THE ONLY FLAG THAT DOESN”T FLY

Between the fields where the flag is planted, there are 9+ miles of flower fields that go all the way to the ocean. The flowers are grown by seed companies. It's a beautiful place, close to Vandenberg AFB. Check out the dimensions of the flag. The Floral Flag is 740 feet long and 390 feet wide and maintains the proper Flag dimensions, as described in Executive Order #10834. This Flag is 6.65 acres and is the first Floral Flag to be planted with 5 pointed Stars, comprised of White Larkspur. Each Star is 24 feet in diameter; each Stripe is 30 feet wide. This Flag is estimated to contain more than 400,000 Larkspur plants, with 4-5 flower stems each, for a total of more than 2 million flowers.

Vandenberg is located on California's "Central Coast". Vandenberg and central California's coastal residents consider their environment mild. The 150 square mile area midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles is surrounded by the Santa Ynez Mountains, the Pacific shore, and ranches of northern Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

The land here juts further into the Pacific than any point in California, receiving moderate rainfall, daily fog and no snow. The hills are green in winter and turn a burnished gold in summer.

Larger in acreage (98,400) than the nearby cities of Lompoc, Santa Maria and Guadalupe combined, Vandenberg is the largest entity within the area. Development was stimulated in northern Santa Barbara County when Vandenberg became the West Coast space and missile hub.

Submitted by Linda Culhane and comments by Chuck Scaffidi.

When Linda e-mailed me this photograph I was amazed at the size of the flag and the amount of flowers that were planted to create it. So I went to the WEB site to get more information about its local and surrounding area. Several thoughts came to mind. Although it would be an expensive trip, wouldn’t it be nice if this was a candidate for a field trip. Then I’m thinking could we do something like this on our FBG grounds. How about it MGs, do you have any creative ideas? We have a source for seeds.
The Pinewood Study Update
Mary Campbell, Extension Director

The Pinewood Cultural Park Study began in April, 2006 with a series of workshops to ask various stakeholders to identify future aspirations for the four facilities on the Pinewood campus: Extension, Florida Botanical Gardens, Heritage Village and Gulfcoast Museum of Art. Staff and stakeholders looked at what citizens and visitors value about not only Pinewood, but Brooker Creek Preserve and Weedon Island. Similarities between these county facilities were discussed and the participants looked for collaborations that would enhance all the facilities ability to reach the community.

Workshops were scheduled with county staff, selected volunteers of support groups and other professionals, to identify and review areas in which efficiency could be improved through joint activities. Selected representatives from each facility were invited to attend three separate workshops led by Myriam Springuel of Springuel Consulting.

Three staff and four stakeholders from Extension/Florida Botanical Gardens were selected to provide critical feedback. A similar number were selected from the other facilities. Mary Campbell (Extension Director), Vernon Bryant (FBG Manager of Horticulture), Janet Golden (4-H Program Leader), Diane Wheatley-Giliotti (FBG Foundation Chair), Raylena Cather (FBG Foundation and Overall Extension Advisory Committee), Gail Robertson (Master Gardener) and Don Bitting (4-H Foundation) volunteered to attend three, five hour workshops exploring the future collaborations for Pinewood Cultural Park. Meetings with the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation and the Extension Natural Resources staff were also included for additional input.

Workshop participants discussed collaborations with marketing, programs, use of facilities, event calendars, campus signage, staff resources, tourism, transportation, school programs, joint memberships, volunteers and shared resources. Several joint needs were discussed, such as parking, visitor orientation, cross promotion, food service, and visibility. Operational models at similar municipal- or county owned cultural parks and museum systems were reviewed, as well as the type of support offered through Foundations and other support groups.

A review of the master plan for Pinellas County Extension and the Florida Botanical Gardens will make recommendations for enhancements that consider: the missions of both organizations, how they can best work together, how each organization can most effectively utilize Pinewood Cultural Park resources, how each organization should distinguish itself and/or develop programs in collaboration with the other and how to best utilize resources offered by the support groups for both organizations.

A final report will make recommendations to enhance collaborative operations and better integration of services for visitors and users of the Pinewood Cultural Park Campus. The report will summarize information gathered and consider concerns raised in workshops.

Information and recommendations will be brought back to interested groups after review by County administration and the Board of County Commissioners.

Parking Lot Safety Tips
By PAM BROWN, Horti-

Please be aware that the parking lot in front of the Extension office (with the pond in the middle) contains a One Way road. The road is one way after entering the fence gates following around to the right of the pond. The speed limit is 10 MPH. Please be careful as we have visitors who sometimes do not follow the one way signs nor the speed limit.

Labor Day is September 4. Remember have a safe holiday wherever you go and whatever you do.
WHAT IS A MENTOR?

According to the dictionary, a mentor is “a trusted counselor or guide.” The definition also includes the term “Tutor or Coach.”

As a trusted counselor or guide, we undertake the responsibility to serve as a resource to the students we have chosen. Our job is to see you successfully through the Master Gardener program. We can assist you, pick you up if you falter, and get you back on track. We cannot do the work for you. That is your responsibility. Some of the things we might be able to help you with are:

- Showing mentees outdoor work areas
- Answering questions about missed days
- Find answers about volunteering off-site
- Reminding students to fill out the evaluation at the end of each session
- If a student missed class, helping students with last week’s quiz questions
- Plant sale questions – Yes, we hope you will volunteer for the plant sale
- Ease concerns about final exam
- Clarify indoor volunteer opportunities
- Describe youth volunteer opportunities
- Lend encouragement
- Help students keep up with class if/when family crisis occurs
- Be there for the students

All of the Mentors have been through the Master Gardener program and have at least 100 hours of volunteer time behind us. Each Mentor is a dedicated Master Gardener. We hope that by working with you we can give you the sense of direction we received, so that you will become a successful Master Gardener.

Each Mentor receives an acorn pin, symbolic of the idea that from small things great things grow. Each member of this class is like a seed. Our job is to cultivate the seed and see that you reach your potential.

“What is a mentor?” was composed by Dick Davis and Jean Field and presented by Dick at the opening 2006 MG class.

Following are pictures of the 40 new energetic and enthusiastic future MGs and we welcome them.

Left to right, Jean Field and mentors: Sam Skemp, Rogers Davidson, Donna Zacharczyk, Lind Barnette, Mary Ellen Warner, Noel Bell, Marcel Pincince, Dick Davis, Ulrich Asmann, Gail Robertson, John Kingsbury, Barbara Orr, Carol Raines, Bob Abben.

Our mentors and new MG class of 2006
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.

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.

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 October-will announce the date later.

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.

The Florida Master Gardener license plate is available for $8.00 (including tax) in the volunteer office.
Please see Chuck or call 582-2117 to reserve a license plate.

Notes From Your MG Library ....
By Angela Strain
Many of you have not yet stopped in the MG Library, and the Library team really want you to feel comfortable and welcome to do research or just visit for a few minutes of garden related self-enrichment. We have over 700 titles and I will begin to list these for you by category over the next several months.

But before I begin that, I want to remind you all that we will again have a table of used garden magazines and books for sale at the October Plant Sale and Joanne Drake wants you all to know which magazines will sell the best. They are Florida Gardening; Gardening How-To; Birds & Bloom; Fine Gardening; Organic Gardening; Horticulture; and Heirloom Gardener. If you have any of these to donate, please hold on to them until a few days before the sale since storage is an issue.

Book titles on the shelves:

**BAMBOO**
American Bamboos; Judziewic; 1999
Bamboos; Recht; 1992

**BONSAI**
Handbook on Bonsai; Yashiroda; 1971
Handbook on Dwarfed Potted Trees; Yashiroda; 1959
Practical Bonsai for Beginners; Murata; 1964
The Japanese Art of Miniature Trees & Landscapes; Yoshimura; 1957

**BOTANICAL GARDENS**
American Garden Guidebook; Miller; 1987
American Gardens; Sawyers; 1986
America's Taj Mahal; Bok; 1989
BH&G America's Gardens; 1964
Calloway Gardens: The Unending Season; Pirtie; 1973
Church Grounds and Gardens; Wilde; 1964
Colonial Williamsburg; Kocher; 1971
Field Guide to Photographing Gardens; Rokach; 1998

This is just the tip of the iceberg. Watch for books on the shelves in future issues of The Green Leaf.
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 Roberstson has a copy. If anyone else is interested please let me know:
Chuck Scaffidi
Volunteer Office-582-2117

Chef Of The Day
MG’s, show your composting skill. Direct MGs to chop, grind, mix, water and stir. Take home mature compost and a compost bin.

Assistant Chefs
MG’s wanting better composting skills and hands-in. Help make a batch and take home a compost bin.

Both available Wednesdays, 9 to 12 noon adjacent to the Herb Garden weather permitting. Call Extension to schedule. MG reservation line at 582-2247

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!

Sincerely,
Tom Wichman, Florida MG Coordinator

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

North County Volunteer Opportunity
World Rivers Day on September 30th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Brooker Creek Environmental Education Center. Help needed to man the Extension booth at this event. This is a good opportunity for MGs in north Pinellas County to get some hours without driving too far. Please let Pam (582-2112) or Carol (582-2124) know if you can help.

Up-coming Master Gardener Update Training Topics
SEPT 8 (Friday)—10:00-11:00am
Magnolia Room.

Florida Native Plants will be presented by our Departmental Training Specialist, Andy Wilson:
NATIVE PLANTS FOR FLORIDA LANDSCAPES:
Encouraging Change. Benefits to you, to Florida, and beyond.

POT LUCK follows.
Please honor our outstanding speaker with your presence and your culinary arts!

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

By LINDA CULHANE, MG

A little over a month to go before the next sale. We have all worked diligently and the results are great. The plants look full and healthy and should be ready to go in Oct. They have been catalogued and counted. There are over 4000 plants ready to go at this date. This is not counting those that will be brought in by our talented MGs. The list will be posted on the MG bulletin board. If you plan to bring in plants, please add to this list. That way we will be able to make labels before the sale. Also add the number of plants you plan to bring in. Between now and the sale, we will not be propagating for this sale, but cleaning up and “making pretty” the plants we have.

Set-up this year will actually begin on Monday with the tents being erected. Then on Tuesday the tables and signs will go up. So that on Wednesday we can begin bringing the plants out from around greenhouse/shade house and over from rehab. For the plants in Rehab we hope to use pickup trucks rather than the electric golf carts. They will hold more plants at one time. If you have a truck you can volunteer, please let me know.

If you are planning to bring in “Second Thyme Around” items, Wednesday is the day to start.

As a bonus for the MGs, we have made the decision to sell to our crew on Friday afternoon, starting after the plant inspector comes through. We are planning to request he come between 11 and 12, and at that time you can pay for them and take them home. We felt this would cut down on the confusion to hold and hide your plants in various places around the greenhouse. Please do not remove items from the sale area before the inspector has ok’d them.

We still need a few workers in certain areas. They include: Display group for invasives and vermiculture (worms), Chair for Holding and workers in the afternoon in holding, Second Thyme Around, Bread, Ask Me, afternoon Customer Assist to car.

As the day grows closer, I hope you will be sharing in my excitement and enthusiasm. This shall be the greatest sale yet with your help.

Thank you.

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.
Mary Ellen Warner, Membership Chair

Pam Needs Help!

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. If you would like to take this project, please contact Pam (582-2112) or Carol (582-2124) and let them know.

James Blackwell’s Farewell

The farewell party was nice – of course a lot of good food.
Judy Yates was here and talked about James and how the heritage garden came about.
Then Sam told his side of the story. Elna Bozarth, Mary Campbell, Marva Perry, Vernon Bryant, and Pam Brown also spoke.

James would like you to keep in touch:

3500 Keith Street N.W. #106
Cleveland, Tennessee 37312
Ah! September – summer ends officially on the date of the **autumnal equinox** (Sept. 23, 2006, 12:03 AM EDT), but it will still be hot here for a while. Hopefully you are still remembering to wear sunscreen and a hat, as well as drinking lots of water if you are working outside.

The annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference is coming up soon. Registration forms are on the round table in the Volunteer work room (by the sign-in computer). The location of the conference this year is Jacksonville at the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk hotel. I hope you will think about attending this fun, informative conference. The early registration deadline is September 26. I have a sign-up sheet to ride in the van to the conference on the back hall bulletin board. Remember, you need to be a certified MG (have volunteered your first 100 hours or 50 hours last year) to ride. If there are not enough interested certified MGs then the list will be open to those who have not completed their hours.

The October plant sale is just around the corner. This sale takes a massive effort by many Master Gardeners. Please consider being involved in this activity. There are many jobs – the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back hallway. Come to the plant sale meetings. They are held the last Friday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Gardenia Room (Auditorium C). The proceeds from these sales benefit all of the Master Gardeners, so consider what you can do to help.

This year’s Master Gardener training is going full force now. Please introduce yourselves to any new trainees that you see – invite them to volunteer with you if you are so inclined. You may just provide the spark that fosters a faithful long term volunteer.

We would like to use you all as our eyes in the gardens. If you see anything that needs repair, is a hazard, fire ants that need treating, or anything out of the ordinary, please let Vernon (582-2661) or Skip (582-2462) know. This site is so large that we need many people reporting to keep everything in tip-top shape.

We value each one of you. You are all special volunteers and we could not do our jobs without your excellent help. Thank you!

♥ Pam
# September 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day Holiday – Extension office closed</td>
<td>MG Training 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Magnolia Room</td>
<td>MG Update Training Using Native Plants – Andy Wilson 10 a.m. – Magnolia room Pot Luck lunch to follow.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MG Training 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Magnolia Room</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Rain Barrel workshop call 582-2673 to register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MG Training 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Magnolia Room</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MG Training 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Magnolia Room</td>
<td></td>
<td>Plant Sale Meeting 10 a.m. – Aud. C Everyone Welcome to Attend!</td>
<td>World Rivers Day: 10am-4pm Brooker Creek E.E. Ctr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m. Plant Sale Setup – possibly – call Michael to make sure</td>
<td>9 a.m. Plant Sale Setup</td>
<td>9 a.m. Plant Sale Setup</td>
<td>9 a.m. Plant Sale Setup</td>
<td>9 a.m. Plant Sale Setup</td>
<td>Plant Sale 9a.m. 2 p.m. Pre-sales for MGs from 8 - 9 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Start earning your hours now!!

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
I want to thank all the volunteers for your full cooperation in meeting the transition date of July 1 for the new way of entering your volunteer time. Especially thanks to my volunteer coordinator assistants Cathy Nelson, Mary Crowe, and Adrianne Andrews who helped make this possible, including entering back hours so each volunteer knows how much they contributed from the time they became a volunteer. They will continue to assist you when needed. Carol Suggs and I are the volunteer coordinators at extension so please see us if you have questions about this process.

Thanks again,
Chuck Scaffidi

PS: note the “Volunteer Voice” is on the WEB
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make Checks payable to</th>
<th>Bushel $29.50</th>
<th>Half Bushel $16.00</th>
<th>Pecans $8.00 bag</th>
<th>Sale Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pinellas County 4-H Foundation</td>
<td>Empire</td>
<td>Empire</td>
<td>Halves</td>
<td>Pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12520 Ulmerton Rd</td>
<td>Crispin</td>
<td>Crispin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largo, FL 33774-3602</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name

Address

Phone

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

ATTENTION!
Master Gardener Update Training
SEPT 8 (Friday)–10:00-11:00am
Magnolia Room.
Florida Native Plants will be presented by our Departmental Training Specialist, Andy Wilson:
NATIVE PLANTS FOR FLORIDA LANDSCAPES
Magnolia Room.
Pot Luck Lunch