Steamed About Lawn Diseases?

Jane Morse, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Pinellas County Extension

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

Humid, sticky, muggy and wet - welcome to the dog days of summer in Florida. Whereas we like to hide out in the air conditioning during the summer, lawn diseases are having a field day out in the wet, hot weather. High temperatures and lots of rain and moisture are the perfect combination for fungus to thrive and infect our lawns.

St. Augustine grass is susceptible to three major fungal attacks during this time of year, namely Grey Leaf Spot disease, Phytophthora Root Rot and Take-all Root Rot.

Gray Leaf Spot can slow growth, thin established lawns and kill large areas of the lawn during hot, humid and wet weather usually from May through September. The easiest way to spot the disease is to look for an oblong leaf blemish that has a dark edge with a center that is a gray color. Disease occurrence can be reduced by only watering in the early morning hours just before sunrise. The longer the leaf blades stay wet the more likely they are to become infected. If we are getting rain every few days then there is probably no need to apply more water.

It is important to minimize stress and avoid excessive flushes of lush rapid growth during the rainy season. Applying Atrazine to the grass is stressful, so timing is important. Once temperatures get above 85 degrees F avoid applying this herbicide. Consider spot-treating problem areas and make sure the grass is being mowed at the proper height.

Phytophthora Root Rot can appear any time of year, but it is always associated with wet soil conditions. Excessive watering, abundant rainfall or poor drainage conditions can all promote this disease. Since the roots are affected, the symptoms on the leaves are due to what is happening to the root system. There is a general decline in lawn quality. Small or large areas become yellow, light green, or brown in color and become thin. The lawn will seldom die from this root rot. Roots will appear thin with few root hairs and will be discolored, but not black and rotted.

To prevent the disease, improve drainage and reduce watering the lawn, especially before periods of high rainfall. Avoid watering schedules that keep the soil wet. During periods of high rainfall mow grass at the proper height and mow frequently enough to only remove one-third of the leaf blade per mowing. Apply a fertilizer that has an equal amount of nitrogen (N) and potassium (K).

Take-all Root Rot is naturally present on the roots of warm-season grasses. The trigger for disease development is high rainfall and stressed grass. The disease is normally seen during the summer and early fall months, especially during periods of prolonged rainfall. Since this is a root disease, the early symptoms can only be seen on the roots. If the grass is only slightly stressed you may never see the above ground symptoms of this disease. Irregular, yellow or light green patches ranging in diameter from a few inches to a few feet will be the first above ground symptoms. Once you do see above ground symptoms on the grass, the roots have been under attack for 2-3 weeks or longer and they will be thin and off-white in color with isolated black lesions. As the disease progresses the roots will become short, black and rotted.
The Green Leaf is published by Pinellas County Extension for Master Gardeners and others. The monthly newsletter depends on submission of articles from Master Gardeners, Extension staff and other authors.

Please submit articles and photographs to cscaffidi@pinellascounty.org

The Green Leaf and archives are available on-line by clicking on newsletter

MANAGING EDITOR: Chuck Scaffidi, MG Volunteer

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 by the 20th of each month. This will help us assemble and publish the newsletter in a timely manner. Articles should be 700-800 words or less. If you would like a copy of any photograph printed in the newsletter, contact MG Editor Chuck Scaffidi at 727 582-2117.

cscaffidi@pinellascounty.org

The grass stolons or rhizomes (runners) may have black lesions and may even begin to rot. Entire plants will die and can lead to large dead patches. This disease can easily be mistaken for chinch bug damage, so the first step in any pest management program is to identify the pest (weed, insect or disease).

Once above ground symptoms are seen this disease is very hard to control, so prevention is the key. The grass must be mowed at the correct height and mowed frequently enough so that only one-third of the leaf blade is removed each time it is mowed. Scalping is very stressful because it damages the growing point. Apply equal amounts of slow-release nitrogen and potassium. Avoid nitrate-nitrogen products. Micronutrients should be applied as a foliar (leaf) feeding and they should all be in the sulfate form. If the root system is badly damaged the roots will not be able to get their nutrients from the soil so frequent foliar feeding of all nutrients (N, P, K and micronutrients) in small amounts will be necessary. Avoid using herbicides on St. Augustine grass as this is a stressor. Avoid having to use herbicides by learning how to manage the turfgrass to limit weeds.

Most fungal problems can be avoided by using good cultural practices (proper watering, fertilizing and mowing). When disease problems do arise it is best to hire a professional.

Butterfly Plant of the Month
This Sweet Flowering Tree Lacks Nectar

By Ellen Mahany, NG

Fragrant, compact magnolias hang like beautiful ornaments on the Sweet Bay tree (Magnolia virginiana). They should attract the usual pollinators: bees, wasps and butterflies. Yet, these flowers do not produce nectar.

Instead, they tempt strange pollinators: beetles. Drawn by the strong odor of magnolias, these insects rub their underside touchers along both the male pollen bearers (anthers) and female receptors (stigmas) to fertilize the flowers.

Credit: IFAS

Despite its lack of nectar, the Sweet Bay Tree is an important butterfly plant. From Ocala southward, this charmer serves as the sole host plant for the equally enchanting Tiger Swallowtail (Papilio glaucus Linneaus). You will find this compact magnolia tree in bloom at the north end of the retention pond and on the south side of the parking lot, two natural areas at the Florida Botanical Gardens.
Like a little sister to the Magnolia grandiflora, which can reach 100 feet with a 50 to 60 foot spread, this native tree tops out at a height of 75 feet and a spread of 35 feet but usually is much smaller in cultivation. It thrives in swamps and low areas and survives short periods of temporary dryness. Shiny green leaves with silvery undersides set off creamy, 3-inch- wide flowers with 9 to 12 petals.

The Tiger Swallowtail, one of the easiest recognizable of its family, has a lovely tree on which to deposit its green eggs. The largest butterfly in Florida, its wing span reaches from 31/2 to 51/2 inches. Both the male and female have yellow wings with black stripes, but a second female variety, similar to the Pipevine Swallowtail, is black with blue hind- wing markings.

Credits: Jerry F. Butler, UF

The young white-and-brown larva looks like bird droppings or perhaps small twigs with lichen, an effective camouflage. After three moltings, the larva turns green with two large false eyes on its thorax, producing the defensive appearance of a small snake before it molts again into a dark- brown final instar stage (period between successive moltings). This caterpillar also protects itself by hiding in curling leaves lined with silk, produced from the same gland it uses to create silk thread to anchor its chrysalis, usually placed near the ground.

After the Tiger Swallowtail emerges from a chrysalis, the fun begins. At Florida Botanical Gardens it has more than a hundred acres of cultivated gardens and large natural areas in which to find a variety of nectar plants. Its proboscis is so long it can even sip sweet liquid lodged in deep tube-shaped flowers. After the female mates, she returns to the home she knew as a caterpillar to deposit eggs and begin a new life cycle.
Sam Skemp was an enthusiastic and tireless volunteer for the Pinellas County Extension Service and then for the Florida Botanical Gardens. Sam spent many hours in the gardens tending to his pet project the formal rose garden. His love of gardening, budded in childhood. He retired in 1983, and then moved to Florida and got interested in gardening. That interest led Skemp to volunteer as a Master Gardener and germinate the idea of what ultimately became the Florida Botanical Gardens. He made history as a volunteer as well. In 2011 he was recognized for contributing more than 20,000 volunteer hours and was awarded for 25 years of service from the U of F/IFAS program.

Judy Yates, who was Director of the Extension Service and Botanical Gardens for 23 years, and Jean Field recently accompanied Sam on a trip to the Gardens and had a pretty amazing day admiring the gardens and reminiscing of days gone by.

The couple who took the photo of the three of them at the butterfly bench were amazed and tickled to meet Sam, the founder of the gardens and one of the original designers of the gardens, right before their eyes. When they were told who Judy and Sam were, they pulled out their own cameras and snapped away at the three of them. It was a great feeling to see the gratitude in their eyes for the determination and vision of folks like Judy and Sam.

Sam remarked how healthy the roses looked and enjoyed seeing the gardens once again after several months. Jean said that “listening to the stories from Sam and Judy while touring the gardens was like walking into a time capsule. It was a rare treat that I hope to capture once again in cooler weather.”

A group of old friends (Jack Moss, Charlie, Donna, Vernon, etc…) are having a celebratory lunch for Sam’s 88th birthday, at the Village Inn, near Extension, at 11:30 on 8/7.

Donna is bringing a cake and candles and Jean is bringing Sam. Please contact Jean Field 727 688-8156 if you would like to join us.

Sam has granted his permission for all to have his contact information and he eagerly looks forward to hearing from his old friends from Extension.

Col. Sam Skemp, 3600 Oak Manor Lane, Bldg 2, #264, Largo, FL 33774, (727) 489-3247
Montessori Academy …..Field Trip

Students from the New Middle School at Palm Harbor Montessori Academy were led on a field trip by Chuck Scaffidi, FBG Foundation President and obviously had a wonderful time…..

Dear Charles,
Thank you so much for the awesome field trip on June 28th, 2013. The children had so much fun exploring the gardens and learning more about the butterflies, trees, tropical fruit and wildlife.
I have attached some pictures that I promised to send to you.
Again, thank you so much! We look forward to seeing you again next summer.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Chelena
Events Coordinator
New Middle School at Palm Harbor Montessori Academy
2355 Nebraska Avenue
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
schelena@floridamontessori.com
www.FloridaMontessori.com
Day Tripping at Sand Key Park

By Jude Bagatti, MG

I had never visited Clearwater's Sand Key Park. From Gulfport, it seemed too long a haul just to hit the beach, especially with current fuel prices and my gas-guzzling van. Our fine south county beaches: St. Pete, Pass-A-Grille, Treasure Island, even Gulfport's little spit on Boca Ciega Bay, so much closer and convenient, dulled any incentive to drive those extra miles to mid-Pinellas. But the Annual Parking Pass, earned as a county volunteer, which waives the $5.00 admission/parking fee at the Park, was burning a hole in my glove compartment. I aimed to use it at Sand Key at least once.

Packing innate curiosity and my explorer's heart, I set out at noon on a sunny day sandwiched between a week of June's soggy ones, feeling touristy and keen to discover what Sand Key Park offered. The address at 1060 Gulf Blvd. would be easy to find. I didn't map a route but, by luck I turned west on West Bay Dr. in Largo from Alt. 19 (Seminole Blvd.) which took me right over Belleair Bridge, and landed me on Gulf Blvd. Turning right to continue north I noted the upscale housing, Coast Guard Station, slow speed limit and frequent crosswalks. Past the Clearwater city welcome sign, Gulf Blvd. street numbers realigned and the classy Park entrance came into sight.

No attendant, no entrance booth; you pay at a machine and place the receipt on your dash. Proudly, I placed the Parking Pass on mine. The lot was large, nearly empty on this weekday. At one end of the lot is a marshy pond with bird-watching information. A Roseate Spoonbill and Great Blue Heron were in attendance. I parked near one of the nine wooden boardwalks leading to the beach. Gathering my beach paraphernalia, I trekked to a spot across the wide, white sand, passing amenities which included rest and changing rooms, water fountain, outdoor showers and a food truck. A white circular high top tent with tables and chairs affords a shady place to sit or eat. An agent in a trailer on site books beach events and weddings.

First thing for me is always testing the water. The Gulf was warm, too warm actually, not as refreshing and cooling as I hoped, but inviting just the same. Looking toward land from where I immersed up to my neck, was a span of beach and open space where only sand, sea oats, trees and sky were visible; no condos or signs of civilization marring the natural view. As I floated, rocked gently in tepid waves, I could imagine I languished off the coast of a wild, undeveloped island.

On shore, I headed to a rock jetty where a channel separates Clearwater Beach from Sand Key, and gazed across it at the expanse of beach stretching northward. Turning south I walked and walked at water's edge, past several cordoned off turtle nests and bird-nesting areas. Skimmers, oyster catchers, least terns, herons, gulls and pelicans, all the usual feathered suspects, basked in the sand, sun and water with me. Before it baked from the hot sun in its shell oven, I tossed a live hermit crab into the Gulf.

After a good distance south, I expected to come to a turnaround, another jetty or cut, but the shoreline continued, unbroken, as far as the eye could see. I queried a tanned blonde lounging on a beach chair. We were at the southern limit of Belleair Beach, she told me. "You could probably walk all the way to John's Pass in Madeira Beach." Taking respite with unhurried dips in the Gulf along the way, I meandered back to my own chair and towel, satisfied my exploration of clean, uncrowded, shell-strewn Sand Key Park was complete.

Besides Ft. DeSoto Park, the third county park waiving its $5.00 fee for those with an Annual Parking Pass is Fred H. Howard Park in Tarpon Springs. That's as far as you can go in Pinellas from Gulfport, but I plan on getting there too. With or without a Pass, I can't imagine not sampling every corner of our local Paradise---- PINELLADISE??
Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Update

By Chuck Scaffidi, FBG Foundation President

The next Foundation board meeting is on Aug 16 and visitors are welcome, especially anyone who may be interested in joining the board. By attending a meeting, you will get a better understanding of our organization and goals, and hopefully you will choose to become a board member.

Since we are always looking for ways to attract visitors, maybe a new target demographic could be workers who need to de-stress or retirees or young mothers who want a safe as well as beautiful place to get some fresh air and exercise. We can call it “Making the Florida Botanical Gardens a Healthy Habit.” How does that sound for an ad campaign?

The garden enhancements are only made possible with your membership dollars, money donated at our events, sponsorships and profits from our gift shop (See their ads that follow). And join the incredible team of hundreds of volunteers who bring a wide variety of skills and lots of energy and enthusiasm that is required to manage and maintain these gardens. Yes, you can become healthier too.

So, many, many thanks to all of our supporters and volunteers who are helping us turn our world class garden vision into a reality!

In the gift shop

The rainy season is here! The gift shop is offering a special members-only discount on our beautiful botanical umbrellas. Stick or pop-up varieties will have an extra 20% off in addition to your usual 10% discount for a total of 30% off!

These are constructed of microfiber- & unbreakable-fiberglass-ribs that offer long lasting and reliable use. You can use them to protect yourself from the sun as well – perhaps summer Disney days or baseball games. A great gift idea!

We thank you for supporting the shop and the gardens with your membership dollars!
A SPECIAL OFFERING
FOR THE BENEFIT OF
THE FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Generously donated by the artist,
Ms. Kalika Novoa

Beaded Necklace & Earrings ~$495.00
14K gold findings, beads, crystals and enamels on silk cords. A custom shadowbox for display.

Artist's Biographical Highlights
Custom jeweler, dancer, choreographer, volunteer, world traveler and ardent supporter of the arts, Kalika Novoa currently lives in Indian Rocks. She draws inspiration from contemporary dance, as well as from the glass art of Dale Chihuly to create a “sense of the limitless in my work”.

The Smithsonian Institution and the Corcoran Gallery of Art have commissioned her works and she has exhibited locally at over 10 well-known galleries. She states, “Ultimately, beauty prevails.” We couldn’t agree more.

Please consider this artwork as an investment for a loved one and your beautiful Florida Botanical Gardens! Your purchase will include an annual membership (retail value $100.00) for four people to the gardens.

In the gift shop.
We're Tweeting Up a Storm
To see what our followers are saying, click on the Twitter icon and follow a couple of simple steps. It's fun, and a great way to keep up with FBG news between Green Leaf.
Maybe we can even get a botanical conversation going. Share gardening tips. Ask gardening questions. Tell us how wonderful the Gardens are looking. (All "attaboys" gratefully accepted.)

And Share Your Gorgeous Garden Photos
When you visit the Gardens and take fabulous photos of our trees, flowers, herbs, tropical fruits, butterflies, birds, and maybe even an alligator, please share them on our Facebook page. We’re getting more and more fans all the time. If you haven't signed up, it’s easy to do. Use the link above and click on the connect symbol. Become a fan today so that you can view visitor photos and comments. You can also share your experience at the gardens on the “Wall.”

Thanks to our Facebook friends

Extension is on Facebook!!
Special Announcements

33rd Annual
FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER
Continued Training Conference

October 20-23, 2013
Embassy Suites Orlando-Lake Buena Vista South
Kissimmee, Florida

MEETING SITE & HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
Embassy Suites Orlando-Lake Buena Vista South
4055 Kyngs Heath Road
Kissimmee, Florida 34746
Phone: 1-407-597-4000
FAX: 1-407-597-4101
Hotel Website
Free Self-Parking!

The Embassy Suites Orlando-LBV South is offering participants of the 33rd Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference, a very special rate of $109.00 per night, with a two-night minimum required, plus 12.5% state and local taxes, for single or double occupancy.
Additional adults are $10 each per night. The group rate will be honored three days prior and three days following the conference dates, based on availability.

In order to receive the special discounted group rate you must state that you are with the Master Gardener Conference and include all roommate names in hotel reservation.

Reservations must be made by Friday, September 20, 2013 in order to receive this group rate. Please be aware the block of rooms may fill before the deadline, so we urge you to make your reservation as soon as possible. After September 20, the discounted rate is not guaranteed on possible remaining rooms. Please call the Hotel reservations direct line at (407) 597-4000 and identify yourself as a participant of the Florida Master Gardener Conference. If you make an online hotel reservation, please note the GROUP CODE is: FMG

Printable Hotel Information Sheet (PDF)

Explanation of Facilities Usage Fee
Special Announcements Continued

If you use Yahoo goodsearch as your web browser every search earns a penny towards your favorite not-for-profit charity. I have earned $40 so far this year. The idea is if many people use it the amount earned is considerable. Also Yahoo browser shopping tabs are also included so if you use them to shop or dine a percent of your purchase automatically is credited to the FBG Foundation. I have found the Yahoo search engine as good as Google. We also have this capability on our FBG facebook for visitors to use.

Check it out and help us earn extra dollars for FBG. If you have questions or trouble installing it let me know. Chuck-727-582-2117 or escaffidi@pinellascounty.org

The link to add goodsearch to your browser is: http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/mode/
Go to the link above and click Down Load Now! Follow the install instructions. Choose run. Make the browser your default. When download is complete you will see the Yahoo browser. On the left of the browser you will see a window that says “click to choose charity”. A new screen appears, then click “choose a cause”. Another screen appears “enter cause name here”. Type: Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation

You can log in with a name and password at this point. You can also monitor our earnings this way.
The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation name will appears in the window next to the search window.

Preparing For Your Fall Vegetable Garden, Pinellas County Extension, Friday, August 2, 2013 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am Have you always wanted to grow your own vegetables? Are you thinking about gardening in a school or community garden? Join Pinellas County Urban Horticulture Extension Agent, Theresa Badurek, for an introduction to setting up a vegetable garden here in Pinellas County. Learn about site selection and layout, great veggies and varieties for our area, and more!
This class is free, the link to register is: http://www.eventbrite.com/event/7261975765/eorg
The class is also offered at Weedon Island Preserve, Friday, August 9, 2013 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am
This class is free, the link to register: http://www.eventbrite.com/event/6213381391/eorg

"Native Plants for the Shade" presented by MGs, Palm Harbor Library, Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 2pm and again at 6:15pm. Many of us struggle with planting in shade - plant selection becomes even more challenging if we want to plant natives in the shade. In this class Bruce Turley, owner of Wilcox Nursery, will talk to us about the native landscape plants that are best suited for shade here in Pinellas County.

Garden Maintenance volunteer opportunities are now available on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The current teams work throughout the FBG. Duties include mulching, weeding, trimming, and adding new plants to the landscape. This is a great opportunity to learn while doing. If you are interested, contact Terry Berube at tberube@tampabay.rr.com or 727-501-3787.

Volunteer Incentive Limitations
One (1) annual permit per individual volunteer for one hundred (100) documented volunteer hours contributed in the Department of Parks and Conservation Resources during the fiscal year of October 1 to September 30. Family members may not combine hours to qualify. Additional permits may be purchased.
Record Your Volunteer Hours
Please Remember to Sign Out!

The computer program for logging volunteer hours is next to 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 applies only to non-MG volunteers.

Education

MG Update meeting will be on Thursday, August 8th from 9am-noon at Pinellas County Extension. Speaker, Craig Huegel, will be talking about wildflowers. I hope to see you all there!

Education Credits- Extension classes:
Please register at: http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml
MGs can earn up to four continuing education credits. Modules at: http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/outreach/plant_id/index.shtml
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- Free classes every second Thursday of the month from 2:00-3:30 PM and 6:15-7:45 pm at the Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave. To register http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/ click the “Registration” tab and then click “Extension Service.”

St Petersburg MG Speaker Series- Held at the Garden Club of St. Pete. 500 Sunset Dr S, St Pete http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/. Click the “Registration” tab and then click “Extension Service.”

“Planting Pinellas” blog http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/

Extension Classes and Tours- Visit Lawn & Garden - Pinellas County Extension on-line calendar for a list of classes where most are being offered free or at a discount to MGs, volunteers and FBGF members with a membership card. Also, sign up for a garden tour.
Special discount offer for Rain Harvesting Workshop

Help Desk- Please look at the VMS help desk calendar and see if there is a time that works for you. If you are a regular at the help desk please be sure you are signing up to avoid scheduling confusion.

MGs needed-MG Sally Ervin is looking for help at Lowes: MGs that would like to volunteer at the Clearwater Lowe’s outreach Extension table on Saturdays anytime from 10-2 (can be 1 hr to 4 hrs) should e-mail Sally at servin307@hotmail.com. Lowe’s is located on Gulf to Bay near US19

Volunteer Opportunities and Announcements

Community Beautification Project- is being planned for Bartlett and Campbell Parks in St. Petersburg. One of our own MG Trainees, Kristy Ferrell is helping design some new planting plans for these parks and we need a few MGs who want to get involved and help on planting days to show local residents how to plant and maintain their beautiful new landscape areas. MG Debra Black has now joined the team- but we need more! This project is the brainchild of community activist Coy LaSister of Assisted Living Community Gardens, Inc. Mr. LaSister envisions involving local residents in the care and maintenance of gardens to enhance their community while teaching them about gardening and horticulture. This would be a wonderful hands-on way to impact an underserved community that really needs help! If you’d like to learn more contact Theresa Badurek at mgwaves@ufl.edu

Gardeners spend a lot of time outdoors, which can bring you face to face with wildlife sometimes. The rabbits and squirrels stealing your veggies and tearing up your flower garden may not scare you, but many folks feel less warm and fuzzy about snakes. Did you know that Florida is home to 44 species of native snakes? The good news is that only 6 of them are venomous, which means your chance of being bitten by a venomous snake is very low. Even though you are not likely to get bitten by a venomous snake, it is important to learn how to get along with snakes in the landscape. After all, snakes help to control rodent populations, and we all can appreciate that!

Getting along with snakes is easy - the first step is to learn to identify Florida's 6 venomous snakes, and some common non-venomous snakes. UF has a great website on this: http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/venomous_snake_identification.shtml. Once you learn to identify some of our snakes you can rest easier when you see the non-venomous visitors in your landscape.

The next step is to prevent snake bites when you are working outside. The following is information from the Centers for Disease Control on snake bite prevention (http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/snakes/#recomm):

**Preventing Snake Bites**

- Do not try to handle any snake.
- Stay away from tall grass and piles of leaves when possible.
- Avoid climbing on rocks or piles of wood where a snake may be hiding.
- Be aware that snakes tend to be active at night and in warm weather.
- Wear boots and long pants when working outdoors.
- Wear leather gloves when handling brush and debris.

And finally, if you have the unfortunate experience of being bitten by a snake, you will want to learn a little bit about first aid in that situation. Here are some tips from the Centers for Disease Control on snake bite first aid: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/snakes/#recomm

**First Aid**

- Seek medical attention as soon as possible (dial 911 or call local Emergency Medical Services.)
- Try to remember the color and shape of the snake, which can help with treatment of the snake bite.
- Keep still and calm. This can slow down the spread of venom.
- Inform your supervisor.
- Apply first aid if you cannot get to the hospital right away.
  - Lay or sit down with the bite below the level of the heart.
  - Wash the bite with soap and water.
  - Cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing.

**Do NOT do any of the following:**

- Do not pick up the snake or try to trap it.
- Do not wait for symptoms to appear if bitten, seek immediate medical attention.
- Do not apply a tourniquet.
- Do not slash the wound with a knife.
- Do not suck out the venom.
- Do not apply ice or immerse the wound in water.
- Do not drink alcohol as a painkiller.
- Do not drink caffeinated beverages.

Source: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/snakes/#recomm
**Thanks to Local Nurseries, FBGF Members and MGs Can Save $$ When Beautifying Yards**

One of the benefits of Foundation membership and being a certified Master Gardener is getting a 10 percent discount at many 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:

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Art Stone Orchids</td>
<td>3611 Tyrone Blvd, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-345-6733</td>
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<td>Country Club Nursery</td>
<td>9850 Starkey Road, Largo,</td>
<td>727-397-4438</td>
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<td>DragonFly Garden</td>
<td>730 Broadway, Dunedin</td>
<td>727-734-4900</td>
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<td>Earthscapes Garden Room</td>
<td>816 Alt. 19 N, Palm Harbor</td>
<td>727-786-4859</td>
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<td>Esperanza’s Garden Center</td>
<td>6001 Haines Road, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-742-8499</td>
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<td>Hawaiian Orchid Connection</td>
<td>Note:* (10% off all purchases) 6260 Seminole Blvd, Seminole</td>
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<td>Kathy’s Korner Nursery Inc.</td>
<td>6095 Haines Road North, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-525-9640</td>
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<td>Jene’s Tropicals</td>
<td>6831 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-344-1668</td>
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<td>Palm Harbor Nursery &amp; Landscaping</td>
<td>450 Riviere Road, Palm Harbor</td>
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<td>Seminole Nurseries</td>
<td>6230 102nd Ave. N, Pinellas Park</td>
<td>727 545-9619</td>
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<td>Summerwood Gardens, Inc.</td>
<td>1171 Tarpon Springs Rd, Odessa</td>
<td>813-920-2153</td>
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<td>Twigs and Leaves</td>
<td>2131 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-822-5400</td>
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<td>Willow Tree Nursery</td>
<td>4401 49th St. N, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-522-2594</td>
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<td>Wilcox Nursery</td>
<td>12501 Indian Rocks Road, Largo</td>
<td>727-595-2073</td>
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<td>Hazel’s Garden &amp; Nursery</td>
<td>5063 Dartmouth Ave, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-321-4599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunscape Plant &amp; Tree Nursery</td>
<td>4730 CR 16 St. Petersburg, FL 33709</td>
<td>727-347-2915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Only FBG Foundation membership applies

In order to make sure that the nurseries participating in our FBGF members discount program are located where our members live, we would like to expand the list you see here, especially in the southern and northern parts of the county. But we need your help in scouting this out. Next time you visit a local nursery that is not already on our list, ask if they would consider offering a discount to our members. You can tell them that other nurseries have been very happy with our partnership. If they agree, please let us know so we can contact them and set up the program. Please note that the big box stores such as Lowes and Home Depot do not offer discounts. We appreciate your help.
Thank You, Volunteers!!

2013 August Dates to Remember

- **Master Gardener Update** meeting will be on Thursday, August 8th from 9am-noonish. Speaker, Craig Huegel, will be talking about wildflowers. We hope to see you all there!

- **Preparing For Your Fall Vegetable Garden**, Pinellas County Extension, Friday, August 2, 2013 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am, and at Weedon Island Preserve, Friday, August 9, 2013 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

- **Native Plants for the Shade** presented by MGs, Palm Harbor Library, Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 2pm and again at 6:15pm.

MG Plant Clinic at the Palm Harbor Library –Wednesdays from 10 AM to 2 PM
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://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml?cmd=opencal&cal=cal6](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml?cmd=opencal&cal=cal6)