Plant of the Month in our FBG
By JAMES STEVENSON, Public Education Specialist, FBG

In 2006 the Florida Botanical Gardens was awarded a grant to restore 60 acres of our 120 acre property to its original wild state. This area has come to be known as the “P-2000” after the Preservation 2000 (now Florida Forever) grant project. The proper name is The Natural Area, and is a part of the Florida Botanical Gardens.

To implement habitat restoration to the specifics of the grant, we relied on volunteers’ efforts and to date we have had hundreds of volunteer hours devoted to the task. As a result of everyone’s hard efforts the area is re-sprouting and some wonderful native wildflowers emerged this first year.

The initial task was to remove all the exotics and invasive species on the 30 acre site east of the Gulf Coast Museum of Art. This area is home to several habitat types, including pine flatwoods, sandhills, a small pond and an oak hammock. Some aggressive native plants that were creating a monoculture, like smilax and grapevine, were subdued while undesired natives, such as laurel oaks in the pine flatwoods, were removed or left as habitat snags.

Following this, we employed a contractor to roto-mulch the overgrown palmetto, younger vegetation and small oaks. This action mimicked the beneficial effect fire would have on this area. The plants of Central Florida have evolved in concert with fire, and many are so adapted to periodic fires, that they rely on them for survival!

By May, the area was prepped and we were ready to re-introduce some long-lost native plant species increasing the site’s biodiversity. With the help of a legion of Master Gardeners, wildlife volunteers and Master Naturalists, a Boy Scout troop and a high school National Honors Society, we planted about 3000 grasses, shrubs, trees and palms. In addition, wildflower seed, collected from a natural pine flatwoods area, was scattered over the site.

A few months later, the area is lush with re-growth. Palmetto, sumac, goldenrod, grasses and pawpaw are plentiful. The newly installed plants that were the only vegetation immediately following the mechanical site prep are now struggling to keep up with the emerging previous residents. A few of the wonderful surprises we have had include two native butterfly weeds (Asclepias feayi and Asclepias pedicillata). The pawpaw is larval food for the zebra.

Continued on next page.
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

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*The Green Leaf* is available online by clicking on newsletter at: [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml)

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**Florida Botanical Gardens Report**  
By JAMES STEVENSON,  
Public Education Specialist, FBG

- **Campus Sustainability Program**
  During the August meeting of the Campus Sustainability Committee, chaired by Andy Wilson, the team reviewed the Plant Collections Guide and approved it with some small changes. During the September meeting the team discussed the revised plan for the Inspiration Corner submitted by Ruth Davies and suggested a few “test” planting holes be dug to determine if planting can be done in the proposed area without seriously damaging the roots of the pine trees growing in that area.

  The committee also recommended that the floss-silk tree adjacent to the herb garden not be removed but given some corrective pruning that will be supervised by Bob Albanese and/or Michael Pettay.

  The committee briefly discussed creating a set of guidelines for the purchase of green products for use in the office and will be continuing this discussion in future meetings.

  I can also report that Mark Flickinger, Director of Public Art and Design with Pinellas County Cultural Affairs, has tentatively agreed to serve on the team that will be looking at the landscape around the new sign and campus entrance.

- **Native Garden**
  Interpretive signs have been designed and delivered to the company to mount on a UV-resistant plastic-embedded surface. These should be installed by October 1.

- **HUD/Natural Area Boardwalk**
  Work on this project has been swift and very sympathetic to the site. The workmanship is exemplary. Completion in September.

*Plant of the Month: Continued from front page.*

swallowtail butterfly and the swallowtails have been seen on-site, checking out this newly-revealed abundance. An incredible sunflower relative, the Florida false sunflower (*Phoebeanthus grandiflorus*), appeared in June on tall, stiff stems, holding 4” golden sunflowers up above the competition.

Florida elephant’s-foot (*Elephantopus sp.*) and false horehound (*Eupatorium rotundifolium*) have created a lavender froth to the area. Recently the mornings have been beautiful, and although we have yet to open the Natural Area to the public, should you be passing, you may enjoy spending a while admiring a natural Florida habitat on the mend!

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[Florida false sunflower *Phoebeanthus grandiflorus*]
Market in the Park

Every Saturday from 8 AM to 1 PM, November 3 - April 19, 2008.

More than just a farmer's market, Market in the Park will bring together healthy, farm fresh local produce, delicious gourmet foods, beautiful plants and much, much more. As a unique touch to the market experience, County Extension experts and Master Gardeners will hold educational seminars on gardening, nutrition and cooking during market hours. To make sure the whole family gets involved there will be many children's activities as well.

The market booths will be set up in the main parking lot adjacent to Pinellas County Extension and the Florida Botanical Gardens. Parking is free and is located off of Walsingham Road near the Gulf Coast Museum of Art. Enter by walking across the center bridge from the main plaza of the Florida Botanical Gardens. Additional parking found next to Pinellas County Extension.

For more information visit the County's website: http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/market/index.html

Volunteer Opportunity to Support the Market in the Park

The hope is to have two Master Gardeners available each Saturday to answer questions about various topics i.e. the Master Gardener Program, Florida Friendly Gardening, Composting, etc.

At this time we need to get a list of Master Gardeners that will be willing to sign up for one or many Saturdays. What we ask is that you send your name, telephone number and topic(s) that you feel comfortable in answering questions about. Once we receive the final word that the project is a "Go", we will be notifying you and at that point be asking that you pick which Saturday(s) you can work.

Please send your information to Suzanne Girves at sgirves@earthlink.net as she will be compiling the list.
My Lawnmower
By JUDE BAGATTI, MG

First, let me say I’m no fan of lawns, those confounding plots of one or the other elite grasses which soak up too much water, need fertilizing, develop thatch and brown spots, harbor chinch bugs and ant hills, and slowly morph, right under your feet, into fields of weeds. Just as slowly, I am implementing a plan to turn my modest backyard patch of green into ground cover, laced with fairy rings, sprite stepping-stones and socio paths!

But before that plan materializes, alas, the "lawn" must be cut. Since my house is on a corner, I have the double pleasure of mowing the greenery (one can hardly call it grass) on two sides between sidewalk and street. In that no man’s land, volunteers of varying verdant hues abound, many with sweet, tiny blossoms of blue, red and yellow, looking upon close inspection, like miniature orchids or baby buttercups. Miniscule white lacy halos surround violet centers. Mini fuchsia bowls support even more minute golden pistils. The redeeming beauty of these micro wildflowers prompts me to swerve around rather than mow ‘em down. Such ungroomed borderlands attract the buzzing, fluttering and flitting nations like no manicured lawn ever could. I’m delighted when flocks of ibises deem those stretches worthy to patrol. The birds fascinate me. I watch, as armed with their curved sabers they busily poke and probe the underground, marching from one scrubby expanse to the next. They remind me of a search party scouring the earth in grid fashion.

Whatever I do to transform my backyard lawn, I cannot be rid of a lawnmower. That public-owned right-of-way requires maintenance and mowing, if only to enhance the curb appeal of our trash barrels on garbage days. Which brings me to the point of this tale: My Lawnmower. It is a vintage, possibly antique gem: a push mower. Mom gave it to me when I bought my house in 2002. After Dad died years ago, she hired a lawn guy for her Hollywood yard. This relic sat in her shed, unused. It may have been my grandfather’s before my dad’s. No one remembers.

It is heavy. It has an iron shaft with wooden cross handle. I need help lifting it into the car trunk. It is self-sharpening. The blades rotate against a metal bar, which hones them as the mower is pushed. That precise junction needs adjustment yearly, according to Monty, “The Lawnmower Man.” Monty, whose shop is in St. Pete, is the only repairman I could locate who services these oldies. Few of his clients own them. The new manual mowers in stores are tinny pieces of excrement, Monty claims. Mine is a good one he says, but has no idea how old it is. It had been three years between adjustments when I took it in this month. In that time, the cost of the “full Monty” treatment for my mower went up $10 from $35 to $45. “The more you use it, the sharper it’ll be,” he admonished. But I can go all winter without having to mow. Summer’s a different story.

I found a name, "Dille & McGuire Mfg. Co., Richmond, Ind., Made in USA" and "MT4" and "MT5" engraved on the mower’s wheel hubs, but no serial numbers. A fragment of label with the still visible word “Turf” is on the shaft. I checked with directory information. There is no listing for the company. At each axle are two small round, lidded openings for oiling. When it gets to squawking and screeching like the local, wild parrots, I dutifully squirt oil into the holes and everywhere else.

Cars have stopped while people in them gawk at my machine. “Haven’t seen one of those in ages,” they’ll say. Lawn maintenance trucks slow down too. Seeing me exerting and sweating, the guys riding in them figure I’d welcome some relief. “Need any help?” they solicit, grinning. “No, thanks, it’s a good workout for me,” I yell back. And it sure is. All my mowing areas are in full sun, and without frequent breaks I get heat dizzy. Some folks passing by give me a “thumbs up” for using “green power” instead of gas or electric. Only once has a neighbor used his power mower on my yard when I waited too long and the tall stalks resembled a waving crop of grain. Neither my mower nor I could cut that.

One day, I suppose, when I’m closer to pushing daisies, I’ll retire my lawnmower. That’ll be when push comes to shove…or should that be shovel?

Master Gardeners Advisory Association is registered on GoodSearch. MGAA receives a direct donation every time supporters use GoodSearch to search the Internet! Please go to www.goodsearch.com. At about 1 cent a hit, GoodSearch has earned MGAA $6+. Come on, join in and try this search engine. Most of you probably use Google. Yahoos search engine also seems to be adequate. The first time you use it you need to sign in as “Master Gardener Advisory Association”
Don’t Forget to Sign-Up for the Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference!


You can register on their website listed below.

On the website, under the Registration Information topic select the “Click Here to Register Now” https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html

**Florida MG Continued Training Conference**

at University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

**Registration Information**

- **Regular and On-site Registration Fee** $210.00 - For fees postmarked after September 21, 2007
- **Guest Registration Fee** $95.00 - Includes: Welcome Reception, Horticulture Auction and reception, Awards Luncheon and Keynote Speaker.

The conference registration fee, combined with funds contributed by our generous sponsors, provides three days of educational program, conference materials, a proceedings booklet, the Monday night welcome reception, daily refreshments, Tuesday field trip to Citra Pine Acres Research Center and catered lunch, the Tuesday evening Horticulture Auction and reception, and the Wednesday awards lunch.

For more details about the keynote speaker and agenda visit the IFAS conference website: https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html

**Group Forming to Tour Costa Rica**

- **A tour to delight gardeners and nature lovers**
- **Help to benefit The Florida Botanical Gardens**

**Tuesday, January 22, 2008, for 10 days.**

PASSPORTS ARE NECESSARY. APPLY IMMEDIATELY. The cost is approximately $1,100 each for a double. Visit www.caravantours.com for each day’s details.

Travel insurance is available for $99. Strongly suggested.

- Spend 10 days touring tropical Costa Rica staying in great hotels from the Pacific Ocean to the Caribbean Sea. Fully escorted and guides are provided.
- Tour on an air-conditioned motor coach to see an inactive volcano, hot springs, museums, cruise through a preserve, see birds, crocs, monkeys and more, visit the Cloud Forest, parks, a coffee plantation and of course visit the Selva Verde Rainforest.
- All meals are included; bottled water is provided on the motor coach.
- Dress is informal; the temperature ranges from 75 to 90 degrees, depending on location. Swim in the Caribbean.
- Flights are personal; Tampa through Miami to San Jose on American Airlines is approximately $200 roundtrip. Transfer to hotel provided.
- To reserve, call Caravan Tours at 1-800-227-2826 and be sure to use Code #RX80122-group. Depending on the number of people who go on this tour, The Florida Botanical Gardens will receive a donation.
- **$300 is due BY FRIDAY, OCT. 12** with your reservation, plus $99 for trip insurance. Final payment is due 90 days before departure.

Call Ruth Davies for details: (727) 399-0352
Monica Delights Master Gardeners
By PAT DIETERICH, MG

On September 8th, Pinellas County Master Gardeners were treated to the wit and wisdom of Monica Brandies at the monthly update meeting. Ms. Brandies is the mother of nine (!), and a lifelong gardener both in Iowa and in Florida for the last 20 years. She is a prolific author, and spoke to us about “Keeping Gardening Easy”, because she claims she was “born tired and had a relapse”. She told us gardening does not have to be exhausting, that “God does it without any fuss at all.”

Monica told us that the first rule of gardening should be “Enjoy!” Look around and appreciate your garden, take time to visit others, and take notes about things you observe and like. Her tips included common sense advice like work in the shade and follow it around your garden, rest when tired, enrich the soil, and mulch. She suggested we work with Nature, and not against it. Combine a task you consider nasty with one you think is fun. She shared her “Ten Minute Trick”, which is simply that when you are unmotivated to work in the garden, you should pick a task that can be accomplished in 10 minutes. At that time, task completed, you’ll have enhanced your self-esteem, and most likely will continue to tackle another chore. She suggested we prune half a bush or weed half a bed, and then the next time we come out to garden we’ll know exactly where to start!

Monica shared instructions for composting with worms, called cold composting, and she gave us tips for butterfly gardening. She said she always thought her garden had to be perfect, and now she knows that is unnecessary, and we should all adopt that attitude. She told us when she first considered inviting people to her garden, her husband was concerned and warned her she might “ruin her credibility”. On the contrary, gardeners have flocked to her garden openings, and she thoroughly enjoys sharing with them and learning from them. We are certain the feelings are mutual! Monica’s garden will be open to the public this fall on November 10th & 17th from 10AM to 1PM.

Monica Brandies’s Website:
http://www.gardensflorida.com/

Come Walk in My Garden
Sat., Nov. 10 & 17.
from 10AM until 1PM.
“Come walk in my garden, and share fruits, friendship, and fun.”
1508 Burning Tree Lane, Brandon, FL, 33510,

- Bring a carload or a busload of friends.
- Free cuttings and directions available to nearby public gardens and to Kerby’s nursery of TV fame for the rest of the day.
- Autographed books (great Christmas gifts) and plants and pommelos for sale.

Habitat for Humanity® Master Gardener Landscaping Project
By LINDA CULHANE, MG

A group of MGs met recently with Pam Youst, the owner of the women’s build for Habitat for Humanity. We discussed her desires for landscaping and toured the area around the house. She asked for color and easy maintenance in the full sun front garden and an area in the full shade back yard that will be for dining or relaxation. All are possible.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 8 at 12:30PM in the Orchid Room. We will be discussing:
- design,
- plants to collect,
- other material needed for project,
- and how to attack the collection of needed items.

While at the building site, a photographer from the St Petersburg Times was there and snapped a few pictures of our meeting. Then I received a call from the reporter, Larita Jacobs. She is interested in doing an article on our project and wants to be notified of the landscape installation schedule.

Anyone desiring to join in on this project is welcome to attend. The targeted install date will be mid to end of November depending on the near completion of the house.
Contact Linda Culhane at (727) 530-1250 or e-mail: lbculhane@verizon.net

MGAA has approved $1,000 for the Habitat for Humanity MG Project.
Update on the Children’s Garden
By CHUCK SCAFIDII, MG

The Children’s Trail Committee, chaired by Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, will present their concept plan to the Sustainability Committee at the October 4th meeting. The presentation describes the theme and educational activity for each station along the trail. The long term goal of the trail is to instill desire in children to create gardens and pursue gardening as a life long experience. In order to meet this goal, a fun, whimsical, self-guided, and interactive experience for youngsters is proposed. Sixteen sites from the existing Florida Botanical Gardens have been identified to be included on the trail. The trail will be designed and built in phases.

The four trail stations planned for phase I are:

- The **butterfly garden** in front of the Extension Building. The theme is the four stages of butterfly metamorphosis for zebra long wing, the Florida state butterfly.
- The **tropical fruit garden** which will highlight the nutrition of bananas, pineapple, citrus and passion fruit.
- The **pond observation deck** will focus on conserving a water habitat for flora and fauna.
- The **tiki hut** will provide lessons on what trees can do for you.

A fantastic logo featuring the FBG icon will be used in the signage to mark the trail. The markers will be installed at children’s eye level. A self-guided, informational map will match up to the stations along the trail. The preview of the first four stations is scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd at the launch day for the Market in the Park.

**Committee Members:** Dianne Wheatley-Gioliotti, Mary Campbell, Vivian Haicken, Betty Lipe, Cindy Peacock, Chuck Scaffidi, Pat Dieterich, Lou LaGrande, Bobbie Jones, and James Stevenson.

**Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 9 at 9AM.**

If you are a FBG member you will be receiving an invitation to the preview.

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**Saturday, November 3**
**8AM to 1PM**

*Shop at the First Market in the Park.*

*See Proposals for:*
- **The Children’s Trail**
- **The Archway to the Florida Botanical Gardens**

*Visit the Site of the Inspiration Corner*
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MG Update Meeting
- MG Mentor Meeting
- MGAA Update
- Sign up for FBG Membership
- Volunteer Hour Sign in
- Plant Sale Update

MG Update on Sustainability, Wednesday, October 17, 10AM
by Mary Campbell, Director & Devesh Nirmul, Sustainability Agent
Sustainability is a very broad subject. It touches on every human activity. The idea of living 'sustainably' refers to everyday actions that produce a healthier world for everyone. Please plan on attending to learn more about this important topic.

MG Mentor Meeting, Wednesday, October 17, 11:30AM

MG Advisory Association, Chuck Scaffidi, Chair
Next MGAA meeting is Wednesday, October 17, 9AM
For MGAA documents visit our IFAS/Extension web site at: http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml

FBG Membership
Mary Ellen Warner and Mary Crowe will staff a FBG foundation membership booth at the plant sale entrances on October 6 for plant sale customers and any MG that wants to join at that time.

For all volunteers, Mary Crowe is encouraging you to visit her in the volunteer office so you can join or renew your membership. MGs don't forget to redeem your FBG membership Gift Coupons.
Also, anyone participating in the November MG field trip to Martin and St. Lucie counties will need a FBG membership card for free or reduced admission to gardens. If you want to purchase a FBG membership please see Mary Crowe by October 20 to allow time for processing.

Attention!! New Volunteer Services Program (VSP)
An enhanced version of VSP is planned to go on-line October 1. I and the volunteer coordinator assistants Mary Crowe and Carrie Shelby will instruct you on how to enter your time. Although there are many improvements to the VSP system, including all the back hours being restored, a hard requirement exists to sign in and sign out when you are at Extension. You can still log your time in the book or use e-mail, but I prefer you get used to the sign-in sign-out requirement otherwise it becomes a considerable burden on the volunteer coordinators to manually enter your hours. We have over 200 volunteers that work at Extension.
Please contact Chuck Scaffidi if you have any questions.

Plant Sale Update, Linda Alcorne, MG
Six months have gone by since the last plant sale and that means its time for the next plant sale. All the plants have been grown, counted, labeled, pinched, and fed. In the first week of October we will be moving the plants out into the field for the sale. The plans are in place for a great sale Saturday, October 6 From 9AM until 12noon. We will have early shopping for 1 hour from 8AM until 9AM for Master Gardeners and FBG members. If you are planning on working with us then we will see you sooner. If not then we will see you at 8AM. We have over 6,000 plants for sale and I know we have something you need. The next time you hear from me it will be to let you know how all your hard work went. If you have suggestions or comments let us know. We have lots to do this week so I hope to see many of you soon. Thanks again to all who have contributed to this effort. See you in the greenhouse. Linda A.

Thank You MGs!
Patsy Schamber thanks everyone who sent cards and get well wishes following her recent surgery. She says she is better than ever and "you can't keep a good Master Gardener down".
For October, November & December

- Garden at North Ward Elementary School
- Butterfly Garden Stepping Stone Workshop
- Telephone Team
- Composting & Raised Beds
- FYN Garden Tour
- Music in the Gardens

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

Help Needed - No. Ward Elementary School Garden, No. Fort Harrison in Clearwater
Sam Skemp developed this gardening program for first and second graders over the past few years. Due to personal issues, he has cut back some of his activities and is looking for an MG to take ownership of this gardening project. Please call Sam at (727) 391-3327, if you think you might be interested, and talk with him about what the program involves. He hates to disappoint these students, so please consider this worthy activity.

Register Now for Last Butterfly Garden Stepping Stone Workshop
Be creative, and learn the art of mosaic in a beautiful setting while making a long lasting contribution to FBG. The workshop is taught by Linda Alcorne, MG and mosaic artist, in her inspirational garden. Cost is $10 for materials.
Wed, Oct 10 & 17 from 10AM–noon at Linda’s garden, 293 Orange St, Ozona
Registration required. Contact Bessie Morse at (727) 215-6666 or trophy540@runbox.com.

Desperately Seeking MGs that Like to Talk!!
Jane Morse, Commercial Horticulture, needs volunteers to call local nurseries to gather information for a needs assessment. There will be a short script provided to ask the nurseries about what kind of educational classes or information would be helpful and/or useful to them.
Contact Jane Morse at (727) 582-2562 or jvmorse@ufl.edu.

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!

Garden Tours of Florida-Friendly Yards in the Historic Kenwood Neighborhood
Saturday, October 20 9AM-3PM
Cost: Free
Information and Registration: 727-582-2673
Meet and speak with the owners who created their beautiful gardens while keeping the environment in mind. Participants drive to addresses that will be provided at the Seminole Park registration site at 29th & 3rd Ave., bordered by Burlington Ave. & 30th St. Car pooling and walking to nearby addresses is encouraged.

There are about eight gardens on the tour. A pair of MGs at each site to greet the public and assist the homeowner would certainly add value to this event. Please contact Wilma Holley at (727) 582-2672 if you would like to sign up to lend a hand for this delightful and motivating event.

Volunteers Needed for Music in the Gardens
The FBG Foundation Events Committee is planning music at the Palm Plaza on three Friday nights: Dec. 7, 14 and 21.
This is a delightful way to spend an evening with beautiful lights, meet lots of people and enjoy the music. Volunteers are needed to set up and close up, refresh the cookie platters and beverages and help with sales from the flower cart. Depending on volunteer area, plan on arriving at 6PM and staying until 9:30PM.
Call Ann Shimp at (727) 584-6524 now for first choice. Her e-mail is capworf1358@tampabay.rr.com.
Our part year Master Gardeners start to trickle back this month. Welcome back – we missed you while you were gone.

I had a great vacation in September. We went to Seattle to visit our youngest daughter and then on to the Olympic Peninsula to visit our good friends there. While on the Olympic Peninsula we took a day to go over to Victoria, BC in Canada. What a lovely city. Our purpose was to visit Butchart Gardens just outside Victoria. We spent nearly the whole day there. The gardens were created in an old stone quarry. One of the interesting things is the number of plants in the landscape that we might think odd for their northern latitude. Several palm trees, banana plants, Tibochina, and Podocarpus. I spoke with a docent and she said that they only have a killing freeze about every 8 – 10 years. The quarry itself also offers some weather protection, as well.

There were so many dahlias and tuberous begonias in bloom. The dahlia blooms were as big as dinner plates and the begonia blooms covered my hand.

On the Olympic Peninsula we visited Hurricane Ridge and Obstruction Point in the Olympic Mountains. It was quite a hike to Obstruction Point, but I finally made it. The views were spectacular.
The weather was absolutely wonderful. The days were a warm 75 degrees with no humidity and the nights were cool. One night the temperature was down to 47 degrees. It was hard to return to the heat and humidity of Florida, but it is always good to be home.

Please remember to look at the Volunteer Opportunities in this newsletter. We have some items that go unfilled, so consider participating in any that you can.

We are so thankful for all that each of you do to help us with the outreach mission of Extension. These last few months have been a bit trying with the changes in the gardens and here at Extension that came along with the budget reductions. But, we are all resilient and we will adjust and be better in the long run. I seem to remember a quote that goes something like – all things work together for good. So, I hope that we can all work together for good.

It is an honor to serve as the coordinator of the Pinellas County Master Gardeners. I am constantly amazed at all that you do. Thank you!

♥ Pam

Looking Ahead!

THURS, NOV 8 & FRI NOV 9
- MG Field Trip to Martin & St. Lucie Counties

SATURDAYS IN NOVEMBER, 8AM-1PM
- Market in the Park at Extension

SAT, NOV 10 & 17, 10AM-1PM
- Visit Monica Brandies’ Garden

SUN, NOV 25, 6 PM-10 PM
- FBG’s Seasonal Sensations- an Illuminated Garden Free nightly holiday light display through January 3, '08

For details on some of the events listed go to the calendar on the Pinellas County Extension Lawn & Garden website. http://www.pinellascounty.org/scripts/publish/webevent.pl?cmd=opencal&cal=cal6
Good Work Volunteers!

Reminders

- **MG Plant Sale**  
  Saturday, October 6, 9AM-noon  
  Sale opens early at 8am for Master Gardener volunteers, FBG members & County Ext. Staff. Bring a wagon!

- **MGAA Mtg.**  
  Wednesday, October 17, 9AM

- **MG Update**  
  Wednesday, October 17, 10AM  
  Topic: Sustainability  
  Speakers: Mary Campbell & Devesh Nirmul