What's That Squirmy Critter Dangling From The Tree?

By JANE MORSE, UF/IFAS Extension Agent

If you’ve been walking in the woods lately, or maybe even in your yard or neighborhood, you may have noticed tiny white or green caterpillars hanging by silk threads from the trees. If one has ended up on you and started crawling around on your clothes, you have probably had an “eeeww” moment if you’re squeamish or a fascination moment if nature is your thing.

So what are these wormy creatures? Most likely they are the larvae (caterpillars) of either oak leafrollers or oak leaf tiers, two different species of moth. Leafrollers are from the genus *Archips* and leaf tiers are from the genus *Croesia*. This larval or caterpillar stage is one part of the moth’s life cycle. The adult stage is a yellow to light tan colored moth with a wingspan of 12-25 mm. Moths lay their eggs on the small branches of host trees in the late spring. These eggs hatch early the following spring when the new oak leaves began to sprout. Larvae feed and grow for about one month and then drop to the ground to pupate. Moths emerge within two weeks. Females live for a few days and lay up to 100 eggs. Then we see nothing more of these insects until the following spring.

What is important about them? They can cause widespread and severe defoliation (loss of leaves) of the trees they feed upon, but this rarely happens in Florida. The common scenario is several years of light to moderate defoliation, then insect populations collapse and we are unaware of these insects for a number of years. They can also be a nuisance to humans, but they are harmless.

What can be done to help a defoliated tree? If we’re not getting enough rainfall, watering the trees for several months following the defoliation is generally all that is needed to maintain their health. Keeping the soil constantly saturated (wet) is harmful for the tree because the roots need oxygen, so let the soil dry out before watering again. There is no need to fertilize as caterpillar droppings provide the nitrogen for growing new leaves.

Is there any control for the caterpillar? Natural controls (predators, parasites and diseases) usually keep these caterpillar populations at low levels. Mockingbirds and other birds feed on the caterpillars, and wasps appear to be the best control. For high-value trees or where caterpillar populations are especially damaging try using a biological control spray of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*. An insecticidal spray containing carbaryl (Sevin®) can be used as a last resort. Because specialized equipment is needed for this application and there are concerns about drift and contamination of the handler and non-target organisms this product should be applied by a pest control operator. The ideal time for applying an insecticide is just before the insects begin their last week of voracious (very hungry) feeding.

Since these caterpillars only have one generation per year they will soon be gone and you can once again walk under oak trees without the worry of them getting on you. Remember, too, that they are a source of food for other critters in the food chain and part of the web of life.

Photo courtesy of Dr. John Foltz, University of Florida Department of Entomology
**Demonstration Trees Donated to our Florida Friendly Landscape**

**By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, FBG FOUNDATION PRESIDENT**

There are three beautiful new live oaks, *Quercus virginiana*, along the McKay Creek Plaza in the formal gardens. Thanks to Progress Energy Florida for their generous donation of $1,500 to the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation. The money was used toward the purchase of these trees as part of the company’s celebration of the upcoming National Arbor Day. The trees will demonstrate that there are energy-saving benefits to planting the right species in the right places. Special thanks to Dennis Spellicy, a forestry specialist for Progress Energy’s South Coastal Region, for his efforts. A sign identifying the gift is being prepared. Last year, the company donated “power line friendly” trees.

Dennis explained, “Progress Energy wants to remind Florida property owners that the larger trees which comprise our urban forest canopy, when properly located away from overhead power lines, provide benefits to the environment and help to reduce power consumption. We want our residents to enjoy their valuable plantings for many years to come.”

**BE PICKY WHEN CHOOSING A TREE FOR YOUR YARD**

Choosing the right tree or plant for the right location is very important. That is why Progress Energy promotes the “Know Where You Grow” approach to vegetation-management. Property owners who take their surroundings into consideration will save trees and plants from being pruned or removed to prevent dangerous situations from energized limbs or vines and downed power lines. This will help reduce both the number of power outages due to such obstructions and the time it takes to restore power after storms.

Trees with a mature height of 15 feet or less are appropriate around lower-voltage power lines. Examples include:

- Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) Mature height: 15 feet
- Florida Anise (*Illicium floridanum*) Mature height: 12 feet
- Southern Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) Mature height: 10 feet
- Japanese Ligustrum (*Ligustrum japonicum*) Mature height: 10 feet

Trees growing near higher-voltage (transmission) lines present unique risks and challenges and, therefore, are subject to more restrictive vegetation management guidelines due to federal regulations. In general, the company does not recommend planting around transmission lines or in easements.

Progress Energy discourages property owners and untrained contractors from pruning trees and plants near power lines and encourages caution when using large or tall objects outdoors to avoid contact with electric wires. Metal extension ladders and metal poles used for pruning trees and shrubs present particular hazards because of their size and conductivity. Tree limbs can conduct electricity too. When entangled, trees and wires are dangerous.

To learn more about Progress Energy Florida’s “Know Where You Grow” campaign, visit [progress-energy.com/plantsmart](http://progress-energy.com/plantsmart).
On behalf of Progress Energy Florida, Dennis Spellicy accepts a bronze leaf on the Botanica Omega Tree in the Parks and Extension lobby from FBG Foundation board member Terry Berube. The tree recognizes donors of $1,000 or more.

Planting and admiring the Gardens’ new live oaks: from the left in photo at right are Steve Harper, the County’s Environmental Division manager; Chuck Scaffidi, Foundation president; Dennis Spellicy, Progress Energy; MG Richard Berube; and Bob Funari and Jason Vickers, County Parks Department. They are also pictured in other photos snapped by MG Terry Berube.
Glass Mosaic Adding Art to the Wedding Garden

All four corners of the mosaic that will soon fill the Wedding Garden’s four empty pools with glass water, goldfish and lily pads have been completed and the middle photo shows how they will look when installed.

The next big job is to construct a base that will provide proper support so the mosaic installation can begin. FBGF board member and project leader Heather Anderson thanks the glass-cutting and glass-gluing volunteers who have been hard at work for several months on the colorful design: Fran Druyor, Jan Stifler, Carolyn Eastwood, Jayne Krakowiak, Richard and Kathleen Harder, Marilee Blodgett, Don Bornick, Susan Hamil, Pat Dieterich, Gayle Cooper, Diane Schiller, Terri Ziegler, Emma Eshbaugh, Marion Howse, Dennis Dooley, Angela Cannata and Barbara Sajewski. “It’s been so much fun creating the mosaics that we are sad to see this phase of the project come to an end,” Heather said. “Now we’re all excited to see them in the Gardens, hopefully sometime soon.”
A Royal Display in the Wedding Garden

ANDY WILSON, Pinellas County Extension Specialist

Recent visitors to the Florida Botanical Gardens have been treated to a splendid sight, masses of beautiful purple flowers on the queen’s wreath vine (*Petrea volubilis*) on the arbor at the Bride’s Entrance to the Wedding Garden.

The ½ inch wide purple flowers of queen’s wreath are borne in foot long hanging clusters that are somewhat wisteria-like in appearance. Queen’s wreath can bloom off and on several times during the year. The specimen in the Wedding Garden also produced a significant, though less awe-inspiring bloom last fall. Queen’s wreath is usually considered to be reliably cold hardy in south Florida only, but fortunately the frosts this winter did not significantly damage the specimen in the Wedding Garden.

Queen’s wreath is in the Verbena family and like some other members of that family it has leaves with a distinctly sandpapery texture. In fact, “sandpaper vine” is a second, less commonly used, name for queen’s wreath.

Take the opportunity to see this beautiful sight. You’re sure to leave agreeing that queen’s wreath is truly fit for royalty.

After being awed by the queen’s wreath vine take a walk in our beautiful Florida-friendly Botanical Gardens and see the many plants bursting in bloom.

Notice the magnificent red and pink camellias along the tropical walk bursting out all over. Some have been in the gardens for many years now and are well established. Others were planted this fall and are responding very well to their new home.

Continue your walk around the azalea garden that was planted last spring. Several species are already in bloom, with more due in early spring. Before you go into the Parks and Extension building, observe the beautiful blooming geraniums, also planted throughout the formal gardens.

Fan Photos from Florida Botanical Gardens

If you haven't signed up, it’s easy to do. Use the link below and click on the green sign up button at the top of the page. Become a fan today so that you can view visitor photos and comments. If you have photos of the gardens you would like to share on our Facebook page, we’d love to have them. You can also share your experience at the gardens on the “Wall.”

Become a fan, check out our on-line gallery of Garden photos, and invite your friends to become fans as well! Link to the FBG Facebook
Spring Fling at Jo Kliesh’s

By PAT DIETERICH, MG, Photos By SANDY HUFF, MG

On a recent beautiful spring morning, MGs flocked to yet another lush garden. Nestled in a neighborhood near Clearwater Executive Airport, and dwarfed by towering trees, Jo’s immaculate house sits to one side of her property, which is actually two lots. They provide all the more space for Jo’s considerable plant collection, and a wonderful showcase for her diverse gardening interests.

Here an unusual reddish porterweed grew as a shrub, there an enormous staghorn fern defied gravity, suspended from an oak, and in the center several raised beds were lush with veggies and herbs. In the corner an unusual lemon with a gnarly peel challenged an orange tree for sunlight. Everywhere there were visual delights such as trellises, a wooden arbor, a delightful arched bridge, and loads of handsome ceramic pots. But to one who loves “playing in the dirt”, the highlight was the clever potting shed/greenhouse. Built next to the garage, which affords power for a fan, etc., it boasts perfect-height counters, clear panels for excellent lighting, and a sink that had us all drooling. A stainless-steel leftover from a restaurant, this double-bowed re-purposed treasure was something to put a flutter in an avid gardener’s heart! And now we understand Jo’s willingness to adopt even the most forlorn specimen, confident that it will thrive somewhere in her lovely yard. Another MG garden, and loads more inspiration…thanks for the hospitality.

Eastern Lubber Grasshoppers

Photo and Article by JOANNE DRAKE, MG

From a distance … I thought my plant had turned black and died but closer observation revealed it was a cluster of baby lubber grasshoppers covering the whole plant!

Unique Coloration: Last summer the adults were wearing their suit of red, yellow and black. They look very colorful and these colors serve as a warning sign to predators of its toxic substances. They are survivors and after mating, the female will start laying eggs (up to 50) in a frothy substance, during summer months, in a patch of soil. She’ll lay one to three egg masses.

Recently … The immature stage of the eastern lubber, small black grasshoppers (with yellow stripe down it’s back) were spotted on our Brugmansia, Angel Trumpet plant. Now is the time to get rid of these critters as fast as you can, while they are small and have soft bodies. By the way, a nymph just a little older is of a brownish color. We use organic methods … so with gloves on, I got rid of them with one clap of my hands, with leaf between. This would be impossible once they grew to adult size, with a tough armored body shell. Another method we use is to hand-pick or use tongs on the mature lubbers and drop them into a bucket of soapy water. In the nymph stage … you have to be very quick. The clapping with gloves works best for us because they scatter quickly.

The photo above shows them posing on a hibiscus bush but they also enjoy eating our amaryllis, lilies and other ornamentals. They can cause serious damage to vegetable crops, and citrus. This is the time of year we have to be diligent, to notice any chewed leaves. Be on the lookout! We have made a practice to do a morning walk through the yard … ready with gloves on!!! I hope the need for pickins will be slim this year.

Pat Mann, Jo Kliesh and Lois Archer

Pam DeLong, Joan Mackniesh and Irma Porterfield

Emma Eshbaugh and Irma Porterfield
Controlling Chinch Bugs in St. Augustinegrass

By JANE MORSE, UF/IFAS Extension Agent

In this area, chinch bugs are an all-too-common lawn pest of St. Augustinegrass that, unless treated, can cause real damage.

Chinch bugs suck the sap from grass and once an area of your lawn is dead, they will move on to neighboring areas. Damage may occur in open, sunny areas near sidewalks and driveways, but also in the middle of lawns. Infested plants have slower growth, turn yellow, then rusty reddish-brown, and die.

Before starting any treatment, make sure it’s really chinch bugs that are causing the grass to die. Adults are only an eighth to a tenth of an inch long. The wings are folded flat on the back and are shiny white with a triangular-shaped black marking in the middle of the outer edge of each wing. Nymphs (the juvenile stage) are a red-orange color with a white band. They darken as they mature, which takes about four or five weeks. To look for these bugs, try one of these methods:

- The easiest and fastest is to part the grass near yellowed areas and look at the soil surface and thatch (brown, dead stuff between the soil and the grass). Pull out individual grass plants and look inside the bottom leaf sheath. Look in several different areas if chinch bugs aren’t immediately found. The best time to look for these insects is on warm, sunny days at mid-afternoon when they are most active.

- Another option is to use a Dust Buster or hand-held vacuum cleaner (electric or battery-operated) to suck up any chinch bugs near damaged areas. Remove the filter, empty the contents on the sidewalk or in a bucket, and look for nymphs and adults. Repeat in several damaged areas.

If you don’t find chinch bugs, the culprit could be as simple as an animal using the area as a toilet; a sprinkler head not working properly; or a disease.

If you do find lots of chinch bugs, then it is time to treat the lawn. The first thing to apply might be a neonicotinoid product such as Merit. It is best to use spot treatments when small infestations are first noticed and damage is minimal. Treat dead and dying St. Augustinegrass and about a five-foot buffer area around the damage. This should do the trick for a couple of months. If you start seeing damage come summertime then apply either a pyrethroid, organophosphate or carbamate product. You can find a list of products at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh036](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh036)

Chinch bugs are becoming resistant to insecticides. To keep this from happening it is very important to rotate between the different chemical modes of action. There are four different chemical modes of action available for use: neonicotinoid, pyrethroid, organophosphate and carbamate. Use one of these chemical modes of action for the first treatment, pick a different mode of action for the second treatment, a different mode for the third treatment and so on. Any combination of the four will do, just be sure to rotate to a new mode of action for each treatment.

There also are some cultural practices that will lessen chinch bug reproduction and survival. Use slow release nitrogen products and only apply the recommended amount or less. Mow standard St. Augustinegrass at a height of four inches and mow frequently enough to only remove a third of the leaf blade. Water only when the grass starts to wilt. If thatch develops it usually indicates over-watering and over-fertilizing. You may need to have the lawn verticut to remove the excess thatch.

There are natural biological controls that help keep chinch bug populations in check. Preserve “good bugs” by doing spot applications when spraying pesticides. “Good bugs”, such as big-eyed bugs and minute pirate bugs, are similar in size and shape to chinch bugs and can be mistaken for chinch bugs.

In summary, identify the pest, use spot treatments, rotate between the different modes of action, and use good cultural practices. Always read and follow the pesticide label.
Master Gardeners Honored

CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG Newsletter Editor

The tradition of recognizing our much-appreciated volunteers continued on March 8 at a lunch-time ceremony in the Magnolia Room. Despite continued budget hardships, the FBG Foundation made a small donation and, thanks to the generosity of MGs, a delicious pot luck luncheon was enjoyed by all.

Awards for hours served were presented by Horticulture Agent Theresa Badurek and the University of Florida/IFAS recognized MG volunteers with the name plaques for length of service that are usually given out at the University’s fall MG conference. In 2011 nominees for years of service will again be presented at the fall conference, place and time to be determined. As a long time attendee, I highly recommend you watch for the announcement and plan to attend. You will receive education credits for attending.

For 2010 there were 21,000 hours of volunteer service, representing a monetary value of $437,850 or salaries for 10 full-time employees.

- **Names added to the 1,000-hour plaque:** Nancy Bevilacqua, Janice Crawford, Joanne Drake, Phyllis Lawson, Mary Ellen Phillips, Carrie Shelby, Wayne Sulecki, Stanley Warner, Holley Waters
- **Names added to the 500-hour plaque:** Jackie Anderson, Mary Chernesky, David Delamarter, Sally Duggan, Margaret Evans, Linda Jones, Ed McKenna, Barbara Salazar, Dianne Schiller, Jewly Youschak
- **MG Emeritus – more than 20 years of service:** Jack Moss
- **More than 5,000 hours - Silver Star Pin:** Richard Berube
- **More than 2,000 hour pins:** Emma Eshbaugh, Suzanne Girves, Terry Berube

**Plaques given at the 2010 IFIS State conference**
- **10 years of service:** Alfred Baker, Linda Culhane, Rogers Davidson, Marva Perry, Charles Scaffidi, Patsy Schamber, Angela Strain, Lois Weber
- **15 years of service:** Thomas Carrell, Wayne Huneke, Charles Iserman, Charles Kohnken, Wayne Sulecki
- **20 years of service:** Robert Marx, Donna Zacharczyk

**Hungry MGs**

**Presentations by Theresa Badurek**

**Richard Berube**

**Nancy Bevilacqua**

**Stanley Warner**

**Chuck Scaffidi**

**Terry Berube, Suzanne Girves, Emma Eshbaugh**

**Mary Chernesky, Margaret Evans**
**Help Wanted!**

The Pinellas County Extension Office is promoting the Pinellas Energy Efficiency Project (PEEP) and needs volunteers to hand out literature and energy-saving devices. Go to [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/sustainability/energy_peep.shtml](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/sustainability/energy_peep.shtml) for a complete listing of dates and location. If you are interested, contact James Stevenson (jstevenson@pinellascounty.org) or Ramona Madhosingh-Hector (rmadhosinghhector@pinellascounty.org) for more information.

- **April 2-3 - Tampa Bay Living Green Expo.** The Coliseum, St. Pete.535 4th Ave. North
- **April 8-10 - Tampa Bay Blues Fest** Vinoy Park
- **April 9 - The Dunedin Highland Games** Highlander Park
- **April 15 - Senior Fun Day** Florida Auto Exchange Stadium, Dunedin
- **April 16 -17 - Island Earth Days** Honeymoon Island State Park, Dunedin
- **April 18 - Tampa Bay Job Fair,** Coliseum
- **April 24 - Smooth Jazz Fest,** Coachman Park, 2:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- **April 25 - WQYK Fun 'n Sun Toyota Country Concert** Coachman Park, 1-9pm,
- **April 30 - Touch a Truck,** Dunedin Community Center

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**Honoring Irene Costello**

Next time you’re visiting the Gardens, make a stop at the McKay Creek Plaza’s butterfly bench and remember Irene Costello, the charter member of the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation who bequeathed her entire estate to the Foundation. This sign recognizing her generosity has recently been installed. You can also remember Irene when strolling by her favorite spot—“Andy’s Pond,” the aquatic habitat that she helped create and maintain during her 18 years as a Master Gardener.

Irene’s gift, a first for the Foundation, has inspired the creation of a gifting plan that will, hopefully, inspire other Garden lovers to do the same.

A hot-off-the-press brochure explaining how trusts, annuities, insurance and securities can “plant the seeds of your legacy” in the Florida Botanical Gardens is now available in the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop.

**Geocaching in the Botanical Gardens**

Geocaching is a high tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate trinkets in hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment.

Thanks to Linda Wright, an avid geocacher and former FBG volunteer, there is a geocache waiting to be discovered in the Gardens. If you would like to learn more about this exciting game and try your hand at finding her geocache, please go to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

Anyone wishing to place a cache in the Gardens must get an okay from the Foundation. Check with FBGF President Chuck Scaffidi at cscaffidi@co.pinellas.fl.us or 727-582-2117. Locations that do not negatively impact natural or cultural resources, visitor safety or other Garden visitors are acceptable.

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![Image](image_url)
**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Nursery Discounts
- Extension Classes
- Volunteer Hours & VMS
- Budget Public Meeting
- Volunteer Celebration
- MG Update
- Rose Garden Tour
- Garden Tour
- Highpoint Headstart
- Green Thumb

**EDUCATION**

- MG CEU Credits
- Palm Harbor Class
- St. Pete Library Class
- Planting Pinellas Blog

**FBGF Members, MGs Can Save On New Spring Plants**

One of the benefits of Foundation membership is getting 10% discounts at several local nurseries. Just present your FBGF membership or MG card. We will continue to contact nurseries in the area to secure additional participants. Support our friends at:

- Art Stone Orchids
  3611 Tyrone Blvd, St. Petersburg
  727-345-6733
- Country Club Nursery
  9850 Starkey Road, Largo
  727-397-4438
- DragonFly Garden
  730 Broadway, Dunedin
  727-734-4900
- Earthscapes Garden Room
  816 Alt. 19 N, Palm Harbor
  727-786-4859
- Esperanza’s Garden Center
  6001 Haines Road
  St. Petersburg,
  727-742-8499
- Jene’s Tropicals
  6831 Central Ave
  St. Petersburg
  727-344-1668
- Kathy’s Korner (trees)
  Nursery Inc. & Tree Farm
  6095 Haines Road N, St. Petersburg
  727-525-9640
- Palm Harbor Nursery & Landscaping (cash and carry items)
  450 Riviere Rd, Palm Harbor
  727-784-2992
- Summerwood Gardens, Inc.
  1171 Tarpon Springs Road
  Odessa
  813-920-2153
- Twigs and Leaves
  1013 MLK St. S (9th St),
  St. Petersburg
  727-822-5400
- Wilcox Nursery
  12501 Indian Rocks Road, Largo
  727-595-2073
- Willow Tree Nursery
  4401 49th St. N, St. Petersburg
  727-522-2594

**Record Your Volunteer Hours**

**Please Remember to Sign Out!**

County VSP system and procedures apply only to non-MG volunteers.

The computer program for logging volunteer hours is outside the volunteer office, near the Help Desk. Make this your first stop and last stop. You must sign in and sign out when you are at Extension. When the computer is not functioning you can still log your time in the book. Those who volunteer at other facilities should e-mail hours after each visit. When not at Extension, please e-mail your hours to: cseaffidi@co.pinellas.fl.us. Direct questions to volunteer coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or assistant Emma Eshbaugh.

The County VSP system and procedures apply only to non-MG volunteers.

**Extension Classes**

Visit Extension’s on-line calendar for a list of classes that are being offered free to MGs, volunteers and FBGF members. (Must show membership card.) All others pay a nominal fee. You can register on-line.

**Volunteer Hours for Master Gardeners Only**

We are now able to collect all of your hours in the MG VMS online. Now you can track all of your Pinellas County volunteer time in one place! For any non-Master Gardener work, simply choose the following project category: X_NON-MG Pinellas County Volunteer Hours

Some examples of volunteer time that go in this new category include:
- working at the FBG gift shop
- working on the Wedding Garden mosaic project

This means that Master Gardeners can report all of their time in the new system and will no longer be logging into the County VSP. The system is web-based, secure and user-friendly - you can even jump on from your web-enabled cell-phone if you like. Go to https://florida.volunteersystem.org and click on the New User tab.

For those who are unable to input hours, we will still provide a log book and a volunteer to input your hours.

Volunteers, other than MGs, will continue to use the County VSP system and log book outside the volunteer office. Please adhere to the policy described at left.
Important Announcements

■ **2012 County Budget Public Meeting**—Wed. Apr. 6, 6:30 to 8pm eTownHall. [www.pinellascounty.org/eTownHall](http://www.pinellascounty.org/eTownHall)

■ **MG Update**—Field trip Friday, April 8, 10:00 to 1:00 PM at Plant City Teaching Garden, 1200 N. Park Road Plant City, FL 33563-1540. You must RSVP. Please see the VMS General Events calendar to RSVP. If enough are interested we may be able to take a van from the Extension office. Please let me know if you would like to ride in the van or feel free to carpool to save money and have even more fun!

  We will start with a tour guided by Associate Professor and Extension Specialist - Consumer Horticulture, Sydney Park Brown. After that we will have an activity in the garden, and finish with lunch together. Lunch plans to be determined by the number of people that RSVP.

■ **Spring Open Rose Garden Tour**—Sunday, April 17 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. MG Pat Mann is opening her rose garden at 1431 75th Circle N.E. in St. Petersburg, 33702. (Behind the Mangrove Bay Golf Course on 62nd Ave N.E.) The tour is open to anyone interested in rose gardens or garden in general. Call Pat at 727 688-1287 for more information.

■ **Garden Yard Tour**—April 19 from 10 a.m. until noon at the home of MG Linda Culhane, 1707 Doncaster Road, Clearwater. All MGs, trainees and volunteers are invited. Park in her circle drive or on Pembrook. If you need more information or directions, call Linda at 727 530-1250.

■ **Highpoint Headstart** needs help preparing a fall vegetable garden!

■ **Green Thumb Festival**

  Green Thumb Festival, April 30 and May 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg. Volunteers are needed for the FBG exhibit at this annual Arbor Day and Earth Day celebration. Sign on to VMS to select your preferred time.


Education

■ **Earn Continuing Education Credits**—MGs can earn up to four continuing education credits by completing Plant ID Modules at [http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/outreach/plant_id/index.shtml](http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/outreach/plant_id/index.shtml). For instance, one CEU can be earned by studying the plants and earning a passing score of 80% on the “Test Yourself” feature. Once a score of 80% has been reached, print the page and submit it to the Volunteer Office.

■ **Palm Harbor Library MG Class Series**

  Classes are offered on the second Thursday of the month from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. at the Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Avenue. To register, go to [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/) Click on the Take Action “Register for a program tab” and then Click “Extension Service” You may also call (727) 582-2100.

■ **St Petersburg Community Library MG Class Series**

  Classes offered free at the main branch of the St. Pete Library located at 3745 Ninth Avenue N. (This is a change of venue.) To register, go to [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/). Click on the Take Action “Register for a program tab” and then click “Extension Service” You may also call (727) 582-2100.

■ **“Planting Pinellas” blog** Check it out at [http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/](http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/)

Contact Theresa Badurek at 727-582-2109 or tbadurek@pinellascounty.org to follow up on any of the items.
By THERESA BADUREK, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent

Now that those pesky (but kinda cute) oakleaf tier and oakleaf roller caterpillars are just about done rappelling from our trees, it’s safe to go out under the oaks again. You may now be finding the little yellow and brown moths they become as you make your way through your yard. Another pest you may find now is the Eastern Lubber grasshopper. The juveniles are showing up all over the place, and now is the time to get rid of them. The adults are much more difficult to control. Here are the tools you will need:

- a bucket of soapy water
- somebody willing to catch the clumsy little jumpers (kids are great for this!)

The grasshopper juveniles, or nymphs, typically gather in large numbers on low plants (like you see in the photo above), so they should be pretty easy to spot. Just catch them and pop them in the soapy water to drown them. This is a bit unsavory for the softies among us- but it’s a lot easier than smashing the adults… and less messy. These guys can do significant damage to your plants, so keep an eye out for them!

Thank you so much for all that you do!

Theresa Badurek
727-582-2109
tbadurek@pinellascounty.org

2011 April Thank You, Volunteers!

- County Budget Public meeting April 6
- MG Update Friday, April 8
- Pinellas County Volunteer Celebration, April 14
- Spring Open Rose Garden Tour, April 17 from 10 am until 2
- Garden Yard Tour April 19
- Green Thumb, April 30, May 1

MG Plant Clinic at the Palm Harbor Library – Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Master Gardeners offer diagnostic services along with information about identifying plants, treatment for insects and ideas for Florida-Friendly landscaping.

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?