THE VALUE OF YOUR FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDEN MEMBERSHIP
By BESSIE MORSE, MG

Did you know that the Florida Botanical Gardens is a gift that keeps on giving to yourself and your family? Not only does your FBG membership support the gardens, it enables you to get free or discounted admission to gardens in 44 states, Canada and the Caribbean and sometimes a discount in their gift shop as well through the reciprocal member program of the American Horticultural Society (AHS). Free admission to other gardens can easily surpass the FBG membership cost. Visiting other gardens can give you new ideas to refresh your own garden.

In Florida, there are 11 gardens, not counting our own, that have free admission with your card. They are as close to home as Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota and as far as Miami’s Fairchild Tropical Gardens. The Harry P. Leu Gardens is also well worth a visit anytime you go to Orlando, but especially so in January when the camellias are blooming. While the University of South Florida’s garden in Tampa does not charge admission, the card gives free early admission ($4/pp savings) to their numerous plant sales. Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg again is offering free admission, as is Bok Towers Gardens.

If you are wandering out of the state, check out the brochure that came with your membership card or go to the garden’s website at http://www.flbg.org/foundation.htm which has a direct link to the reciprocal gardens program. The list can be a starting point for trip planning: rest stops while driving, new gardens to discover in places you frequently visit or as an inspiration to visit a new area of the country. The AHS website http://www.ahs.org/events/flower_home_garden_shows.htm list garden and home shows that may be of interest as well. The reciprocal garden list is updated
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

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

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ASSISTANT EDITOR: Carrie Shelby, MG

Please send articles to cascaffidi@juno.com The Green Leaf is available on-line by clicking on “newsletter” at:

http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml

The reciprocal gardens can often be more than just gardens. Winterthur in Delaware, once owned by a member of the Dupont Family, includes a tour of the fabulous mansion. Hillwood Estate in Washington DC boasts of it’s extensive decorative arts museum. Cheekwood Botanical and Museum of Art in Nashville, TN has a small contemporary art museum.

Don’t forget to check out arboretums, too. They can be a lot more than just trees. The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum just outside of Minneapolis is especially interesting in the summer as each summer they tuck art in interesting places in their many themed gardens as well as in their large tree collection.

Even though, we can't grow many of the plants we see in the northern gardens, they can be a source of inspiration for own gardens. Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, WI, intersperses their roses with other plants to provide a pleasing landscape any time of year. Their rock garden shows how succulents can grow in even the narrowest of cracks. The huge Chicago Botanical Garden, 20 miles north of downtown, is extremely well signed, naming all the plants and is great for new varieties of old favorites. The explanatory signs in their Japanese garden make it possible to translate the concept into any garden using local plant material.

Enjoy the Florida Botanical Gardens knowing that your membership money enriches the lives of your family and thousands of others who visit the gardens each year. Don’t forget to take your card with you when you travel and use it as a passkey to other gardens around the country.

Editor’s Comment: Many Master Gardens and FBGF members who love gardens continually use their membership cards. I could not have expressed the value of this any better than Bessie Morse. As she wrote “this is the passkey to other gardens around the country”. Phyllis Lawson is also testimony to this. She recently returned from her vacation where these Botanic Gardens honored the reciprocal agreements: Dallas Arboretum, Denver Botanic Gardens, and Cheyenne Wyoming Botanical Gardens. Your membership serves as a reminder and incentive to visit any of the AHS gardens.
THE FBG FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!!
By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, FBGF Board Member & MG Liaison

The final decision to move forward with the light celebration was decided at the August 12th Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation (FBGF) board meeting. Hooray!! It was a unanimous vote by a quorum of board members. I am excited to begin work (the hard part) and even more excited about working with my co-chair Vivian Haicken for this event. We anticipate a resounding success, and know, that a great deal of work is required. Last year we had over 50,000 people attend. With advanced planning we expect even a greater turn-out.

So far, 40 volunteers have committed to work the holiday lights. Unfortunately, to date, we have not received donations from the private sector to defray expenses. We will be contacting over a hundred companies in this area to ask for their sponsorship, or if they choose to rent a space in the gardens to hold a holiday celebration for their employees. A grant request was written requesting $10,000 from Publix corporation which was denied. We do have our fingers crossed for other donors. The plan is to charge a minimum suggested donation of $2.00 for entry to the Holiday lights. Children under 12 will be free as will FBGF members.

Please consider volunteering for this wonderful event and any ideas you may have about group activities are welcome. We will provide volunteers a checklist of required duties, training and a calendar schedule as we proceed.

Vivian Haicken, President FBGF, sent the following letter to all FBGF members:

Thank you for your support of the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation. We value your membership! We wanted to share with you the decision to move forward with the plans to host the Holiday Lights again this year. This event becomes an opportunity to showcase the Florida Botanical Gardens to guests who might not otherwise visit. Additionally, the event provides an opportunity to generate both revenue and media exposure for the gardens.

In order to produce the event and keep it free to the community, we have made a financial commitment of $33,000 to produce the event. We will work to offset the expense through sponsorship and donations collected during the Holiday Lights presentation.

We are in need of volunteers to help with donation collection, coordinating the daily process of turning the lights on/off or perhaps helping to set up the train display daily. We would appreciate your help, if you are interested please contact us at the Extension 727-2117 and ask for Chuck Scaffidi or leave a message and we will return your call.

- **Event Dates:** Saturday, November 28, 2009 through Sunday, January 3, 2010
- **Event Times:** 6:00pm to 10:00pm Monday through Sunday rain or shine.

We appreciate your consideration. One night shift of four hours adds up quickly in overall savings on the expenses to host the event. All volunteers will be provided with a training session prior to the start date of the event.

Thank you again for your support of the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation.

The Foundation Board is in need of a Secretary. The Secretary will be responsible for attending meetings and recording minutes. This position is critical to the Board’s well being.

If you have experience with taking minutes (or would like to learn), please contact Vivian Haicken 452 9362, or Chuck Scafiddi 582-2117. (MG Brandy Webb did a magnificent job as secretary, but because of full time employment has resigned)

We are also in need of new Foundation members and are looking for the expertise of Master Gardeners to fill these slots. As an active supporter of the FBG for several years I know that Master Gardeners not only have the knowledge, but also the passion to keep the FBG strong over the coming years.

The Foundation’s mission is to help the FBG continue to move toward becoming a world-class botanical garden. Our focus over the next year is to increase membership and use those funds to help ensure that the FBG continues to thrive. What better way to do this than to include more Master Gardeners in the Foundation. Please join me in planning and implementing new programs and events that will enhance the FBG. Your help is needed and I hope I can depend on you.

Interested MGs can contact me at 727-581-6740 or via email at vhaicken@tampabay.rr.com or Chuck Scaffidi at Extension 582-2117 or at home 398-9991 or e-mail cascaffidi@juno.com.
Sugar Apple
Annona squamosa

August and September are the peak months for the harvest of an unusual fruit grown primarily in South Florida. The Sugar Apple (Annona squamosa) and its relative the Atemoya (a hybrid of A. squamosa and A. cherimola) produce an interesting aggregate fruit with a creamy, sweet flesh. The delicate nature of the fruit has prevented its distribution far from where it is grown. Approximately 20,000 pounds of Sugar Apple are produced in and around Miami-Dade County, with an annual value of $60,000.

The small Sugar Apple tree is well-suited to a home landscape, as long as a sunny, protected site can be provided. Growing only to 5m, this tropical fruit might be an interesting addition to a small home orchard.

Sugar Apple belongs to a large, tropical family the Annonaceae. This family includes our beloved native pawpaw (Asimina spp.) which is so important to Zebra Swallowtail butterflies as a larval food. Pawpaw grows in Pine Flatwoods habitat, and many can be found in the P2000 restoration area. Another Florida native related to the Sugar Apple is the Pond Apple (Annona glabra.) A mature Pond Apple can be found on the east side of the Aquatic Ecosystem Education Area.

Here in the Tropical Fruit Garden, the Sugar Apple is laden with fruit. In "researching" this article (and as an excuse to get outside for a bit…) I ran into Charlie Kohnken and brand-new volunteer Bob (Forever) Young. Charlie explained that this is probably the most fruit our tree has ever produced. How can you tell it is ripe? Apparently something or someone has the answer to the question, as the fruit readily disappears!

Lots more information, including a month-by-month care schedule can be found in the UF Publication Sugar Apple Growing in the Florida Home Landscape http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg330.

For more technical information, see: Florida Crop/Pest management Profile: Atemoya and Sugar Apple http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI057.

Three sugar apples appear in the photo on the right. Can you find them? This picture was taken in our Fruit Garden on August 18.

Chuck
Campus Sustainability
By JAMES STEVENSON, Public Education Specialist, FBG

On August 6th the campus Sustainability Committee met and welcomed two new members. Debbie Chayet, who is a Grants Specialist, has been working on several projects here on campus. These include, but are not limited to, the P2000 project McKay Creek clean-up, and invasive exotic plant eradication projects.

Our other new member is Bob Funari, Crew Chief III, Parks Department Horticultural Operations. Bob is currently working out of the Parks Department Nursery in Seminole, but will be one of our new Parks Department neighbors on-site later this summer.

Bob Funari and Debbie presented the preliminary landscape plan from Bruce Turley, landscape designer and owner of Wilcox Nursery. Bob F. and Debbie had already spent nearly a full day combing through the plan, and have made many modifications (plant spacing, issues with visibility, etc.) This will go back to Mr. Turley for re-drafting, and finally a sub-committee will review it prior to planting.

On August 20th, a group of volunteers planted endangered and endemic Chrysopsis floridana (a golden daisy wildflower) on the north parcel of the P2000 property. This followed a clearing operation that is intended to restore the critically endangered scrub habitat there. This project is the result of a partnership with researchers and botanists at Bok Tower Gardens, whose work on scrubland restoration is renowned.

Several exciting new project proposals have been submitted for review. Once these ideas have been approved by this committee and the Director has signed-off on the ideas, the projects' component parts will also be reviewed.

These subsequent check-ups (plant or materials list, design, timetable) are necessary until consensus is reached that any new project will be of educational benefit, will have built-in resources to continue for an appreciable length of time, and will not require resources that are no longer available or that may become unavailable.

The committee meets on the first Thursday of every month at 3:00. All are welcome to attend.

Otto von Bismark, for whom our lovely Bismarkia palms are named, once said "laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made." The CSC does not make laws or rules; we are merely an advisory committee, bringing eyes and ideas from across the various program areas to new projects that have the potential to impact our limited resources here at Extension.

Forthcoming is an approval of a proposal by Debbie Chayet as an example. Presented here for your interest.

Name of project: Benches for The Natural Area

Brief description of project: Construct and install commercial grade benches along the nature trail of The Natural Area (P-2000 south) for use by the public. Construction by Master Naturalists and/or Master Gardeners.

Proposed location of project (be specific): Please see attached map.

Purpose/goals of project: Provide respite and opportunity for nature observation for public.

Estimated cost of project: total approximately $2,400 including Trex, stainless steel hardware, metal bench supports, 8-12 in. diameter posts. More if set in concrete pads.

Have funds for project been secured?

Source(s) of funding for project: CIP for The Natural Area

Anticipated maintenance needs (necessary maintenance activities and man-hours required): None. Benches will be made of composite material such as Trex. Only maintenance needed in the near future would result from unanticipated vandalism such as knife cuts into the bench or marker drawings on the bench. This would need to be sanded off.

How will maintenance be funded? Standard operations.

Educational/interpretive value of project: Provides visitors the opportunity to enjoy nature observation. Currently the nature trail has no benches or seating at all. These benches will be placed along the trail at locations that may provide respite for visitors and the chance to observe birds or other nature activities. One bench will be placed near the pond so visitors may watch the wading birds and periodic turtle activity.

How does this project help meet sustainability goals for FBG/Extension? A composite recycled wood product, such as trade name Trex, will be used for the bench planks. While initially more expensive, this composite product lasts longer than wood, requires no maintenance, and is made of recycled products.

Please select all of the following issues that this project addresses:

To the extent possible, locally sourced materials will be used in the construction of the benches. Construction will be done by volunteers.
NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENERS

Marika Spevack was recently awarded her official Master Gardener certificate, presented by Suzanne Girves and Sandy Huff at the MG help desk in the Palm Harbor Library. Hooray for Marika!

Certified Master Gardeners from the Class of 2008

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SAFETY NET

H1N1 (SWINE) AND SEASONAL FLU NOTICE

All indications are the fall flu season will arrive early this year. Pinellas County has already confirmed dozens of cases of H1N1 (swine flu) since April. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of cases is expected to increase as children return to school. This H1N1 Flu outbreak is a different virus and in addition to normal seasonal flu.

It is time to plan for the flu season now. There are many simple precautions you can take to protect yourself, your family coworkers.

- Washing hands frequently with soap and water or with hand sanitizers if there is no soap or water available.
- Avoid touching your nose, mouth or eyes.
- Make sure to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues and wash hands after coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid or minimize contact with those who have flu or flu like symptoms.
- If you should experience flu symptoms, the most important thing is to stay at home to recover.

BENCHES REBORN

When Pat Mann sees a project to be done, soil doesn't settle under his feet. Subject target: three cracked, wobbly and dangerous benches from the gardens. Using his own materials and labor, Pat took the benches home and completely restored them to their original beauty. Next time you reach for the front door at Extension, cast a quick glance at the benches in the patio area. The have been resurrected and recycled for your seating pleasure. Thank you Pat!!
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MG Update Meetings
- MG Classes
- FAQs on State Bills
- 4-H Fundraiser
- Botanical Bounty Sale
- Emerging Pest
- Vegetable Gardening
- Extension Classes
- Neighborhood Gardener
- MG Discounts (page 8)

RECORDING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

Please Remember to Sign Out!
The computer program for logging volunteer hours is outside the volunteer office, near the help desk.
- You must sign in and sign out when you are at Extension.
- You can still log your time in the book or use e-mail, but it is preferred that you use the computer sign-in sign-out method.
- With over 200 volunteers at Extension it becomes a considerable burden on the volunteer coordinators to manually enter your hours.

When not at Extension email your hours to: cascaffidi@juno.com

Please direct your questions to coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or an assistant, Susan Baughman or Emma Eshbaugh.

MASTER GARDENER UPDATE SCHEDULE - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Tuesday September 8, 9AM – Dr. Craig Huegel presents Designing a Florida Landscape for Birds. Note location change – meeting at EMS.
- Thursday, October 8, 9AM – Dr. Sydney Park Brown via Polycom presents Perennials.
- Monday November 9, 9AM – James Kovaleski presents Edible Landscaping & Permaculture.

North and South County MG Classes
Admission is free for the following classes, but space is limited. Register online at www.pinellascountyextension.org with a click on the “Online Class Registration” button or call 727-582-2100.

Exploring the World of Bromeliads
Is it surprising to learn that the most well-known bromeliad is the pineapple? Learn all about water-wise bromeliads that are usually inexpensive, easy to grow and require little care. MG John Hood will present this program offered on Wednesday, September 9, at 2 PM and 6:15 PM. The library is at 2330 Nebraska Ave in Palm Harbor.

Gardening with Wildlife
Wilma Holley, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Instructor, will share information on attracting birds and butterflies to your yard by using various plants, providing food sources and nesting habitats. The program is offered on Wednesday, September 23, at 2 PM at the West St. Petersburg Community Library, 6605 5th Avenue North, St. Pete.

Drought Tolerant Plants
Pam Brown will discuss drought tolerant plants in a Florida Friendly landscape. The program is offered on Wednesday, October 14, at 2 PM and 6:15 PM. The library is at 2330 Nebraska Ave in Palm Harbor.

Compost Happens
Nature composts all the time. Learn how easy it is to harness this power of nature to recycle your yard waste and some kitchen scraps to make rich nutrients that you can put back on your plants. Dr. John Kingsbury, MG, presents the program on Wednesday, October 28, at 2 PM at the West St. Petersburg Community Library, 6605 5th Avenue North, St. Pete.

FAQs about State Bill 494 & 2080
Dale Armstrong recommends that MGs, particularly those who teach classes and staff the Lawn and Garden Help Desk, review the FAQs on the 2009 legislative State Bills 494 and 2080. The link provides details about the ordinances for BMP training and Florida Friendly Landscaping: http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/00-SB494_and_SB2080_FAQ_8-6-09.pdf.

Time to Think About Munching on Apples and Pecans
The 4-H Foundation is planning their annual fund raiser of apples and pecans for sale and delivery in the fall. Jean Rogalsky has ordering forms outside the 4-H office at Extension. You may pay by check or credit card. And you may order online at http://www.pc4hfoundation.org/. Ordering instructions are available on the website. Any questions please call 727-521-7307 or email info@pc4hfoundation.org. This is such a worthy cause and if you haven’t ordered in the past you’re in for a delicious treat.
News from Stacey Zidi at the Botanical Bounty

Got dirt? I’m sure you do and if you’re like me you’re getting psyched to do some fall planting as the weather changes.

We’ve got lots of books to guide and inspire you whether you enjoy perennials, bedding annuals or herbs. A vegetable garden for cooler weather veggies can be planned now and our books are valuable resources and reference guides. *Vegetable Gardening in Florida* is an affordable paperback with great photographs and awesome expert advice for soil prep, seeding, organic matter, diseases and insects. We also have lots of “Florida Native” books to help you create your successful, sustainable Florida landscape.

Plan now to take advantage of our Pre-Holiday Sale, the week of November 16th! We’ve got unique and beautiful gifts for under $10 – the "boutique mystique" without the high prices. We will have new stock in tees, mugs and ornaments, as well as gifts for all your gardening relatives and friends.

Just a reminder, we are a not-for-profit shop with all proceeds remaining right here in our beautiful Florida Botanical Gardens. As always, thank you for your continued support!

Emerging Pests in our Area

Numerous questions are coming up about Redbay Ambrosia beetle and the potential of Laurel Wilt on avocado trees. The following is a link to download a guidance document on how to answer questions:

[http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/download/Guidance%20for%20Agents%20and%20Master%20Gardeners%208-7-09.pdf](http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/download/Guidance%20for%20Agents%20and%20Master%20Gardeners%208-7-09.pdf)

This second link is a publication handout that can be given to home owners:

[http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/download/Homeowner%20recommendations%20for%20RAB-LW%208-7-09.pdf](http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/download/Homeowner%20recommendations%20for%20RAB-LW%208-7-09.pdf)

Fruit and Vegetable Gardening

Thanks to Sandy Huff for reminding us that the fall season is upon us and it's time for planting! For research based information about growing fruit and vegetable varieties visit the UF/IFAS EDIS site "Fruit and Vegetable A-Z Index"

[http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/features/fruitvegindex.html](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/features/fruitvegindex.html)

Recommended reading is publication, *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide*:

[http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/VH/VH02800.pdf](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/VH/VH02800.pdf)

and *Tomatoes in the Florida Garden*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/VH/VH02800.pdf](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/VH/VH02800.pdf)

EDIS is the Electronic Data Information Source of UF/IFAS Extension, a collection of information on topics relevant to you: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/)

Series of Extension Classes - Mark your Calendar!

The following classes will be offered at Extension for **free to MGs, Volunteers and FBGF members** that register. When you attend you must show one of the membership cards. All others pay a nominal fee of $15 to attend. Please see the [on-line calendar page](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/) for Extension for details and to register.

**Wednesday, September 9, 9am-4PM** Best Management Practices

**Wednesday, September 9, 6:30-8PM** Landscaping for Wildlife

**Wednesday, September 16, 6:30-8PM** Hurricane Preparedness for the Landscape

**Thursday, September 24, 6:30-8PM** Drought Tolerant Plants

**Wednesday, September 30, 6:30-8PM** Managing Common Landscape Problems

The Neighborhood Gardener

*The Neighborhood Gardener* is a monthly e-newsletter of the **Florida Yards & Neighborhoods** and **Florida Master Gardener** programs. Distributed by the Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology Information Office via e-mail, it's also available on the Florida Master Gardener Web site at [http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/2009/august.shtml](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/2009/august.shtml).
**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS**

**For September & October**

- FL MG Conference

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Benefits to FBGF Membership and Master Gardener Certification**
  One of the benefits is the savings you have earned at your some of your local nurseries. We have identified nursery owners in our communities who are willing to offer a 10% discount to members of the Florida Botanical Gardens and to Master Gardeners. When you make a purchase at these businesses, please present your membership card for the discount. We will continue to contact nurseries in the area to secure additional participants to this program. Participating nurseries are:

  - **Wilcox Nursery**
    12501 Indian Rocks Road, Largo, FL 33774
    Phone: 727-595-2073
    Hours: Mon – Sat 8:30AM to 5:00PM and Sun 10:00AM to 4:00PM

  - **Art Stone Orchids**
    3611 Tyrone Blvd, St. Petersburg, FL 33710
    Phone: 727-345-6733
    Hours: Mon – Fri 7:30AM to 4:30PM and Sat 8:00AM to 2:00PM

  - **Palm Harbor Nursery & Landscaping (Cash and Carry items only)**
    450 Riviere Rd, Palm Harbor 34683
    Phone: 727-784-2992
    Hours: Mon – Fri 8:00AM to 5:00PM and Sat 10AM to 4:00PM

  - **Earthscape Garden Room**
    Donna Amend, Retail Manager
    816 Alt. 19 N., Palm Harbor, FL 34683
    Phone: 727-786-4859
    Hours: Mon – Sat 9:00AM to 5:00PM

*Editor’s note: This is only a partial list and Terry Berube will continue to call local nurseries on our behalf to secure more discounts. Thanks Terry!*  

- **Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference**
  **November 2-4, 2009, Hilton Ocala, Ocala**

  Register by 9/28/2009 for Reduced Fees

  Want to learn the latest gardening news from the IFAS specialists? Pack your weekend bag, and join fellow gardeners from around Florida at the annual Master Gardener Continued Training Conference. Carpooling is available and sharing rooms is possible too.

  For more information, check out the web site [http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html](http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html). Feel free to call Jean Field at 727-582-2504 if you would like to know more about the “experience” of this worthwhile conference.

  The Hilton Ocala is offering participants of the 29th Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference, a very special rate of $99.00 per night (plus 8.5% state and local taxes), for up to 4 people in a room. The group rate will be honored three days prior and three days following the conference dates, based on availability.

  If we do not occupy a sufficient amount of guest rooms throughout the meeting, we will incur additional costs for meeting room rental charges. Therefore, we encourage all meeting participants to stay in the host hotel. Consequently, guests not staying at the Hilton Ocala during the conference will be charged a $100 facilities fee to cover their portion of meeting room rental charges incurred. [Explanation of Facilities Usage Fee].
To me, September marks the beginning of the end of summer. Soon, working in our landscapes will mean a long-sleeve shirt and a cool breeze, if you can imagine that. Speaking of cooler temperatures, Pinellas County Health and Human Services warned us that we will have a busy flu season this year, especially with the Swine Flu. Since you are our extended unpaid staff, please allow me to share these warnings with you:

- Wash your hands and avoid touching your face
- Stay away from sick people
- Avoid shaking hands
- Use hand sanitizers
- Don't come to work sick

Flu season will peak in January and we wish all our volunteers a healthy winter ahead.

Beginning October 1st, soil samples will now be handled through the University of Florida soil testing lab. This is actually a good thing since the cost is less and the results are more detailed. Here is the breakdown of the two tests:

- $3.00 includes soil pH
- $7.00 includes soil pH, lime requirement, P, K, Ca, Mg

The submittal forms are kept in the publications closet, right off the diagnostic desk and can be obtained online. Please help us spread the word about this change in our services, if you please.

Remember, our next MG Update 9/8/09, will be held next door at EMS. So many changes are finally behind us and I see the break in the clouds ahead. Good times are coming once again. Stay tuned and we’ll enjoy them together.

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2009 September

**TUES SEPT 8, 9AM**
- MG Update
  Dr. Craig Huegel presents *Designing a Florida Landscape for Birds*:
  Meeting at EMS

**WED SEPT 9, 6:30-8PM**
- *Landscaping for Wildlife* at Extension

**WED SEPT 9, 2 & 6:15PM**
- *Exploring Bromeliads* at the Palm Harbor Library

**WED SEPT 23, 2-3PM**
- *Gardening with Wildlife* at West St Pete Comm. Library

**SAT SEPT 26, 10AM-NOON**
- *Compost Happens* at Extension

**Looking Ahead!**
**THUR OCT 8, 9AM**
Dr. Sydney Park Brown via Polycom presents *Perennials*.

**WED OCT 28, 2-3:00PM**
- *Compost Happens* at W. St. Pete Comm. Library

**MG Plant Clinic at the Palm Harbor Library** – Wednesdays from 10AM to 2PM
Master Gardeners offer diagnostic services that include soil testing 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.
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, IFAS, Florida A&M UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.

Good Work Volunteers!

Reminder—Mark Your Calendar!

- MG Update
  Tuesday, September 8 at 9AM
  Dr. Craig Huegel presents
  Designing a Florida Landscape for Birds
  Meeting at EMS

Mary Campbell,
Acting
Extension Agent II, Environmental Horticulture

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