Tucked behind many large trees on the front lawn is our home of 20 years, set on 8.5 acres, and where we have been retreating for several months over the last few years. The house is a 65-year-old farm house which I have been remodeling since we purchased it in 1983 (still not done).

I thought I would take advantage of having newsletter space this month to show you my abode and my favorite trees in front. Realizing this size photo doesn't do justice I will identify them from left to right: a weeping beach, bald cedar, red leaf maple, blue atlas cedar and a Magnolia grandiflora. Sandwiched between the large trees are a pink crepe myrtle, nandina and azaleas. Most of the remaining acreage is nature’s conquest.

I’m also writing to invite someone interested in seed propagation to join me in an interesting project. Some years ago I gathered seeds from the Southern magnolia (the flower pods open and expose the red seeds) and successfully propagated several hundred trees. The tree has thousands of pods now and displays the most beautiful color. Since they ripen this time of year I collected hundreds of fruit seeds to bring back to Extension and start the process of seed germination.

A pod close-up and branch with pods are shown below. Let me know if you are interested. Our consultant will be Bob Abben, our resident seed expert.

By BETSY HIXON, MG class of 2006

One of my dreams, on my life list, is to become a Master Gardener. This year I have been given that opportunity. To fulfill this dream I resigned from my job as a Title One teacher at Lakewood Elementary. My resignation was not accepted and I was offered every Wednesday off to attend the Master Gardener Training. I am grateful. I met a remarkable man, Sam Skemp, my mentor, who backs me on many projects and pushes me on when I feel set back. I am grateful to him. Betty Lipe of the 4H staff supports me and my quest to expand knowledge to school children outside the classroom. Her advice is “never stop trying”. I am grateful to her. Linda Culhane shares her personal knowledge and expertise and it is because of her I experienced the wonders of Tropiflora with MG Carol Pilsbury.

The owners of Tropiflora, Denis and Linda Cathcart, are open and friendly and I feel like I am visiting old friends. Patrick Roher, the retail shop manager takes us on an informative tour of his 17 varieties of Platycerium (stag horns) he has hanging in the greenhouse and I am spell bound. At my original interview I professed that I would choose to be a stag horn so you can imagine why I was in heaven. We take a tour of the grounds and are asked to look up into a large Oak tree where Androlepix skinneri, Aechmea sendleirii, Aechmea aquilega, Hohenbergia stellata and several species of Billberdia have been growing for over 20 years. (Giant bromeliads are growing in the trees!) At the next greenhouse he exclaims that no one walks in more than 20 feet. We do not progress more than 20 feet. We are over taken with awe. To top this experience we are given 30 samples of Tillansea as a gift to sell at our plant sale!

To the family of gardeners at Tropiflora, on behalf of the Pinellas County Extension Service, I would like to thank you for your gift and I extend an invitation to all MG’s to visit and celebrate Tropifloras’ 30 years and the Cathcarts warm hospitality.

The right combination of fertilizer has helped keep the weeds down and my garden green in my quest for Master Gardener status.
Pesticide Safety Tips
By PAM BROWN, Horticulture Agent

Common Sense Pesticide Use
Pesticides can be hazardous if not used safely. Pesticides can enter the body in three ways--by mouth, through the skin and eyes, and through inhalation (breathing into the lungs).

READ labels carefully--one section of the label will tell you about the toxicity of the product when it enters the body.

Remember:
- Minimize use of pesticides where possible.
- Choose correct pesticide for the job.
- Wear appropriate proper protection and clothing when handling and spraying pesticide products.
- Follow the precautions that appear on the label.
- Stand and apply so that the wind blows the pesticide away from you.
- Follow environmental guidelines and regulations regarding disposal.
- Wash face and hands thoroughly after completing mixing operation.
- Wash hands before eating, drinking, smoking or using the toilet.
- Shower thoroughly, with special attention to hair and fingernails, after each pesticide application.

Recipe for “Green Stuffed Mummies”
These are spicy, not for the faint of heart!

12 large Jalapeno peppers
12oz. Gorgonzola cheese
10 sun-dried tomato halves, minced
12 3” long pieces of bacon

In a bowl place cheese and minced sun-dried tomato. Mash with a fork to combine.

Cut top of pepper off (stem end) and scoop out seeds and pith with a pairing knife so that it becomes hollow and ready to stuff. With a spoon pack cheese mixture into the cavity and top with a slice of the bacon. Place stuffed peppers on a 12 inch long metal skewer ½ inch down from the top and piercing the bacon.

The peppers should now be “hanging” like foosball players! Place four to a skewer. Set skewers over a 9” x 13” cake pan so that the peppers are suspended and the pan will catch the drippings. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 45 minutes to an hour. Remove from skewers and enjoy! For an Italian flair on this recipe, replace the Gorgonzola with Mozzarella cheese diced small and the bacon with Prosciutto di Parma.

Buon Appetito!

What’s Cooking in Your Garden?

**JALAPENO PEPPER**
By JESSICA FOSTER, MG

Jalapeno peppers are a spicy native of Mexico, but can easily be grown in our sunny state. They are generally grown from seed, which are obtained easily through the purchase of the pepper at your local produce market. Remove seeds from the fruit and let air dry for about two weeks. Plant seeds directly in the ground or for better control of watering and soil conditions plant in 3-5 gallon containers. Use a mixture of half native soil and half good potting soil. Seeds planted at a depth of ¼ inch should germinate in 7-10 days. Apply a slow-release fertilizer every 3-6 months for higher yields and overall good health of the plant. Do not over water since this can cause yellowing of the leaves and leaf spot fungus. Fruits should appear in 70-80 days with a succession of harvests for many months.

What’s Cooking in Your Garden?
Important Announcements!

VSP5 the new county computer program for logging volunteer hours is now in operation. You must log your hours here the day you volunteer. Those that can not be here when they volunteer can log hours on a standard form so your hours can be entered by an assistant Volunteer Coordinator. If you have been sending your hours by e-mail use the form as a guide. Send to: MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us.

Training continues and we will provide the forms. See Chuck Scaffidi or an assistant Cathy Nelson, Mary Crowe or Adrienne Andrews.

Notes From Your MG Library ....

By Angela Strain, MG
Book Titles on the Shelves

BOTANICAL GARDENS cont.
From Seed to Flower;
Gardens of Walt Disney Resort; Warner; 1992
Japanese Gardens; McDowell; 1969
Perennials, A Nursery Source Manual; Gorkin; 1989
Plants for Problem Places; Glattstein; 1988
Plants of Colonial Williamsburg; Dutton; 1979
Stan Hywett Hall & Gardens; S. H. Found.; 1975
The Blossom Circle of the Year in Southern Gardens; Dillon; 1922
The Gardens of Williamsburg; Colonial Williamsburg Found.; 1970
The Story of Magnolia Plantation & Its Gardens; Hastie; 1984
Travelers Guide to American Gardens; Ray; 1988

BOTANY
A Gardener’s Guide to Plant Names; Healey; 1972
Biology of Plants; Raven; 1970
Botany; Alexander; 1970
Botany Made Simple; Greulach; 1968
Families of Flowering Plants Vol. 2; Hutchinson; 1969
Guide to Vascular Plants of Central Fla; Wunderlin; 1982
Plant Biology; Norstog; 1976
The Penguin Dictionary of Botany; Blackmore; 1983

BROMELIADS
Bromeliad Society Journal; Bromeliad Soc;
Handbook of Succulent Plants; Vol.1 – 3; 1980
The Colonial Bromeliads; Padilla; 1981
Tillandsia; Isley; 1987

Two new books will soon be part of our inventory. They are: Shade Gardening for Florida by Brandeis and Tropical Flowering Plants: A Guide to Identification and Cultivation by Llamas.

We are able to add new volumes at this time because of the success of our MG Plant Sales and the Generosity of MGAA. A big THANK YOU to everyone.

If any of you are interested in joining our Library Team, please let either Jean Field (our Staff Liaison) or me know.

Also, Book Worm Needed

Do you like a good gardening book and a quiet place to read?

Do you have an eye for detail and a knack at organizing?

If you answered “yes”, have we got a rewarding position for you!

Our MG library needs one or two good book worms to tend to the growing collection of books and magazines. No previous experience required, just a desire to work independently every other Friday morning.

For more information, please contact Jean Field at 582-2504, email address: jfield@pinellascounty.org
Or Angela Strain at 526-4188, email address: kitkhan@aol.com

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 remember to include the name of the publication and date published.

You must be registered by 10 October to vote in November ’06 elections. There will be a rep from the elections office to register anyone who needs this service at the October 7 Plant Sale.
MG Advisory Association
By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

The MGAA documents are available for all MGAA members on request. We have detailed how MGAA operates and is organized, and defined the duties of committees. The next MGAA meeting in November will announce the date later.

I (Chuck Scaffidi) want to thank all the people that helped me set up the new volunteer PC log-in system and to those that helped complete the up-date of the volunteer office. When I left in August I was waiting for the office to be painted and the new furniture to arrive. The effort had to be coordinated, so I asked Cathy Nelson to be the coordinator in my absence. I will be back Oct 2 and am anxious to see it. All the reports I have been getting say it looks terrific. So to Cathy and her helpers thanks for all that work!

She tells me “Definitely thanks go to the painting contractor and to Extension maintenance for cleaning & buffing the floor so it looks like new. Thanks Carol Suggs for keeping me updated on the movers ever-changing schedule, and Cindy Horton for helping get everything up and running again so quickly. Cindy is no longer just at extension, she is now responsible for multiple locations and so I was glad her schedule fit us right away. Adrienne Andrews was working in the gardens the Friday afternoon we found out we needed to get the computers out for the furniture delivery. She came in to log her time and then stayed to help me - a big help.”

Cathy also tells me, “Mary Crowe has been fantastic about checking the log and updating any hours for those that can’t use the computer. I’ve been doing those hours that come in via email and the log when Mary is not in.”

I’m anxious to get back and work in the new volunteer office.

IFAS Professorship Program

I have the forms and information if you want to know more about this Professorship program. You can always contribute to this fund and I will provide the contact information.

We are currently at a Platinum Patron Level (over $6,000).

How about nominating our agent as a candidate for this honor. It means a $5000 annual salary supplement and $3000 annual grant will be provided to support Extension programming for 3 years. I need help with the nomination and interpreting the rules. Gail Roberston has a copy. If anyone else is interested please let me know:

Chuck Scaffidi
Volunteer Office-582-2117

Volunteer Opportunities and Events for October/November
For Volunteer Opportunities:
Please see or call Carol Suggs to volunteer for events (582-2124) or the contact person in the help wanted ad.

Up-coming Master Gardener Update Training Topics

There will not be Update training on October 8th due to the proximity to the date of the Plant Sale
November 9th (Note different date due to MG training on the 8th)
This will be longer training involving several speak-

Hello Master Gardeners!

I am very excited to announce the dates of this year’s Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference. We are taking the conference out into the state as we did two years ago and will be in Jacksonville this year October 23rd-25th. We have looked at the evaluations from last year’s conference and are sure that this will be the best event ever. We have a nice mix of general sessions, and concurrent sessions and I think that this year will be a very important year to attend so that you have the latest information directly from the specialists.
Registration information will be sent to all the Master Gardener Programs in the state, so make sure you get yours. See you in October!
http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html

Sincerely,
Tom Wichman, Florida MG Coordinator
I Need Your Help to Keep Our Gardens Growing

We need your membership in The Florida Botanical Gardens. You can get into other gardens free or at discounted prices, and that alone pays for your FBG membership. Discounts are offered at most gift shops. Membership offers prior notice and invitations to special FBG events. FBG membership makes a good gift for friends or family. FBG membership allows early admittance to the MG plant sales. Individual membership is $25; Family is $35; a supporting garden friend is $250. If you'd like a leaf on the tree with your name on it, $1,000 will help grow the gardens. See me or stop in at Botanical Bounty.

Pam Needs Help!

Pam needs a volunteer to compile survey results into an Excel file for analysis. You must be able to create the Excel file and then enter the data. It needs to be completed by mid October.

Also, Pam needs someone who can put data from individual Excel spread sheets into a cumulative spread sheet. These are contact numbers from Horticulturists and Master Gardeners. The spread sheet has already been formatted. The information needs to be completed by November 15th.

Please let Carol (582-2124) or Pam (582-2112) know if you are able to help with these projects.

James Blackwell would like to keep in touch with his friends at Extension, so you can call or contact him at:

3500 Keith Street N.W. #106
Cleveland, TN 37312
423-559-5603

Plant Sale October 7
Cutting Six-Packs … cuttings needed

By JOANNE DRAKE, MG

I have been working on recycling six-pack containers … painting and decorating them, covering up the original print by gluing dried flowers or pictures of flowers from magazines. These containers will be used to hold small plastic bathroom cups, filled halfway with water to hold 4” to 6” cuttings, to be sold at our plant sale, October 7th, 2006. We will offer these Cutting Six-Packs to the public for the first time and see how well they respond. If we are successful … we may give it another go around at future plant sales. We will also have propagation info displayed on propagation with cuttings.

On the day of the sale, if anyone can bring in four to six inch cuttings of hibiscus, crepe myrtles, or pentas … marking the colors … it would be greatly appreciated. If you could bring them in coffee containers filled half way with water that would be great.

Some Master Gardeners may even like to try decorating any six-pack containers they may have kicking around. It’s fun to see how others will decorate. I will supply the plastic cups to insert the water and cuttings.

If you have any questions … please email me at ddrake03@tampabay.rr.com and mark “MG Plant Sale” in the subject line.

We will also experiment with the sale of plastic watering cans made by recycling Albertsons gallon size orange juice containers. The labels were carefully removed, holes drilled in the lids and then the front decoration added. We’ve only got five or six of these. If anyone else used this Albertson’s product and would like to recycle the empty container … our plant sale will graciously accept your decorated watering cans. You may drop them off at the magazine table the day of or day before the sale.

We, as well as the public, are so excited about our plant sale … knowing that each sale is bigger and better than the one before. We appreciate all our Master Gardeners and always want to hear about any new ideas that may be added to our future sales. Thanks for all your help.

The Plant sale will arrive this week and Plant Sale Chair Linda Culhane and I (Chuck Scaffidi) would like to thank everyone for your tremendous effort to get ready for it. Lots of new ideas were generated and lots of enthusiasm was noticed. Special thanks to Linda for chairing this project, setting new financial goals and bringing so many new ideas to expand the plant sale. We have a side bet on how well we are going to do (let you know after the sale) and only mother nature can be a factor in our success. See you Saturday-and thanks again to everyone!! and those MGS not involved please join us.

Chuck Scaffidi

See me or stop in at Botanical Bounty.
We have certainly been fortunate this hurricane season – just two more months to go for this year. We can also hope for a break in the really hot weather this month.

In October we usually start seeing our part-year Master Gardeners beginning to trickle back! We are always 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 7th from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be advance sales for Master Gardener’s who are volunteering at the sale on Friday October 6th. 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 in Jacksonville on October 23 – 25 is coming up fast. The early registration date has past. I will be driving the 7 passenger van and will be leaving on Sunday, October 22 at 2:00 from the Extension parking lot. There is still some space available – the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back hall.

If you have not been in the volunteer work room lately, you will be very surprised – the new furniture is in and the room looks great. Thanks to Chuck Scaffidi for working on and designing this transformation.

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

♥ Pam

Please be careful!

Poison Ivy – it can be growing anywhere. If you see it somewhere, please make note of the location and let Skip Tumber (Maintenance Crew Chief) know so that it can be treated.

Fire Ants – if you see them, make note and let Skip know the locations so that they too can be treated.

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

Plant Sale funds contribute to The Green Leaf mailing.

Urgent!! To save mailing costs please tell Carol or me to remove your name from the mailing list if you can consistently and reliably access the internet version or if you choose to pick your copy up at Extension.

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, Extension Agent II
Production Editor: Chuck Scaffidi, Master Gardener
727-582-2117
Please send articles to Pam Brown or e-mail directly to Chuck cascaffidi@juno.com or Pam at 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”
# October 2006

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<td>Tour of Florida Friendly Yards 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Call 582-2673 to register</td>
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<td>Understanding &amp; Creating a B’fly Habitat 2 part series, sec. class Nov. 4th Call 582-2673 for details</td>
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<td>Second part of B’fly Habitat Citrus Basics 10 a.m. at the Ochs Grove Call 582-2673</td>
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Start earning your hours now!!

New MG Class
Welcome!!!

Need immediate help in the following work areas:

♦ Saturday October 7 Plant Sale needs help in all phases of getting plants ready and many jobs during the sale. Earn and learn!!

♦ Also, would like someone to help our plant sale Chair Linda Culhane as a Co-Chair. A great learning and rewarding position.

♦ Besides all the gardening needs outside, for those who have computer skills can volunteer in our MG volunteer office. Work on our MG newsletter, IFAS award projects (4-H Ochs garden is a candidate for 2007), many other computer and graphics tasks. Also, need County Volunteer Personnel Services coordinator assistants to support Natural Resources recording of volunteer hours.

Incentives for completing your 100hrs!!

♦ Automatic member of MG Advisory Association. No membership fee.

♦ Florida Master Gardener license plate available for $8.

♦ Thanks to a team effort a MG Cookbook was recently published which collected recipes from MGs and their families. Profits from sales go to our MG Advisory Association.

♦ The MG cook book is sold to MGs or your class for $17.

♦ Receive your MG certification card and receive a 10% discount from: Garden Hardware and Wilcox Nursery

♦ Eligible for Educational field trips
4-H Apple/Pecan Sales
Receipt & Pick-Up Location

Receipt Date 2006

Customer's Name
Address

Received $

For Apples For Pecans
Cash Check

Pick up apples at 4-H Ochs Educational Center
14602 113th Ave N
On Thursday & Friday Oct. 26 and 27
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
and
Saturday October 28, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
For further information or directions please call
582-2528 or 582-2100 (4-H Youth Development)

Thank you for ordering your apples and pecans from 4-H Youth Development. Orders and full payment are due in the 4-H office by October 1, 2006. Apples will come fresh picked directly from the orchard in Ohio. Numbers per bushel will vary depending on size of the apples.

Remove Order Form at Line and return to 4-H Department, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774

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<th>Make Checks payable to</th>
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Name
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Phone

August 27, 2006
Good Work Pinellas County Master Gardener Volunteers !!!

ATTENTION!
Master Gardener Update Training

CANCELLED

There will not be Update training on October 8th due to the proximity to the date of the Plant Sale

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Employment Opportunity – affirmative action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, IFAS, Florida A.& M. UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.