TIMING IS EVERYTHING WHEN IT COMES TO WEED CONTROL

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

If you want the best looking yard on the block, now is the time to start your annual battle against summer weeds. And there may not be a minute to waste. Feb. 1 is usually when I start telling folks to be ready for spring weed control, but since this has been a very warm winter, plant seeds may already be germinating.

When landscape plants such as azaleas start to bloom, this is our cue to apply preemergent herbicides. Because summer weeds germinate in spring, it is important to have mulch and preemergents in place to keep the weeds down. Preemergent herbicides are the backbone of chemical weed control programs in turfgrass and landscape beds and are used for controlling annual grasses such as crabgrass and goosegrass, as well as annual broadleaf weeds such as chickweed, henbit and lawn burweed. Timing is critical with preemergents as they must be in place before the weed seeds germinate.

There are the postemergent herbicides that can be used once weed seeds have already germinated, but with certain weeds only the preemergent herbicides are effective.

When using any herbicide, it is important to first identify the major weeds in order to select the most effective products. With postemergent herbicides, the younger the weed seedling, the easier it is to control. The effectiveness of the herbicide is reduced when the weed is under drought stress, has begun to produce seeds, or is mowed before the chemical has time to work.

Proper grass management is a very important step in controlling weeds in lawns. This includes proper turfgrass selection, proper cultural practices such as mowing, fertilizing and watering; traffic control; pest control and sanitation. Check out this University of Florida website for excellent information to help you with your lawn:
http://hort.ufl.edu/yourfloridalawn/

Give your plant beds a two-inch thick layer of mulch (after settling) to conserve water in the ground by keeping evaporation to a minimum and moderate the soil temperature – not too hot and not too cold. Organic mulch (anything that was once a plant) is especially beneficial. As it decomposes it releases nutrients and also adds organic matter to the soil. In turn, this organic material helps to hold onto moisture and nutrients which help plants grow. If you have large oak trees in your yard, you have a great source of free mulch. Use the leaves on plant beds and top with “fancy” mulch if you don’t like the leafy look.

Be sure to keep mulch away from the base of plants and trees where it holds wet and rotting material that can cause serious damage. In addition, mulch piled too thickly smothers the roots which can cause them to grow up into the mulch and eventually strangle the plant.

New plants are particularly sensitive to mulch placed over their root balls. Since it is critical that their root balls stay moist until they are well established, mulch can keep water from getting down to the root ball and thus water stress to the plant.

If you have questions about weed identification, herbicides, or lawn and landscape care, the Pinellas County Extension Service is just a phone call or visit away. For an easier diagnosis, bring in the problem plant, a bug sample or a lawn sample - a one-foot square of the transition zone is best. We are located at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, next to the Florida Botanical Gardens and are open from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. To speak with a horticulturist, you can call 727-582-2110 on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9 am to noon and 1 to 4 pm You can also visit our web site at www.pinellascountyextension.org
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@co.pinellas.fl.us 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@co.pinellas.fl.us

Volunteer Yard Tour

By Chuck Scaffidi, Editor Photos by Jean Barnes, Volunteer

Gavin McGovern was given a garden tour of the Florida Botanical Gardens and then volunteered to open his garden to us. His interest is aquaponics and he explained how he raises tilapia and vegetables in his home landscape. Thanks to Phil Lawson for arranging this yard tour.

Gavin was a cordial host and recently mastered the art of aquaponics assembling the system in a corner of his back yard. I asked him if he would offer some background on how and why he got started, which follows:

“ I got started with aquaponics because I was getting frustrated with the standard suburban lawn gardening. It just seemed the more time and money I spent, the less return I got. So I decided to look for something that would offer more of a return for my family, and make me feel more accomplished as a provider. This led me to the old Victory Garden. I was very happy to see that food gardening was in a huge resurgence. I found that there is a lot of information out there about gardening at home-some good and some bad. I was amazed when I started finding out about aquaponics. It was the combination of hydroponics (growing with out soil) and aquaculture (razing of fish for food). I had studied hydroponics in agriculture in high school, but wasn’t impressed due to high costs and high pollution. I was impressed to find that the closed loop that aquaponics creates cuts out the high pollution discharge of both hydroponics and aquaculture with a symbiotic relationship. I was encouraged by the ideas that I could grow higher quality fruits and vegetables with this method at a faster rate and the byproduct would be fish that I could feed my family. I was happy to find that I could get a lot of the fish food from local ponds (duck weed) or from composting our food scraps (Red Wigglers, and Black Soldier fly Larvae). The most unbelievable thing that I learned was that this style of gardening uses only 10-20% of the water as drip irrigation annually. So then I just had to research how to build it myself. After following several online resources I found that I could create the system mainly from recycled parts.

So I started building my system in January 2012, and got my Tilapia in February. My family and I have started eating both the produce and fish. At this point we are weighing everything we bring in to compare to market value and find out how much we are saving. The real value is that we have healthier food coming in, we are more likely to try new vegetables, and I can show my kids where food comes from”

Gavin McGovern
Rest and Cleansing Moon
January 20-February 18

By Jude Bagatti, MG Volunteer

This moon of Rest and Cleansing, second moon of the North, continues with Waboose as Spirit Keeper; Buffalo as its animal; Winter, its season; Midnight as time of day; and White for its color. The Powers of the North are purity and renewal.

Sun Bear’s Medicine Wheel indicates the following: “People born under this moon are the Otter People. Their Plant is the Quaking Aspen Tree; their Color is Silver; their Mineral is Silver; and their Elemental Clan is the Butterfly Clan. Like the otter, these folks are clever, bold, and mercurial. They really kick when they are crossed. They are helpful, humanitarian, practical and patient. They must learn to turn more of their dreams into reality, and to be more adaptable.” Astrologically, their sign is Aquarius.

My “Urban Wildlife” article in the March, 2012 Greenleaf, told of a brazen (or perhaps confused) otter that made an incredible appearance on my Gulfport street. Ever since, when the subject of otters arises, I picture the unbelievable sight of it undulating rapidly across the sidewalk outside my house. However, right now my mind is on Buffalo, animal of the North Moons.

To Plains Indians, Buffalo, or Bison, were considered a gift from the Creator. Not only was the meat an important food source and the hides fashioned for clothing, blankets and lodgings, the animal was believed to be endowed with supernatural powers. Buffalo masks and skulls were used in frenzied ceremonies meant to draw their herds closer. Natives hunted buffalo by various means for as long as they could remember. They stalked the beasts disguised in wolf or other animal skins, creeping up for the kill with bows and arrows or spears. They circled them with fires set in the dry prairie grass, or drove them into swampy bogs. They caught them in large traps made of trees, and they stampeded them off cliffs in what were called buffalo jumps.

In June of 2012, a rare, white buffalo was born on a west Connecticut farm. The male calf, whose birth is regarded as a one-in-10-million miracle, is not an albino. Its DNA confirms a pure bloodline, with no intermingling with cattle. Elders in traditional dress from a number of tribes attended celebrations with songs and drumming. To hundreds of natives who traveled to the farm site, the birth of a white bison is considered a sacred event and a strong symbol of hope and unity.

I viewed wild buffalo up close in South Dakota, but one needn’t journey that far. Buffalo roam near our Florida home. In the 1970s a small herd of 20+ animals, mainly from Oklahoma, was introduced to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. The herd grew to 50 or more. Because mature bulls could easily escape the Preserve and present safety risks, in 2012 it was decided their numbers would be managed by neutering some and relocating others. That diminished herd still wanders on the savanna near Micanopy. Florida and other states also have farms breeding bison for food, and ranches for (wouldn’t you know it) hunting them.

My diet is probably 75% meatless, yet at times my body seems to crave a bit of it. I generally avoid pork, beef, veal, and the misnamed “buffalo wings.” But on my birthday in Nairobi years ago, I dined at a renowned restaurant called “The Carnivore” which served many kinds of African game. Vegetarians would be aghast. On hooks and platters, slabs and chunks of zebra, waterbuck and hartebeest (a large antelope) were wheeled around the room to your table. Slices were cut as you indicated the size portion you desired of each, and repeat servings were unlimited. Curiosity prompted one to try everything, and I confess I did. I was most reticent about the crocodile, but found its white meat unexpectedly juicy and tasty. I had seconds of that.

In comparison, bison seems rather tame, not so exotic. Now, when that occasional bloodthirsty hankering occurs, the “Buffalo Gal” in me lowers her head and charges for the meat department. I buy ground bison for burgers or to fortify pasta sauce. Not all supermarkets sell it, but Publix does. It’s considerably pricier than beef but leaner, unadulterated, and tastes better. While heartily recommending bison, I am circumspect enough to spare my vegan friends the gory details of my carnivorous indulgences.

Contact Jude at 727-322-6211 or heyjudebagatti@msn.com
Going Green In Honor of St. Patrick

Photos and story by Joanne Drake, MG

Welcome spring with the color green and honor St. Patrick at the same time. Planning for this time of year … we planted broccoli, collards, spinach, green tomatoes, lettuce, Swiss chard and other salad greens a couple months ago. They are at a mature stage now and looking good. Good enough to harvest! Last year we weren’t so lucky with broccoli forming florets because the plants were planted too close to each other. They should be about 18 inches apart.

We were pleasantly surprised with the results!

We tried using a Grow Box this year and had very good results. Rewarded with an abundance of tomatoes … we were very popular with friends and neighbors who wanted to cook up a mess of fried green tomatoes. We were so happy with the grow box that my husband Davis gave me another for Christmas! I think I may even get a third this month for my birthday. I’m a happy gardener!

Going green is the way to go. We feel so much healthier eating fresh veggies and being outside tending the garden. No pesticides are used but we do companion gardening that seems to be controlling the pests.

The Rose

Photos and story by Joanne Drake, MG

A splash of Color and Fragrance … Just In Time for St. Valentine’s Day!

Eight years ago, I received a beautiful potted plant, in full bloom. We enjoyed those beautiful maroon flowers for weeks and the sweet fragrance of roses filled the house. We moved it outside once in a while, for some sun, and gave it a good watering. It was thriving!

One day we decided to walk around the yard and choose a nice sunny spot to permanently plant this lovely gift. That job was completed with success and today, this wonderful rose bush is still producing. It has provided us many bouquets to take to ailing friends and always brightens someone’s day … just as my day was brightened eight years ago.

We are so pleased with the performance of the rose and made the planting area into a rectangular bed, filling it with several other rose bushes of various pinks and reds. We find rose care is easier than we thought.

The best tip I can give is to water in the morning and try to water from beneath the plant … keeping the leaves dry.
Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Update

By Chuck Scaffidi, FBG Foundation President

The next Foundation board meeting is on Feb.13 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.

Follow this link [http://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/holiday-lights-at-florida-botanical-gardens-draws-big-crowds/1270051](http://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/holiday-lights-at-florida-botanical-gardens-draws-big-crowds/1270051) for the results of the holiday lights that was published in the Tampa Bay Times. So many thanks to all that made this a newsworthy event.

The third annual Dog Parade a special event during the bigger and better Botanical Gardens’ Holiday Lights happened on Dec 30. Many thanks to Board Member Barbara Goss for dreaming up the idea and spearheading it every year! The weather was perfect for pooches and people alike, not like last year’s end of December heat wave. There were 56 entries in seven categories and a good time was had by all. The following page recognizes the winners and owners.

What are we working on now? Our next event, May 5 “Diggin the Arts” a repeat of last years highly attended successful event. Not too late to join the Diggin team. This is another event conceived and chaired by Barbara Goss, so give her a call at 727-442-0537. Following is the highlights of this event and you can also click to keep informed as this event evolves. Highlights follow:

Diggin’ the Arts, Sunday, May 5, 2013 10 am to 4 pm

The Florida Botanical Gardens presents its second annual art event, melding the arts and flora in the Gardens at Diggin’ the Arts.

The 2013 Diggin the Arts event at the Florida Botanical Gardens includes participation with the area’s leading fine art institutions including The Dali Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts of St. Petersburg, the Florida Craftsmen, and the Dunedin Fine Arts Center - bringing more art to the Gardens!

This year we are proud to add The Dali Museum to our event, and we are sure this will make the event more exciting than ever!

Rain Barrel Competition: Each museum will decorate a rain barrel for a drawing, as well as the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation. Participants will purchase raffle tickets from a roving volunteer and deposit tickets with their name and address in the vase at each Museum’s table. Winners will be drawn during the show by the MC.

Plein Air competition: The non-juried event will feature local artists painting in any path in the Gardens. The artists register at 10 am, begin painting anywhere in the Gardens. At 3:00, the work will be judged – Best of Show-$200, First Prize $150, second $100; 2 Merit Awards – Certificate and Botanical Bounty Gift Shop Gift Card. Plein Air painting permits viewers to watch the artists at work –an intriguing experience.

Plein Air competition results from 2012, First Prize - Mary McDonell

We also plan to support a new event the “Pinellas County Fair” March 20-24 where the foundation would have a booth to showcase the FBG, sell foundation memberships and brand the FBG Foundation. Many, many volunteers needed to help the foundation staff the booth and help fill the jobs listed on page 10 to support the fair.
The Dog Parade's generous sponsors, who contributed many nice prizes, were Amazon Animal Clinic, Largo; Animal and Bird Clinic, Clearwater; Animal Care Clinic, Largo, which donated a $35 dental exam for every dog in the parade; Largo Feed and Garden Supply, Largo; Largo Veterinary Hospital; Oakhurst Veterinary Hospital and Kennels, Seminole; and Pets Unlimited, Clearwater. Judges were: Veterinarians Dr. Jannel Dowling, Dr. David Tollen, Dr. Shashi Goswami and Mr. David Parhill of Hill's Science Food dog food.
Valentine’s Sale!

February 4-8
10 AM to 5:00 PM

At the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop
located at the
Florida Botanical Gardens building
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo

20% discount on all of our jewelry.
Members take additional 10% on top of that!

“Many beautiful items for a sweetheart, a garden lover or yourself”

Remember, all profits are used to beautify your gorgeous Florida Botanical Gardens!

From the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation
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 Leaves.

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 f 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.”

Special Announcements

The St. Petersburg Master Gardener Speaker Series is now being held at the Garden Club of St. Petersburg. (It was formerly held at the library). The address for the Garden Club of St. Petersburg is: 500 Sunset Dr S, St Petersburg, FL 33707
Special Announcements

PINELLAS COUNTY FAIR 5 DAYS
MARCH 20-24, 2013
TROPICANA FIELD

1. Pinellas County Fair was organized in 1917 by the Largo Women’s Club. “Thirty women working together can do anything” said Mrs. Marcia Tritt, president. And with that the wheels were set in motion and have never stopped turning.

2. All Schools in Pinellas County are invited and encouraged to participate.

3. All societies, clubs and organizations have been invited to compete or showcase.

4. Community Tent will showcase Pinellas Cities, a health fair, and information booths.

5. Premium Competitions in Arts & Crafts, Horticulture, Home Economics, Textiles, & Agriculture will be judged and displayed in the Community Tent.

6. Six different age groups of competition:
   * Elementary
   * Middle
   * High School
   * Young adults (age 19-49)
   * Seniors (ages 50 and Up)
   * Professional

7. If you made it, created it, formed it or can perform it Showcase it at the PCF.

8. Website: Pinellascountyfair.com lists all contests & competitions all ages.


10. Miss and Mr. Pinellas County Fair.


12. Over 60 rides, games, shows, entertainment and attractions for the whole family.

13. All the fair food you can eat.

14. Retail tent and outdoor exhibitors displaying a large variety of merchandise.

15. Information: Marjorie@PinellasCountyFair.com

16. Admission: $7:00 for Adults  Children under 48” tall are free

Discount Admission tickets $5:00 sold only at Walgreens March 1 thru 20th, 2013
Discount ride wristbands $15.00 sold only at Walgreens March 1 thru 20th, 2013

“Come On Down” “You’ll Like It”
LIST OF VOLUNTEER JOBS:
LIASON BETWEEN EACH SCHOOL AND THE FAIR OFFICE. (could be with fan clubs, PTA, or groups of parents, etc)
We will help set these up for you. The flyers to the schools have been sent to their individual websites and are “re-sent” each Monday morning. We do that from the Fair office.

PROCURING SPONSORS: Look on the Website www.pinellascountyfair.com under Sponsors. We need many sponsorships.

JUDGES:
1. Judging of the different Classes (sets of two or three judges in each class of each category in each age group) Judges can judge more than one class. Judging is done on the night before the fair opens, March, 19, 2013 or the morning of the fair opening, March 20, 2013
2. Writing the names on the winning ribbons and attaching the ribbons to the entries.
3. Entering information in the computer, so the checks can be written before the closing day of the Fair

THERE ARE 5 CATEGORIES THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAIN TO:
We need 5 sets of every thing above
Arts and Crafts
Textiles
Home Economics
Horticulture
Agriculture

SET UP FOR THE THREE DAYS BEFORE THE FAIR OPENS:
Shelves, etc will need some strong men and boys to set up for the three day before the fair opens, so the entries can be arranged and judged before the fair opens. Tents will be set up on Sat. March, 16, 2013.

ENTRIES WILL START COMING IN ON SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2013 AND WILL COME IN FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS
Will need volunteers in the tents to check them in and arrange them in the right places

WORKING DURING THE FAIR:
Should have a couple of volunteers on duty in each tent all the opening hours of the fair to make sure everything is secure.

JOBS THAT CAN BE DONE OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE:
COMPUTER ASSISTANCE NOW: Recording data as it comes in. Doing research for the many groups we will be working with, (phone numbers, emails, addresses, etc.) CAN DO THIS FROM HOME OR THE FAIR OFFICE.

WORKING THE FOOD STANDS IN THE EXHIBITS:
We will be serving a signature food and smoothie in the Exhibit tents. No cooking, but making the smoothies in a blender.

WRITING THE MANY THANK YOU NOTES:
JUST ASK

A VOLUNTEER TO KEEP AN ACCOUNT OF THE HOURS THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WORK AND TO WORK SOME HOURS IN THE FAIR OFFICE AT THE FAIR.

VOLUNTEERS MUST FILL OUT A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION, WHICH I WILL HAVE IN THE FAIR OFFICE.
VOLUNTEERS WILL HAVE FREE ADMISSION TO THE FAIR, A TEE SHIRT AND REFRESHMENTS

Information: Marjorie@PinellasCountyFair.com 727-346-8032
CITIZEN SCIENTIST WORKSHOP

WHAT: A free training to engage volunteers in the collection of local ecological information; and introduction to Nature’s Notebook, a project of the USA National Phenology Network. (Phenology is the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal and inter-annual variations in climate).

WHEN: Wednesday, February 13, 2013, 2:00 -4:00 pm

WHERE: Weedon Island Preserve (1800 Weedon Drive NE St. Petersburg, FL 33702)


WHY: Assists resource managers, scientists & public in decision-making related to conservation.

INSTRUCTORS: Mary Campbell, UF/IFAS Extension and Debbie Chayet, Pinellas County

REGISTRATION: Workshop is free. Registration is required as space is limited. Register online at: www.pinellascountyextension.org Select the “Registration” button, then choose Weedon Island. For more information, please call Mary Campbell at 727-582-2101.

Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, or national origin.
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: cscaffidi@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-Feb 8, 9 am-12 pm. Micro-Irrigation presented by Bob Albanese. This is a potluck event- please bring a dish to share and don't forget to bring your own plates and other table wares to reduce waste.

Urban Agriculture Workshop- Feb 9, 8:30 am-4 pm. Workshop focuses on backyard production in the morning session which includes hydroponics, chickens 101, and IPM for vegetables. The afternoon session is for larger scale production and includes business planning, cottage industry regulations, and protected agriculture and NRCA grants. You can sign up for one or both sessions. Free for volunteers.

To register visit: http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4923449169/eorg#

Butterfly Gardening- Feb. 14 at 2 pm and 6:15 pm presented by Master Gardeners, Palm Harbor Library. Want to make your yard irresistible to butterflies? Join Adrienne Andrews, UF/IFAS Pinellas County Master Gardener, to learn what butterflies make their home in our county and 'tips and tricks' for attracting them to your yard.

To register: http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5259907774/eorg

Earn Continuing 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 Community Library MG Class Series- Free classes offered at the main branch of the St. Pete Library located at 3745 Ninth Avenue N. To register http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/. Click the “Registration” tab and then click “Extension Service.”

“Planting Pinellas” visit 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

Volunteer Opportunities and Announcements

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

MG Sandy Huff is doing an amazing job working with The Suncoast Mission in Pinellas Park to teach people in need how to grow their own food. She is searching for a co-coordinator to help her arrange speakers and topics and classes. Outreach is a fun way to share your knowledge and training with those in the community who truly need it most. Sandy is also just fun to work with.
Continuing Education

Continuing education is a critical part of being a Master Gardener. You know this, and you cherish the knowledge gained in the events you attend to learn. After all, most MGs joined the organization because of their thirst for knowledge. I have been using all of the feedback from you to tailor our monthly MG Updates to fit your interests. Please note that location may vary, as one of the things many asked for was more field trips. Also, the dates may stray from our usual dates due to scheduling, but in order to learn what we want to learn we must be flexible. I hope that the spring “line-up” whets your appetite for knowledge, and I hope to see you all there! Theresa Badurek, 727-582-2109, tbadurek@pinellascounty.org

Spring MG Update Schedule:

March 8th, Friday, Mangrove Ecology
Speaker: Libby Carnahan, Pinellas County Sea Grant Extension Agent. Location: Weedon Island Preserve, 9am-12pm

April 5th, Friday, Sweetwater Organic Community Farm Tour
Speaker: Farm staff member, more details to come. Location: Tampa, FL
*This is a joint field trip with Hillsborough County Master Gardeners and there will be a limit to the number of attendees.
There will be an Eventbrite listing to host registration -more info to come!

May 8th, Wednesday, Brooker Creek Preserve Ecology
Speaker: Lara Miller, Pinellas County Natural Resources Extension Agent. Location: Brooker Creek Preserve, 9am-12pm
As always, I will provide other details in each weekly “MG Digest” email I send out. Please be sure to check those for new info as it unfolds. Thank you!

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.” - Henry Ford

I would also like to share this update from Extension Director Mary Campbell with all of you: Staff and volunteers are doing a remarkable job (thank you!) during a time of transition and reduced resources maintaining the Florida Botanical Gardens. Several Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR) departments work as a team and under the leadership of Bob Albanese and Bob Funari wonderful changes have taken place over the last year and a half. We also have a strong partnership with the FBG Foundation that has gotten us through many challenges. Extension has asked for additional support from PCR to handle ongoing maintenance around the building and to do some plant replacements where necessary. It is very difficult to handle both the educational outreach for Extension and the maintenance duties for the gardens around the PCR building. Extension will focus on the training and support for the volunteer teams that assist with maintenance and get input from FBGF and PCR on any future designs and plantings. This will be a gradual process and mostly behind the scenes, but as we move forward, it is important that everyone knows the new focus.

This change will enable Extension to focus on our core mission of education. As we transition we will be organizing a program to develop Leader Volunteers and Bob Albanese will be assisting with that training. Bob Funari has done an incredible job in the formal gardens and we look forward to his assistance with some maintenance and design strategies. We will continue to support the efforts to create gardens that reflect best management practices. Theresa and I will be making an increased effort to train and support volunteer leaders that can assist with the maintenance in the gardens. All hours spent maintaining the gardens will count towards Master Gardener certification. It is critical to make sure we have enough volunteers to assist with the gardens and we are committed to that goal. As times change, we are ready to do our best to facilitate positive teamwork. All the gardens are part of the Florida Botanical Gardens and we look forward to creating a unified vision. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to Extension and the Florida Botanical Gardens!

Volunteer Opportunities and Announcements Continued

- **Allendale United Methodist Church** in St. Petersburg is planning to host a community event for "Earth Day" on Saturday, April 20th, from 10 am-2 pm. They are seeking speakers and displays related to sharing information about adopting practices for more sustainable living and preserving the health and beauty of our state ecosystem. They are requesting a MG to either give a talk or staff a booth about composting. They also have a community garden, and if you are interested, they would love to have someone build a compost area near the garden with the help of the event attendees. Basically they want to learn all about compost and would love your involvement at any level you would like to offer. If you are interested I will put you in touch with their event coordinator right away!

- **55+ community in Largo** is looking for a speaker on citrus care and disease. They need someone on April 24 at 10:30 am. They would just like a short 20 minute talk to give them some guidance and they usually get a pretty good turnout that time of year- about 50. Like many Pinellas County residents they are having trouble with citrus and need our help.
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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<tr>
<th>Art Stone Orchids</th>
<th>Country Club Nursery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3611 Tyrone Blvd., St. Petersburg</td>
<td>9850 Starkey Road, Largo,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>727-345-6733</td>
<td>727-397-4438</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DragonFly Garden</th>
<th>Earthscapes Garden Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>730 Broadway, Dunedin</td>
<td>816 Alt. 19 N, Palm Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>727-734-4900</td>
<td>727-786-4859</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Esperanza’s Garden Center</th>
<th>Hawaiian Orchid Connection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6001 Haines Road, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>Note:* (10% off all purchases)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>727-742-8499</td>
<td>6260 Seminole Blvd, Seminole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours: Tues thru Sat 10:00AM to 5:00PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kathy’s Korner Nursery Inc.</th>
<th>Jene’s Tropicals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(10% off trees)</td>
<td>6831 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6095 Haines Road North, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-344-1668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>727-525-9640</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Palm Harbor Nursery &amp; Landscaping</th>
<th>Seminole Nurseries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(10% off cash and carry)</td>
<td>6230 102nd Ave. N, Pinellas Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>450 Riviere Road, Palm Harbor</td>
<td>727 545-9619</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summerwood Gardens, Inc.</th>
<th>Twigs and Leaves</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1171 Tarpon Springs Rd, Odessa</td>
<td>2131 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>813-920-2153</td>
<td>727-822-5400</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Willow Tree Nursery</th>
<th>Wilcox Nursery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4401 49th St. N, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>12501 Indian Rocks Road, Largo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>727-522-2594</td>
<td>727-595-2073</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazel’s Garden &amp; Nursery</th>
<th>Sunscape Plant &amp; Tree Nursery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5063 Dartmouth Ave, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>4730 CR 16 St. Petersburg, FL 33709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>727-321-4599</td>
<td>727-347-2915</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note:* Only FBG Foundation membership applies
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

Thank You, Volunteers!!  
2013 February Dates to Remember

- **MG Update**—Update Feb 8, 9 am-12 pm
- **Urban Agriculture Workshop**—Feb 9, 8:30 am-4 pm
- **Citizen Scientist Workshop**—Feb 13, 2-4 pm
- **Butterfly Gardening**—Feb 14 at 2 pm and 6:15 pm presented by Master Gardeners, Palm Harbor Library.

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.