



*October, 2005 Volume 5-Issue 10*



**Mary Campbell, Extension Director**

I want to thank all the Master Gardener's for your warm welcome to Pinellas County Extension. It is a pleasure to be a part of such a dynamic Extension facility. As the new Director for Pinellas County Extension, I have been introduced to an amazing group of creative and enthusiastic educators. The unique mission of Extension in our community can only be completed through the number of dedicated and hard working volunteers that spend thousands of hours assisting the staff. Some volunteers have been working with Extension for over 20 years, which shows both the level of enjoyment that they get from working with the staff, and their commitment to supporting the great mission of extending knowledge to our community.

My love of gardening from a very early age inspired me to get a Master's Degree in Horticultural Science from the University of Florida. I worked in the areas of plant pathology and plant tissue culture early in my career. The past 19 years were spent working as a Park Operations Manager for the City of St. Petersburg, where I worked on many horticultural and educational programs and events, as well as the restoration of Sunken Gardens. My goal for Pinellas County Extension is to expand the role of Extension in our community through diverse educational

programs in the areas of horticulture, natural resources and family and consumer sciences. I am proud to be a part of two great organizations, Pinellas County and the University of Florida, and I am looking forward to many new and exciting challenges.

I first became familiar with the Master Gardener program when I was just out of college. It has always been a tremendous program that provided volunteers with extensive knowledge. I remember how it was always considered a great accomplishment to be a Master Gardener and that volunteers provided a valuable service to the community. With the prestige of being a Master Gardener comes a great commitment to our Extension programs, the environment and our residents.

I am looking forward to working with the Master Gardeners and supporting your work. There are many new and exciting things that are in the future for Extension, including expanding the use of technology to meet a more diverse audience and marketing our programs to people that may not know how Extension can improve their lives. Our new "Solutions for Your Life" website will be based on the IFAS model found at <http://www.solutionsforyourlife.com/>

Thank you for all the great work that you do. It is extremely important to Pinellas County Extension that we work together to improve our community through your help and support. Volunteers are the backbone of the Extension program and we could not reach our mission without your help. If you have anything that I may be able to assist you with, please feel free to contact me. I will look forward to meeting everyone and sharing our vision for the future.



## MG Volunteer in the Spotlight



### Class of 1994 Ray Bradshaw

**Note: A veteran Master Gardener will be introduced to our readers with a look at his or her personal background and the contributions made to IFAS programs. Through these articles we will explore the 23-year history of Master Gardener activities and how Extension has been enriched by their efforts.**

By JM, MG

Ray would probably agree that his early years (pictured here at 3 yrs old) in Jackson Michigan were on the fast track. He achieved academic honors at Mt. Morris High School graduating as class Salutatorian. As a member of the varsity cross country team and the track team he ran the half-mile in a blistering 2.10 minutes. Ray obviously loved music, playing the flute in both the orchestra and marching band. He also sang in the school choir and was an active member of the National Thespian Society.



After graduation from high school in 1951 he was accepted at Michigan State University and continued his interest in band music. He had the ultimate band experience of marching in the Rose Bowl Classic matching UCLA vs. MSU.

Co-educational dormitories had not yet arrived on the college housing scene so fate decreed that Ray would meet Marjorie at an exchange dinner at the campus-housing cooperative. Soon the happy couple became

engaged and they were married during their senior year. Ray graduated in 1955 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. As an ROTC Cadet he was called up for active duty with the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and attended the Adjutant General School. Marjorie received her Education Certificate and began teaching elementary school students.

Ray entered the S.S. Kresge Management training program (remember Kresge's?), remained for six years then moved on to Michigan Consolidated Gas. In 1966 he found his calling with Scripture Press Publications in Wheaton, Illinois, a publisher of books and Sunday school curriculum. His career with Scripture Press spanned a period of twenty-seven years as he rose from Accounting Manager to Controller and Vice President of Finance.

Ray always took pride in his gardens, with raspberries being his favorite choice of fruits. He could count on two crops each year producing about twelve quarts annually, but the harsh winters finally took their toll. Ray and Marjorie moved to sunny Seminole in 1993. He admits his early attempts at Florida gardening were less than spectacular "with all those bugs and diseases". The St. Pete Times published a story about Extension and Ray enrolled in the MG Program.

Ray recalls with amusement the Class of 1994. He received a grade of 100% on his final exam and his classmates shouted "Paternalism, Favoritism!" Joan Bradshaw was our Horticulture Agent but not related to him. He speaks fondly of Jean Field, Thursday leader of the mulch piles, and of Dick Klimpel his "mulching Buddy in the trenches". Dick describes Ray in glowing terms such as "the salt of the earth". In 1999 Ray joined the Board of the Friends of the FBG to manage finances and prepare budgets. He stayed on till 2004 when the need to get his hands back in the soil won out over his desire to administrate. He returned to the Board in 2005 as Treasurer but you may also find him working Tuesdays in the Botanical Gardens. He has taken MG responsibility for maintaining the Tropical Plaza.

When asked what kept him in the MG program for over ten years, he replied, "I love working in the Botanical Gardens and am

anxious to see the Gardens expand with new and creative features. As a retiree it provides real therapeutic value.” Ray speaks highly of the staff. “It is so satisfying to work with knowledgeable staff that answer all my questions and problems about the environment. They are also very appreciative of our volunteer work.”

Ray’s advice to new Master Gardeners: “Keep your feet planted in the FBG, maintain it and watch it expand as an environmental show place. We will benefit from it as will our children and their children.”



**I have repeated this article from the last two newsletters because of its importance to our environment and as a challenge to our MGs.**

**A reminder to all MGs, please consider providing articles of gardening interest for the newsletter-they will be welcomed. See me if you have any questions.**

**Chuck Scaffidi, Editor**



## Garden Tips



### “ IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME”

(Provided they are still alive)

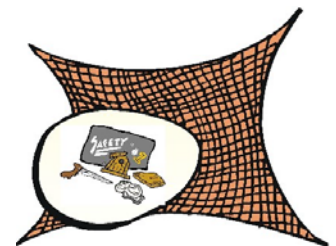
**By BOB ABBEN, MG**

If you plan to build a butterfly habitat, please, do it NOW. Time is running out. Imagine yourself flying above our land called Pinellas. Look down, look close, what do you see? Do you see any real songbirds? Do you see any butterflies? When I look, I see wall to wall to wall concrete ... maybe if you look close off in

one corner you may see a little spot of green where some butterflies have congregated. Someone built it! ... and they came. Several years ago, maybe twenty-five or so I made this same imaginary flight; I saw butterflies and songbirds and many open spaces. I saw a “native” Florida, not what it has become, an imported tropical tourists impression of what Central Florida is not. Many newcomers to our area will try with no success to replicate and import the plants they had in their yard in “Indyconnoise”; that not working, now they want the tourist folder Florida. Funny thing about that folder, it was of South Florida. Florida has THREE different climate zones, and in each there are many species of butterflies that are indigenes to that climate zone. That’s where the butterflies find their natural larval food. Through all this building and importing, the songbirds and butterflies have been chased out of their habitat or if they stay they can’t reproduce. It has not been recorded that any butterfly has a charge account at a mall store or fast food place. Our Extension office has many fine University of Florida handouts that will help you develop your habitat, a little green space that you can share with those in need. If you need more information, just ask. Your efforts need not be any greater than ONE plant. Build it, and enjoy the results.

### Safety Nets

**By PAM BROWN**  
Horticulture Agent



(This message is being repeated because of its importance)

West Nile Virus mosquitoes have been found at Heritage Village and the Florida botanical Gardens, as well as other sites around Pinellas County. Please remember to use a mosquito repellent when working out of doors. DEET has long been the best repellent and the only one that CDC had recommended. There are

now two new ingredients that have been sanctioned by the CDC for repelling mosquitoes: Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus and Picaridin. Repellants containing these new ingredients are now available. Below is an excerpt from a CDC notice dated April 22, 2005:

“Of the active ingredients registered with the EPA, two have demonstrated a higher degree of efficacy in the peer-reviewed, scientific literature.” Products containing these active ingredients typically **provide longer-lasting protection than others:**

- **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide)
- **Picaridin** (KBR 3023)
- **Oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-menthane 3,8-diol (PMD)], a plant based repellent, is also registered with EPA. In two recent scientific publications, when oil of lemon eucalyptus was tested against mosquitoes found in the US it provided protection similar to repellents with low concentrations of DEET.”



## Important Announcements!



### ■ A Plea for Pots

The Greenhouse Crew is in need of **one-gallon plastic pots**. If you have some to share, please leave them on the table on the north side of the potting shed. Thanks so much

### ■ It's here and working

You now have the ability to send your volunteer hours by e-mail.

The e-mail address is: [MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us](mailto:MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us). Please be specific when doing this – include individual dates and hours worked just like you would in the logbook. MG Jan Curtin will be recording these hours that are sent in by this method. I appreciate those that are using this method to report your hours and hope you will continue to do so.

## ■ Pinellas County Extension & Florida Botanical Gardens

We need help in collecting all publicity related to the Extension and FBG Gardens. Please clip any articles you see that mention us in any way, including weddings and outside events. Please bring the clippings to the volunteer office.

Please include the name of the publication and date published.

## ■ MG Articles of Incorporation

By **CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG**

The **Articles of Incorporation** for our MGAA account was completed and notarized. We have applied to the IRS for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. A companion By-Laws document is required and we have a rough copy that will be available in the volunteer office for review and comments. Any questions about either documents or how and why MGAA was organized please see me.

Also, MGs participating in special events should get prior approval and a check voucher from the MG Advisory committee if they are going to expend money for any event and expect reimbursement. Please follow this procedure.



## Fall 2005 Wildlife Programs

### ❖ October 15, Saturday

Owl & Bat Prowl

6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

- Meet in the Tropical Pavilion at Florida Botanical Gardens
- Family program with Limited Space Available
- \$3 fee; Pre-registration and Payment Required
- **Phone 582-2673 to register**

**Investigate the eerie sounds of an October night with Park Naturalist/Wildlife Biologist Jeanne Murphy! Come investigate screech owl coos, bat clicks and other eerie sounds of the night. Kids, bring your parents too!**

❖ **October 21 through Nov18—  
Mondays & Fridays**

- UF Florida Master Naturalist Uplands Program
- 40 Contact Hours—Classroom and Field Settings
- For Information & to Register <http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/index.htm>
- Limited Availability—20 Maximum Student Enrollment

Registration \$200; **Deadline Friday, October 7**

**Step into Florida's upland ecosystems with the Florida Master Naturalist Program. The class includes indoor learning and regional field trips with an opportunity to trek through remote upland habitats. Prepare to learn about upland pinelands, hardwood forests, scrub and prairies, and their related plants and wildlife inhabitants. This program is for anyone, novice to knowledgeable, who enjoys learning and experiencing nature. For additional information, call Jeanne Murphy at 727-582-2100.**

### ❖ November 5, Saturday

Wetland Wildlife & Nature Tours

- 9:00 to 10:00 A.M./Meet in Palm Pavilion at Florida Botanical Gardens
- Pre-registration Requested @ 582-2673; Maximum 25 Guests
- Adults & Families Welcome; No Fee

**Take a gentle, morning wetlands stroll on a mulched path with our Wildlife Volunteer. Learn marsh, swamp & riverine ecosystems. Experience Florida's wetland wildlife, ecology and overall natural beauty.**



**Volunteers Needed!!!**

### **For Volunteer Opportunities:**

**Please see or call Carol Suggs to volunteer for events (582-2124) or the contact person in the help wanted ad.**

### ■ **Job Opportunity**

If you did not attend the last MG Update, you missed this information. A company that manufactures natural fertilizers and bio-charged potting soils in Jacksonville, Florida is looking for Master Gardeners to work for them part time

promoting these products. They will train you and set up the appointments at places like Lowe's and Home Depot. You will set up the display that they provide, hand out samples, and answer basic questions. They will provide you with product to try so that you can also tell of your success. The pay is \$15 per hour and the appointments would usually be on Saturdays for 6 hours. You would not be working as a MG – so this is not volunteer work – but they have used MGs in the Jacksonville area and are very pleased with that set up. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Jack Walker (a MG himself) at (904) 280-7599 or by e-mail at [seejacksoar@msn.com](mailto:seejacksoar@msn.com).

### ■ **Help needed for Pam Brown**

Pam needs some assistance compiling survey results into an Excel spreadsheet so that the information can be sent to the University for analysis. In addition, she needs to have monthly reports from the horticulturalist put into an Excel spreadsheet to tally the numbers for the year. She also needs someone to do some organizing in her office – CDs and other items. If you can help with this, please let Pam know at **582-2112** or [pwbrown@pinellascounty.org](mailto:pwbrown@pinellascounty.org). She will be forever grateful!

### ■ **Help Needed for Paula Jensen**

I need a few people to help me write receipts during **Commercial Horticulture's Annual Pest Control Update on Monday and Tuesday, November 7 and 8**. This means a VERY busy hour from 1-2pm and 5-6pm on both of those days. Please call me at **582-2456** if you can help and let me know which segment(s) you are free.

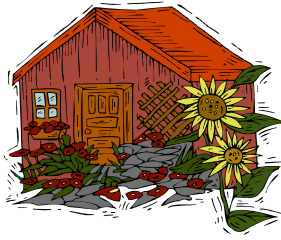
Thank you so much, Paula.

### ■ **Tour Guides Needed**

Tour guide season is between September and May.

Please make your interest known to **Tom Roberts or Sue Richardson**; visit them or call **582-2242** to make an appointment. They will brief you on what is required of a tour guide and sign you up to shadow tours. Also, you may assist during a tour to get experience - **sign up!!**

## ■ Plants and Volunteers for the New Cottage Garden



We would like to renovate the cottage garden in the near future. On the bulletin board there is a list of plants we need. If you can donate one or many, would you please put your name next to the plants. If you don't have plants but would like to help put together this unique garden, let Allen Cordell or Ruth Davies know.

The first step is removing the present plants. John Kingsbury has donated compost to make this a spectacular show garden. Tom Carrell will be making a picket fence to shout the message that this is a cottage garden. Then we will plant for color and texture.

## ■ School Gardening Help Needed:

### ◆ Seminole High School

At least one, preferably two Master Gardeners – for vegetable gardening project with Learning Disabled students.

- Assistance with setting up and maintaining a garden – How to plant and care for the garden
- 9 – 10 a.m. Days of the week are flexible
- 12 students
- Semester long project

School beautification project with the same students

- In addition to gardening project
- Same time frame
- Planting, mulching, pruning

Contact Ed Weingart at Seminole HS at: **547-7536 ext.281** or at home at **727 578-1615** if you are able to help with this request.

### ◆ McMullen Booth Elementary, Clearwater Carrol Steakley, a first grade teacher.

In 2000 we established a very large outdoor classroom (OC) for students. There are many different gardens and lots to maintain. I am looking for a Master Gardener to help train teachers, students and volunteers how to take care of this large outdoor classroom. We need

help identifying the good plants from the bad plants. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Carol at [carrols@verizon.net](mailto:carrols@verizon.net) or give Pam a call at **582-2112**.

### ◆ Pinellas Park High School

6305 118<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

Teacher would like to establish a vegetable garden with science class students. Requesting a Master Gardener to give technical advice. **Contact Diane Stevens at 538-7410 ext. 186**

### ◆ 74<sup>th</sup> St. Elementary Gardening Initiative

They want to beautify areas of the campus using staff, parents, and students. Requesting a Master Gardener to guide them with soil preparation, design and planting. Want to include educational signage for plantings. Contact **Suzanne Shirk, Media Specialist at 727-893-2120**

### ◆ Southern Oak Elementary

The PTA wants to redo the courtyard using parents and students. Requesting a Master Gardener to help with soil preparation, what to plant and proper planting techniques. **Contact Kathy Akers at 560-0867**

### ◆ St. Josephs Church

2102 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South St. Petersburg

Help needed for one Wednesday afternoon (3 – 5:30 p.m.) children's program in September, October or November to present a lesson on how to plant and care for tomatoes or some other easy to grow vegetable. This is a group of children gathering for Wacky Wednesday and their plan is to encourage good eating. Please contact **Deborah Schechner at 488-4796** or [paxsez1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:paxsez1@tampabay.rr.com).

## ■ IFAS Award of Excellence for Master Gardener Projects

By **CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG**

Pam Brown has approved a proposal from the MG project advisory committee (MGPAC) for the “**MG Grand Herb Garden TourFest**”

We feel there is a remarkable growth of interest in herbal outreach as evidenced by the HerbFest and GardenFest interest. Also, we have been in discussion with Penny Khaled president of the Herb Society and she has offered many suggestions for this project. She is very enthusiastic about continuing to advise and assist us. The Herb Garden TourFest will consist of three parts: a MG guided tour of the herb garden, food preparation by an accredited chef and a keynote speaker on an announced herbal subject.

Please contact Pam Brown, Chuck Scaffidi, Jack Moss or Sam Skemp to contribute to this exciting project. We will be in need of a leader for this event, herb garden tour guides, and many helpers to make this a successful award-winning project. We also respectfully welcome suggestions for this event.

The advisory committee will continue to assist MG startup projects and identify projects that have state award potential.

For all project award submissions we are in dire need of the following MG skills: creative writers, editors, reviewers, graphic artists and others willing to help. Please see me or call **582-2117** if you are interested or you feel you are working on a project we should consider.

## **Volunteer Opportunities and Events for August/September**

### **■ MG Advanced Training**

The next MG Update will be **Saturday October 8 starting at 11 a.m.**

**Please bring your lunch**

Pam Brown will be presenting a program on Palm Nutrition and Fertilization. This a presentation prepared by Tim Brochat, the UF Palm Specialist. The presentation has wonderful pictures of various palm nutrient deficiencies.

**Mary Campbell, unfortunately, had to cancel her 11 a.m. talk.**



**☀ SAVE THE DATE** - *GardenFest* is set for **Saturday, November 19th, 2005!**

Only a month to go for GardenFest. Nearly all the details are coming together.

Just a few biggies need handling:

Friday afternoon the vendors arrive with tons of plants to get moved into their area from the parking lot. We need four more people who can skip the gym and the treadmill and walk with a wagon over the bridge or through the garden. It's good exercise! And, the vendors sure appreciate the help.

On Saturday, those who are not teaching are needed to be ambassadors for Extension and The Florida Botanical Gardens to answer questions and give direction. Yes, most want to know where the restrooms are! See how easy this is!

A botanical treasure hunt will lead participants to various parts of the gardens to their treasure chest, a marigold plant donated by the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA). Volunteers to check the answers and give out the "gold" are needed.

Please stop by the bulletin board and sign up to help in the areas that interest you.

**The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at noon, and you are personally invited!**

If you are interested, please contact **Ruth Davies at [sunflower1368@juno.com](mailto:sunflower1368@juno.com)** or phone **399-0352**.

Ruth Davies and Cathy Nelson

### **☀ MG Plant Sale Meetings**

By **CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG**

The Plant Sales require an extraordinary amount of MG hours to make this a special and successful event. Your continued support is encouraged and we would like a goal of having the most MGs involved. This is a very rewarding learning experience personally. Knowing that plant sale profits benefit Master Gardener programs from education to supporting charitable organizations is **an added bonus**.

**Get involved!!! Start by coming to our plant sale meetings and/or talk to the plant sale team leaders.**



**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference** is coming up fast in October. There is a sign up sheet for riding in the Van (Pam Driving) and the Jeep (Jean Field driving) on the bulletin board in the back hall. The available seats are first come-first served. The registration forms are located on the tables in the MG work area and the break area. They can also be found on the Internet at: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/>



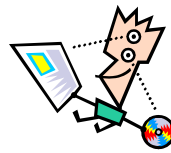
October usually brings a break in our really hot weather, and we have really had some the past couple of weeks. We should start seeing our part year Master Gardeners beginning to trickle back too! We are so glad to have each of you back and hope that you had productive summers in the north.

Remember, the Master Gardener Plant Sale is scheduled for **Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.** There will be advance sales for Master Gardener volunteers from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. There are still slots for volunteers to help out with this important activity. All Master Gardeners benefit from the proceeds of these plant sales. Please consider helping and sign up on the form on the bulletin board.

The state Master Gardener Continued Training Conference that will be held at the **Reitz Union in Gainesville on October 24 – 26** is coming up fast. I will be driving a van and Jean Fields will be driving the Jeep for those of you that wish a ride (as I write this there are two spaces left in the van and two in the jeep). The sign-up sheets are on the back hall bulletin board. We will be leaving on Sunday afternoon, October 23 since the conference starts so early in the morning on the 24<sup>th</sup>. We will meet here at **Extension at 2:15 and leave at 2:30 p.m.**

We appreciate all that you do for us here at extension. Take care and be safe.

♥ Pam



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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 about **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 mailed courtesy of MG Plant Sale funds.**

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

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**Production Editor: Chuck Scaffidi, Master Gardener**

Please send articles to Pam Brown or e-mail directly to Chuck [cascaffidi@juno.com](mailto:cascaffidi@juno.com) or Pam at [pwbrown@co.pinellas.fl.us](mailto:pwbrown@co.pinellas.fl.us)

The newsletter is available on the Internet at <http://www.flbg.org/>  
 Click on “**Master Gardener Program**”, click on “**MG Newsletter**”



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The enclosed material is provided as one of the many services relating to the educational programs offered by this agency. Our statewide network of faculty is prepared to provide current information on food, agriculture, marine and natural resource science, energy, nutrition, family and 4-H youth, and related fields. We will be happy to help you with additional information upon request.

*Pamela W. Brown*

Pamela W. Brown  
 Extension Agent II, Environmental Horticulture

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