Are Your Trees Storm Ready

by Jane Morse, UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension Agent

When it comes to trees and storms, there are victims and there are survivors. The question to ask yourself before the next – inevitable – big Florida storm is: Will your tree survive or will it come crashing down on your roof?

Trees have a lot to contend with during storms. High winds snap them and break off branches. Rain loosens the soil, making it harder for the roots to hold them up. And the longer it takes for storms to move through an area, the more water accumulates in the soil and the more battering the trees take.

A tree’s survival comes down to whether it is resistant to wind, if it is properly planted and pruned, has enough space for its root system, and is in good health. Trees with these properties can help to protect your home during a storm. Or at least minimize damage.

Here are some things to consider when adding new trees to your landscape or maintaining the ones you already have. That some trees are naturally more resistant to wind has been shown by surveying those still standing after hurricanes. They include southern magnolia, yaupon holly, dahoon holly, podocarpus, crape myrtle, pondcypress and baldcypress. Palms in this category include pindo, areca, alexander and sabal. You can find a more comprehensive list at: http://tinyurl.com/7nneatg.

According to the University of Florida's "Trees and Hurricanes," some of the weaker trees are ash, maple, water oaks, pecan, tulip poplar, Bradford pear, southern red oak, Australian pine, floss-silk tree, weeping banyan, silk oak and jacaranda.

After you have selected a tree for your yard and are getting ready to plant it, you need to picture it full grown. Make sure mature trees will have lots of space, both in the air and in the soil, which gives them a better chance of surviving storms. Plant smaller trees near homes, power lines and other structures.

All trees need a certain amount of root space based on their mature size. Trees smaller than 30 feet tall need a soil area of at least 10-by-10 feet and should be at least two feet from paved surfaces. Medium trees with a height and spread less than 50 feet need at least 20 x 20 feet should be six feet from pavement. Trees with a height and spread greater than 50 feet need at least a 30-by- 30 foot area and should be 10 feet from pavement. More space is needed if there is a high water table and the roots have less than a depth of 3 feet for rooting.

When planting for shade it is more important to shade the east and west walls of a house than the roof. Small trees planted fairly close to the house for wall shade will be less hazardous than large trees which can fall on the house. For more information, see these links: http://tinyurl.com/6gqwm2z and http://tinyurl.com/6qfge76.

If you are a do-it-yourself landscaper, dig the hole wide and shallow so that the top 10% of the root ball is above ground level. The outer inch or so of the root ball should be shaved off to remove all circling roots, and mulch should be applied 3 inches thick and in an area 2 feet in diameter for each inch of tree trunk diameter. Mulch should come up to the edge of the root ball, but not cover it. Roots will expand best when there are no soil differences, so it is best to stick with the natural soil and not amend the planting hole. Establishment takes time and providing enough water is critical to tree survival. For more detail see this link: http://tinyurl.com/7e96cnj.
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

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

Trees are like children. When they are young they need lots of training to make sure they grow up strong, straight and healthy. Proper pruning is extremely important for good tree structure and the health of the tree. The most wind-resistant tree form is one that has a single leader or trunk with evenly spaced branches. There should be no narrow forks or branches leaving the trunk and if there are multiple trunks with sharp V angles these are very likely to split apart in a storm. Tree branches should retain 2/3 of their canopy.

Palms, on the other hand, should never have their fronds removed above a horizontal line, or less than a 90 degree angle off of the trunk. The so-called “hurricane cut” is the worst cut of all for palms. Palms treated in this manner are robbed of food and vigor, and will be more likely to sustain severe damage or death from a hurricane. See these links for more about pruning: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg087 and http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep443. For suggestions on choosing a tree care professional, check this website: http://tinyurl.com/7gbqt6r

Having trees that are beautiful, strong, healthy and wind-resistant just takes a little know how. Now that you know what to look for, go outside and inspect your trees. Make sure they have good structure and enough space for their root systems. If a tree needs help, contact a certified arborist who can advise you about pruning steps that can be done to create good structure, or for possible removal if the tree is hazardous. And if a tree does fall or have to be removed, plant a new one. But plant a more storm-resistant one and make sure it gets regular pruning while young. See this link for a tree pruning schedule: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep276

An End of an Era
By Chuck Scaffidi, Editor

WASHINGTON -- Flying from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the Space Shuttle Discovery piggy-backed on a jumbo jet bound for Dulles International Airport in Virginia on Tuesday morning en route to retirement at the Smithsonian. Since Discovery's exact flight plan was not released prior to its arrival in the D.C. region, it was hard to predict exactly when and where to be in position to see the space shuttle. But NASA said that places like the National Mall and Alexandria waterfront were good bets to spot the shuttle.

Downtown, people streamed southward mid-morning toward the Mall and Potomac waterfront as others flocked to office building roofs as reports that Discovery, which weighed roughly 700,000 pounds at takeoff, was making passes through the nation's capital. The space shuttle's final home will be the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va.
Many memories came to life when my daughter who lives outside of Washington DC sent me this e-mail.
From: Linda Rapp
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 11:27 AM
To: Scaffidi, Chuck
Subject: space shuttle

Hi Dadio
Just had to say hello and tell you I watched the shuttle come through here on the news. How spectacular!! Of course it would have been nice to see it land but they did a beautiful job showing it on TV all morning. Bob saw it flying over Goddard...took pictures with his phone.
Brings back many good memories. I do remember when we saw it land in FL one time.
Remember when I came down and you got me a press pass??
I will never forget that day.
Anyway, you are now part of history! I look forward to going to the center in Dulles to see it on display. We went when the kids were young - great place to visit.
Talk to you soon!
Linda

---

Frogs Return Moon
April 20 - May 20

By Jude Bagatti, MG

Ever kissed a frog? Trust me, it can’t hurt. Not even if it’s a toad instead.

While attending the University of Miami, I spent untold evenings planted in the Law Library, wading through case law, trying to avoid being swamped by the humongous volume of work demanded of law students. Ask anyone who’s been there. The first year of law school is particularly harrowing. I witnessed breakups (including one of my own) and breakdowns. It is not for the queasy.

Several times on my twilight way to or from the library, I noticed furtive movements on the ground outside below the lighted library windows. One night I decided to investigate and discovered a toad or two hopping about in the semi-darkness. A lake and a brook were nearby on campus, but I supposed these critters were attracted to the bugs which, in turn, were lured by the inside lights. Wielding instruments, I had poked at dead amphibians spread out for dissection in biology class, but the only tactile intimacies I’d had with frogs were with the kinds that fastened my oriental jacket. I wanted a better look at these live ones.

I threw down my heavy satchel of law books. Minutes of animated stalking and eluding followed. There we were, toads and I, leap-frogging about in the weeds by the building until I finally cornered and caught one. I held it securely with both hands as it kicked in protest. It was fat, warty and light brown, definitely a toad, not smooth-skinned or green like one pictures a frog to be. Call it intense law school stress, coupled with a desperate need for diversion, but impulsively, right then and there, I kissed my captive… not once, but twice: on its wide mouth and on top of its head, boasting later, with mixed reactions from my more serious classmates that, yes, indeed, I kissed a toad!

“What’s with her?” I imagined the toad wondering. Under its heavy-lidded regard, I stroked its back. The toad stopped struggling. Despite the kisses and my whispered declarations of love, this creature did not become a prince, but neither was I some kind of princess. Better yet, it remained what it was. I placed my open hands on the ground expecting it to quickly jump away and make its escape. But even after nudging, it remained sitting on my palm, still and serene. I waited but finally I had to put it down in the grass myself. To this day, I’m convinced it stayed because it felt loved and safe. Maybe that was better than any bug.

According to Sun Bear’s Medicine Wheel, the second moon of the East is the Frogs Return Moon. Whereas last month’s Budding Trees Moon corresponds roughly to the astrological sign of Aries, Frogs Return Moon corresponds to the earth sign of Taurus.
LARGO - EXCLUSIVE - The stars came out Tuesday night at Pinellas County Extension. Emceed by Carol Barkalow and Len Ciecieznski, the County hosted a gala red carpet celebration of its volunteers - “The REAL stars”, according to Peggy Rowe, Director of Human Resources.

“The brightest stars are YOU and the rest of our volunteers” she went on to say.

County Administrator Bob LaSala and the County Commissioners congratulated all recipients. Extension/FBG volunteers who were recognized with a Presidential Award for contributing more than 4,000 hours are:

Barbara Orr and Dorothy Whitley.

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation (FBGF) was the proud recipient of the County Group Award for their outstanding effort implementing and managing the “Holiday Lights”. A highly profitable and primarily a volunteer endeavor. All Foundation Board members and Advisors received a plaque accepted by Chuck Scaffidi. They are:

Chuck Scaffidi, President; Teri Ziegler, Vice chair; Erhan Ozey, Treasurer; Terry Berube, Secretary; Dianne Wheatley, Mary Sweeny, Sue Hamill, Pat Dieterich, Barbara Goss, Emma Eshbaugh, Vivian Haicken, Gale Cooper, and Stacey Zidi, Gift Shop Manager. Advisors Paul Cozzie and Dr. Steve Harper Parks and Conservation Resources, Jean Barnes, Theresa Badurek, IFAS agent; and Wayne Ayers, Heritage Village Liaison.
Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Update

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, FBG Foundation President

The next Foundation Board meeting is Wednesday May 9. You may attend a board meeting as a guest to get a better understanding of our organization and goals, hopefully you will choose to become a board member.

We are a few days away from our **May 6 Diggin’ the Arts** event with a feeling of excitement. So, I would like to get you excited about volunteering that day, or attending and telling your friends and neighbors about it. Following is an article that briefly describes the plans for the participating arts organizations.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, I am always happy to have a visit in the Volunteer Office or chat via email (escaffidi@co.pinellas.fl.us) or at 727-582-2117.

**DIGGIN’ THE ARTS—A SHOWCASE AND CELEBRATION**

Enjoy a day of family fun in the beautiful and tranquil surroundings of Pinellas County’s Florida Botanical Gardens at the Diggin’ the Arts festival with hands-on activities, displays, vendors, booths, music and refreshments on **Sunday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Admission is free.

- Participate in the plein air – open air – painting competition. Registration for this free event is at 10 a.m. and the works, painted in the gardens, are judged at 3:30 p.m. First prize is $150, second prize $100 and third prize $75. Visitors may watch the contestants in action as they paint beautiful garden scenes.
- Enter a raffle to win a rain barrel, each decorated by one of the participating museums; tickets are $1 each or six for $5.
- Get Warholized at the Leepa-Ratner Museums Andy Warhol exhibit, experience watercolor and pottery demonstrations by the Dunedin Fine Arts Center, complete a color reproduction of Georgia O’Keefe’s “The Poppy” with the Museum of Fine Arts of St. Petersburg, make botanical sun catchers and learn about the Chihuly glass collection with the Morean Arts Center or learn about the Crochet Coral Reef with the Florida Craftsmen.
- Learn about bonsai, orchid cultivation, sumie painting and Asian ink painting through demonstrations and horticultural programs offered during the festival.
- The groups La Lucha Trio, offering a unique taste of jazz and Evergreen, with the sounds of Ireland, round out this cultural event with music from around the globe.
- Guided tours of the Florida Botanical Gardens will be offered hourly.

The Diggin’ the Arts festival is a collaboration with the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, the St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts, the Morean Art Center, the Leepa-Ratner Museum, Dunedin Fine Arts Center and the Florida Craftsmen.

The Botanical Bounty gift store is in the Parks and Conservation Resources building. It is open Monday through Friday starting at 10 a.m. On Sunday, May 6, the Botanical Bounty gift shop will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**New Additions to the Gardens**

Terry Berube, MG and Foundation Membership Chair and Richard Berube, MG

Since the loss of the Gulf Coast Museum of Art, we have been faced with the challenge of obtaining new and exciting ways to re-enter artwork back to the Gardens. Presently our artwork includes the mural in the Tropical Fruit Garden, the stained glass in the Cottage Garden, the mosaic bench and table along the Tropical Walk, the mosaic blocks in the Palm Garden, and the magnificent mosaic in the Wedding Garden. All of these pieces of art were either part of the original design or were a contribution by a volunteer or group of volunteers with support by the FBG Foundation.

What a surprise several months ago when I was shown a beautiful cement fountain in the shape of a dolphin riding the waves. It brought me back to my childhood and my favorite sea mammel, Flipper. The dolphin was found at another County park by our local crew chief who received permission to move it to the FBG. We originally were only going to powerwash her (Flipper was a girl, you know) but after talking to some experts, we learned that we could have her stained. With the help of the County staff, we drove Flipper, very carefully, done to have her “dolled up at the spa”.

She came out just great and is now living happily in the waterway that travels through the Palm Garden. One of the nice things about this new piece of artwork is that the only cost incurred by the County was the small pump. An anonymous donor covered the cost of staining.

Please take a minute to go over to see her. It will bring you back to those innocent days of your youth and I bet you’ll be singing the theme song all day.
There has been a lot of activity since my last update. Bob Funari and the volunteers have done some hard pruning. If you have visited in the last few weeks you no doubt noted that many plants have been trimmed. The biggest change for me was the Christmas Ornament tree. Boy did it get a haircut!! Bob is a certified arborist and based on working with him I can guarantee he does know what he is doing. The tree had just gotten too big for the location.

Another big change is not a plant but the addition of “Flipper” to the palm garden. The dolphin statue was being stored at another county park and Bob was able to get it for FBG. We took it to Art Stone Orchids to be stained. In addition to orchids the owner, Michael Polin, also sells cement statues and planters. He gave us a good price to dress-up Flipper and she came out beautiful. Best of all this was done at no cost to the county or the FBGF. An anonymous donor covered the cost of staining.

We have also been busy with some new plantings. Terry and I went to the sale at Tropiflora in Sarasota and picked up a couple items. Bob also purchased, with FBGF funds, some new trees. First is a new Hypolepis fern that we planted by the stream. We had transplanted an Australian tree fern in that spot last year but it didn’t make it. This new fern will grow to about 4 feet. We also added five Guzmania bromeliads near the stream for some color in that area.

On each side of the short bridge by the Tiki hut are some new Clalathea makoyana, commonly referred to as Peacock plants. That was kind of a bare spot and these guys should add a little interest.

Next are the trees Bob and Jason planted. The first is a satinleaf tree Chrysophyllum oliviforme. It is on the tropical walk by the hibiscus garden. Bob removed a clump of Phoenix palms that were shading the hibiscus and substituted this new tree. It is known for its beautiful light, reddish brown bark and stiff leaves are very attractive, dark green above and bronzy-satin below, creating an attractive display when wind blows through the trees.

Across the retention pond from the museum entrance are three new additions. A royal poinciana tree, a yellow poinciana (not Shown) and an orange geiger. All three trees are prolific bloomers and will add a great splash of color to the area. Also added is some Turk’s Cap hibiscus under the trees. His plan is to continue to slowly expand the Garden by landscaping on the southeast end of the Garden by the small pond.

The last addition is a red mistletoe cactus - Ripsalis quellebambensis. This was mounted to an oak tree in the cactus garden. If you look closely you will see the bright reddish pink balls at the end of the plant. I wouldn’t suggest that you stand under it though. You never know what could happen!
Foundation Botanical Bounty Gift Shop Update

Terry Berube, MG and Foundation Membership Chair

Where did we get those three fabulous wreaths hanging in the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop? This is the question asked most often by our visitors. Why? Because they are just stunning.

Gift Shop Manager, Stacey Zidi is always on the lookout for new and exciting ways to decorate the shop. Recently she brought in a magazine article containing the wreaths and asked me if I knew of anyone who could “make it happen”. The names that came to mind were Wednesday volunteers, Erika Meyer and Richard and Kathleen Harder. They jumped at the chance to build the wreaths and then spent several days pulling the vines and another several days shaping and creating. They look so professional and we are very proud of their work. Thank you guys.

Other excitement in the Shop is the Gift Shop Volunteer contest. The brain child of Pat Dieterich, the volunteers will compete to see who could sign up the most new members by the end of October. To entice them, Pat, Barb Goss and I held an intimate brunch for the ladies; plying them with Pat’s delicious quiche, my banana bread and homemade Florida jam, and Barb’s morning drinks. It was a success and they are working hard to get those new memberships. If you are not a member yet, you may want to visit the shop and sign up. We are giving away a FBGF sling bag with every new membership.

Business is up in the shop due to the increase in the visitors to the Gardens. All the hard work of the County, our volunteers and MGs, and Extension is paying off and our Garden is full of new faces. Stacey has been purchasing all sorts of new items, from jewelry to floral and paisley garden tools. You really need to stop in and check it out.

Seven rain barrels, showcased at the gift shop, will be raffled at the “Diggin the Arts” event on Sunday May 6. They are decorated by the art museums and the FBG Foundation.

Pictured here are Pat Dieterich, and Dianne Schiller painting the Foundation’s barrel and the completed barrel with one of the museum’s entry.
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 Gardens 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.)

Facebook Fans Share Their 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 and 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.”

Thanks Sherry Noon for the photos.

Volunteer Benefits

New Incentive for Volunteers Working for the Parks and Conservation Resources Department!

Volunteers who work 100 hours in the department starting from October 1, 2011, may earn an annual parking pass usable at the three beach parks where the County collects a parking fee – Sand Key Park, Howard Park and Fort De Soto Park. The pass is registered to one vehicle license number and must be on display when parked at the beach parking. The annual pass normally costs $75 or for seniors $55.

The volunteer must be registered with the county, report their hours worked for Parks and Conservation Resources and request the VSP report of their hours from their Volunteer Coordinator. That report will be used as a voucher for the pass. The pass is good for one year from the issue date. One pass per year per person may be earned.

Nancy Brown, Volunteer Program Coordinator, 582-2460
Chuck Scaffidi, FBG Volunteer Coordinator, 582-2117. For FBG VSP users I will run the report for you.

Update!!

Master Gardener Volunteers (and other Parks volunteers) are now eligible for a Seasonal Beach Parking Permit after completing 40 hours of volunteering this fiscal year (starting October 1st) within Parks and Conservation Resources - which includes your Master Gardener hours. This came about as a response to requests made by some of our snowbird volunteers who have a hard time accruing the 100 hours for the annual pass in the shorter time that they are here. If you are interested in more information about this please let me know!
Extension Turfgrass Field Day

Sponsored by the UF/IFAS Extension Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology

May 31, 2012
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
North Central Florida Turfgrass Research Unit

Cost: Early Reg. by 5/24/12 $10.00 (includes education and lunch)
Onsite Reg. and Reg. After 5/24/31 $15.00  (includes education and lunch)

Registration and Pre-Test 9:00 a.m.
Program begins at 9:30 a.m.
Reserve your spot by May 24th, 2012.

See the latest in turf varieties and research involving fertilizing, watering, pest control, and new varieties.

**Agenda:**
9:30 - 12:00 p.m. Research Stations
12:00 - 1 p.m. Lunch
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Lectures

**Topics Include:**
Turfgrass Breeding,
Disease Sampling,
Turf and Landscape Designs,
Soil Moisture Sensors,
Nutrient Leaching,
and more.

To Pre-register, email Crystal Sutherland at: csutherland@ufl.edu
Include your name, address, county and number attending.
You will receive confirmation of your email request to attend.
If you have questions call: 352-273-4525
Volunteer Opportunities and Announcements

- **Help Desk Urgent!** Spring is a busy time. Please take a look at the help desk calendar on VMS and see if there is a time that works for you. Also, if you are a regular at the help desk already, please be sure you are signing up in the calendar to avoid scheduling confusion.

- **FFGC/UF Garden and Design Seminar**—June 19-21 in Gainesville, FL. This event is open only to Master Gardeners and members of the FL Federation of Garden Clubs.

- **MGs needed**—MG Sally Ervin is looking for help at Loews: 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.

**Education**

- **MG Update**—Tuesday, May 8 from 9am-12pm. "Earthworm Castings, Extremely Effective Fertilizer that Does Not Pollute" with Jane Maxwell, owner of "Jane's Earthworm Castings". This month is a potluck event so please bring a dish to share and your own plate/cup/etc., remember we're trying to be as "green" as possible.

- **Yard Tour**—Thursday, May 17 from 10am to noon. My address is 2352 West Vina del Mar in St. Pete Beach. Hope to see you then. Phyl Lawson

- **Promo video all about Pinellas County Extension**—A short promo accessed through the MG VMS system in the Newsletters/Documents section. If you are giving a presentation you can play this as an opening to showcase what the Extension offers the community.

- **Earn Continuing Education Credits**—For more upcoming Extension classes please register at: [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml](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](http://gardeningsolutions.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 2:00-3:30 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. 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.

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

- “Planting Pinellas” visit blog [http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/](http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/)
Introducing the Youngest Master Gardener

As you may have heard (or just suspected), I had Lily on April 10th—right on her due date, weighing in at 9lbs. 3 oz. and 20.5 in. She is a wonderful baby and I have attached a photo here if you would like to see her.

Thank you all again for the support, good wishes, gifts, cards, advice, etc!
Theresa

Volunteer Opportunities and Education Continued

■ **Woodlawn Elementary school needs your native plant knowledge. Help renovate an existing native plant garden.** The school is located at 1600 16th St. N. in St. Pete. Teacher is available Tues. mornings or Wed. afternoons.

■ **The Clearwater East Library is looking for a MG speaker or two to present gardening programs in May—either the 5 or the 26.** Start times can range from 1pm-3pm to suit your schedule. There are also Saturdays available in September and October if you like to really plan ahead! Some of the topics they are interested in are: herb gardening, composting, and natural pest and disease control.

■ **A new assisted living facility in the Clearwater/Dunedin area is looking for help in getting a garden club started.** This project could be as involved as you like and they are even interested in doing some therapeutic gardening with some of the residents.

■ **Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg** has a small garden run by special education students. The garden has been very successful and they supply food for their classroom. They are in need of more experienced gardening help.

■ **MG to help design and maintain a display in the Extension lobby.** The display will be housed in a tall glass cabinet in the main lobby and can showcase wildlife, plant, ecosystem, etc. educational information that pertains to the natural world. The display would need to be updated/rotated seasonally.

■ **A science teacher at Sanderlin Elementary School is looking for an MG consultant to help her start a native plant garden.** She is interested in any kind of advice and support you can provide—even over the phone or email if necessary.

■ **Fellow MG Marie Singer needs your help at Largo High School!** Marie Singer needs help cutting and trimming some beautiful but large shrubs on campus. This have to be during the day, in fact, its better after 4 p.m. with the students having gone home She has keys so you can go anywhere on campus (not buildings) and cut & trim. LHS is looking better every month and could look even better with your help. Contact Marie at mfhisingr@verizon.net to volunteer!

See Theresa for more details: 727-582-2109, tbadurek@pinellascounty.org
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 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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<th>Country Club Nursery</th>
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<td>3611 Tyrone Blvd, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>9850 Starkey Road, Largo, 727-397-4438</td>
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<tr>
<td>6095 Haines Road North, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>6831 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>727-525-9640</td>
<td>727-344-1668</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Palm Harbor Nursery &amp; Landscaping</th>
<th>Seminole Nurseries</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450 Riviere Road, Palm Harbor</td>
<td>6230 102nd Ave. N, Pinellas Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>727-545-9619</td>
<td>727 545-9619</td>
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<tr>
<th>Summerwood Gardens, Inc.</th>
<th>Twigs and Leaves</th>
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<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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<tr>
<th>Willow Tree Nursery</th>
<th>Wilcox Nursery</th>
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<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>
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<tr>
<th>Hazel’s Garden &amp; Nursery</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5063 Dartmouth Ave, St. Petersburg</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>727-321-4599</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note:* Only FBG Foundation membership applies
Thank You, Volunteers!!

2012 May Dates to Remember

- Diggin’ the Arts- Sunday, May 6, from 10 am to 4 pm
- MG Update–Tuesday May 8
- Yard tour- Thursday, May 17 from 10 am to noon
- Extension Turf Grass Field Day-Thursday May 31, from 9 am to 3:30 pm in Gainesville, FL.
- FFGC/UF Garden and Design Seminar-June 19-21 in Gainesville, FL.

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)