It’s a Jungle Out There

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

Have you ever wondered “what is wrong with this plant?” or “what is this insect, where did it come from and now what do I do?” or “oh my, what are these black, shiny, wormy looking things on the floor?” We hear questions like these every day at the Lawn and Garden Help Desk, supported by the University of Florida and Pinellas County, and we can usually answer your questions - free of charge.

Recently, we have seen a rash of frangipani or plumeria rust fungus. This disease produces a mass of tiny pockets of rust colored spores on the undersides of the leaves. Infected leaves become yellow-spotted on top and fall off the tree. This disease is most commonly seen during the mid to late part of summer. Although it may look rather menacing it normally does not cause any serious problem for the plant. Since the leaves are getting ready to drop off for the fall anyway, spraying with a fungicide is usually not warranted. It is best to pick up or rake away any infected fallen leaves and dispose of them in the trash. This will help to reduce the amount of spores available to re-infest the tree at a later date.

If you are seeing chewed frangipani leaves you probably have the tetrio sphinx or frangipani hornworm caterpillar feeding on them. This is a black caterpillar with yellow stripes that gets quite large and is usually seen here between July and September. Since leaves will be dropping soon why not let the caterpillar have them, as it helps to fertilize the ground with its frass.

Several plant species such as lantana, chrysanthemum, gaillardia, bidens and aster are commonly attacked by blotch leaf miner in the summer. The symptom tends to look more like a disease than an insect, but spraying a fungicide will be a waste of time and money since it is an insect causing the browning. The leaf miner is a very tiny worm that feeds between the top and bottom layers of the leaf, so it is protected from insecticides applied to the surface of the leaf. It eats its way around in the middle of the leaf as it grows and causes the blotchy discoloration. It looks bad and it may cause a few leaves to drop off, but it is not really harmful to the plant. If you want to treat this problem it has to be done before the damage starts to show. If you have had this problem in the past and can’t tolerate it, apply a systemic insecticide just before midsummer. Insecticides can only be applied to edible plants if they are listed on the label.

Chilli thrips are having a heyday on several types of plants. Some of their favorites are roses, Indian hawthorn, sweet viburnum, snow bush, begonia, golden dewdrop. For pictures of thrips and the damage they can cause, as well as valuable tips on controlling them, go to http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/lsvo/thripslinks.htm or google IFAS chilli thrips.
An unusual and very tiny black or dark brown Brahminy blind snake has been showing up lately, too. This snake originated in Asia and is able to self-fertilize, so it doesn’t need a mate to reproduce. It is actually blind as it lives mostly underground where it eats termites and ant larvae. It is about the size of an earthworm, but instead of being smooth it has snake scales. Remember that native snakes are extremely important in the ecosystem. Some provide good rodent control and all are a food source for other critters, so please let them live.

A great resource about snakes can be found at [http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herpetology/fl-guide/onlineguide.htm](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herpetology/fl-guide/onlineguide.htm). Or you can google Florida snakes. Frogs are also very important in our ecosystem and are good indicators of environmental health. They love Florida’s wet summers. Be on the lookout for highly invasive and damaging frogs such as Cuban tree frogs which eat our native frogs. Since frogs can be quite vocal, it is sometimes easier to identify a frog by its croak or call. There is a really fun website where you can listen to a frog’s call and see what it looks like. Visit either [http://www.hillsborough.wateratlas.usf.edu/fln/](http://www.hillsborough.wateratlas.usf.edu/fln/) or [http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/faq/frogstoads.php#Frog_Pics](http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/faq/frogstoads.php#Frog_Pics). Even easier, simply google frog listening network or ifas frogs.

Also showing up along with our heavy summer rains are millipedes and centipedes. When the soil gets saturated with water they must come up for air and sometimes they end up crawling inside our homes. They don’t cause any damage other than possibly giving the resident a fright. They can be swept up and placed back outside. Make sure you have good weather stripping on doors, as this will help to keep them out of the house. Pesticides can also be applied. See this publication for more information: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig093](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig093) or google ifas millipedes.

At this time of year, invasive plants such as Brazilian pepper, potato vine, *Lantana camera*, torpedo grass, carrotwood, melaleuca and Australian pine are sprouting and growing like mad. Although you probably won’t see the damage these cause in your own yard because you keep it mowed, these plants wreak havoc in native areas (especially wetlands) and parks. They can quickly overtake an area, disrupt the food chain, decrease the number and quality of species, change nutrient cycling and alter the habitat structure. They are also very expensive and time-consuming to try to control.

Follow these guidelines to keep invasive species from spreading: Remove and treat all invasive plant species; never release aquarium fish and plants – return them to an aquarium shop or donate them to a school; stop aquatic hitchhikers by cleaning your boat, propeller and gear before leaving a launch area; keep pets at home and indoors – if you no longer want your pet contact, a club or rescue group, or take it to the Humane Society; make sure all plants and produce brought into Florida are inspected for exotic pests or fruit flies.

Remember that we have answers to your questions about things you may find or be curious about in our urban jungle. It is a fascinating place to explore, with an abundance of critters and plants to learn about. You can visit us in person at Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo any Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can call the Help Desk from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays. Or you can visit our frequently asked questions website at [www.AskExtension.org](http://www.AskExtension.org).
Andy’s Update: Black Twig Borer

By Ellen Mahany, MG

Master Gardeners anticipate Andy’s Update at each monthly MG meeting, not only for the learning experience and the challenge, but also for Andy Wilson’s masterful presentation. He increases our knowledge while offering surprises and humor to keep us on our toes. Beginning with this issue of Greenleaf, an excerpt from the latest complete update will be discussed in the Andy’s Update column. In no way can it be considered a substitute for the original exhilarating experience, but its purpose, like the update itself, is to provide valuable information.

The long, hot Florida summer is a time of great activity for the tiny Black Twig Borer (Xylosandrus compactus), which drills, in Andy’s words, ”a machine-like hole” into the underside of small twigs of many host trees, most notably the red maple.

From the FBG parking lot, we can see the red maple in front of the extension building currently showing the obviously aesthetic damage caused by this insect’s invasion, clusters of brown leaves among the healthy greenery.

Close up and entire views of the infested Red Maple Tree

Two days after Andy’s Update at the August Master Gardener meeting, a client brought in twigs with wilted leaves from a camphor tree infested by the same black twig borer. It attacks healthy as well as damaged trees, and although it will not generally kill a tree, it will retard growth and affect appearance.

Side view and overview of female black twig borer with larvae in chamber (Credits: U of F).

The female of the species bores entrance holes in twigs to create a nest for her eggs. She measures about 1/16 of an inch and the round entrance holes about 1/32 an inch in diameter. She lays loose eggs and produces a white fungus to nourish the emerging creamy white grubs, which grow to about the same length as the adult. Development from egg to adult takes about a month. The typical number of adults in a brood is ten to fifteen, although the number could reach forty.
Adults reach the height of population between June and September and overwinter in damaged sections of trees. To minimize unsightly die back and prevent further damage from the Black Twig Borer’s invasion, it is necessary to prune infected twigs and branches and remove them from the area.

The information in this article is based on Andy’s update and his recommended publication on line: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in577. The complete Andy’s Update for August as well as previous updates is available at the Master Gardener VMS.

**A Garden Visit**

*University of South Florida Botanical Gardens*

By Debra Kramer, FBG Volunteer

If I had to choose one word to describe the University of South Florida (USF) Botanical Gardens it would be relaxed. This garden invites you to kick back and unwind. It is located on the main USF campus in Tampa on the shore of Lake Behnke.

As you would expect from a university-affiliated garden, the focus is on education. Student-run vegetable gardens, rain barrel set-ups and bee hives are displayed in one section. You can picture groups participating in hands-on activities here. Other areas include a temperate forest, succulents and a meditation garden.

The general mood of this garden is park-like and natural. There is little hardscape and paths are mulched. A wonderful outdoor area is set up with tables and equipment for potting plants or sowing seeds (see photo). Benches placed throughout the gardens invite you to stay awhile.

The indoor conservatory is a must-see at the garden. The brick floor with the wood slatted framed roof creates a rustic space for an indoor water feature and orchid display.

The USF Botanical Gardens accepts your FBG Foundation card for free admission. A small selection of plants is available for purchase. Enjoy a peaceful stroll through this university garden and you will leave feeling relaxed and more informed about gardening. For further information, the web site is www.cas.usf.edu/garden.
By Jude Bagatti, MG Volunteer

The awesome Harvest Moon is the last moon of the year having Shawnodese as its Spirit Keeper, the coyote as its animal, summer as its season, midday as its time of day, yellow and green as its colors, and growth and trust as its Powers of the South.

Sun Bear’s Medicine Wheel states: “People born under this moon are Brown Bear people. Their plant is the Violet, their color is Purple, their stone is the Amethyst, and their elemental clan is the Turtle Clan. They are like the bear: strong, gentle, persevering and curious. Those who provoke or attack them, however, will find that their claws will accurately rake any weak spots. Bear people are cool, capable creatures of habit who love work and duty, and appear confident and courageous. They must learn to enjoy being around people and to be more sympathetic.” Virgo is their astrological equivalent.

As customary harvest time approaches, misgivings abound about the current state of our agriculture. The news is bad enough with this summer’s endless drought affecting farmlands across the country. Not only are crops dried and diminished but transporting them by barge is slower and costlier due to low river water levels. We can expect less and pricier produce because of weather conditions. Of graver concern to me is the expansion of GMOs, genetically modified products. A recent article I read painted disturbing pictures: The number of crops that have undergone gene manipulation has grown from corn, to soy, canola, sugar beets and cottonseed oil; altered ingredients are in about 70% of processed foods in supermarkets, with no labels to inform consumers.

“So what?” you say. “Won’t this bio-engineering….which includes inserting bacterial DNA into plants to bolster resistance to pests or disease….allow greater yields to feed the world and conquer hunger?” Not so fast. Despite Monsanto ads, so far the only yield increases in the past 15 years have resulted from traditional breeding programs, not GMO engineering, according to Plant Pathologist Don Huber of Purdue University.

“Well, there must be some GMO benefits, right?” Economist Karen McAfee at Yale investigated. What she found is surprising….or maybe not. The nutritional value of GMO engineered crops has suffered; food safety was compromised by toxins involved in the engineering process; and farmers’ production costs have skyrocketed. But wait. She did find a benefit after all: to the biotechnology industry! And I would add, to the bottom line of chemical companies who make the toxins and pesticides used in the GMO process.

Not only are there no advantages for consumers. Serious risks are associated with GMO crops, from excessive use of chemicals accumulating in our soil, water and air, to super weeds and super pathogens that result and defeat natural biological controls. Worse, research in the UK’s King’s College and at Leipzig University have shown links between GMO products and increased incidences of mutations, chronic fatigue syndrome, Parkinson’s, allergies, birth defects, cancer, and the list goes on. Who knew? I suspect GMO promoters do know, but would say “There’s no proof.”

Consider also that these introduced foreign genes migrate and have damaged non-target crops. And, GMO substances take longer to biodegrade. Those genes are picked up by soil microbes in decomposing plant residue and can affect later crops. Like an inebriated, uninvited guest, no one knows how to get rid of such a gene once it has been let into the plant party. No wonder some smart countries have banned the import of crops from any field where GMO plants are grown. Compared to potential, long-lasting threats from this unnatural chemical cornucopia, severe drought is a mere worrisome, temporary hardship.

Now chemical companies are lobbying to add yet another foreign protein to plants, and for yet another toxic chemical to be applied directly to food and animal feed. This, while it’s still far from understood what long-term consequences may result from today’s reckless use of GMO mechanisms. That cavalier attitude brings to mind the mid-1990s when Benlate, a DuPont fungicide, poisoned not just pests but plants, causing disastrous million-dollar losses to farmers and orchid growers.

What’s a responsible body to do? OCCUPY YOUR STOMACH! Don’t let anything unnatural and toxic into it! Contact the FDA about proper food labeling. Buy organic everything when possible. Patronize local growers. Keep informed. Voice your concerns. And keep asking, no, demanding, that lawmakers and business leaders develop some semblance of a conscience to see the light of right stewardship.

Shine on, shine on, Harvest Moon!

Contact Jude at 727-322-6211 or heyjudebagatti@msn.com
Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Update

By Chuck Scaffidi, FBG Foundation President

The next Foundation Board meeting is September 12. You may attend a board meeting as a guest to get a better understanding of our organization and goals then hopefully you will choose to become a board member.

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

Theresa Badurek and I (Foundation) are working on a co-operative effort to support up-coming events. This is a call to MGs and all volunteers that work in the gardens. MGs contact Theresa and other volunteers call Chuck.

Volunteers needed!! Your ideas to show case the FBG, helping to “clean-up” the gardens, and guiding tours will be greatly appreciated. MGs follow Theresa’s Weekly digest for continuing up-dates and details.

And don’t forget, planning for the “Holiday Lights in the Garden” Nov.23, 2012 through Jan.1, 2013, every evening from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, continues and we will need many, many volunteers. FBG Foundation board members also plan two other special events that occur during the Lights. A Gift and Plant Sale is planned for Dec. 9 from 10:00am to 4:00pm; and a Dog Parade will be held on Dec. 29 at 1:00pm.

This year marks Pinellas County's centennial celebration and UF/IFAS Extension's celebration of 150 years of the Land Grant University! Also, the MG Conference this year will be held in Clearwater Beach in October.

Pinellas Centennial / Extension 150th Celebration, Sept. 15th (11am-5pm) and 16th (11am-5pm)

- We need a couple of MGs who work in the Community Vegetable Demo Garden to be onsite to answer questions and talk about the garden and growing veggies. Shifts are 11am-2pm and 2pm-5pm, and you are welcome to sign up for all day if you like. Two MGs per shift would be ideal.

- We plan to have the Help Desk open and MGs who work the Help Desk on hand for this as well. Shifts are 11am-2pm and 2pm-5pm, and you are welcome to sign up for all day if you like. Two MGs per shift would be ideal.

- We need more volunteers to staff Extension and Florida Botanical Gardens booths at the Gulf Coast Fishing Museum (former Gulf Coast Museum site), as this will be the central location for the event. Shifts are 11am-2pm and 2pm-5pm, and you are welcome to sign up for all day if you like, again, two MGs per shift would be ideal.

- We need Master Gardener and volunteer tour guides! These would be short tours (about 30 min.) of the gardens near the main event site- mainly the formal gardens for sake of time. If you have ever considered giving garden tours this is a great opportunity to try it out! It could also be a great warm-up or practice run if you are interested in leading or helping with the tour for the Master Gardener conference on Sept. 30th (Also see Page 10 first bullet!)

Touchable Textiles

The gift shop will be open Saturday and Sunday Sept. 15th and 16th to participate in the Pinellas County Centennial 100th Anniversary/Extension 150th Anniversary celebrations here in the gardens. Please plan to visit us between 11am and 5pm!

I recently discovered a British-run design house based in Jaipur, India where artists still continue to use handmade teak block carvings to stamp their textiles. A few patterns are shown here. I purchased some of these gorgeous botanical prints created on their 100% light-as-air cotton scarves which you’ll find displayed in the gift shop. They are 15” x 72”, the perfect length for a loop around your jacket or a generous bow attached to a tote bag. $28. On www.scarves.net you’ll find a great tutorial on how to utilize scarves of all sizes. Wear it as a statement piece to give yourself a pop of color or give one as a welcome girlfriend gift.

When I lived in Paris, I often saw women using scarves attached to their bags – at hand to be wrapped over shoulders when it was chilly on the train or around their heads if the weather was blustery. Amusez-vous bien! (Enjoy yourselves!)

Stacey Zidi, Gift Shop Manager
New Volunteer Services Incentives

These are separate from the beach passes being issued for 100 hours of service from the Parks Dept. If you have the hours required and are interested in one of these wonderful incentives.

Please let us know!
For MGs please let Theresa know for all other volunteers let Chuck know.

I could not resist finding space to fit this in the newsletter, it may look out of place, but also being a MG I couldn't resist. Hope you get the same humorous reaction that I got.

Tundra in the Tampa Bay Times is one of my favorite comic strips.-Chuck
We're Tweeting Up a Storm

To see what our followers are saying, click on the Twitter icon and follow a couple of simple steps. It's fun, and a great way to keep up with FBG news between Green Leaves.

Maybe we can even get a botanical conversation going. Share gardening tips. Ask gardening questions. Tell us how wonderful the Gardens are looking. (All "attaboys" gratefully accepted.)

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. If you haven’t signed up, it’s easy to do. Use the link above and click on the 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.”

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!
Volunteer Opportunities and Announcements

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

- **Maintenance Help Urgent!** The morning of Sept. 13 Bob Albanese is organizing a gardens clean-up effort. This is a "Weed-n-Feed" event, so there will be a work day with a pot-luck to follow. We need lots of hands!

- **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.

- **Master Gardener Conference**—Sept. 30th- Oct. 3rd
  This is also a great way to interact with other MGs from all over the state.
  - **Stuffing Conference Bags** Sunday before the conference Sept. 30. About 10 volunteers needed to stuff the participant bags. Takes about 1.5 hours.
  - **Staff a welcome table at the hotel** on Sunday Sept. 30th to recommend eating options, opportunities for shopping and sites to see.
  - Volunteers to help with tours acting as bus captains and resource people.
  - **Provide a special garden tour** for those folks attending the Florida Botanical Gardens pre-conference tour on Sept. 30th at 2pm.

Education

- **MG Update**—Friday, Sept 7, 9am-noon. Citrus Greening, Canker, Black Spot, and more. Our guest speaker is Jamie Burrows from the UF/IFAS Research Center in Lake Alfred.

- **Yard Tour**—Suspended for the summer. Resumes in September.

- **Earn Continuing Education Credits**—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)
  One CEU can be earned by studying the plants and earning a passing score of 80% on the “Test Yourself” feature. Once a score of 80% has been reached, print the page and submit it to the volunteer office.

- **Palm Harbor Library MG Class Series**—Free classes every second Thursday of the month from 2:00-3:30pm and 6:15-7:45pm at the Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave. To register [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/) click the “Registration” tab and then click “Extension Service.”

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

- **“Planting Pinellas”** visit blog [http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/](http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/)

- **Extension Classes and Tours**—Visit Lawn & Garden - Pinellas County Extension on-line calendar for a list of classes where most are being offered free or at a discount to MGs, volunteers and FBGF members with a membership card. Also, sign up for a garden tour. Register on-line. [http://pce-lawnandgarden.eventbrite.com/](http://pce-lawnandgarden.eventbrite.com/)
  Special discount offer for **Rain Harvesting Workshop**

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**Record Your Volunteer Hours**

Please Remember to Sign Out!

The computer program for logging volunteer hours is next to the help desk. Make this your first stop and last stop. You must **sign in and sign out** when you are at Extension. When the computer is not functioning you can still log your time in the book. Those who volunteer at other facilities should e-mail hours after each visit.

**When not at Extension, please e-mail your hours to:**

[cscaffidi@co.pinellas.fl.us](mailto:cscaffidi@co.pinellas.fl.us)

Direct questions to volunteer coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or assistant Emma Eshbaugh.

The County VSP system and procedures applies only to non-MG volunteers.
Thank you all for all of the great work you have been doing in the gardens and throughout the community even while I am on family leave. I have returned part time. Please follow my weekly digest and the newsletter to learn about the many exciting volunteer opportunities.
Theresa

Volunteer Opportunities and Education Continued

- **Volunteer opportunities are now posted on the MG VMS for you to sign up** - Pinellas Centennial and Extension’s 150th Celebration, Sept. 15th (11am-5pm) and 16th (11am-5pm)
  - We need **MGs who work in the Community Vegetable Demo Garden** to be onsite to answer questions and talk about the garden and growing veggies. Shifts are **11am-2pm and 2pm-5pm**, and you are welcome to sign up for all day if you like. Two MGs per shift is desirable.
  - We plan to have the Help Desk open assisted by **MGs who work the Help Desk**. Shifts are **11am-2pm and 2pm-5pm**, and you are welcome to sign up for all day if you like. Two MGs per shift is desirable.
  - We need **Master Gardener and volunteer tour guides!** These would be short tours (about 30 min.) of the gardens near the main event site- mainly the formal gardens. If you have ever considered giving garden tours this is a great opportunity to try it out! It could also be a great warm-up or practice run if you are interested in leading the tour for the Master Gardener conference on **Sept. 30th**. Exact sign-up times are not yet posted as the tour times are still to be determined.

- **The Clearwater East Library is looking for a MG speaker to present gardening programs** Start times can range from 1pm-3pm to suit your schedule. 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.

- **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.

- **4H needs more MG’s to work with the children at the Ochs Garden.** Gardening starts the first of September, 4H has an additional layer of screening for the children's safety, so it's important to sign up no. You may also contact 4H Extension agent Jean Rogalsky at jrogalsk@pinellascounty.org

- **The City of Largo is planning a big tree giveaway in January of 2013.** They are looking for a few wonderful MGs to help hand out trees and information to citizens who register for them. The event will take place on **Jan. 11 -12 and 18 - 19** from 9am-1pm. This event is now on the MG VMS calendar for you to sign up. There will be more details as the event takes shape!

- **Teacher at Country Day School - [www.countrydaylargo.com](http://www.countrydaylargo.com)** - would like to start a vegetable and, possibly, a butterfly garden for their 1st to 3rd grade students. They are a Montessori school and study botany in detail. The students will be actively involved in both gardens and dedicate at least 45 minutes every Friday (tentatively from 1:15 to 2:00pm). They would love Master Gardener help in any way possible- from a consultation at the beginning to weekly visits if possible.
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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<tr>
<th>Nursery Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Art Stone Orchids</td>
<td>3611 Tyrone Blvd, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-345-6733</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country Club Nursery</td>
<td>9850 Starkey Road, Largo, Florida</td>
<td>727-397-4438</td>
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<tr>
<td>DragonFly Garden</td>
<td>730 Broadway, Dunedin</td>
<td>727-734-4900</td>
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<td>Earthscapes Garden Room</td>
<td>816 Alt. 19 N, Palm Harbor</td>
<td>727-786-4859</td>
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<td>Esperanza’s Garden Center</td>
<td>6001 Haines Road, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-742-8499</td>
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<td>Hawaiian Orchid Connection</td>
<td>6260 Seminole Blvd, Seminole</td>
<td>727-786-4859</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aly’s Korner Nursery Inc.</td>
<td>6095 Haines Road North, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-525-9640</td>
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<td>Jene’s Tropicals</td>
<td>6831 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-344-1668</td>
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<td>Palm Harbor Nursery &amp; Landscaping</td>
<td>450 Riviere Road, Palm Harbor</td>
<td>727-525-9640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminole Nurseries</td>
<td>6230 102nd Ave. N, Pinellas Park</td>
<td>727 545-9619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summerwood Gardens, Inc.</td>
<td>1171 Tarpon Springs Rd, Odessa</td>
<td>813-920-2153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twigs and Leaves</td>
<td>2131 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-822-5400</td>
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<td>Willow Tree Nursery</td>
<td>4401 49th St. N, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-522-2594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilcox Nursery</td>
<td>12501 Indian Rocks Road, Largo</td>
<td>727-595-2073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel’s Garden &amp; Nursery</td>
<td>5063 Dartmouth Ave, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-321-4599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunscape Plant &amp; Tree Nursery</td>
<td>4730 CR 16 St. Petersburg, FL</td>
<td>727-347-2915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

2012 September Dates to Remember

- MG Update-Friday Sept. 7, 9am-noon-Citrus Problems

- Pinellas County Centennial Celebration and UF/IFAS Extension’s 150 Year celebration-Sept 15-16

- Florida MG Continued Training Conference Tours-Sept 30

- Florida MG Continued Training Conference-Oct 1-3

  http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener Registration is now open!

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://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml?cmd=opencal&cal=cal6