



What Can We Learn From History

By Bob Abben, MG

While either in the Florida Botanical Garden (FBG) or our extension lobby, no doubt all of us at

one time or another, or maybe more often, have heard “I never knew this beautiful place existed.” I hear it so many times it reminds me of our heritage at FBG taking me back to the 1980’s and *that frightens me*. Sometimes the response is “Pinellas Counties best kept secret”. Would you like to take a short journey (just in your mind)? Let’s start at the Walsingham FBG Gate, **face South** (toward Walsingham Park) and think about how the road looked about twenty years ago; now let’s cross the road and walk about one half mile South into the “Park”. In the southeast corner of the “Park” are the remnants of the once proud and beautiful “best kept secret in Pinellas County” the Suncoast Botanical Gardens (SBG). The SBG garden house, library, greenhouse, shade house and equipment storage are gone, not a trace. As you walk around you will see just a few remembrances of the SBG. The monkey-puzzle tree still stands, there is one lone daylily still hanging on from what was once a large bed of standards and hybrids. All the memory gardens are gone. Not far away was a solid, large bed of naturalized liatrus, easily as large as auditorium ‘C’, fantastic when in bloom. Then a short walk to the azalea bed, where a few bloomed this past February. This bed overlooks Lake Mildred, and was officially named for Mildred Palmer, the guiding light of the SBG. Yes, it is the same Mildred Palmer whose

artwork was developed into a wonderful tribute by a committee of Master Gardeners. Thank you MGs for a job very well done.

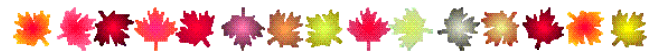
At the Sunday monthly meetings there was always a program. Opal Schallmo used to do programs as did Gill Whitten and others from Extension. Several of the people who have their name on the “Golden Leaf Tree” in our extension lobby, were in attendance at these meetings. The land was leased from the county for a dollar a year. The SBG was financed by memberships, donations and, yes, a “plant sale”. The results of the first “sale” bought a brand new riding mower on which Mildred rode for hours.

I remember in 1999 I visited the Chicago Botanical Garden. It was late August, hot, most all the perennials and annuals were either dry or had gone to seed, **but**, there were many more than a thousand people walking around enjoying the last few weeks of outdoor life, and then at least forty volunteers at various stations.

Today, there are few people left to remember this part of “history”, not less walk through the SBG. There are only a few ghostly memories; of what was the **first** “best kept secret in Pinellas”.

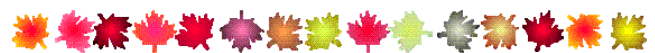
We MGs associated with the FBG can strive to have these educational gardens become priceless memories for our future generations.

Learning from history we can achieve this!



**Behold the glory of the garden.
Within its simple beauty
there lies a glimpse
of life’s miracles.**

Source unknown.



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 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 Uoff 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.

I have repeated this article from last month because of its importance to our environment and as a challenge to our MGs along with the following wisdom by Bob Abben about volunteering.

We Really Live A tough Life

Many moons ago before our country moved west, the only people that lived on the barren plains, were know as “Plains Indians”. Barron meaning “nothing” but say some scrub plants and lots of animals. They lived by rivers to provide water and fish. The shelters used by these people were known as “tepees”, made from the hides of large animals held upright by “lodgepoles” in a circular configuration. Simple enough. But on this barren land no trees of any value grew. Lodgepoles were made from slender tree trunks, known as lodgepole pines or ‘Pinus contrata’. These long, tall, straight, strong and light poles grew in the Cascade Mountains of Western Washington and Oregon. Visualize this ... the tribe is sitting around the camp fire one night, in let’s say Kansas, the Chief rises and points out four or five young braves and instructs them to “go fetch lodgepoles”. No map, no trail, no GPS, no compass, horseback and walking over the plains, over the Rockies, through forests of other people, maybe friendly. Think about it ... the danger, the uncertainty, finding their own food, how much time out of their lives. That’s why the chief had to select.

Would you volunteer for those kinds of “hours”.

Provided by **ELSA SOTO**

Are you a real gardener? Take this simple test and find out If you can identify every plant in your yard by its scientific name, but can't recall the name of your brother's firstborn child ... you might just be a gardener.

If you have ever felt a pang of pride when someone pointed out the fact that "those grass stains will never come out" ... you might just be a gardener.

If you have ever tried to transplant a shrub larger than a Volkswagen Beetle ... you might just be a gardener.

If you've ever bought a piece of garden equipment that cost more than your daughter's braces ... you might just be a gardener.

If you have ever approvingly compared the texture of your wife's chocolate cake to well-rotted compost ... you might just be a gardener.

If your arms have more scratches than the cat wrangler at the free spay clinic ... you might just be a (rose) gardener.

If your car has a bumper sticker that reads "I'll give up my hoe when they pry it out of my cold, dead fingers" ... you might just be a gardener.

If you believe that the best part of your family vacation to Disney World was the tour of the hydroponics greenhouse ... you might just be a gardener.

If you have ever missed a wedding because you were in the garden and lost track of time ... you might just be a gardener. (Bonus points if it was your own wedding.)

from Better Homes and Gardens e-letters
"Garden Notes"

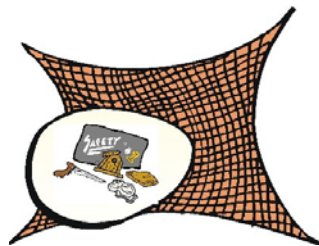
Safety Nets

By PAM BROWN
Horticulture Agent



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

repellant when working out of doors. DEET has long been the best repellant 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 Picardin. 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)
- **Picardin** (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."

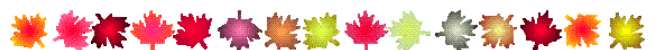
By **CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG**

I promised to showcase a few of Wilma Holley's FBG gardens and wildlife photos each month.

Wilma will also be happy to let you look at her complete collection.



Top left clockwise:
Beetle on Yarrow
Dragonfly
Caladium
Necklace Pod



Important Announcements!



■ 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. 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 Participation in Events

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.

See **Chuck Scaffidi** (582-2117) if you have questions about this procedure. MG members manage the advisory account.

Fall 2005 Wildlife Programs

❖ September 3, 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.

❖ September 13, Tuesday

Red Tide: Its Effects on Birds and Other Wildlife

Guest Speaker: Dr. Gabe Vargo, USF

- 9:00 to 10:00 A.M./Pinellas County Extension
- Pre-registration Requested @ 582-2673
- Anyone Welcome—No Fee

Red tide is a natural occurrence that is often deadly. Come join us to learn how red tide may be detrimental to various species of wildlife. Discover what our latest red tide incident has impacted in addition to our personal enjoyment of the beaches.

❖ September 17-18, 2005

Gopher Tortoise Workshop: Threatened Icon of the Uplands

Saturday, 9:00-11:00 A.M.: Pinellas County Extension (classroom setting)

Sunday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Hiking at Perry Oldenburg Mitigation Park, Brooksville

\$60/person; Limited Space Available

Travel Time to Field Location Not Included in Workshop Hours

Registration & Payment Due 9/9—Call (727) 582-2673

The gopher tortoise is a declining species in a vanishing habitat, which warrants additional protection rangewide on both state and federal levels. The tortoise's home is a burrow system that provides shelter for at least 363 other species. Where gopher tortoises live are an important part of our natural southeastern heritage.

❖ October 1, 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.

❖ **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 November 18—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.

■ **Help needed for Pam Brown**

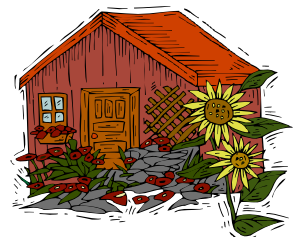
Pam needs some assistance compiling survey results into an Excel spreadsheet so that the information can be sent to the University for analysis. In addition, she needs to have monthly reports from the horticulturalist put into an Excel spreadsheet to tally the numbers for the year. She also needs someone 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. She will be forever grateful!

■ **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 or give Pam a call at **582-2112**.

◆ **Pinellas Park High School** 6305 118th 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**

◆ **74th Street 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 22nd 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.**

■ **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, Chuck, Jack or Sam 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

Sept 8 at 12 N in Auditorium A

The Master Gardener Update will be a presentation by Linda Culhane and Ruth Davies about the gardens they visited on the Garden Tour of England this summer. Please plan to attend and support your fellow MGs.



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

GardenFest will meet on **Tuesday, Sept. 6**, the day after Labor Day, at noon in the conference room. We are looking for someone to help with a botanical treasure hunt and creative ideas and MG teachers. In Oct. we will firm up the volunteers to help with vendors and the public. The excitement level is increasing, as we get closer to November. All volunteers are welcome and needed.

We will try to expand on the creative ideas that came out of the last meeting.

Thanks go to the many MGs who have volunteered to teach that day. Still need more - composting, propagation. Y'all are needed!

If you are interested, please contact **Ruth Davies** at **sunflower1368@juno.com** or phone **399-0352**.

★ MG Plant Sale Meetings & Flyers

By **CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG**

Plant sale flyers for the October sale are available in the volunteer office. Please assist in distributing these flyers around the County. Any questions see or call Brenda Payne.

A reminder to all, the plant sale meetings are the last Friday of the month and all are welcome to attend. The September Plant Sale Meeting has been rescheduled from the last Friday of the month to **September 23 at 10 AM in Auditorium C**. This was done so that any last minute concerns could be discussed and so that Setup and Sale Preparations will not be disturbed.

There are still many Plant Sale job slots open and you are welcome and encouraged to sign up to help out. The Signup Sheet is located on the MG bulletin board located across from the task board. Your help is needed and appreciated for Setup and for Day of Sale tasks.

Plant sale pricing.

At the plant sale meeting on **June 24** a concern was raised about pricing plants for sale.

MGs who propagate plants may not always agree with how the plants are priced.

To resolve this, a plant pricing committee led by Michael Petay was formed to consider how to establish fair prices.

The committee will develop a pricing methodology that will maximize our profits.

A ground rule that has already been established is that those who bring plants for sale or propagation must consider them as being donated to the plant sale committee.

If you are concerned about how plants are priced join the committee and present your thoughts and help with developing the pricing methodology.

Please contact Michael Petay at **582-2599** if you are interested.

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.

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.

🌸 Landscape Design Basics



Have you wanted to be able to design your own landscape? Do you want information on site analysis and plant selection? Our new design basics class may be just for you. It will be held in four sessions on **Tuesday**

nights from 7 – 9 p.m. The dates are September 13, 20, 27 and October 4. The series will end with a design for your landscape (done as homework). Designs will be reviewed during the last class on **October 4** with recommendations from the horticulturists teaching the series. The series will cost \$40 (\$30 for MGs) to cover materials. To pre-register for this class series, please call **727 582-2673**.



BY CHUCK SCAFFIDI

The UPARC poster was displayed at the International MG conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada July 24-27. They have pictures of the conference on their Internet site. I retrieved this photo of the posters, which our submission is the middle poster. We are so proud of this entry and the MGs that made UPARC therapeutic garden happen. Congratulations!



25th Annual FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER CONTINUED TRAINING CONFERENCE

October 24-26, 2005

**University of Florida
J. Wayne Reitz Union
Gainesville, Florida**

<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/> for more information. Save by early registering by 9/26.



With the rain that we have been having, fire ants come to the surface and into raised beds and pots. Be on the look out for them and let us know when you see them. Please be specific as to the location so that they can be treated.

The Plant Sale is coming up quickly. Remember to sign up to help on the sheet on the bulletin board in the back hall. There is much to

be done to get set up for the sale and the day of the sale. Please set aside some time to work on this important activity. The proceeds of these sales benefit all Master Gardeners.

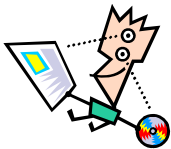
The Master Gardener Update on September 8th will be a presentation by Linda Culhane and Ruth Davies about the gardens they visited on the Garden Tour of England this summer. Please plan to attend and support your fellow MGs.

The new class of Master Gardeners is out and about volunteering. Please make them feel welcome and part of the group.

Fall is just around the corner, even though we do not really experience it until much later. It is still hot around here so, remember your sunscreen, hat and water when working in the outside. We do have small coolers in the MG workroom for use by MGs. Ice is in the ice machine in the maintenance area. If you use one of these, please rinse it out and dry it so that it is fresh for the next person. Stay safe out in the gardens - you are very important to us!



♥ 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 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 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, 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.

Managing Editor: Pam Brown, Extension Agent II
Production Editor: Chuck Scaffidi, Master Gardener

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**”



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Largo, FL 33774-3695
Phone: (727)582-2100
Fax: (727)582-2149

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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