Enjoy Your Yard, But Look Out for Dangerous Bees

By Jane Morse, University of Florida/IFAS, Pinellas County Extension Agent

Africanized bees – also known as “killer bees,” their Hollywood nickname, – really can be dangerous and at any time of the year. And, yes, they are in Pinellas County.

Now through July is bee swarming season, when Africanized bees – a cross between the more docile European honey bees and the more aggressive African variety - are expanding their nests, starting to reproduce and making more colonies. The Africanized bees are not generally defensive when swarming, but become defensive once they have a hive with young to protect. People need to know what to do if they encounter them.

First, protect yourself by inspecting your living area, staying alert, and having all bee swarms or hives on your property destroyed. Some common Africanized bee nesting sites include empty containers, fences, lumber piles, manholes, water meters, utility infrastructures, old tires, trees, garages, sheds, walls, chimneys, crawl spaces under houses or buildings, cinder blocks, even BBQ grills. Any opening to a void can be used by these bees. Listen for buzzing and look for bees entering or leaving an area, indicating a swarm or nest. Be cautious when entering areas where bees might be nesting.

Check your property weekly for unusual bee activity. Prevent hives from forming around your house by using screening to close off vents, drains, downspouts, or other plumbing. Use caulk to seal cracks, crevices, or other voids. Foam sealant may be used for sealing cracks and holes in walls. (If bees are already present in walls, they must be removed before sealing). Wood filler or concrete patching can also be used to seal crevices or voids in walls where foam or caulking is not appropriate. Duct tape can close off holes in water meter covers or other small holes.

If you are attacked, leave the area immediately. Run away in a straight line and take shelter in a car or building. Do not stand and swat as this simply escalates the bees’ defensive frenzy until it reaches lethal levels. Cover your nose and mouth with your shirt as you run. Some bees will probably enter the shelter with you, but not as many as will remain outside. You must get away from the agitated bees. Do not attempt to hide in thick underbrush or water. It may take the bees 30 minutes or longer to leave an area. Get inside and stay inside!

If you witness an attack, do not go to the victim and try to help. It is better to stand at a safe distance and yell to the person to run from the area as quickly as possible. Call 911 if the person is unresponsive. Fenced or tethered animals are at extreme risk of attack and death since they cannot get away from the bees.

(Continued on page 2)
To remove stingers, scrape them from the skin with a blunt object such as a credit card or fingernail as soon as possible. If the stinger is not removed it will continue to inject venom. Wash the area with soap and water and apply ice to relieve pain and swelling. Seek medical treatment for allergic reactions or if there are several stings.

First documented in the U.S. in the 1990s and in the Tampa Bay area since 2002, Africanized bees are known to have killed pets, livestock and a small number of people. Because of the danger they pose, it is now a Florida state regulation that ALL bee colonies in and around homes be eradicated by a certified pest control operator. Do NOT try to do this yourself. (For a list of bee removal experts by county or for more information, visit www.Afbee.com and select the bee removal link.)

Many of the individuals who have been attacked knew about the hive, but were lulled into a sense of security because the bees were not acting aggressive. Previously docile hives can become Africanized very quickly and become dangerous. If the suspect bees are Africanized and attack a neighbor’s child, pet, etc., property owners can be held liable if they knew the nest was there and chose not to follow state recommendations.

What makes Africanized bees so dangerous is that they are much more protective and defensive of their hive. They respond quickly to disturbances by people and animals from up to 50 feet or more away from the hive, and can sense vibrations from power equipment, such as lawn mowers, from 100 feet or more from the hive. In addition, they will defend their hive much farther than European bees. Perceived threats can be pursued by European bees for half the length of a football field, while Africanized bees may pursue three times that length.

That said, the chances of being killed by bees of any sort are less than the chance of being hit by lighting. Enjoy the outdoors. Just keep an eye out for aggressive bees in the neighborhood.

For more information see: www.afbee.com

Information for this article was obtained from www.Afbee.com and select the bee removal link.

Love Monarchs? Plant Milkweed

It’s always great to hear from our resident butterfly expert Bob Abben. We miss him being at Extension, but he still continues his butterfly research. He e-mailed recently about the Boca Raton-based Live Monarch Foundation, whose goal is “a milkweed in every yard.” “This is a good deal,” Bob said. Check it out at http://www.livemonarch.com/free-milkweed-seeds.htm. The contribution-based seed program asks for a minimum donation of $3.

MG Lois Weber, who is dedicated to teaching about beneficial and beloved butterflies, has already investigated and reports back: “They promise 50 seeds per $1 donation. I counted my puniest pod, it really was! I found 49 seeds. Of course, we would get Monarch supporters—the whole goal. That’s what I live for, only not just the Monarch. So your choice. If Bob thinks it a good idea, I am not against it.”
June 1 is the beginning of the summertime fertilizer blackout. During this time you cannot apply any fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorus to your lawn or landscape until October. The County’s strict fertilizer ordinance – aimed at improving water quality - prohibits using these products from June 1 through Sept. 30 or at any time of year the National Weather Service forecasts heavy rains to occur within 24 hours.

During the time of year when you are allowed to fertilize, you still must keep in mind that no more than four pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year can be applied, and that granular fertilizers containing nitrogen must be at least 50 percent slow release nitrogen. Also that phosphorus is not allowed unless a soil test documents a phosphorus deficiency.

Knowing what’s in the fertilizer can help you decide what is best for your lawn and how to apply it correctly. You can check out the three numbers on a fertilizer bag to learn the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium it contains. (The rest is filler that allows uniform application of the nutrients and helps prevent over-or-under fertilizing of certain areas.)

There are other “rules” for protecting the environment as well as public health: Don’t apply fertilizer within 10 feet of a wetland or water body. Use a deflector shield to keep fertilizer on appropriate areas. Fertilizer or grass clippings that get on sidewalks, driveways, streets, etc. must be cleaned up immediately. Nitrogen should not be applied to any newly-installed plants for the first 30 days. If you use reclaimed water you may not need any extra nitrogen fertilizer because the reclaimed water contains nitrogen.

Pinellas County’s fertilizer ordinance also requires all lawn and landscape personnel to pass a best management practices class. You should hire only those who display the decal and carry a certification card.

We all want clean water. An important way to protect water quality is to make sure nothing but pure water flows into storm drains. Our storm drains are a direct conduit to our creeks, lakes and marine waters and aren’t treated in any way. All hard surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks and streets drain to storm drains so it is very important to keep these areas clean.

Some easy things we can do to keep our water clean are to keep all grass clippings, leaves, fertilizer, household or vehicle chemicals or anything that isn’t plain water from going down the storm drain. Sweep grass clippings back into the landscape or put them into a compost bin. Use leaves as mulch in plant beds, compost them, or put them in the trash. Keep all chemicals in a secondary container so if the original container springs a leak the secondary one will catch it and keep the leak contained. (One quart of oil creates an oil slick the size of two football fields!) Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash. Wash vehicles over grass or gravel to prevent runoff. Never drain chlorinated water to the street or storm drain. Reclaimed water contains nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus so make sure it isn’t spraying onto any hard surfaces or draining off your property into the street.

Always remember - nothing but rain down the drain.

For any questions on disposal of waste, including fertilizer, pesticides and weed control products, contact the Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste Operations at (727) 464-7500.

For information or to report illegal dumping, you can reach the Pinellas County Watershed Management Division at (727) 463-4425 ext.5 or watershed@pinellascounty.org. There is a 24-hour hotline at (727) 464-5060 (non-emergency spills only). Emergencies: Please call your local fire department.
Be Kind to the Good Guys

By Ellen Mahany, MG

By land, by water, by air, beneficial bugs are readily available to kill harmful insects. At the Master Gardener meeting on May 9, Dr. Jim Price, University of Florida professor of entomology, showed colored slides of several beneficial insects (available on the Master Gardener Volunteer Management System) as he explained their importance in a thriving landscape.

Dr. Price warned that these predators need some encouragement. First, they must be attracted by a “complex environment,” which includes flowering, nectar-producing plants that attract beneficial wasps and bees. “When the environment is highly managed, the harmful insects prevail,” he said.

Second, Dr. Price advises distinguishing the good guys from the bad guys; recognizing that the former is just as important as knowing the latter. As an example, we must not relate the bad aphids to the good lady bug larva present on the same plant. We must recognize the yellow cigar-shaped clutch of lady beetle eggs near clusters of aphids. Under a microscope we can identify the desirable earwigs and big-eyed bugs that may be present along with the undesirable chinch bugs and their nymphs.

These good guys are sometimes mistaken for harmful insects. On the left, the lady beetle larva, a voracious aphid eater, is the same size as its popular mother, but differs in shape and color. On the right, the tiny big-eyed bug is sometimes confused with the larger chinch bug and larva that it feeds upon.

Third, the “meat eaters” must be given time to discover their meals. For instance, the prolific aphids arrive first to damage a susceptible plant. Before long, they will be attacked by one or more of their several predators, seen in Dr. Price’s slides: the lady beetle and its larva, the syrphid fly and its maggot, the orius nymph, the green and the brown lacewings and their nymphs, including the trash bug, the assassin bug, and the parasitizing wasp, which lays its eggs in aphids’ bodies. The gardener needs patience while nature has its way.

Finally, if an insecticide becomes an option, Dr. Price said that soaps and oils are the kindest choice because the damage they do to beneficials is short-lived, less than an hour, and not penetrating. Dr. Price recommended reading a publication he has co-authored with Curtis Nagle: “Know Mode of Action Groups to Manage Insecticide Resistance in the Florida Landscape.”

Another IFAS publication, “Helpful, Harmful or Harmless, Learn the Difference,” which includes many helpful color photos, can be ordered online at ifasbook.ufl.edu.

During the pot luck luncheon after the lecture, several graduates of the latest Master Gardener class introduced themselves. They are in the process of making plans for a variety of MG projects. Some have already been serving as faithful volunteers at the Florida Botanical Gardens. They are welcome additions with talent, knowledge and energy.
May Yard Tour Is Dunedin Delight
By Pat Dieterich, MG

Tucked beneath towering oaks and a curtain of Formosa azaleas, Joyce Smith’s corner lot held much to intrigue Master Gardeners on our recent tour. While we missed both the riot of color from the azaleas and the heady fragrance of numerous Easter lilies, now spent, Joyce’s yard provided many late-spring treats. Color came from her collection of day lilies, as well as a pink “Cracker” rose and thryallis in the sunny butterfly garden. In the shade, handsome terrestrial orchids bloomed profusely. Two “grow boxes,” once successfully used for tomatoes, are now home to beans and peppers. A huge rosemary bush and a large honeysuckle supply wonderful scents, as does an orange Jessamine shaped as a small tree.

It’s so much fun to discover the unique plants and features of the gardens we visit, and Joyce’s yard holds many. Several pale yellow firecracker bushes thrive in the side yard, close to a potted dwarf pomegranate and a handsome pencil cactus. Nearby trellises support a unique burgundy-colored passion vine. In the front, variegated artemisia sprawls happily, while ceramic frogs and fish rest nearby. An unusual lettuce-leaf begonia hangs in a pot in the charming screened porch, where we lingered to enjoy the perfect “view of it all”—just another day in paradise, and another terrific garden tour.

MG Sandy Huff adds: We had one very important request for Joy after our tour of her gorgeous yard -- invite us back when her huge, mature azaleas are blooming. And make more of those great cookies!

But there was plenty to see on May 5. Day lilies, verbena, cosmos, canna, and passion vines were brilliant between the oak-leaf paths. A big patch of ground orchids were actually bearing their bright orange clusters in the ground. Her hand-made cement leaves were ready to catch gutter water, and a head-high stand of white! firecracker plants exuberantly guarded her south wall.

We went to Kelly's for lunch and caught up on news. It was a fine day.
This was Fun!

By Sandy Huff, MG

When Theresa Badurek asked for a volunteer to do a display on growing vegetables for a local health fair, I didn't know what to expect.

So I made up a list of 50+ edible plants in my own yard, stopped by the grocery store to add to my display, loaded the laptop with a power point program from Suzanne Girves, printed a handout of when to plant which veggies, set the GPS, and headed out the door.

It was fun! Almost all of the 400+ employees of the company stopped in. Those who were already gardeners wanted to talk about their prize-winning Honeybells, a rose that mysteriously died, or where to find Asian veggies (Wagon Wheel flea market). Non-gardeners were amazed at my freshly picked pile of Blue Lake bush beans.

The company provided four kinds of sandwiches, drinks, and five kinds of desserts. From the other vendors I had my eyes checked, got a new toothbrush, and discovered mutual friends.

It was so successful that the lady organizer is talking about doing some “Lunch ‘n Learn” programs. Did I mention I had fun?

FBGF Shines at Green Thumb Festival

St. Petersburg’s 25th annual plant and landscape festival attracted scores of “plant people” to two days (April 30-May 1) of environmental and horticultural exhibits, lectures, free mulch and free butterfly plants, trees for sale for $3, a plant auction, entertainment and, of course, lots to eat. Pinellas County Extension and the Foundation had popular booths; the former offered diagnostic plant analysis and ours, which was sporting a new look this year, promoted the Gardens and membership. Extension experts also made many of the presentations. Thanks to all the members, MGs, volunteers and Extension staff for their time, expertise and enthusiasm.
Volunteering in Gardens Is A Big Step on Career Path

By Terry Berube, MG

Erika Mayer came to the Florida Botanical Gardens in the winter of 2010 and has been working on both the Wednesday crew in the formal gardens and on the Thursday crew in the demonstration gardens. Several months ago, Master Gardener Patrick Mann invited her to design the new bulb garden on the tropical walk. Erika jumped at the offer and the bulb garden is looking fabulous.

After receiving a bachelor’s degree in studio art with an emphasis in print making from Florida State University, Erika’s love for the arts, along with her love for gardening, led her to do research in the landscaping industry. Landscape architecture felt like a great fit. It happened very naturally, she says: art and design + gardening = landscape architecture!

When she moved to St. Petersburg from Philadelphia last August, she scoured the area looking for internships and work within the landscaping field. FBG popped up on her radar pretty early on. Making a trip to the gardens, she walked around for two hours, spoke to Carol Suggs in the Parks and Conservation Resources office, and was volunteering the very next week. Erika says she has learned so much in the months working with FBG: names of plants, weeds, invasive plants and pests; how to prune certain plants; how to plant correctly; when to fertilize; how to identify plant families, etc. She says she especially enjoyed helping to design the bulb garden under the watchful eye of Bob Funari. Traveling to Brooksville to purchase the bulbs was also a great experience.

When Erika finally heard back from one of the dozens of job applications she had sent out, she says she felt prepared because of the time she had spent at FBG. Mary-Beth Wagner offered her an internship and part-time work at Advanced Art of Gardening, a landscape design company based in St. Petersburg, which suits her perfectly. Sitting in on design sessions and working on Mary-Beth’s crew is giving her an idea what to expect from a career in landscape architecture.

Erika feels strongly that her time at FBG truly prepared her for this internship and she is very grateful! She is even keeping her Wednesdays free to continue volunteering in the formal gardens!

Erika in the bulb garden and in the Jazz Corner of the Wedding Garden with Terry Berube.
FBG Foundation Update

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, FBG Foundation President

The evolution of idea to reality has begun! The Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources Department signed off on our plans for the installation of Aquatic Reflections, the glass mosaic of water, goldfish and lily pads that volunteers created for the four empty pools in the Wedding Garden. In preparation for this, a (hopefully flawless) substructure was built to support the mosaic tiles. The first corner has already been installed by a dedicated crew of volunteers and tile contractor workers under the watchful eye of the mosaic’s artist and prime mover Heather Anderson. (One of her last acts as an FBGF board member, we were saddened to learn.) Thanks to her networking skills, Henry Rothberg and his company, Laticrete International, donated invaluable installation materials and technical support.

The other three corners will be completed over the summer, with a grand unveiling planned for the Lights in the Gardens 2011 preview celebration. In the meantime, please check out the project as it proceeds and spread the word about this exciting and beautiful addition to the Gardens. The Foundation is hoping the mosaic will generate a lot of public and media interest.

The recent progress was made while I was “across the pond” visiting English country gardens and the famous Chelsea Flower Show, along with a local contingent including my wife Joan and MGs Pat Dieterich, Irma Porterfield, Joanne Kliesh and Patrick Mann. Thanks and congratulations to everyone on all the great work!

Shortly before jetting off, I had an interesting e-mail correspondence with two members of the Royal Horticultural Society who had just visited the FBG. In addition to praise for the Gardens—”a first class facility”- and the gift shop—where he said his wife “spent a fortune”- he suggested packing warm clothing. Thankfully we heeded his advice! He also suggested a guest book “so that visitors from far and wide could make comments.” Another good idea and one that we are already looking into.

While I was away, the FBGF made another major investment in the Gardens: a 25-foot Canary Island date palm (pictured below) that was installed in the plaza to replace the one that was dying from palmetto weevil. It looks terrific—well worth the $5,000 cost of the specimen tree.
Fan Photos from Florida Botanical Gardens

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

Become a fan, check out our on-line gallery of Garden photos, and invite your friends to become fans as well!  [Link to the FBG Facebook]

Wayne Ozug, Gabrielle Schneider Harrison and Citrus Lens are among the latest photographers sharing gorgeous Garden photos, including spectacular water lilies and a hungry hummingbird moth. Thanks to all!
**FBGF Members, MGs Can Save $$ When Beautifying Yards**

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

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<tr>
<th>Nursery Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Operating Hours</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>Art Stone Orchids</td>
<td>3611 Tyrone Blvd, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-345-6733</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Sat 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country Club Nursery (10% off all purchases)</td>
<td>9850 Starkey Road, Largo</td>
<td>727-397-4438</td>
<td>Mon-Sat 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.countryclubnursery.com">www.countryclubnursery.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>DragonFly Garden</td>
<td>730 Broadway, Dunedin</td>
<td>727-734-4900</td>
<td>Closed Tue; M, W, TH 10 a.m.- 6 p.m., Fri 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.- 6 p.m., Sun noon- 6 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dragonflygardendecor.com">www.dragonflygardendecor.com</a></td>
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<td>Earthscapes Garden Room</td>
<td>816 Alt. 19 N, Palm Harbor</td>
<td>727-786-4859</td>
<td>Mon – Sat 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.earthscapesgardenroom.com">www.earthscapesgardenroom.com</a></td>
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<td>Esperanza’s Garden Center</td>
<td>6001 Haines Road, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-742-8499</td>
<td>Seven days a week, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jene’s Tropicals</td>
<td>6831 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-344-1668</td>
<td>Mon – Sat 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tropicalfruit.com">www.tropicalfruit.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy’s Korner Nursery &amp; Tree Farm (10% off trees)</td>
<td>6095 Haines Road North, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-525-9640</td>
<td>Mon – Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kathyskornernurserystpete.com">www.kathyskornernurserystpete.com</a></td>
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<td>Palm Harbor Nursery &amp; Landscaping (10% off cash and carry)</td>
<td>450 Riviere Road, Palm Harbor</td>
<td>727-784-2992</td>
<td>Mon – Fri 8 a.m.– 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.palmharbornursery.com">www.palmharbornursery.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Twigs and Leaves</td>
<td>2131 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-822-5400</td>
<td>Mon – Sat 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sun 9 a.m.-3 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.twigsnleaves.com">www.twigsnleaves.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilcox Nursery</td>
<td>12501 Indian Rocks Road, Largo</td>
<td>727-595-2073</td>
<td>Mon – Sat 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wilcoxnursery.com">www.wilcoxnursery.com</a></td>
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<td>Willow Tree Nursery</td>
<td>4401 49th St, N, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-522-2594</td>
<td>Mon – Fri 8 a.m.– 5 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.willowtreenursery.com">www.willowtreenursery.com</a></td>
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Volunteer Opportunities

■ The Boys and Girls Club of Tarpon Springs has won a grant from the Green Education Foundation to create a garden and we have been invited to participate in the one-day build from 8 a.m. to noon on Sept. 17. Four MGs needed, previous school or community garden experience is a plus. The goal is to “engage youth in the growing process, from planting to harvest, and in doing so teach them about nutrition and motivate them to get outdoors.”

■ Westminster Palms in St. Petersburg has requested a 30-45 minute presentation for a small group on the first Friday of the month, July or later. They meet at 6:30. The speaker is invited to join them for dinner.

■ Extension’s Horticulture Department is looking for an Internet-savvy MG who would like to do a little online volunteer work for MG hours. You don’t have to be a computer expert, just comfortable with web-browsing; experience with Excel is a plus. This is a job that could be done off-site once you learn it.

■ Do you live in Palm Harbor and like to write? The Palm Harbor Patch is looking for an Internet blogger to write about things that apply to that community.

■ The Safety Harbor Garden Club is looking for a speaker at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012. Topics of interest include native plants, ferns, orchids, roses, citrus, palms, beneficial insects, succulents and tropica ls.

Contact Theresa Badurek at 727-582-2109 or tbadurek@pinellascounty.org to follow up on any of the items.

Educational Opportunities

Extension Classes

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

Volunteer Hours for Master Gardeners Only

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

Some examples of volunteer time that go in this new category include: X_NON-MG Pinellas County Volunteer Hours

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

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

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

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

Record Your Volunteer Hours
Please Remember to Sign Out!

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

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

- **Garden Yard Tour** - See you in the fall.
- **MG Update** – On Wednesday, June 8 commercial horticulture extension agent Jane Morse, will give pointers on weed control. The next Update will be in August, details to follow.
- **Exciting Changes** - coming to our demonstration gardens, including rejuvenating the gardens on the north side of the Extension building. Once the areas are designed, we will be looking for help. If you are interested, contact Theresa Badurek or Terry Berube.
- **The International Master Gardener Conference**—will be in West Virginia in October. For details, go to [http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/](http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/).
- **The Green Leaf**
  
  This is the 11th year I have been editor of the monthly *Green Leaf*. It is a rewarding experience that has been made easy by those who have contributed articles, provided editing assistance, and computer skills. I am always looking for volunteers who would like to be involved in this publishing effort. Please see me most days in the Volunteer Office, call 582-2117 or e-mail me at cscaffidi@co.pinellas.fl.us

Education

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

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

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

Contact Theresa Badurek at 727-582-2109 or tbadurek@pinellascounty.org to follow up on any of the items.
Summer/hurricane season is here and that’s a good time to think about summer safety.

**It’s about to get very, very hot!** Remember these heat stress prevention tips:

- Know the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses and monitor yourself and your coworkers.
- Use sun block.
- Block out direct sun or other heat sources.
- Use cooling fans and air-conditioning; rest regularly.
- Stay hydrated. If you are outside, drink lots of water--about one cup every 15 minutes.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes.
- Avoid alcohol, caffeinated drinks, and heavy meals.

For more information on heat safety please visit the UF/IFAS website: [http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/heat_stress.html](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/heat_stress.html)

You and your family and friends should create or update your hurricane/disaster plan. Don’t wait until a storm is upon us to decide what you will do in the event of a dangerous storm. For more info on hurricane preparedness please visit the UF/IFAS website: [http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/families_and_consumers/hurricane_prep_fc.html](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/families_and_consumers/hurricane_prep_fc.html)

In the meantime, have fun, stay cool, and be safe!
You can contact me at 727-582-2109 or tbadurek@pinellascounty.org

Thank you so much for all that you do!

**2011 June Thank You, Volunteers!**

- MG Update Wednesday, June 8 from 9 a.m. to noon, followed by potluck lunch

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

For details on some of the events listed go to the calendar on the Pinellas County Extension Lawn & Garden website. [http://www.pinellascounty.org/scripts/publish/webevent.pl?](http://www.pinellascounty.org/scripts/publish/webevent.pl?)