



The Passionvine

The monthly newsletter of Sarasota County Master Gardeners

Vol. 15 No. 6

June 2006

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 6 **“Trees & Hurricanes”** at Twin Lakes Park, 2:00pm (See *Education*)
- June 8 **World Ocean Day** at Mote Marine Aquarium (See *Errata*)
- June 10-11 **Butterfly & Herb Fair** USF Botanical Gardens, Pine & Alumni Drs.
Tampa (813) 974-2329, 10-4 Saturday and 10-3 Sunday
- June 14 **“Trees & Hurricanes”** at Twin Lakes Park, 10:00am (See *Education*)
- June 20 **“Beneficial Insects”** at Shamrock Park, 2:00pm (See *Education*)
- June 22 **Green Office Landscape Workday** 7am-11am call Patricia if you
can come
- June 23 Master Gardener In-service Training & Potluck Luncheon**
at Twin Lakes Park, 11:30am (See *Education*)
- June 26 **Florida House Landscape Workday**—7am to 11am call Kathie if you
can come
- June 30 **HOURS LOGS ARE DUE** (See page 5)
- July 8-9 **Tropical Plant Fair** USF Botanical Gardens, Pine & Alumni Drs.
Tampa (813) 974-2329, 10-4 Saturday and 10-3 Sunday, free admission
Sunday with decorated pepper for “Pepper Beauty Contest”
- July 11 **MG Meeting** with Annemarie Post, 9:00am (See *MG Meetings*)
- July 15-16 **Bromeliad Society Show & Sale**, Selby Gardens, 811 Palm Avenue
Sarasota, (941)366-5731
- July 24 **Advisory Committee** quarterly meeting 2pm at Green Office (see p.4)
- August 3 **MG Meeting** talk by Dr. Mary Jelks and Dr. Santana (See *MG*
Meetings)
- September **MG Meeting** TBA
- Sept. 7 **MG New Training** course begins (See page 5)
- Oct. 23-25 **MG Annual Conference** in Jacksonville

Summer is here!!!

Coordinator's Corner

Patricia Porchey

Two pairs of sandhill cranes, a gentle breeze, the sparkling water of the lake before sunset, and delicious food - that was the setting for the Master Gardener annual spring picnic. The only thing missing was more Master Gardeners - less than half of our active MGs participated. It's true, you don't get volunteer hours for attending parties, but what you do get is the chance to become better acquainted with other Master Gardeners. You are an interesting group of people - from varied backgrounds and life and work experiences. Every time I get a chance to know one of you better, I'm amazed at where you've been and what you've done before joining our program.

Another way to get acquainted, but on paper, is through the MG Directory. MGs Jackie Demars, Heather Fortner, and Lea Hall are busy collecting pictures and data to include on your bio page. Once all the information is collected, it will be compiled into a handy directory for each of you to have. As new classes come on board, their information will also be added. At a glance, you'll be able to see other MGs who've immigrated from your state or region of the country or perhaps, even attended the same university. You'll be able to see who shares the same interests or hobbies. Everyone brings their own unique background and work experience to the Master Gardener program---that's a part of who they are. Let others know who you are too.

We have a wonderful community of Master Gardeners and I hope you'll get acquainted with more MGs than only those who were in your training class. We have much to learn from each other. So consider coming to the Holiday Party in December, not for hours, but to better know your fellow Master Gardeners.

T.A.S.K. "Things All Should Know"

Don Rainey

Ever wondered, what if I had the right information all the time? How wonderful it would be? Well the wait is over. As I have searched for information to simplify the help desk routine of educating clients, I quickly discovered our information resources rotate around the following specialists:

Dr. Laurie Trenholm : http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_A34582650

Dr. Timothy Broschat: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_A99322620

Dr. Ed Gilman: <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/people/gilman.htm>

Dr. Eileen Buss: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_A65449640

Dr. Phil Harmon: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_A30871837

Dr. Stephen Futch: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_HS_FUTCH

Dr. Monica Elliot: <http://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/Personel/faculty/ELLIOTT.htm>

The above links provide a direct access to their latest research as well as all the documents authored by the individual specialist. Most of the research is summarized and documented in an EDIS publication format. Knowing the "point-person" is half the battle in the fight for information at your finger tips, and I believe that going to the source is the best method in obtaining first-hand information. Also, the granddaddy of all is the Helpful Literature Link: <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/fyn/literature.pdf>. I hope this is helpful! Have fun exploring the potential of "Knowing it All."

T-SHIRTS

Our second order of beautiful shirts with art work by Jean Blackburn are in transit and due to arrive soon. An email will be sent to you when they arrive so you can pick up your order. A few extras were ordered that are also for sale. Remember checks are to be made out to "Sarasota Master Gardeners" and dated April 22, 2006.

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE!

IF YOU WANT YOUR POWER, PHONE, & CABLE SERVICE TO STAY ON THROUGH THE COMING "MIGHTY WINDS, PRUNE BRANCHES WELL AWAY FROM YOUR OVERHEAD WIRES. Walk around your house and observe where the various services come in to the house, then follow the wires out to the poles with your eyes. IF there are branches anywhere near these wires, they will tear the wires out of the house in a high wind. Call FPL for limbs near power lines!

~Opportunities~

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the following, please call Patricia @861-9801 or Bob @861-9805 unless otherwise noted.

Summer Landscape Workdays

This is the time of the year when the temperature starts to sizzle, the humidity goes through the roof, and both good and bad plants go on a growth spree. It's also when so many of you are traveling to cooler climates.

Please try to come to the workdays when possible so we can keep our demonstration landscapes looking attractive.

If you can't make the workdays, but have free time to help at other times, please check the task sheet at Florida House or talk with Patricia at the Green Office. June workdays are scheduled for the 22nd at the Green Office and 26th at Florida House. **Workdays will begin at 7:00 am and end at 11:00am in the summer.**

BUTTERFLY GARDENING AT RED BUG

MG Betsy Roberts needs help to improve the butterfly plantings at Red Bug Slough. Those attending the field trip saw that there are a few nectar plants but no larval food plants except for some *Senna*. Betsy will also need more butterfly plants, so let her know what you have to donate to this worthy cause. And if you can work some hours with her, please give her a call at 922-9518.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

In the past, many of you have given presentations to garden and civic clubs on various horticultural subjects. We are attempting to turn all of our presentations into PowerPoints to give each Master Gardener a scripted presentation to work with. You are still encouraged to add your own experiences to the presentation to make it more personal. If you have a presentation that you have used in the past that you would like to turn into a PowerPoint, please talk with Patricia. Or, if you would like to assist us in converting written material into a PowerPoint, let Patricia know.

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY—

Jule Doran and **Sally Corcoran** have a new project assisting residents with dementia with a container gardening program at Colonial Park Club, an assisted living facility. If you are interested in helping with this project, please give them a call. Call Jule at 371-8298 or Sally at 922-7520.

Claudia Cannon needs help with a project at **Cyesis School**, an alternative school program for pregnant teens and teenage parents and their toddlers. This gardening project is funded through a grant from Excellence in Education titled "Mommy and Me in the Garden" and is directed at the 3-year old population and their mothers at the school. If interested, please call Claudia at 366-4357.

PLANT ID SIGNS—

These signs are used to identify plants in the landscape at Florida House and the Green Office demonstration landscapes. The signs are made, but we need someone to attach the signs to metal stakes. This involves drilling holes in the signs and stakes and attaching them with screws.

Errata

Can't see the forest for the awards

The Urban Forestry Division of Public Works has received two national Tree City awards from the National Arbor Day Foundation. **Sarasota County was named a Tree City USA for the 15th consecutive year**, recognizing the county's commitment to its community forest. Sarasota was the first county in Florida to receive this award.

The county also received the distinguished Tree City USA Growth Award for demonstrating progress in its community forestry program in the areas of education and public relations, publications, literature distribution, youth education, partnerships, and engineering/forestry coordination.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. — Demetra McBride

MG Advisory Committee News

Your Advisory Committee is having an extra meeting this quarter on Wednesday, May 31st for the purpose of writing a Mission Statement and establishing a budget. Now that we have been raising money we need to know how best to spend it. A few ideas have been submitted and we will discuss them and give them all a priority status.

First, we need to establish our main reasons for the existence of the AdComm— widely agreed to be mainly a means of communication between the MG group and the Extension staff. Then we can decide how to make use of our money to further the goals of the MG Program and make the AdComm more effective as well.

The Advisory Committee's funds generally have covered buying the materials used by each year's new MG class, refreshments and decorations for our meetings and parties, plus certain expenses incurred by MGs and staff in the course of working on projects such as making the Florida House video.

Our next AdComm meeting is July 24th at 2pm at the Green Office. All MG's are welcome!



Abundant Thanks to:

MGs Heather Fortner, Bennie Komarek, Erland Stephens, and Ron Stevens for assisting at the Florida House landscape workday.

MGs Nick Cook, Jackie Demars, Sheila Fleischer, Donna McClenathan, Elissa Mirabelli, Christine Palomaa, and Sue Whitman for making newspaper hats in the KidEZone at Efest. They made hats until the didgeridoos caused us pounding headaches and we ran out of newsprint. We made approximately 150 hats.

MGs Heather Fortner, Leslie Mertens, Christine Palomaa, Erland Stephens, and Sue Whitman for assisting at the Green Office landscape workday.

Forms are Overdue!

Renewals, Application and Waiver Forms

Did you know that 12 MGs have still not returned their renewal forms? **Did you know** that 20 have still not returned their application and waiver forms? To be in the MG program, this paperwork is required to be in your file!!! Patricia will be sending out one more notice to those who are guilty of this oversight. Please turn these in promptly to either Patricia or Bob.

Errata

WORLD OCEAN DAY at Mote Marine Aquarium is June 8th. WGPU Public Media and Mote Aquarium are co-hosting the first World Ocean Day Family Festival in Southwest Florida on Thursday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mote Aquarium. The focus of this event is to inform the general public about the sensitivity of our marine environment. The festival includes two fun interactive concerts by international children's entertainer, Rosie Emery, and a performance by Bob Killian, an award-winning singer/songwriter well known to Sarasota audiences for his dynamic eco-performances. There will be a variety of booths hosted by area environmental and conservation groups exhibited throughout the aquarium's covered courtyard. Visitors are invited to explore Mote Aquarium and visit the booths from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Live entertainment will follow the schedule below.

- * 11:15 a.m. - Opening Ceremony followed by a performance from the Girls Inc. Choir.
- * 12:00 - 12:45 p.m. - Interactive music concert with Rosie Emery.
- * 1:00 p.m. - Solo performance by Girl Scout Kristina Smithman
- * 1:30 p.m. - Award-winning singer Bob Killian will get every one singing

Participants in the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, 4-H Clubs and Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Southwest Florida, and one chaperone per group, will be admitted for \$5 each. (Regular admission is \$15 for adults; \$10 for children ages 4 -12; and free for Mote members and children 3 and younger.)

Education Hours–

HOURS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2006 ARE DUE AT THE END OF JUNE!!!

Some of you still haven't submitted your hours logs to Bob from the first quarter which were due at the end of March. Some of you are not using the Hours Log form to submit your hours or you are using the 2005 form.

Please use the new 2006 Volunteer Hours Log form to submit your hours.

If you just jot down hours on a piece of paper, it takes more time for Bob to reconcile them. They can be submitted by e-mail, fax or mail to Bob Mertens (rmertens@scgov.net) or in person at the Green Office. For help on how to use the Excel form, come in or call Bob. The time will be well worth it!

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR EDUCATIONAL CLASSES!!!

Master Gardeners are responsible for signing up beforehand for classes they want to attend. Classes have recently been cancelled for lack of signups, but MGs show up expecting to attend a cancelled class. If you haven't signed up, there's no way to notify you that the class has been cancelled and if you'd signed up, perhaps the class wouldn't have been cancelled.

CLASSES AT TWIN LAKES PARK

| | | |
|---------|---------|----------------------|
| June 6 | 2:00pm | "Trees & Hurricanes" |
| June 14 | 10:00am | "Trees & Hurricanes" |

CLASSES AT SHAMROCK PARK

| | | |
|---------|--------|----------------------|
| June 20 | 2:00pm | "Beneficial Insects" |
|---------|--------|----------------------|

MG Trainee Classes for 2006

One of the very best opportunities for learning, as well as for **logging your required CEUs**, is to attend the MG Trainee classes. Don Rainey and Patricia have tentatively scheduled the new classes to begin on September 7th. The complete schedule will be published in the July Passionvine.

This year's class **will not be combined with Manatee**

County, so it will be a smaller group of students—only 18 in all. Class format will be indoor classroom lectures in the mornings and "hands on" activities in the afternoons. Most classes will be held at the Florida House on Mondays, but some will be at Twin Lakes Park on Thursdays.

There will be "field trip" classes to the citrus research station, ECHO, Mote Marine Aquarium, and Selby Gardens. If MGs want to attend the field trip classes, they must provide their own transportation, as the vans will be filled with students.

Bob is still accepting applications for this year's class, so if you have friends who would make wonderful MGs, please encourage them to apply.



June Birthdays

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Lisa Kramer | June 8 |
| Claudia Cannon | June 14 |
| Donna Grantham | June 17 |
| Leila Frangie | June 20 |
| Kevin Walker | June 21 |
| Norman Carmel | June 29 |

RECIPES

Claudia Cannon is working on an index for the MG cookbook. It's still not too late to add more recipes for inclusion. Please send them to Claudia. And if anyone is interested in helping with the compilation of information or the actual assembly of the books, please contact Claudia. She needs your help - assembling these books is a big job. We will be selling these at the fall plant sale.



Adventure Committee Plans:

Field Trips & Speaker Meetings count as CEUs.

MG Leslie Mertens is the newest member of the **Adventure Committee** so please contact her if you have ideas for speakers or field trips. **MG Paula Smith** asked to resign from the **Adventure Committee** for the immediate future. Other members are Alice Dunley, Lisa Kramer, Jan Sieve, and Melba Watts.

If there are any MGs who would open their home gardens for field trips by other MGs, please contact **Nancy Nicholson at 351-3916**.

June 3rd MG Field Trip

Tour of Deborah Sims' Home in Nokomis is cancelled for lack of signups.

June 23 Quarterly Master Gardener In-service & Potluck Luncheon

Tentative agenda:

11:30 am Pot luck luncheon (drinks, plates, etc. will be furnished) Bring a dish to share.

1:00 pm Don Rainey will discuss the latest on fertilizer recommendations & how to calculate the application rate.

1:45 pm Robert Kluson will discuss the Jr. MG program and Master Naturalist program.

2:30 pm Bob Mertens and Patricia Porchey will discuss office procedures and protocol as well as frequently asked questions, etc.

3:00 pm Meeting is adjourned.

MG MEETINGS

A PLANT EXCHANGE is included at these meetings. Please call **Bob Mertens @ 861-9805** if you are coming.

July 11 Annemarie Post will discuss Florida Yards & Neighborhoods and the new changes to the recognition program. The meeting is at 9:00 am at Twin Lakes Park.

August 3 Dr. Mary Jelks will discuss allergy problems in our area and **Dr. Fred Santana** will discuss stinging insects and Africanized bees at 9:45 am at Twin Lakes Park.

Did you know?

According to Carlos Balerdi, Miami-Dade County Extension Agent, you can grow most tropical fruit trees in high pH soils and achieve good results if you do all of the following:

1. Use slow-release fertilizer 3-4 times per year
2. Use foliar nutritional sprays 4-6 times per year
3. Apply chelated iron soil drenches from June to September

Did you know?

Ragweed poses an allergy problem in June as well as other months when it's dry and windy?

Did you know?

Results of the compaction soil study being done by the University of Florida have shown that the older landscapes generally have lower moisture content, but the grass is more viable because it has deeper roots. The study is focusing on newer homes in Manatee county and older homes in Sarasota County.

Did you know?

The April issue of Florida Gardening Magazine pictured Blanket Flower, *Gaillardia pulchella* on its cover and said it was the state wildflower? *Coreopsis* is the state wildflower.



Coreopsis spp.

Local Florida-Friendly Yard projects receive statewide recognition

UF's Florida Yards and Neighborhoods, Builders and Developers program recently awarded the prestigious Community-Wide Florida-Friendly Landscaping Award to the **Willowbend** and the **River Forest** communities. The awards were presented by Angela Polo, program coordinator at Green Trends 2006, the Third Annual Florida Green Building Coalition Conference and Trade Show.

The event gives FYN the opportunity to recognize eco-friendly development and encourage other builders and developers to follow FYN principles. To receive the award, communities and home sites must promote environmentally responsible landscaping practices, such as selecting plants appropriate for the site, irrigating efficiently and using responsible maintenance practices.

Willowbend, located in Osprey and developed by Lee Wetherington Homes, implemented native plantings along lake banks, utilized micro-irrigation in landscape beds, reduced turf areas and planted many native plants in the overall design of the community. In addition to achieving the Florida Yard status, the homes highlight the latest building techniques by using sustainable and energy efficient products. Lee Wetherington accepted the award on his company's behalf.

River Forest, located in Bradenton, incorporates a natural Florida look throughout the neighborhood. Reducing paved areas, installing pervious driveways, incorporating natural buffers, selecting native plants and reducing turf in the overall design preserved the native landscape. The developer, King Ranch Manatee, designed the lots to leave a natural buffer between all home sites and the Manatee River. The homeowners receive educational updates about Florida-friendly landscaping from the University of Florida-Manatee County Extension Service. Joe King of King Ranch Manatee accepted the award at the presentation.

The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program is an education program of the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Service. FYN receives financial support from the federal Environmental Protection Agency

through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Manatee and Peace River Basin Boards of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (Swiftmud) and local governments.

Polo, a Builders and Developers program coordinator for the FYN program, works with builders and developers in Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte counties, to promote storm-resistant and Florida-Friendly landscaping around new homes.

MG ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Elaine Pardey, Chair, Class of '02, 954-0053

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Gene Cotter, Lifetime Achievement Award winner 2005



Horticultural Therapy Conference, Worden Farm tour



Master Gardeners at Echo 2006



Gail Harvey & Barbara Powell-Harris
@ Keep Sarasota Beautiful awards



Master Gardeners at Venetian Waterway



Earth Day at Florida House 2006