



October VOL. 10 ISSUE 10

Master Gardener

PINELLAS COUNTY

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UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS Extension
Pinellas County Extension

Fire of Hope

JOANNE DRAKE, MG

Robert Segundo, Certified Permaculturalist in Pinellas County, gave a wonderful program for the Master Gardener Update, Wednesday, September 8.

Permaculture is a design for sustainable living on earth that benefits all creatures and supplies all the needs for humanity.

Ethics

Earth Care ... Caring about the earth and maintaining its ecological balance

People Care ... A healthier society from eating locally grown, higher quality of food without using pesticides and other harmful chemicals

Return of Surplus ... Returning a healthy excess of food to those in need. A more natural and safer way of fertilizing soil, by recycling leaves, manure, and compost, enriching your soil.

Robert spoke of the Three Sisters Guild, an association of plants, animals and micro bacteria that promote vigorous growth of healthy, nourishing foods. This concept of using corn, beans and squash has been around for a long time and we have to credit the American Indian for passing on their knowledge.



Corn and beans grow well together in mounds ... with the corn planted in the center, beans at the base on each side. As they grow, the beans will travel up the corn stalk ... eliminating the need to trellis them. The squash, in its own mound on each side of the corn and beans mound will fill in at the base, keeping the soil cool and moist. Weeding will be necessary until the squash plant matures and shades out the weeds.

For information on spacing your garden for the Three Sisters Method ... refer to the website below:

<http://www.reneesgarden.com/articles/3sisters.html>

Robert offered a Free Tour of his edible garden at 6172 59th Place N, St. Petersburg, to the Master Gardeners that attended the September 8th update. ***We can't pass up a yard tour!*** My husband Davis and I got up early Saturday morning, September 11th and discovered that we were the first to arrive! It wasn't long before a crowd gathered.

For those that couldn't attend ... I will share some photos and hope you'll have a chance to view one of his future tours. Check out the Fire of Hope website at fireofhope.org. Phone (727) 793-5766



Robert led the group through his lovely edible garden and got most of us inspired to try the Three Sisters method in our own gardens.

Sugar Baby Watermelons!
Yum!!!



A two-level tiered design for planting ... using odd pieces of granite

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. 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 at (727) 582-2117.

Chuck Scaffidi
MG Editor

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

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Please send articles to cscaffidi@co.pinellas.fl.us
The Green Leaf and archives are available on-line by clicking on [newsletter](#)



PINELLAS COUNTY EXTENSION

Landscaping Practices that Protect Our Water

BY JANE MORSE, Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent

Did you know that seventy-four percent of Pinellas County waters (lakes, streams and bays) do not meet water quality standards and are considered impaired?

The University of Florida Extension in Pinellas County is committed to preserving and conserving our natural resources by providing and teaching research-based information to improve the quality of life for all Floridians. One such program taught by Extension is the Green Industry Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources (a corresponding program for homeowners is Florida-Friendly Landscaping provided by Florida Yards and Neighborhoods).

These programs teach the best ways to design, install and maintain landscapes by using good design, proper plant selection and placement, and maintenance methods that do not contribute to water pollution. Also included in these programs are specific practices regarding irrigation (sprinkler) management and water conservation, as well as proper fertilization and pest control so we can all preserve and conserve our precious water.

Keeping our water clean and pristine for drinking, bathing and recreating, as well as conserving water are fundamental goals of these programs. These goals can be achieved by decreasing the amount of pollutants and nutrients carried to our water by storm water runoff and leaching (passing through the soil to ground water), and by creating landscapes that use fewer resources and use water efficiently.

Industry participants are required to take and pass an exam to insure they understand these methods for preserving water quality and conserving water quantity. Once they pass the test they receive a Green Industry Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) certificate. A list of GI-BMP certified individuals can be found on the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods website located here: http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/certification_lists/cert_county_name.shtml When hiring landscape maintenance contractors be sure to check the certification list and use those trained in these methods.

In the past 8 months (Jan-Aug) the University of Florida Extension in Pinellas County has trained 277 industry people with 258 obtaining GI-BMP certification. This is a passing rate of 93%.

The measured increase in knowledge regarding using best management practices for the protection of water resources will have a positive effect on water quality and quantity in Pinellas County.

Some easy things we can all do to maintain good water quality are:

1. Blow grass clippings, leaves, fertilizer, etc. back onto the yard, or bag them.
2. Pick up pet waste and dispose of properly in the toilet or garbage.
3. Maintain equipment so fluids don't leak out. Catch and contain any fluid leaks.
4. Keep fertilizers and pesticides several feet away from water and use the proper amounts.
5. Wash your car on the lawn.

Remember that everything on a hard surface like a driveway or road is picked up by storm water and carried directly into a waterway via a storm drain. Storm water is not cleaned or processed, but goes directly to a stream, lake, bay or ocean. What you see on the road today, you may be swimming in tomorrow. Every day we can make a difference by what we do, and how we do it. What will you do to make a difference? It all adds up.

For more information please visit the Pinellas County Extension at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, M-F from 8 AM to 5 PM; call our office at 582-2100; or visit our website at www.pinellascountyextension.org

Projects to Enhance our Botanical Gardens

By **CHUCK SCAFFIDI, FBG Foundation Chair**

The FBGF is at work on a long range plan of adding art to the Gardens to attract more visitors while reducing maintenance and conserving water; and just maybe, we can add food services. One project will cover the wedding garden fountains with a mosaic glass water pond design. We will be having a contest to name this project, so submit your entry at our Botanical Bounty Gift Shop. The following articles describe the mosaic project and the new children's station:



Bring New Life to Dry Fountains

If you've visited the Florida Botanical Gardens www.fbg.org recently, you've probably wondered what happened to the beautiful Wedding Garden fountains. The water no longer flows, the pools are empty and boarded over.

You can blame the state of the economy. Eliminating the expense of the maintenance required to operate the fountains became a sad necessity. Water conservation is also an important consideration.

But exciting news! The dry fountains will soon be transformed into shimmering works of nature-inspired art!

The ambitious project is the brainchild of new board member Heather Anderson www.andersonart.com, a recent transplant to this area who brought with her from Illinois, an artist's eye and talent. She proposed creating a glass mosaic of a pond with fish, frogs and butterflies to beautify the area and it didn't take long for the rest of the board members to get caught up in the excitement.



Heather has recruited Kathleen Bromley, The Stained Glass Studio www.katglass.com of Clearwater, Ceramictec a Tampa Tile Contractor www.ceramictec.com to construct her mosaic design as a labor of love and Laticrete International www.laticrete.com to donate the setting & grouting material for the project. Unity Church of Palm Harbor is donating the rebuilding of the decking www.unitychurchofpalmharbor.org

Volunteers are being sought to work on the project as well as suggestions for a name for the installation. To donate, volunteer your time or submit a name, stop by the gift shop or email us at fbgfoundation@gmail.com

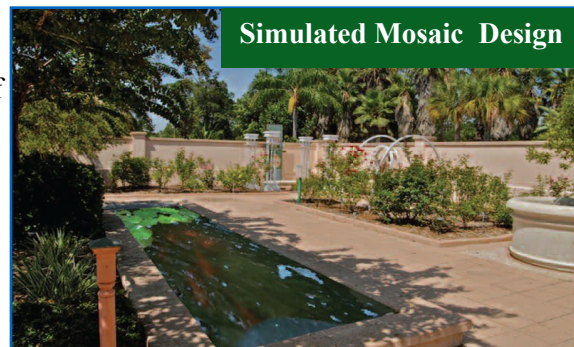
The inside perimeter of the wedding garden previously contained many attractive water fountains. In the interest of water conservation and elimination of the high maintenance required to operate these fountains, the areas were closed. As an alternative to the fountains, Ms. Anderson suggested a mosaic design that would cover all the boarded up fountain covers. The project construction will be environmentally friendly and bring to the wedding garden an artistic visitor attraction.

We are excited about this huge project and would like the community to be involved in helping us create it. How would you like to help and also name this project? The mosaic will simulate a pond with an array of lily leaves, fish, frogs and butterflies. The perspective will be looking down at the stream so the viewer will see the top of the pond.

Kathleen Bromley Rothman & The Stained Glass Studio of Clearwater are donating the labor for the construction of the mosaic and Ms. Anderson is donating her design, project management and installation time. Ceramictec a Tampa Tile Contractor will donate design and installation labor along with Laticrete International to donate the setting & grouting material for the project. The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation has donated money for materials. Unity Church of Palm Harbor is donating the rebuilding of the decking.

The Florida Botanical Gardens is grateful for all the support the community is giving especially in these tough economic times and welcomes your participation.

To donate, volunteer your time or submit a name for this project, please stop by our gift shop or email us at fbgfoundation@gmail.com.





Artist and Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation board member Heather Anderson and Foundation Chairperson Chuck Scaffidi inspect the location selected for an exciting new art project: a nature-inspired glass mosaic designed for the Wedding Garden.



Mosaic layout



Glass samples for fish



Glass samples for water lilies

Dont Forget Our New Children's Educational Water Station

The FBG foundation is excited to begin planning for creation of an additional Children's Trail station to be associated with the Pinellas Green Home. This new station will focus on water conservation education for children. Along with representation on the planning committee, the foundation will financially support this effort. Directed donations are always welcome.

Volunteers will be needed in the planning and implementation of both the landscape and the new children's trail station.

Please contact MG Terri Ziegler, Green Home and Sustainability Committee Chair at tmsz@tampabay.rr.com. Also, see page 9 for more help information.



Foundation Update

By **CHUCK SCAFFIDI**, FBG Foundation Chair

The months keep getting busier and seem shorter, would you believe its October. With less Horticulture staff maintaining the gardens they become more challenging. We have been fortunate that several more volunteers have joined our volunteer ranks recently. However, we are always looking for more volunteers to provide the help we need in keeping the gardens alive and vibrant.

Volunteer teams continue to purchase and replace plants funded by the foundation. The Parks department, as a partner with the foundation, has been doing a great job contributing to this effort. Theresa Badurek, extension agent, joined our Foundation as an advisor and we are discussing ways to provide Master Gardener-support to build the synergy between Extension and the Foundation.

As pointed out in this newsletter, and in our County approved work plan, we have many projects planned and funded. Adding art items in the formal gardens, a new Children's Trail station designed to educate children about water conservation, planning and implementing the landscape around the new Green Home, and many more exciting endeavors.



Holiday Lights co-chair Vivian Haicken and I have contracted Luminous, Décor, LLC, a Florida limited liability company to decorate this year. We are confident we will have a significant display improvement with many more LED lights. We have purchased over \$8,000 of new LED displays.

The lights team has been working hard to plan this year's event (see press release on page 6&7 for more details). Something new this year will be a special Gift and Plant Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 12. The Dog Parade, which was a huge success last season, will be the day after Christmas. We plan to have three judges - one from Animal Services, a veterinarian from the community, and a former pet store owner. Registration will be \$10 per dog, with prizes in a variety of categories. Sign in from 2 to 2:45 with the parade beginning promptly at 3 p.m. Dog lovers should mark their calendars! There will be entertainment each evening and food and beverage vendors will be selling their wares. All last year's fabulous volunteers will be hearing from me soon. Let me know if you have friends and neighbors who'd like to be part of the fun.

I remain optimistic that we can financially support the Florida Botanical Gardens and develop and implement new ideas that we can bring to the FBGF board for approval.

Join us and be proud to be part of this wonderful volunteer group.

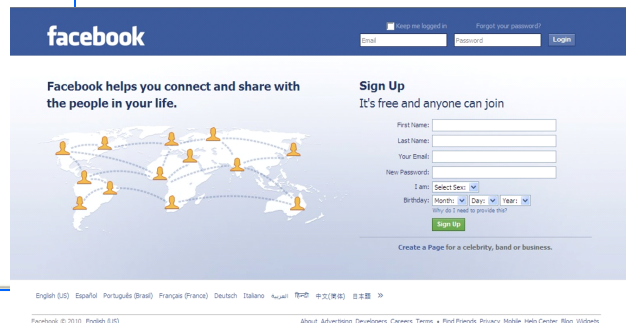
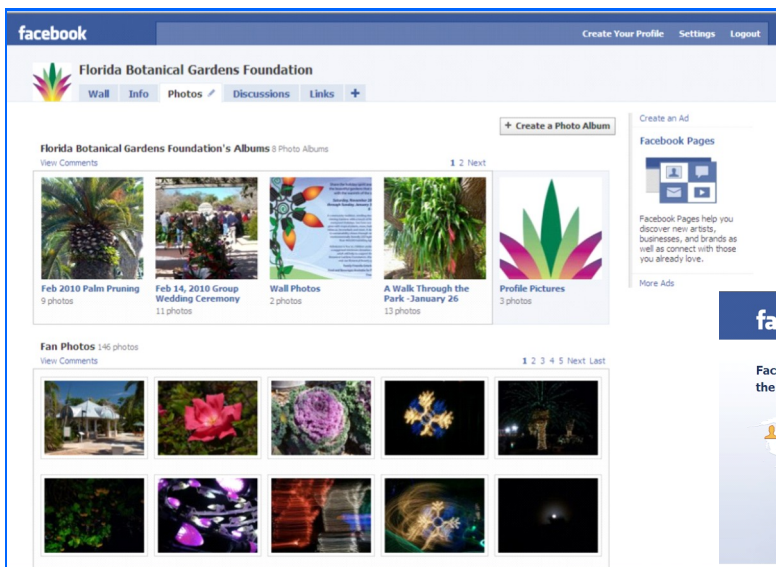
Are You a Facebook Fan Yet?

Our fans are continuing to add beautiful photos of the gardens to our FBG Facebook page. It's wonderful to see the fan base grow. We are up to 300 fans and the number keeps going up.

If you haven't signed up, it's easy! Use the link below and click on the green sign up button at the top of the page.

Become a fan today so that you can view visitor photos and comments. If you have photos of the gardens you would like to share on our Facebook page, please visit the site and add your photos. You also can share your experience at the gardens on the "Wall."

Become a fan, check out all the wonderful photos and invite your friends to become fans as well! [Link to the FBG Facebook](#)





News Release

Pinellas County Communications Department
333 Chestnut Street • Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 464-4600 • FAX (727) 464-4432
www.pinellascounty.org

For Immediate Release:
Sept. 29, 2010

Contact: Mary Burrell
Operations Manager
(727) 453-3065

Holiday Lights in the Gardens: Nov. 26 to Jan. 2 *Celebrating 10 Years of Glow and Growth*

The Holiday Lights in the Gardens will bring lights, entertainment and family atmosphere to Pinellas County, with a special celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Florida Botanical Gardens. The event is sponsored by The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation.

The volunteers will flip the switch on the holiday season on Friday, Nov. 26. During the opening weekend of the Holiday Lights, the main holiday tree located in the Wedding Garden will be circled by a train display, courtesy of the Tampa Division of the Florida Garden Railway Society.

Holiday Lights in the Gardens will be open from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. every evening through Sunday, Jan. 2.

A variety of entertainers will volunteer their time to share their talents. Performances will include keyboards, trios, premiere dance troupes, ballet, Middle Eastern dance, accordion players, church choirs and even the 4-H Ballroom Bicycle Brigade.

Of course, what would a holiday event be without Santa Claus? The jolly ol' elf plans several visits throughout the season.

Holiday Lights in the Gardens transforms the Florida Botanical Gardens into a holiday wonderland with more than 425,000 twinkling lights, which are environmentally friendly LED lights. Free, family-friendly entertainment and music are planned. Vendors will also be on hand selling a variety of gifts and goods, and refreshments will be sold. The Botanical Bounty Gift Shop will also be open each night. This celebration is free to children under 12, and a donation of \$2 per adult is suggested. Donations from last year's event made this year's event possible.

"The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation is thrilled to be able to share the holiday spirit in such a special way," said Chuck Scaffidi, chair of the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation who is working on the event with Vivian Haicken, co-chair. "This year is extra special because it marks the 10th anniversary of the Gardens. We invite the community to come join us in our seasonal celebration."



This year's highlights include:

Gift and Plant Sale

Sunday, Dec. 12

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The day-long special event in the formal gardens will feature more than 35 vendors selling an assortment of plants including orchids, hibiscus, iris, bromeliads, native plants, herbs and citrus. Specialty vendors will offer a variety of items perfect for gift giving, including unique clothing, outdoor items, select food items, crafts, jewelry, candies and more. The Botanical Bounty Gift shop will also be offering its beautiful products. Free entry for visitors during the daylight hours.

Dog Parade

Sunday, Dec. 26

Registration for the parade will be from 2 to 2:45 p.m. and the parade will begin promptly at 3 p.m. Prizes will be awarded in several categories including Best Dressed, Largest, Smallest, and Best Ability to Understand the Owner is Boss. Registration will be \$10 per dog.

The Florida Botanical Gardens is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo. Free parking is available in the lot next to the Gardens, Heritage Village, Pinellas County Extension and at Public Safety Services. The entrances to the Gardens will be open at these parking locations, as well as the east entrance at 12211 Walsingham Road. For more information or to volunteer, visit www.flbg.org or call (727) 582-2247.

The Florida Botanical Gardens display formal gardens, scenic landscapes and natural habitats that unfold across 150 acres in the heart of Pinellas County. More than 25 gardens and display areas showcase flora, fauna and natural resources to delight nature enthusiasts. Some of the gardens offer tropical plants, roses, fruits, herbs, hibiscus, bromeliads and more.

The Botanical Bounty Gift Shop, located in the welcome center, sells souvenirs and gifts with a horticultural flair. The store is open Monday through Friday starting at 10 a.m. The gardens are open every day from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., and admission is free during regular hours.



2

The CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW and ENGLISH GARDENS Tour

May 21 — May 28, 2011



Travel Unlimited offers you the opportunity to tour through not only the magnificent gardens of England, but also to spend the day at the 2011 Chelsea Flower Show.

On this week long trip you'll be amazed at the fantastic kaleidoscope of colors throughout gardens such as the magnificent Elizabeth Mansion, the Asian Health Garden, the Water Garden, the Loder Valley

Nature Reserve, and more! And In addition to visiting many beautiful gardens, you will be able to spend the day at the award winning Borde Hill Gardens just in time for the annual "Sculpture in the Garden" exhibition,

The tour provides dinner and breakfast opportunities as well as "Afternoon Tea" at a private estate, overlooking their extravagant gardens.

Throughout the trip you will be immersed in the beautiful sights, wonderful accommodations, and friendly and knowledgeable escorts.

This once in a lifetime opportunity manages \$2799, but with mention of having learned about the trip through the Florida Botanical Gardens when booking with Travel Unlimited, you and any friends and referrals will be granted a \$50 American Express Gift Card.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **An Exciting Water World for Children**
- **Series of Extension Classes**
- **Volunteer Hours & VMS**
- **MG Update**
- **Garden Tours**
- **Planting Pinellas**
- **Youth Gardening**
- **IFAS MG conference**

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. 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. For those who volunteer at other facilities, e-mail your hours after your visit. With more than 200 volunteers at Extension, it becomes a considerable burden on the volunteer coordinators to manually enter your hours. **When not at Extension, please e-mail your hours to:** cscaffidi@co.pinellas.fl.us Direct questions to volunteer coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or assistant Emma Eshbaugh.

This system and procedures will apply to non-MG volunteers only.

An Exciting Water World for Children

The Foundation is excited about the creation of an additional Children's Trail station to be associated with the new Pinellas Green Home. This new station will focus on water conservation to educate children.

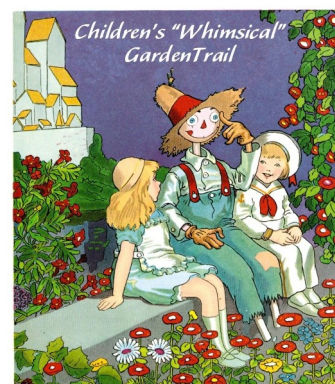
MGs, form a team and help the FBGF expand the Children's Trail! Become a team project leader or member. Get involved in researching the subject, locating a suitable site, help with the construction, and design educational descriptive signage.

The FBGF will fund this project. It's also possible that grant money may be available for this children's water conservation project.

Theresa Badurek will consider this project for entry in the UF/IFAS in the Master Gardener annual state award in 2011. This means documenting the project from inception to completion. Chuck Scaffidi can provide guidance for accomplishing this.

Pat Dieterich is the Foundation chair for the Children's Trail and will provide oversight and guidance for this project. E-mail her at pzd@tampabay.rr.com or Chuck at cascaffidi@juno.com or contact the volunteer office 582-2117. Also see Green Home article on page 4.

We are anxious to get this started.



■ *Series of Extension Classes*

The following classes will be offered at Extension for **free to MGs, volunteers and FBGF members** who register. When you attend you must show one of the membership cards. All others pay a nominal fee of \$15. Please see Extension's [on-line calendar page](#) for details and to register.

■ *Volunteer Hours for Master Gardeners*

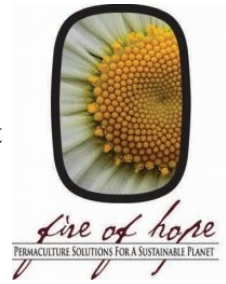
The new Master Gardener VMS system is on-line for your use. This is an exciting new system that will allow you to see news updates, emails, and input your volunteer hours through an exclusive Pinellas County MG website. Each one of you will need a personal email address to access this, so if you currently share one with a spouse or other MG, please take a minute and set up a free personal account that you can use for this. We are all going to benefit from this new system and we will make sure to bring everyone up to date as we move forward with it. It's web-based, secure, and user-friendly- you can even jump on from your web-enabled cell-phone if you like. Go to <https://florida.volunteersystem.org> and click on the New User tab to get started.

For those who are unable to input their hours, we will provide a book and a volunteer to input your hours.

Volunteers, other than MGs, will continue to use the same County VSP system and log book outside the volunteer office. Please adhere to the policy described in box at left.

The transition may take time to get use to, but we will be working to be sure hours you have cumulated will not be lost.

- **Master Gardener Monthly Update, 9am Friday, Oct. 8.** This is a **potluck** , so please plan to bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be Matt Fahy, lecturing about restorative gardening. He is a member of Fire of Hope, an organization located in St. Petersburg, that is dedicated to solving the world's problems with permaculture practices and edible landscapes. <http://www.fireofhope.org/>



Andy Wilson will present information for Master Gardeners who work at the Help Desk following the lecture.

- **October starts our fall season of garden tours.** Terri Zeigler has graciously offered her garden for viewing. Terri is the Vice-Chair of the foundation and has invited all Master Gardeners and volunteers to see her yard. The tour will take place on **October 29, Friday, from 10am to noon**. Her address is 309 Orangewood Lane in Largo. Zip is 33770. Her phone number is 581-7136. This should be a great opportunity to see people after the long summer.
By the way I'm still looking for a garden for December. If interested, call me at 363-0067. Phyl Lawson
- **New "Planting Pinellas" blog post:** <http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/>

- **Funds for Youth Gardening Projects**

[National Gardening Association: Youth Garden Grants](#)

The National Gardening Association (NGA), with support from The Home Depot, will award Youth Garden Grants to 100 schools and community organizations throughout the U.S. with child-centered garden programs. Priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements: educational focus or curricular/program integration; nutrition or plant-to-food connections; environmental awareness/education; entrepreneurship; and social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning. Applicant schools and organizations must plan to garden with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. Five programs will receive gift cards valued at \$1,000 (a \$500 gift card to The Home Depot and a \$500 gift card to the Gardening with Kids catalog); 95 programs will receive a \$500 gift card to The Home Depot. All winners will receive educational materials from NGA. The application deadline is November 1, 2010. Application guidelines and forms are available on the NGA website.

*30th Annual
Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference
Oct. 25-27
Hilton Sandestin Beach, Destin, FL*

Last call for attending the conference.

Learn more at: <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/>

**►► NOTE: The Hotel Room Block is filling up!
Please make your reservations today and state that
you are with the Master Gardener Conference.**

IMPORTANT EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MG CEU Credits**
- **Palm Harbor Class**
- **St. Pete Library Class**
- **Fall Lawn & Garden Care**
- **Free Workshops**
- **Help Line Duties**

■ *Earn Continuing Education Credits*

Master Gardeners can earn continuing education credits by completing **Plant ID Modules** at http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/outreach/plant_id/index.shtml

MGs can earn 1 CEU per module by studying the plants and earning a passing score of 80% on the “Test Yourself” feature. Once a score of 80% has been reached, MGs simply print the page and submit it to the Volunteer Office. This is an option Master Gardeners can use for a maximum of four CEUs.

■ *Palm Harbor Library MG Class Series*

Classes are offered on **every other Thursday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.** at the **Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Avenue.** To register for these classes, go to www.pinellascountyextension.org, click on the “**Online Class Registration**” button and then the “Lawn & Garden” tab. You may also call (727) 582-2100 to register.

■ *St Petersburg Community Library MG Class Series*

Classes offered free at the **West St. Petersburg Community Library, 6605 5 Ave. N.** To register, visit www.pinellascountyextension.org, click on the “**Online Class Registration**” button and then the “Lawn & Garden” tab. You may also call (727) 582-2100 to register.

■ *Fall Lawn and Garden Care*

Saturday, October 2, 2010, 9:00 am- 10:30 am at Pinellas County Extension. Lawns and gardens require care to remain healthy and attractive. Join Andy Wilson, Extension Horticulture Specialist to learn what to do, what to plant and what problems to look out for in the fall and winter lawn and garden.

■ *Free workshops Designing Florida Water Star Projects*

The Southwest Florida Water Management District is offering a three-hour program for landscape architects, designers, builders and other industry professionals involved in the landscape and irrigation design process of new construction projects. Participants will learn the techniques needed to successfully design and implement the **FWS** program into their projects, including site considerations, tree preservation, plant selections and placement, using turf in water-conserving landscapes and buffering storm water runoff and basic irrigation application.

For information: Contact Angela Maraj at 941-685-9397 Angela.Maraj@WaterMatters.org
Hillsborough Extension, 5339 S. County Rd. 579, Seffner, FL 33584-Wed., Oct 20

Registration: www.fwsdesignstampa.eventbrite.com

Sarasota Extension, 6700 Clark Rd., Twin Lakes Park, Sarasota, FL 34241-Tues., Oct.26

Registration: <http://fwsdesignsarasota.eventbrite.com/>

■ *MGs To Take On Help line Duties*

Soon the Master Gardener volunteers at the Lawn and Garden Help Desk will be taking phone calls and helping homeowners through this media as well as working with walk-ins. One of the common responses I have gotten from Help Desk volunteers is that you don't want to come in just to answer phones, but that you would be happy to help out when you are working at the Help Desk. I know it's a big change, but there will be plenty of training with the horticulturists and I am certain you will find it fun and easy. We are developing a training/information program just for the Diagnostic Team that works at the Help Desk and at the Plant Clinic in Palm Harbor to develop skills and pass on the latest trends in Pinellas County landscapes. Andy Wilson, Bob Albanese, Jane Morse and I will make sure you have the tools you need!

As we move forward, the days the Help line is open will continue to be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. This also provides some flexibility for those who are challenged by phone interaction whether for hearing challenges or other reasons. Please feel free to share any concerns or suggestions you have about this with me. I can be reached at 628-2109 or tbadurek@co.pinellas.fl.us. —Theresa



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

*For September -
October*

- Attention Master Gardeners
- Heritage Village

Attention Master Gardeners

Theresa Badurek , 582-2109 tbadurek@co.pinellas.fl.us

- **REMINDER:** I am creating a Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau. If you are currently giving presentations or programs in the community, I would appreciate an email with the title and a brief summary. If you have the ability to attach a power point that would also be nice, but not necessary. If you have any kind of scheduling limitations it would be helpful for me to know that as well.
- **I am also in need of a volunteer to be in charge of this Speakers Bureau.** This would be a great opportunity to earn some Master Gardener hours on your own time. You would basically take calls and emails requesting speakers and then contact the MGs on the list and set up the presentations. This could be done from home and/or during the evenings, which would be perfect for those who have full-time jobs during the day. Please let me know if you would be interested in this position.
- **ATTENTION: A preschool in Seminole wants to create a rain garden** in a small, wet courtyard area. They are seeking a Master Gardener to help them design and set up the garden. This would be a great way to spread the word about Florida Friendly practices while doing a fun outreach program. Please let me know if you are interested.



Heritage Village Collecting Items for Flea Market/Book Sale

The 2010 Heritage Village Flea Market & Book Sale will be held in conjunction with the annual Country Jubilee on **Saturday, Oct. 23**. Items will be accepted at the office any time that Heritage Village is open between now and the sale date. Heritage Village is open Wednesday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 - 4 p.m..

Special drop-offs can be made at the Heritage Village Flea Market storage trailer located at Gate #3 from 10 to noon on the first and third Fridays of each month. An attendant will be there to help unload at that time.

Please save books, tools, dishes, silverware, sports equipment, craft items, toys, jewelry, furniture, decorative items, seasonal decorations and all types of house wares for this sale. No clothing or shoes can be accepted.

Thanks to all for their support!!



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The enclosed material is provided as one of the many services relating to the educational programs offered by this agency. Our statewide network of faculty is prepared to provide current information on food, agriculture, marine and natural resource science, energy, nutrition, family and 4-H youth, and related fields. We will be happy to help you with additional information upon request.

Theresa Badurek
Extension Agent II, Urban Horticulture

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, IFAS, FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.

My Thoughts

For those of you that have taken advantage of the new VMS for Master Gardeners, thank you! If you have not, please remember that it will be the only way to log your hours starting January 1, 2011. (Unless, of course, you have other arrangements with us- we always try to accommodate!) Not only that, but it will be the place to sign up for Help Desk schedules, download a copy of this very newsletter, look at photos, and just catch up on Pinellas County Master Gardener news and announcements. Not only that, but it's easy to use and even kind of fun!

While I am on the topic I would like to add a little information on the VMS system that not everyone might know about. Did you know that you can record your contacts with the public right in the VMS? When you log your volunteer hours, there is a chart below that allows you to fill in the number of people you educated and their demographics. This is going to make tracking and reporting of those numbers much easier and hopefully help the University of Florida make the Master Gardener program even better. One thing to keep in mind: if you are part of a group event it may be best to appoint a single person to record those numbers in the VMS to avoid double counting. Some of our groups are already doing this and it is going very well.

Thanks again for embracing this new technology and helping make the Pinellas Master Gardener program the best in Florida!

Thank you!

Theresa Badurek

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2010 *October* *Thank You Volunteers!*

Looking Ahead!

- **Friday, Oct. 8, 9am** Master Gardener Update and Pot Luck
Andy Wilson follows the speaker
- **Garden Tour October 29, Friday,**
from 10am to noon.
- **Saturday, Oct. 23** T
Heritage Village Flea Market & Book Sale will be held in conjunction with the annual Country Jubilee.
- **Oct. 25-27**
30th Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference

MG Plant Clinic at the Palm Harbor Library –Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Master Gardeners offer diagnostic services along with information about identifying plants, treatment for insects and ideas for Florida-friendly landscaping.

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