about half of the volunteers for that day, plus she needs help for set-up on Friday. Dianne has re-contacted Commissioner Welch, and still does not know if he plans to attend. The Inspiration Garden will not be mentioned at the welcome speech, but the opportunity to contribute to Holiday Lights will be mentioned.
- Alyssa reported that the Flora tattoos will be shipped this week.
- Chuck reported that a bench around an oak tree in the Fruit Garden is being planned and built by MG Charlie Kohnken, and may be completed by that time.
- We discussed possibilities for expanding the Children’s Trail in the future. Bob stressed that we consider the flow of the Trail, not just interesting spots within the Gardens. At the opening we need to evaluate the existing sites and survey the public.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 3, 2008 at 10AM.

Committee Members: Dianne Wheatley-Giolotti, Mary Campbell, Vivian Haicken, Alyssia Chivers, Betty Lipe, Cindy Peacock, Chuck Scaffidi, Pat Dieterich, Bob Albanese, Andy Bergeron and Bobbie Jones.

Landscape Palm Care Program with Dr. Monica Elliott

Thursday, November 13 from 6:30 to 8:30PM at the EMS Building, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo

Learn tricks and tips to keep palms healthy while battling the new diseases threatening them. Meet Dr. Monica Elliott from the University of Florida Ft. Lauderdale Research & Education Center as she focuses on new palm diseases along with other major diseases and nutritional deficiencies that are affecting palms. Dr. Elliot's main theme is: keep the palms as healthy as possible, so you know when you have a problem or not. Class is free but space is limited, and registration is necessary. You can register online at www.pinellascountyextension.org or call 727-582-2100.

Class with Master Gardener - Gardening in the Shade

Wednesday, November 12 at 2 PM or 6:30PM at Crystal Beach Community Hall, 517 Crystal Beach Ave

Explore the types of shade in your garden and what types of plants can thrive there. The right plants can add colors and textures to the shade and make your garden pop. MG Cheryl Korschek leads the program. Participants may attend either class for free. You can register online at www.pinellascountyextension.org or call 727-582-2100.

International Master Gardener Conference

"New Frontiers" in Horticulture and Gardening -March 22-26, 2009

Spring in the desert is an incredible time. Native plants, flowering in yellow, orange and red, really put on a show. Tours to the Master Gardener Orchard and to the exciting, new Springs Preserve where you can see sustainable, low water concepts at work. The University of Nevada Master Gardener Orchard is an outdoor living laboratory testing different types and varieties of fruit and vegetables. It demonstrates how to grow the best fruit possible, with minimal agricultural chemicals, under our harsh desert climate. The orchard today has over 500 trees, wine and table grapes, and vegetable test plots on a little over an acre.

Registration Deadlines:
- Early Bird Registration, $260 — ends November 15, 2008
- Regular Registration, $310 — ends February 15, 2009
- Late Registration, $350 — if available

You can register on line. Please visit the website for more information: www.unce.unr.edu/imgc.

Master Gardener Costa Rica Trip 2009

Costa Rica has some of the most diverse wildlife and natural landscapes in the world, ranging from tidal mangrove swamps to sandy beaches, to tropical rainforests to subalpine mountains. Florida Master Gardeners traveled to Costa Rica in 2004; they had such a wonderful experience, they decided to go back.

Date: April 22 through May 3 (12 days/11 nights) Itinerary: See the full list of activities here. http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/tours/costa09_2.shtml
**Attention South County Master Gardeners!**

Master Gardener, Phyllis Lawson, has volunteered to coordinate Master Gardener's giving presentations in South Pinellas County. The location is the St. Petersburg College Library at the Gibbs campus in St. Petersburg. Pam Brown has had inquiries from several of the MGs about presenting classes in South County. This area of the county is underserved and this should be a well received project. It would be great to have this up and going by January. Please give this some consideration and then let Pam know at 727-582-2112 or pwbrown@pinellascounty.org if you are willing to participate by presenting educational programs.

**Volunteers and Donations Sought for New Youth Program**

The Resurrection House in St. Petersburg is looking for volunteers and support for its "Dig It" afternoon program for middle and high school students who live in the Uptown Neighborhood. Students will develop their own organic gardening business, learning about plants, the environment, business skills and careers in horticulture. We're looking for master gardeners who would be guest speakers on a variety of topics, such as growing plants, composting, propagation, etc. The children will raise plants to support the program, so we're looking for donations of plastic pots, plants, tools -- any items you'd find in a greenhouse. If you've got an hour or more to spare, or gardening items you'd like to donate, please contact MG Yvonne Swanson at ymswanson@gmail.com or 727-821-3505, or Glen Walker, director of the program, at 727-822-1460. You can learn more about Resurrection House at www.floridaresurrectionhouse.com.

**Earn Volunteer Hours by Making Phone Calls**

Volunteers are needed to call pest control companies, mom & pop operations and arborists to gather some specific information such as time of day they want to attend classes, time of year, subjects needed, etc. Jane Morse will have a script for you to follow. Please respond either directly to Jane at jvmorse@ufl.edu or 727-582-2562 or contact Carol Suggs at csuggs@pinellascounty.org or (727) 582-2124.

**Help Needed in Composting and Raised Vegetable Bed Areas!**

Volunteers are needed to work in the composting and raised vegetable bed demo areas on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Contact John Kingsbury 727-569-6409, Pam 727-582-2112 or Carol 727-582-2124 to let them know if you are interested in this volunteer activity. You might get to take home some wonderful compost!

**Heritage Village Needs your help**

Volunteers needed for following project at the Village. If you are interested or know someone that could help have them contact me. 727-582-2427 or e-mail me at cwestern@co.pinellas.fl.us.
We have an immediate need for a volunteer with carpentry skills to repair the wood deck of one of the rail carts. This will be a two-fold project.
- First phase would simply apply a quick fix thick plywood deck over deteriorating deck.
- Then, work could begin on cutting the pieces necessary to replace the wood planked decking at a future time.
Thank you
Charlee
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Point(s) of Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9A - Noon</td>
<td>Front Desk</td>
<td>Andy Wilson 582-2135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1P - 4P</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pam Brown 582-2112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Greenhouse - Plant propagation for FBG</td>
<td>Bob Albanese 582-2081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Linda Culhane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Patsy Schamber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Andy's Pond - Landscape maintenance</td>
<td>Andy Wilson 582-2135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bob Albanese 582-2081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sue Bowman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>David DeLaMarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Watering of planted pots for FBG</td>
<td>Bob Albanese 582-2081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lillian Willfing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dorothy Whitley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9A - Noon</td>
<td>Front Desk</td>
<td>Andy Wilson 582-2135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1P - 4P</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pam Brown 582-2112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Herbs - Maintenance of Herb Garden</td>
<td>Alan Cordell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ruth Davies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Composting and Vegetable Garden</td>
<td>John Kingsbury 612-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Tropical Fruit Garden maintenance</td>
<td>Jean Field 582-2504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Weeding over by the Gulf coast Museum of Art</td>
<td>Bob Albanese 582-2081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lillian Willfinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dorothy Whitley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3P - 5P</td>
<td>Ochs 4-H Vegetable Garden, Hamlin Road, Largo</td>
<td>Jean Rogalsky 582-2597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Rose Garden in Wedding Garden</td>
<td>Sam Skemp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9A - Noon</td>
<td>Front Desk</td>
<td>Andy Wilson 582-2135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1P - 4P</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pam Brown 582-2112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:30A - Noon</td>
<td>Native Plant Garden maintenance</td>
<td>Jean Field 582-2504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9A - Noon</td>
<td>Front Desk</td>
<td>Andy Wilson 582-2135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1P - 4P</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pam Brown 582-2112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>FBG landscape maintenance</td>
<td>Bob Albanese 582-2081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3P - 5P</td>
<td>Ochs 4-H Vegetable Garden, Hamlin Road, Largo</td>
<td>Jean Rogalsky 582-2597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9A - Noon</td>
<td>Front Desk</td>
<td>Andy Wilson 582-2135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1P - 4P</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pam Brown 582-2112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Watering of potted plants at FBG</td>
<td>Bob Albanese 582-2081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Barbara Orr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Greenhouse propagation for FBG</td>
<td>James Stevenson 582-2562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Al Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rogers Davidson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Composting and Vegetable Garden</td>
<td>John Kingsburg 612-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Butterfly Garden maintenance</td>
<td>Cindy Peacock 582-2671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Bromeliads</td>
<td>Bob Albanese 582-2081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dick &amp; Terry Berube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Rose Garden in Wedding Garden</td>
<td>Sam Skemp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8A - Noon</td>
<td>Roses, Raised beds &amp; annual plant maintenance</td>
<td>Marcel Pincince 549-8352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pat Mann</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SAFETY NET

By PAM BROWN
Urban Horticulture Extension Agent

Garden Safety with Kids

Watch for Poisonous or Harmful Plants

- Teach kids never to eat any plant unless an adult is supervising. While eating fruits and vegetables you've grown yourself is part of the joy of gardening, many common ornamental plants can make you sick if you eat them, and some are very poisonous.

- A free list of common poisonous plants is available from the Extension office or check out the SolutionsForYourLife.com poisonous plants page.

- Make sure that poison ivy is not allowed to grow in your landscape. Watch for this vine with three-part leaves and immediately eliminate any you find.

- Check for plants with spiny leaves or thorns, such as cacti, roses, yucca, hollies, or pyracantha. Do not plant spiny plants next to raised porches, decks, or steps where children might fall into them.

- Point out any potential hazards to children and fence off areas or plants that should be avoided. Remove dangerous plants, if necessary - especially if they are close to a play area.

November and we should be seeing fall like weather any day now. I, for one, am really looking forward to some cool, crisp days and evenings. I become a slug during the summer when it is so hot outside. And as an additional bonus, we should soon be seeing more of our part-year Master Gardeners returning from the north. Welcome Back! We missed you while you were gone.

I am so proud of the veteran Master Gardeners who attended training and are starting to provide diagnostic help at the Lawn & Garden Diagnostic Help Desk. Your help with this need is so important to our ability to provide the same level of service to Pinellas County citizens with fewer staff. The new Master Gardener trainees are also spending time at the help desk soaking up information from the veteran MGs and the Horticulturists. This group is doing great too!

Master Gardener Mentor Phyllis Lawson has volunteered to coordinate Master Gardener volunteers giving presentations in South Pinellas County. The location is the St. Petersburg College Library at the Gibbs campus in St. Petersburg. Several of you expressed interest in a project like this in South County, so now is the time to step up to the plate. Please let me know, 727-582-2112 or pwbrown@pinellascounty.org, if you are willing to participate by presenting educational programs. We have quite a number of PowerPoint presentations available on our server here at Extension that you are more than welcome to review or use if you wish. I do need to review presentations before they are given if it is one you have created, and you must be providing UF/IFAS information. I am confident that you all can provide great programs to this part of the county.

Remember, on November 5th we will have the Master Gardener Update (note the different date). Master Gardeners will be visiting from Martin County. Carol and Gail Robertson can use some volunteer help setting up for the luncheon starting at 9 a.m. We will have a Pot Luck lunch first (11:30 ish) and then a program on Native Plants for Landscapes by MG Jason Beck. The Martin Co. MGs would then like to tour the FBG grounds by wandering around. We thought that placing MGs in strategic gardens to answer questions would be helpful. Please let Chuck know if you can help out in the garden after the program. Let’s all come out to show these Master Gardeners a great welcome to our county.

The holidays are upon us – I wish each of you a very Happy Thanksgiving! This is the first year that neither of our daughters will be home. It will be kind of strange. Bill and I will be heading to Orlando to feast with my brother and his family as a substitute.

We are so appreciative of all of the many things that you do as volunteers here at Extension. We did a report recently and all of the volunteers at Pinellas County Extension (Master Gardeners, Florida Master Naturalists, 4-H, Master Nutrition, and Garden Maintenance Assistants) provided 50,683 hours of volunteer service during FY08. This represents approximately 24 FTEs and a value of $988,825 to Pinellas County. And, Master Gardeners represented approximately 35,000 of those hours. You guys are really great!

THANK YOU!!!

♥ Pam
Thanks from St Petersburg City Beautiful
By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MGAA Chair

The City of St. Petersburg City Beautiful Commission invited MGAA members to attend their 42nd Annual City Beautification Awards program held on October 7, 2008 at Sunken Gardens. MGAA was honored for their $250 as a contributing sponsor and received a certificate of appreciation from Phil Stagger, Chairman of the City Beautiful Commission. Mayor Rick Baker also presented a welcome address.

Special thanks to MGs Natalie Oliver and Freda Dexter, members of this Commission (pictured), for making MGAA aware of this program and the MGAA Board members for their approval. Also pictured are, from left, Joanne Drake, Dick Davis, Carol Pilsbury, Chuck Scaffidi, Pam Brown and Donna Zacharczyk. Mary Crowe attended, she’s hiding behind Joanne Drake. MG Yvonne Swanson, also a freelance garden reporter for the St. Petersburg Times received a Special Recognition Award for her cost saving work with the City Beautiful Commission.

Many groups were awarded for their special contributions in making the city of St. Petersburg an eco-friendly place to work and live.

2008

November

SAT, NOV 1, 10-10:30AM
- Dedication of the Children’s Trail

SAT, NOV 1, 11:30AM-12:30PM
- Rain Barrel Workshop at Sunken Gardens, St. Petersburg

WED, NOV 5, NOON-2PM
- Potluck Lunch and MG Update with Martin County MGs

TUES, NOV 18, 6:30AM DEPART
- MG Field Trip to Ft. Myers-Echo Farms and Edison-Ford Winter Estate

SATURDAYS IN NOVEMBER, 9AM-1PM
- Market in the Park at Extension

SAT, NOV 29, 6-10PM
- Illuminated Gardens at the Florida Botanical Gardens lit through January 3, 2009

Looking Ahead!

SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER, 9AM-1PM
- Market in the Park at Extension

MON, DEC 8, 9AM-10:30AM
- MG update
Secret Life of Soil
by Pam Brown

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

Reminder

- **MG Update Meeting**
  
  **Wednesday, November 5** we will be hosting Master Gardeners from Martin County with a "pot luck" lunch and educational program from noon until 2PM. Informal garden tours from 2-5PM.

- **MG Field Trip**
  
  **Bus Departs 6:30AM, Tuesday, November 18**
  
  Trip to Ft. Myers to visit Echo Farms and Edison-Ford Winter Estate