The Way It Was

By BOB ABBEN

Traffic on Alt US 19 going north is not bad. Today is going to be a busy day for me, my aunt is coming to town, I have to pick her up, and besides that I have several errands to run. As I rounded the southeast corner toward my first stop, there seems to be a parking problem ahead, so I’ll park right here in front of the “packing house” and walk east the 2 blocks. As I expected, there is a children’s program going on at the “fair grounds”, which is my destination. I have a sick garden plant and need some help so I’m on my way to the Extension Office, a 20x20 white block building, which is very appropriately situated at the “fair grounds”, and even better, near the “packing house” where all the fruit is prepared for shipment to the northern states. I wanted to talk to Gil the Extension Agent or with luck, maybe the good looking lady named Opal. Got some good information from Extension. Opal was busy, so I talked to Gil, I would say the two of them could use some help, they were busy. Maybe some volunteers would be nice. The information I received leads me back to the opposite side of the street from where my car was parked, Largo Feed Store on the northwest corner. They have “everything”, chemicals, hay, salt licks, baby chicks, horse collars and crickets, just to mention a few. I got what my sick plant needed and just as I was leaving the store I heard the train whistle and I know it was getting time to pick up my aunt. My lucky parking spot made things easy; the train depot was just across the street on the southwest corner. The train came to a stop, and so did the all the traffic.

The depot is situated on a small triangular piece of land, so that the engine blocks traffic going north and south and the passenger cars of the train block traffic going east and west. But the intersection is not that busy, except for the aforementioned “packing house”, “Extension” and “Largo Feed” most all the rest of the area is citrus trees and some cows.

Well time moves on and things change. The “old” Largo Feed store has been moved and is now an historical building, but the business still remains, just down the street. The train depot is gone and a pretty flowered park remains, the citrus and cows are gone to make room for “fast food”, filling stations and motels. The “fair grounds” are gone. The Extension Service made out pretty well and very much alive, and still being of service to the community. The “packing house” has been torn down. The parking spot I had that day has been replaced by a “clock” on the corner of Bay Drive and Seminole Blvd. NOW, I dare you to park in the spot, today.

Conference Reflections

By IRMA PORTERFIELD

The weekend of the conference, in Chattanooga, TN, was attended by almost 200 MGs from around the Southern United States University Extension Services to celebrate and educate.

Representing Pinellas County Extension, I attended the conference to partake in the numerous topics and activities and was not for a minute disappointed. My personal favorites dealt with plant selec-
tions for container gardening, variegated plants for landscape and xeriscape.

During the Gardeners Expo, you could shop in a vendor area or listen to a wide variety of lectures ranging from hummingbirds, creating the perfect garden, yard art and perennial selection.

We planted a hummingbird and butterfly garden in downtown Chattanooga between two aquarium buildings. This will be used as a teaching tool for children and the general public.

Overall this event included many opportunities for learning, sharing MG experiences, enjoying the southern hospitality of this area and doing what we all like best—playing in the dirt.

**Hello Pinellas County Extension!!!**

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### Gardening Safety Tips

**By PAM BROWN, Horticulture Agent**

Consumer Product Safety Commission offers these suggestions for the safe use of rotary lawn-mowers:

- Fill the fuel tank before starting the engine to cut the lawn. Never refuel the mower when it is running or while the engine is hot.
- Check the lawn for debris (twigs, rocks and other objects) before mowing the lawn. Objects have been struck by the mower blade and thrown out from under the mower, resulting in severe injuries and deaths.
- Don't cut the grass when it's wet. Wet clippings will probably clog the discharge chute, ultimately could jam the rotary blade and shut down the engine. When you need to remove clippings from the chute, the rotary blade must be stopped.
- Wear sturdy shoes with sure-grip soles when using the mower, never sneakers, sandals or with bare feet. Slacks rather than shorts offer better protection for the legs. Never allow young children to operate a power lawnmower.

To access the full fact sheet: [http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/5126.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/5126.html)

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### 4-H Celebration

On June 1, Extension 4-H staff presented many certificates of appreciation to those supporting and donating volunteer time to 4-H activities. Many MGs were acknowledged for their contributions to 4-H and in particular MG Richard Berube for his many hours of work at the Ochs property. He received the 4-H volunteer of the year award.

Way to go Richard and congratulations to everyone for receiving a certificate of appreciation for their contributions.

To donate to 4-H programs, remember I have information available in the volunteer office. (see Chuck Scaffidi)
Richard Berube receiving his achievement award from Jean Rogalsky and Margaret Deller. Richard received this honor for his many volunteer hours of dedicated service at the Ochs 4-H facility.

Nan Jensen presenting to Kathleen Anthony a lifetime achievement award for her many years of dedicated service to the 4-H program

Enjoying the celebration are award recipients Wilma Holley, Chuck Scaffidi, Brandy Spillman, Tom Roberts and Dianna Persha

EPCOT Flower & Garden Festival

BY CHUCK SCAFFIDI

MGs and staff supported the IFAS master gardener booth on May 10, May 18, and June 6.

The Show was beautiful as usual and many visitors were greeted and helped with not only finding the rest rooms, but by our answers to many Horticulture questions.

A few pictures at EPCOT follow: Suzanne Girves and Linda Culhane below. Photo by Chuck Scaffidi. 2nd photo: by Charley Iserman Marcel Pinince, Pat Mann, and Lisa DeLorrenzi.
Pinellas Green Expo June 17-18

“Save money, Save the environment” was the theme of the expo. Extension had several booths at the expo.

The Pinellas Living Green Expo is a collaboration of government agencies, non-profit groups and businesses seeking to promote sustainability-oriented products and behaviors in Pinellas County. Pinellas Living Green, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation is the main coordinator of this collaborative effort.

The Expo Steering Committee includes environmentally-oriented businesses, non-profit groups, government agencies, and associations.

Supporting the Expo from Extension were MGs John Kingsbury, Sue Baughman, Donald and Jackie Anderson, Natalie Oliver, Freda Dexter and Brenda Payne.

A few pictures follow: Sue Baughman at the rain barrel booth and John Kingsbury lecturing about com-

Carol Bilbrey was surprised by Calvin Moody with a birthday cake that was shaped like a hamburger and, would you believe, it came with fries (all sweet though).

Happy birthday Carol. We all enjoy seeing your welcome smile and greeting when we enter Extension.

Congratulations

Sally Ervin and Ann Puffer, in the last class, have made MG status, seated at left. They volunteer on Tuesdays. Sally splits her time in the banana patch and the herb garden. Ann tends to the herbs with Alan Cordell, Ruth Davies, Jackie Jackson and the other faithful Tuesday MGs who missed the party.
Nancy Volmar Says Goodbye

By Paula Jensen

On Friday, June 23, a potluck was held for Nancy Volmar, who retired after 35 years with the County. 35 years! (Is she old enough?) Vernon and his crew decorated the Magnolia Room in an Island theme complete with lighted tiki huts. It was truly unique and fun! The food was outstanding (though Paula said it was not as delicious as an MG luncheon). Surprise guests included Nancy’s supervisor of many years, former Urban Hort Agent Joan Bradshaw, who drove all the way from her UF Extension office in Citrus County. Nancy was presented with many gifts including a huge glazed cobalt blue planter (to complement the others around her new house) holding a magnificent lady palm (which her husband, Peter, had whispered she wanted for their poolside), a very nice VISA gift certificate, a stunning pink rose bush, a fabulous paver for placement in the Gardens engraved ‘Nancy Volmar/For 35 Years/Thanks FBG’ and a gift basket full of items reflecting upon her years with Extension (including photos of Opal)—all of which resulted in many tears and much laughter. The consensus is that this was one of the best luncheons Extension has ever seen. Thanks to everyone who made it happen and who came to wish Nancy well. **We will miss her very much.**
Important Announcements!
You now have the ability to send your volunteer hours by e-mail. The e-mail address is: MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us.

Please be specific when doing this – include individual dates and hours worked just like you would in the logbook. Include your travel time. MG Jan Curtin will be recording the hours that are sent in by this method. I appreciate those that are using this method to report their hours and hope you will continue to do so.

Pinellas County Extension & Florida Botanical Gardens
We need help in collecting all publicity related to the Extension and FBG Gardens. Please clip any articles you see that mention us in any way, including weddings and outside events. Please bring the clippings to the volunteer office.
Please remember to include the name of the publication and date published.

MG Advisory Association
By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG
I prepared notebooks containing all the Association documents for Board members. They were distributed to board members. Please review the Policy and Procedures since they are not the final version. I will collect the comments for a subsequent meeting with the Chairman’s Committee to finalize them. The documents are available for all MGAA members on request. We have detailed how MGAA operates and is organized, and defined the duties of committees.

The following Grant letter applies to Staff and MGs:
The Master Gardener Advisory Association (MGAA) Policy and Procedures describes the procedure for applying for grants from the Association.

Quoting from The Articles of Association of Master Gardeners: “The purpose for which the Association is organized is to receive, manage, account for, and expend revenues received from activities of the Master Gardeners of the Pinellas County Extension. The funds will be used for the support and enhancement of the Florida Botanical Gardens (a Pinellas County, Florida public botanical garden), for dissemination of environmental and horticultural information and for various educational activities.” With this purpose in mind, and to fairly expedite the grant process, the Association created a Grant form to be submitted to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee then processes the grant applications. Their recommendations are then submitted to the Board to obtain a quorum board member vote.

Every January and June the Budget Committee will prepare a report listing all requests in priority order and with their recommendations. The Budget Committee working with the Finance Committee will submit the availability of funds for the grants in the report.

The Grant form challenges the applicant to exhaust all avenues of funding before requesting money from MGAA. Recognizing the competition for funding, the justification for a project becomes critical. Keep in mind, grants will only be considered if they fit into our Association purpose.

The association members will work with you and your supervisor to assist you in determining your funding needs to supplement or add to your department budget.

Please contact me or Pam Brown to discuss this Grant approach or availability of the MGAA documents.

Chuck Scaffidi, MGAA chair
Pam Brown, IFAS Extension Agent, MGAA Advisor

I have scheduled a general meeting of MGAA on Saturday July 8 at 11:00 am in the Magnolia room to conduct association business. Please!! This is your association, try to attend.

Hello all
I am very happy to tell you all that the monies you allotted for me to use towards the installation of a well in the Bromeliad garden are finally going to be utilized. I have arranged for the installation to take place on Wednesday June 21st (yes, this June), the first day of summer. Thank you all very much for all you do and being so generous! I am guessing the Thursday group will be working in the Bromeliad garden on Thursday the 22nd, and getting wet!!! (Only kidding!) -Bob Albanese

No kidding, it has happened. The well is in, the contractor has been paid and Bob and the Bromeliads are happy. -Chuck Scaffidi
Help Wanted!!!

♦ Master Gardener Marsha Williams Colin has returned to Colorado for the summer and really needs help weeding, watering, pruning the garden once a month at Northwest Elementary School during the months of June, July and August. The garden is an educational Nature Walk. Please contact Marsha at 727 480-9854 if you are able to help with this project. The school is located at 5601 22nd Avenue North in St. Pete. This is a good opportunity for someone living in St. Pete who needs some volunteer hours.

♦ Help with “End of Summer Dayze” celebration at Greater Ridgecrest YMCA on July 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Help man the Extension exhibit and help with children’s activity. Please let Pam know (582-2112) if you can help!

IFAS Plea for Matching Funds

Dr. Arrington has a donor who would like to match a $500.00 contribution to the Master Gardener Professorship. Please consider making a contribution so we can utilize the matching funds.

Thanks in advance for your help and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
Tom Wichman, FL MG Coordinator.
P.O. Box 110675, 107 Mehrhof Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-0675
352-392-1831, fax 352-392-1413

As MGAA chair I plan to put this on the agenda for discussion. We can consider a contribution from our account or special one-time donations by members who would like to contribute. Food for thought for our July 8 meeting.
Thanks-Chuck Scaffidi

Chef Of The Day

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

Assistant Chefs

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

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

Volunteer Opportunities and Events for July

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

Up-coming Master Gardener Update Training Topics
July 8 (Saturday)–10:00-11:00am-Magnolia Room. MGAA Board meeting to follow.
Brown Bag Lunch
Presented by Pam Brown, County Agent
What Every Floridian Needs to Know About Africanized Bees

Help Wanted!!!

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I have received the Master Gardener Florida license plates. Price is $8. I have a list of those who pre-ordered and should have plenty for new orders. They can be purchased from me in the volunteer office. Questions? cascaffidi@juno.com or 582-2117

Food for thought for our July 8 meeting.
Thanks-Chuck Scaffidi
**I Need Your Help to Keep Our Gardens Growing**

We need your membership in The Florida Botanical Gardens. You can get into other gardens free or at discounted prices, and that alone pays for your FBG membership. Discounts are offered at most gift shops. Membership offers prior notice and invitations to special FBG events. FBG membership makes a good gift for friends or family. FBG membership allows early admittance to the MG plant sales. Individual membership is $25; Family is $35; a supporting garden friend is $250. If you'd like a leaf on the tree with your name on it, $1,000 will help grow the gardens.

See me or stop in at Botanical Bounty.
Mary Ellen Warner, Membership Chair

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**MG Plant Sale**

By LINDA CULHANE, MG

**Plant Sale Update**

The time is really flying by before the next Plant Sale.... So much to do .. so little time. From the looks of the green house and all shade areas we will have some great plants for the sale in Oct.

Last month I mentioned the idea of a Second Tyme Around booth. The feedback has shown to generate a lot of excitement. We have even had one big donation. I have even been known to stop by the curb to pick up cast-offs before the sanitation men get there. A large plastic storage container was donated by FBG for our use and is located in the shade house parking area. If there are items you collect or donate and can’t store them at home, please utilize this rubber maid storage unit. We would be looking for items like tools, pots, statuary, yard art, just about anything usable in the garden. Please no electrical equipment. The new potting area is being built here along the shade house and it will have plenty of space for storage and to work.

We will also be collecting books and magazines (garden oriented of course), so please don’t throw them away.

Money was appropriated for 2 new signs for advertising. They will have changeable dates and give credit to the MGs for the sale. Other advertising avenues to be explored are radio, Tampa newspapers, and garden clubs in this area. If you have any ideas of other areas to advertise, please contact Brenda Payne.

Suggestions for plants to propagate at home include: ground covers (both shade and sun), butterfly plants (milkweed, giant milkweed, pentas: preferably red, lantana, Buddleja), palms, colorful bromeliads. If you have any of these please consider donating some to sell. Seems we never have enough butterfly plants and ground covers.

As always I look forward to working with each and every one of you that participate in the sale. It is only through all hands on board that we have such a successful event. Thank you. Linda Culhane

The Monday shade house and green house crew is busy preparing for the October plant sale. We need and welcome everyone who enjoys propagating and maintaining plants.

Also, the crews desperately need one gallon pots. The plant sale meetings are the last Friday of the month (July 28) at 10am in Auditorium C. All MGs are invited to come and participate.

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**Pam’s Thoughts**

I want to take this month’s column to express how much I appreciate all of the contributions that you make to the Extension mission.

There are so many of you working with the youth of Pinellas County through school gardening, children’s programs and tours or especially helping in a variety of 4-H activities.

We have MGs presenting and assisting with educational programs at various venues – some to very large groups. Several of you have learned PowerPoint and have created original presentations.

A large group of you toil in the sun helping the horticulturists create and maintain the most beautiful botanical gardens. Some of you have adopted areas and continue to care for them – the Tropical Walk, the Display Gardens, both Rose Gardens, the Tropical Fruit Garden, all of the large containers, composting area, and there are probably others that I do not know about – but are no less important.

Several of you are faithful volunteers with our Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program, helping with yard certifications and yard tours, as well as the many programs. *The Green Leaf* would not happen without Chuck reminding me of my responsibilities and then putting it all together. There are those of you who submit wonderful articles for publication in the newsletter.
There are those who work inside at the Lawn and Garden Help Desk or in the volunteer work area on a variety of projects involving computers and such. You help with projects not only for Horticulture, but for other Extension departments as well.

The Mentors serve as my Master Gardener Advisory Council for the MG program, helping shape how our program is run. But, most importantly, you help guide the new MG trainees so that they become productive volunteers. Some of you interviewed the applicants for this year’s MG training and then met as a group to select the students for the class that starts in August.

Another huge group is the Plant Sale Committee who propagates, cares for, researches, and labels the plants for the sale. You manage all aspects of the sale, along with providing educational outreach to the public. Out of this sale and the money that it raises came the Master Gardener Advisory Account. I am so impressed with this group – because of urging from our Assistant County Administrator - several of you that came together to produce the Articles of Association and the Bylaws for the Master Gardener Advisory Account as a way to manage proceeds from the plant sales. After this was in place you applied and were granted 501c3 status as a non-profit organization. You hold your own elections and meetings and have instituted various procedures for managing the plant sale monies.

If I have left any area out, it is entirely unintentional. You are all very special to us here at the Extension Service. The work that you do makes our work so much easier and also reduces our stress. I don't think that we can say "Thank You" enough. Keep up the good work!! ♥Pam

We are especially appreciative of staff, MGs, and others who contribute articles, events, and other items of interest to the Green Leaf each month. Please submit your input by the 20th of each month. This will help us assemble and publish the newsletter in a timely manner. Also, to save mailing costs, please limit your articles to 700-800 words or less.

Limited newsletter space does not allow for full photograph viewing. If you would like a copy of any photograph presented in the newsletters, please contact me @ 727-582-2117.

Chuck Scaffidi, MG Editor

Plant Sale funds contribute to The Green Leaf mailing.

Urgent!! To save mailing costs please tell Carol or me to remove your name from the mailing list if you can consistently and reliably access the internet version or if you choose to pick your copy up at Extension.

The Green Leaf is published by Pinellas County Extension Service for the County Master Gardeners and depends on submission of articles from Master Gardeners, Extension Staff and other authors.

Managing Editor: Pam Brown,
Extension Agent II
Production Editor: Chuck Scaffidi, Master Gardener
727-582-2117
Please send articles to Pam Brown or e-mail directly to Chuck cascaffidi@juno.com or Pam at pwbrown@co.pinellas.fl.us

The newsletter is available on the Internet at http://www.flbg.org/
Click on “Master Gardener Program”, click on “MG Newsletter”
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2006
Good Work Pinellas County Master Gardener Volunteers !!!

ATTENTION!
Master Gardener Update Training
Pam Brown County Extension Agent
What Every Floridian Needs to Know About
Africanized Bees
July 8 (Saturday)–10:00-11:00am
Magnolia Room.
MGAA Board meeting to follow
Brown Bag Lunch

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