Master Gardener School Project
BY CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG Editor

Recently Marie Singer became incapacitated with a series of mini-strokes. We wish her well and a rapid recovery so she can enjoy the fruits of her dedicated and hard work at Largo High School. The following article from the Largo Leader commends Marie for her tireless work and is one example of the many projects that MGs have been involved with in the community schools.

LARGO – Students and visitors to Largo High School are greeted by mulched beds of Florida-friendly plants along the Missouri Avenue entrance, outside the administration building and the cafeteria and front of the academic wings. This colorful addition to the school is the result of a summer-long project.

“Project Landscaping” was an idea sown by LHS Principal Marjorie Sundstrom, who prodded students to plot out beds, collect soil samples and research potential plantings. Pinellas County Extension was asked to assist with research and recommendations and the students, armed with this information, designed the landscaping and began fundraising efforts. The first landscaping bed was completed before the school year ended, a county news release said.

During the summer, news spread of Largo High’s landscaping efforts via the school web page, phone calls, marquee signs and newspaper articles. Students, parents and community members donated plants and volunteered to dig, weed and plant. The school district assisted in the landscaping along the school entrance. Grants were written to expand the funding.

Sundstrom coordinated the summer projects with the help of Marie F. Hoke Singer, Largo Alumni Class of 1959. Singer’s hard work and weekend hours earned her the title of “Honorary Largo High Staff Member.”

“Without the ongoing assistance of Ms. Singer, the project would not have been able to expand to the scope it has today. She planned, brought in cuttings to plant, provided guidance and direction and support, and even worked weekends to help water, plant and monitor the landscaped beds,” Sundstrom said.

The project is not completed and the students are looking forward to the next step: to upgrade landscaping in the large courtyard. The ultimate goal is to fill the entire campus with Florida-friendly landscaping – drought-tolerant plants, rain barrels, and compost bins – to allow Largo to use natural resources wisely and teach the community with their example. Student clubs will assist with the maintenance of existing beds and expansion of the landscaped areas.

Donations continue to be collected for the purchase of botanicals, garden rakes, shovels, trowels, spades, clippers and lobbers – new or used. Volunteers are needed.

Editor update: Good news! Marie is back on her feet and ready to charge forward again with her work at Largo High School. She was visiting Extension recently and says, “Hello and I’m doing just well”.
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.

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Please send articles to cascaffidi@juno.com *The Green Leaf* is available on-line by clicking on "newsletter" at:

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

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**Message from the Extension Director**

From: Mary Cambell  
To: Master Gardeners and Maintenance Volunteers

What a tremendous job that staff and volunteers have done over the past few months as we handled the many changes due to the re-sizing of County government. There has been a major reorganization of Pinellas County government and many services have been eliminated or reduced. Extension has come through with many innovative programs still available for our community and we could not do it without everyone's support. With this resizing of County government, we have fewer staff available and we will be looking more and more for Master Gardeners to do the important education outreach that our community needs. Please sign up for those outreach activities when offered so that we can get out into the community more. There will be sign up sheets for several activities by the volunteer computer.

The Culture, Education and Leisure (CEL) Department has now moved into our building, consolidating our whole department into one location. Since CEL has the task of maintaining all the parks, our area of Pinewood is included in this task. Parks is in the process of evaluating the campus for the work that needs to be done. Please be patient as they work through this process and begin to make improvements.

If you hear customers raise concerns about the landscape, please ask them to address these concerns to the Culture, Education and Leisure Department (582-2100) and not Commissioners. This will help CEL staff to identify and resolve these concerns directly. We are all part of the same team and we want to solve problems as quickly as possible.

If you have concerns or questions, please address these to me, Jane Morse or Bob Albanese. I will see that they are addressed in a timely fashion with the appropriate people. Bob Albanese has the responsibility for scheduling for all the MG volunteers and interfacing with Parks. Please get with him if you need to fill in your hours with a great outreach activity. We have lots of educational opportunities we would like to make you a part of.

Please be patient. We are still evaluating many things that have changed so that we can be the most efficient with our use of both staff and volunteer resources. Let's stay together and keep doing the great work we have been doing.

Helpful information on the budget reductions:  
http://www.pinellascounty.org/budget/factors_affecting.html
Excitement Rises!!

The time is getting shorter to the start of our Holiday Lights in the Gardens. The tension is building, but the excitement is rising. First I want to thank all that volunteered to-date to help the FBGF sponsor this event. Secondly, a reminder to everyone, your continuing support is welcome and much needed.

The light installation and extensive advertising is underway. The building lobby will remain open providing access to the gift shop and a model train that will be set up there. Entertainers and a concession will participate.

We got this far with your help and much more still has to be done. Please see me or call if you can contribute your time to this wonderful event.

As noted in the flier above volunteers are needed. Please consider volunteering your time to this worthwhile event.

Chuck Scaffidi, FBGF Chair
CRUNCH TIME
By JUDE BAGATTI, MG

A lot of us have been encountering a crunch these days. No, I’m not referring to our economy, that crunching of numbers in budgets afflicted by shrinking incomes and expanding expenses responsible for groans and gasps heard across the land as belts tighten. Nor am I speaking of those challenging workouts, crunches aimed to reduce our belly fat so those belts can more easily squeeze past a few notches. What I’m talking about is acorn time. If you live anywhere near an oak tree, you know what I mean.

For me, it is the seasonal voice of the century-plus laurel oak at the corner or my yard as it sheds its current rich crop of acorns. The plop, plop on the roof first alerted me. Outdoors, acorns bounced off my head and shoulders. Stepping up the walkway to my door right now sounds like a tap dance on bubble wrap, lacking only musical accompaniment. Passersby crunching along the sidewalk inadvertently join the chorus line. At a major disadvantage are would-be prowlers. There’ll be no sneaking around here for a while. It’s prime time for squirrels!

A friend asked if he could gather some of my tree’s ample acorns for the squirrels in his neighborhood, which apparently are acorn-deprived. “An odd request,” I thought. Grabbing a large flowerpot I went out to collect them myself, handpicking only those not crushed, cracked or half-gnawed. Many acorns still had their jaunty caps on. Those that didn’t were easy to spot on the ground with their uncapped yellow tops revealed.

The gathering took some time. My resident squirrels peered down with dismay from branches at my harvesting. I could feel bright, beady eyes boring into my back. Flicking agitated bushy tails, they chattered alarm from vertical viewpoints on the tree trunk as I stooped and scooped up their future stores. I filled the pot with hundreds of acorns garnishing them with a few green-leaved twigs with acorns still attached.

A recent article I read discussed the acts of empathy and kindness observed between primates, namely, chimps, when one was in distress. Empathy, it stated, seems to be a natural trait limited to apes and humans. Rodents? Not so much. Yet, despite their noisy protests, I gave my greedy squirrels the benefit of a doubt, hopeful that in dire times even they would willingly share their mother lode with their poorer cousins across town. Their source, after all, was not depleted. Acorns were still thumping down. Besides, the many oak shoots scattered far from the tree suggests my nutty squirrels recover maybe only half of the stash they bury. Somebody even feeds them peanuts, which the squirrels bring to their oak home nest, because I keep finding the empty shells.

Hoarding is squirrel nature; it’s what they do, and so, forgivable. Still, fair distribution to narrow the gap between the “have-nuts” and “have-nots” is an equitable mission for any and all societies. That’s a tough nut to crack, but a crunch that could set my toes tapping.

Rose Bobier, FBGF advisor wrote the following note: “I’m going to post the billboard on my Facebook page...you might want to encourage others to do the same. Make sure you post it on the FBG website...nice job!! Rose"

I hope you can follow her advice. All the advertising we can get will be a benefit. I have already posted the billboard banner and flier on the foundation web site. The graphic above will be displayed on a 25 foot billboard on Seminole Boulevard near Ulmerton Road, visible while traveling north.

Here is the link to the FBGF website for the Holiday Lights http://www.flbg.org/seasonal_lights.html.
A Tropical Cottage Garden Tour
By CARRIE SHELBY, MG

The first day of October started off with cool air and clear skies; a fine day for a MG garden tour. This one would be at Janice Crawford's home in Palm Harbor. The drive into her subdivision delights the eyes with wide streets lined with tall, oak trees that provide plenty of shade for the neighborhood. Janice's well-shaded front yard offers a contrast to her backyard. During the morning hours the backyard is sunlit giving her tropical cottage garden the warmth and light it needs to thrive. Janice said that by early afternoon her backyard is in dappled shade to full shade, due to the surrounding tree canopy.

Janice's goal when she moved into the house years ago was to reduce the massive lawn area. Over time she's cut away parts of the lawn by creating stone edged beds and filling them in with small trees, and shrubs. The end result is shaded, winding pathways, cushioned softly by mulch, dotted with whimsical yard art. I enjoyed the contrast as well as the balance she's created of shady areas to bright spots, stone surfaces to soft plant silhouettes, and low ground cover to high canopies. All the plants look so healthy, showing off a vibrant display of color throughout the garden. Certified as a Butterfly Garden, Janice makes sure that she provides both nectar plants and caterpillar food plants. During the tour, as the garden warmed up, more and more butterflies flitted through the yard. Janice said she didn't work from any type of plan. I think serendipity worked in her favor.

Janice takes full advantage of the fallen oak leaves, using them throughout her garden beds to enrich the soil. Whenever her cutting piles get to a sufficient quantity, she sets up her chipper on the site where she plans to spread the mulch and happily chips away, knowing that she’s doing her part to nurture the environment. She credits Dr. John Kingsbury, fellow MG, and compost expert for showing her how to properly use and maintain a chipper.

Once again, I was reminded of some of the reasons why I became a Master Gardener. I wanted to learn more about gardening. The curiosity was always there for me but I lacked the knowledge and practical skills. And I wanted to enjoy the camaraderie of other gardeners. These garden tours provide both! I always seem to walk away from a tour getting new gardening tips, inspiration for planting ideas that I can try in my garden and animated, interesting conversation with fellow gardeners. If you have never attended one of these tours, don’t be shy. Come and join us, and appreciate gardening from another gardener’s perspective.

Sometimes agreeing to host a tour can be stress-inducing event for the host. There is a feeling of wanting to make sure the garden looks its best, and that means there is extra prep work to do to groom the yard for guests. What I have found is that we attend these tours not to criticize and find fault but just the opposite: to appreciate and enjoy the efforts of a fellow gardener. Thank you Janice for your friendly hospitality and for welcoming the Master Gardeners into your beautiful garden.
Have you noticed your Ficus tree or shrub dropping leaves and going bare? There is a new pest of the Ficus plant that is now hitting our area. This new exotic pest is the Ficus whitefly or *Singhieilla simplex*. These whiteflies are small, winged insects that are in the same family as aphids, scales, mealybugs, and bugs. These insects typically feed on the underside of leaves with their “needle-like” mouthparts. Whiteflies can seriously injure host plants by sucking fluid from them causing wilting, yellowing, stunting, leaf drop, or even death.

The first noticeable symptom of this insect’s damage is the leaves turning yellow. Shortly after turning yellow the leaves drop off the plant. If you shake the foliage you may see the small, white, gnat-like adult whiteflies flying from the foliage (you may think you’re seeing dust). The adult whitefly resembles a very small moth with a yellow body and white wings with a faint grey band across the middle of the wings. The young stages (eggs and nymphs) can be found mainly on the underside of the leaves. If you look with a hand lens you may see the young nymphs which are tan to light green discs with red eyes. The underside of infested leaves look like they are dotted with small, silver or white spots which are the empty “skin” left behind after the adult emerges.

This whitefly has been most commonly found infesting weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*) but has also been reported on *F. altissima* (lofty fig, false banyan tree), *F. bengalensis* (also called “banyan tree”), *F. microcarpa* (Cuban laurel), *F. aurea* (strangler fig), *F. lyrata* (fiddle-leaf fig), and *F. macclandii (= F. binnendijkii)* (banana-leaf fig). This whitefly may eventually be found on other species of Ficus.

The life cycle of the Ficus whitefly is approximately one month. Eggs which are usually laid on the underside of leaves hatch into a crawler stage. The crawler wanders around the leaf until they find a suitable spot and begin to feed. From this point until they emerge as adults, they remain in the same place on the plant. The early nymph stages are very difficult to see.

Management: Although efforts to understand and control this pest are ongoing, there are several potential options for whitefly control. It is important to consider the site (landscape, hedge, large tree, container, production, etc), the size and number of trees, and the surrounding environment before taking steps to control this pest. For large trees, for example, a foliar spray may not be possible.

In the landscape, several natural enemies have been observed attacking this whitefly. These beneficial insects can play an important role in long term control of the whitefly. Awareness of these natural enemies is very important so as not to use products that will kill these natural enemies. The most commonly seen natural enemies include beetle predators, parasitoids, and lacewings.

Monitor your Ficus plants for early signs of an infestation because it will be easier to manage the pest before it builds to high populations and causes major damage. Defoliation (dropping of leaves) usually occurs after the whiteflies have been around for several generations. To reduce the chance of spreading the insects when infested trees or hedges are trimmed, either leave the clippings on the property or if removing, bag the clippings. If clippings are being transported in a truck, be sure to either bag them or cover these clippings with a tarp. Although the eggs and early stages of the whitefly on fallen leaves will die, the almost mature stage of the whitefly is likely to survive, emerge into an adult and attack more Ficus.

Insecticidal soap or oil sprays may be a successful method of control for small trees or shrubs. Since these work by direct contact with the insect, complete coverage of the underside of the leaves is especially important. It will also be necessary to repeat these applications every 7 to 10 days. The use of other insecticides may be necessary to control this pest. However, it is important to use products that will not harm the natural enemies. Protecting natural enemies may be a critical factor in the long-term control of this pest. Insecticides with systemic (going throughout the inside of the plant) properties may be very useful in whitefly control because they can be applied as a drench to the soil and provide longer lasting control.

Control in the Landscape: The current recommendation is to drench the soil around the base of the tree or hedge with a product that contains a neonicotinoid compound. Two such products for homeowner use are: Spectricide Systemic Tree & Shrub Insect Control + Fertilizer and Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Insect Control. If applied correctly, these products should provide good control of the whitefly for 4-8 months (or perhaps longer) depending on the size of the tree or shrub. Check your plants 3 months after application and look for the presence of live nymphs. Foliar sprays can also be applied to treat “hot spots” or get quick knockdown in addition to the soil applications.

If the tree or hedge has suffered from a massive loss of leaves, it is important to not overwater. Without leaves the plants are less able to take in the water and root or lower trunk rot can occur. This rot may lead to plant death. If the twigs are still supple, the plant will produce new leaves in a few weeks. As soon as new growth is evident, a systemic insecticide applied to the soil may provide protection to the new growth.

For more information visit the Pinellas County Extension M-F, 8 AM to 5 PM. The Pinellas County Extension Lawn and Garden Help Desk is available M, T and Thur. from 9 AM to noon and 1 to 4 PM at 727-582-2100. You can also google: Ficus whitefly IFAS, or Ficus whitefly pest alert DPI.

The use of trade names in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. UF/IFAS does not guarantee or warranty the products named, and references to them in this publication does not signify our approval to the exclusion of other products of suitable composition. All chemicals should be used in accordance with directions on the manufacturer’s label. Check the label carefully as this information does change and our publications may not have the latest information. Use pesticides safely. Read and follow directions on the manufacturer’s label.
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MG Update Meetings
- MG Tours
- MG Classes
- For Sale- Banana Plants
- Botanical Bounty Sale
- Extension Classes
- Neighborhood Gardener
- MG Discounts

- Master Gardener Update Schedule - Mark Your Calendar!
  - Monday November 9, 9AM—James Kovaleski presents Edible Landscaping & Permaculture.
  - Tuesday, December 8, 9AM—Elizabeth Austin from Crime Prevention Task Force will discuss Home, Auto, Personal and Identity Theft

- Upcoming MG Garden Tours
  - Thursday, November 12, 10AM-Noon in Oldsmar at Pam Brown’s 1679 Bayhill Drive. Please plan on joining group for lunch at a nearby restaurant.
  - Wednesday, December 9 in St. Petersburg at Phil Stager’s 4184 51st Ave S.

- Palm Harbor Library MG Orchid Class
  Always felt Orchids, though beautiful, may be too difficult to grow so you never tried? Want to know the secrets to selecting and maintaining healthy orchids? Master Gardeners will present an Orchids program with co-owner of Art Stone Orchids, Michael Polen offering advice at a free program at the Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave. This program will be offered Wednesday, November 11, at 2 –3:30PM.

- Pre-Holiday Sale at Botanical Bounty Gift Shop
  Pre-Holiday Sale, the week of November 16th! We’ve got unique and beautiful gifts for under $10 – the “boutique mystique” without the high prices. We will have new stock in tees, mugs and ornaments, as well as gifts for all your gardening relatives and friends.
  The gift shop is a not-for-profit shop with all proceeds remaining right here in our beautiful Florida Botanical Gardens.

- Banana Plant Pups for Sale
  The MG crew that maintains the Fruit Garden potted many banana plant pups. We are offering these plants for sale to MGs. The sale proceeds will be deposited in the FBG Foundation. This money will be returned to the MG crew to help them purchase new plants and keep the garden maintained and attractive. About 18 plants, of various varieties, are ready to be purchased in a price range of $5 to $10. The sale will take place every Tuesday morning, so wander through the Fruit Garden and pick out your favorite banana plant.

- Series of Extension Classes - Mark your Calendar!
  The following classes will be offered at Extension for free to MGs, Volunteers and FBGF members that register. When you attend you must show one of the membership cards. All others pay a nominal fee of $15 to attend. Please see Extension’s on-line calendar page for details and to register.
  Wednesday, November 4, 12:15-12:45PM Solution in 30– When Vegetable Gardens Go Bad– Webinar
  Saturday, November 7, 10AM-12PM Compost Happens!
  Saturday, November 7, 1:30-3:30PM The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly of Vegetable of Gardening
  Wednesday, December 2, 12:15-12:45PM Solution in 30– Living Christmas Trees & Holiday Plants– Webinar
The Neighborhood Gardener

“The Neighborhood Gardener” is the monthly e-newsletter from the University of Florida Master Gardener and the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods programs. It is available on the Florida Master Gardener Web site http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/newsletters.shtml.

Safety Harbor Garden Club

Since 1991, the Safety Harbor Garden Club has met the third Wednesday of every month to learn, pot, dig, chat, eat, swap, and generally become better guardians of the soil -- plus enjoy beautiful yards.

**Next meeting is November 18, 9:30AM at the Safety Harbor Library, 101 Second St N.** Hands on workshop making your very own holiday arrangement. Membership is $15 a year, or $25 per family. For information, call 727 420-6184, or email huffsandy@aol.com.

Benefits to FBGF Membership and Master Gardener Certification

We have identified nursery owners in our communities who are willing to offer a 10% discount to members of the Florida Botanical Gardens and to Master Gardeners. When you make a purchase at these businesses, please present your membership card for the discount. We will continue to contact nurseries in the area to secure additional participants to this program. In addition to Art Stone Orchids, Earthscapes Garden Room, Palm Harbor Nursery & Landscaping and Wilcox Nursery the following are now providing discounts:

- **Kathy's Korner** (10% off Trees)
  Nursery Inc. & Tree Farm
  6095 Haines Road N., St. Petersburg, FL 33714
  Phone: 727-525-9640
  Mon-Sat 9AM - 5PM and Sun 10AM - 4PM

- **Willow Tree Nursery** (10% off all purchases)
  4401 49th St. N, St. Petersburg, FL 33709
  Phone: 727-522-2594
  Mon-Fri 8AM - 5PM, Sat & Sun from 10AM - 4PM

A complete list of discount nurseries is posted in the Volunteer Office.

Excerpt from 8-22-09, St Petersburg Times, Garden Section

Leafy Pollution Fighters

NASA scientists have found that houseplants are useful in absorbing potentially harmful gases and cleaning the air inside modern buildings. The foliage of indoor plants is capable of removing low levels of pollution, while the roots, assisted by activated carbon filters, removed air pollutants at higher concentrations. In tests, these filters removed and biologically degraded pollutants before they accumulate.

Here’s NASA’s list of top house plants that were most effective in removing formaldehyde, benzene, trichloroethylene and carbon monoxide. We think they're attractive, too.

- Bamboo palm, *Chamaedorea erumpens*
- Chinese evergreen, *Aglaonema modestum*
- English Ivy, *Hedera helix*
- *Dracaena “Janet Craig”*
- *Dracaena “Marginata”*
- *Dracaena “Warnecki”*
- Mother-in-law's tongue, *Sansevieria*
- Peace Lily, *Spathiphyllum*

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.

- 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.

**When not at Extension email your hours to: cascaffidi@juno.com**

Please direct your questions to coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or assistant, Emma Eshbaugh.
**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS**

**For November & December**

- **Speakers Needed**
- **Great American Teach In**
- **Children's Trail**
- **P-2000 Trail Pruning**
- **Holiday Light Volunteers**
- **Writers Needed**

**American Teach-In—Speakers Needed**
Carol Suggs has speaker requests to fill for the day of the **Great American Teach In on Wednesday, November 18.** If you are interested in speaking to a school group please contact Carol at 727-582-2124. She will add your name to the list and will match you to an appropriate group.

**Help Wanted**
Weekly hand-watering of new plants in the gardens on Saturdays. Work on your own, flexible hours. Please see Jean Field or Bob Albanese.

**Take a Walk on the Wild Side**
Have you taken a walk through the gardens lately? Sure, it’s warm out there, but a quick stroll along the Children’s Trail reveals lots of surprises. There are several new benches, and the plants are loving our summer rains. The Children’s Trail Committee is seeking woodsmen (or women!) and tree trunks to create pint-sized chair and table sets for little ones. We’d love to add more seating and other features to attract the gardeners of tomorrow. If you wish to contribute, call **Chuck Scaffidi at 727-582-2117.** And treat yourself to a stroll down the Children’s Trail—all ages welcome!

**P-2000 Trail Pruning**
Grants Specialist, Debbie Chayet is in need of volunteer assistance with a project on the south P-2000 parcel. The vegetation along the nature trail is encroaching from the sides, making it narrow along the trail to walk without being hit by vegetation, such as saw palmetto leaves. If anyone is interested, the trail could use some pruning of vegetation to widen it out. Small amounts of vegetation can be cut and left off to the sides. Larger amounts of vegetation can be dumped in the green dumpster in the parking lot. Any takers? Contact Debbie Chayet, Grants Specialist, 727-582-2521. Thanks in advance for any assistance.

**Holiday Light Volunteers Needed**
This year’s Holiday Lights will be more spectacular than ever! The Lights will be on 6-10 PM from Saturday, November 28 through Sunday, January 3. Live entertainment is scheduled throughout the holiday event. Vendor merchandise displays and refreshments will be offered for sale. We are planning to keep the Extension lobby open at night during the event so guests may enjoy the train set up and shop at the Botanical Bounty boutique. All money raised goes back into the gardens. There will be a variety of volunteer positions available. To sign up please contact **Chuck Scaffidi at 727-582-2117.**

**Special Acknowledgement and Opportunity**
*The Green Leaf* wants to thank **James Stevenson,** Public Education Specialist & Horticulturist, for the many educational and entertaining "Plant of the Month" articles he contributed to the newsletter. Since February 2006, MGs have appreciated this monthly feature. Unfortunately James will no longer be available to provide this wonderful enhancement to MGs’ gardening knowledge due to staff changes at the Extension. If there are any MGs that have a talent and desire for research and writing about plants in our botanical garden we would welcome your input! Time spent researching and writing would count as volunteer hours.

**Community Garden in Dunedin**
Dianne Wheatley Giliotti has alerted us to this opportunity. If you live in or like to visit Dunedin, you might be interested in becoming a practitioner at a **planned community garden on Virginia St. in Dunedin.** Interested persons will be invited to an organizational meeting in November. If you are interested, how do you want to be involved? There are plenty of things that need to be done for a successful garden. Begin by filling out the survey below. Tell us what you want in a community garden and how you can see yourself getting involved. Survey link: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=tGUf32aQn4M_2bChQFK5ChHA_3d_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=tGUf32aQn4M_2bChQFK5ChHA_3d_3d) *City of Dunedin’s Sustainability Page*
Jane's Jottings  
By JANE MORSE, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Agent, Pinellas County  

As you know there has been a major reorganization of Pinellas County Government.  
As our Extension Director has pointed out in her remarks (page 2), resizing at Extension is no different. I am concerned that you as a volunteer have become apprehensive about your role at Extension and may lose sight of your mission as a MG. This mission for you has not changed. We are a land grant Extension of the University of Florida/IFAS MG program and as acting Extension Agent my goal is to continue this mission of the Master Gardener program. Education and Community outreach being the highest priority. Many opportunities to fulfill this mission are advertised in our volunteer bulletin board and published in this newsletter monthly. Take advantage of this for it is also part of your learning experience. A special school project as featured on page 1 is just one example of how you can connect with the public to foster their education and promote Extension. A commitment to the monthly up-date educational meetings is also a way to keep you apprised of new horticulture information and office procedures. Volunteering and partnering with others at the help desk is still another way to keep in touch with this discipline and your fellow volunteers.  
As you see our world changing, let me know your feelings so I can resolve them in a positive way. Please be patient. Please know you are very much appreciated! Your work is very important! We need you very much! Thank you for all that you do to help the citizens of Pinellas County.

2009 November  

SAT NOV 7, 10AM-12PM  
- Compost Happens at Extension  

MON NOV, 9AM  
- MG Update  
James Kovaleski presents Edible Landscaping & Permaculture.  

WED NOV 11, 2PM  
- Orchids at the Palm Harbor Library  

WEEK OF NOV 16  
- Botanical Bounty Gift Shop Sale  

SAT NOV 28, 6-10PM  
- Holiday Lights at the Botanical Gardens  
Continues nightly up to Jan 3.  

Looking Ahead!  

TUES DEC 8, 9AM  
- MG Update  
Home, Auto, Personal and Identity Theft  

MG Plant Clinic at the Palm Harbor Library –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.  

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
  Monday, November 9 at 9AM
  James Kovalski presents
  "Edible Landscaping & Permaculture"

Jane Morse
Acting
Extension Agent II, Environmental Horticulture

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an equal opportunity employer and educator. Its research, education, and service programs are available to all without discrimination. This institution is an equal opportunity provider of educational programs and services.