

Beautification and Enhancement

Martin County

Presented by: Ann McCormick



**Beautification
A Wildflower Planting at
Halpatiokee Regional Park**

**Ann McCormick
Martin County Master Gardener**

Scope of Project:

- County Board adopted Wildflower Resolution.
- 4160 sq ft park entry medians chosen for high visibility.
- Native wildflower species appropriate to site conditions.
- 36 volunteers, 26 Master Gardeners.

Seed List

- Partridge Pea,
- Blue Mist Flower,
- Leavenworth's Tickseed,
- Purple Love Grass,
- Yellowtops,
- Florida Greeneyes,
- Blanketflower,
- Bitterweed,
- Standing Cypress,
- Chapmans Blazing Star,
- Slender Blazing Star,
- Sunshine Mimosa,
- Helmet Skullcap,
- Narrowleaf Ironweed,
- White Prickly Poppy,
- Sneezeweed,
- Spotted Bee Balm.



Most of our 36 volunteers, 26 are Master Gardeners, several of them also belong to, the Garden Club of Stuart and/or the Florida Native Plant Society

Native plants have special flower power



Inform the public about the project

We sponsored a lecture, author Rufino Osorio spoke about the wildflowers we chose for the project.



**32 volunteers on seeding day contributed
64 hours of labor**



Twice weekly irrigation until established

2 months



6 months



9 months



Demonstration/Educational Garden

Orange County

Presented by: Ed Thralls



FLORIDA
**MASTER
GARDENER**

Florida Master Gardener Demonstration/Educational Garden Award

UF/IFAS Extension Service
Orange County

Brief Description

- 2004/2005 Hurricane season, fallen trees and heavy equipment piled debris until it could be disposed
- 2007 – 14 acre site became the new Extension outdoor classroom
- 2010 Master Gardeners funded \$3,500 to start the development of the garden
- 2012 – Grand Opening of the “Exploration Gardens”
 - Still a work in progress
- 2013 – drainage is still a major issue
 - French Drains added
 - Swales created
 - 30” augers on powered vehicle carved out 5’ deep hold through compacted surface soil and subsurface hardpan

In the Beginning

- Know where you want to be
- Develop a plan
- Solicit “in-kind” service assistance from professionals
- Believe in the project
- Pitch in where you can



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

- Official dedication of the “Exploration Gardens”
- County Commissioner
- DED
- CED/County Department Head
- Shareholders
- Extension Agents



Event Garden

- A formal layout that gives homeowners the opportunity to see a variety of plants for home landscapes
- Plants feature small trees, formal hedges, and a rotating display of seasonal annual flowers



Butterfly Garden

- Contains a collection of cool season, warm season and perennial plants that support the full life cycle of Florida's native butterflies
 - Nectar sources for adults
 - Food for caterpillars



Eco Garden

- Designed to educate residents on turf alternatives, ground covers, edible landscaping, and native plants
- No irrigation system so what grows here survives on average rainfall and occasional hand watering



Home and Small Farm Vegetable Garden

- Showcases various methods for homeowners to grow vegetables:
 - Raised beds
 - Square foot gardens
 - Self-watering containers
 - Vertical and floating hydroponic systems
- Compost demo area



Bog Garden

- Compaction causes rain water to pool on the surface from hours to days
- Choose plants that are suited for wet, muddy conditions:
 - Bald Cypress
 - Plants that can tolerate “wet feet”



Fruit Tree Garden

- Showcases over thirty varieties of fruit trees for central Florida
- Labeled with the variety and harvest season as well as any special cold protections or requirements



Succulent Garden

- Plants with low water needs are adapted to survive with very little water and receive no regular irrigation
- Various succulents, agaves, and other xerophytic plants are chosen for different textures and colors



Master Gardeners Want to be Involved

- In 2012, 39 Master Gardeners
 - Donated 460 hours
 - \$8,733 “In-kind” service hours
- Exploration Gardens serve as a teaching resource by teaching proper planting, maintenance, plant care, fertilizing, water management, pest control and key plant selection to County residents



Site Evaluation

- Explorations Gardens are evaluated through an online and a paper survey
- www.facebook.com/gardenflorida was viewed over 4,000 times per month
- At the end of November 2012, this page was “Liked” by 256 followers and had average of three posts made weekly



Help to Target Audiences

One Example

- 89.5% of those attending the Micro-irrigation classes reported an increase in knowledge of the basics of micro-irrigation
- Of this group, 33% had implemented micro-irrigation changes in their yard and 63% had changed their irrigation system to be more efficient (clock settings and over-spray)



Results

- 2012
 - 37 classes or educational tours were taught
 - 343 people attended programs in the Exploration Gardens
- Florida's nursery industry and retailers donated more than 800 plants with a value of \$10,720



Questions?

- If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a real plant growing in a garden is worth a million words!
- Exploration Gardens is a place to show County residents the right plant in the right place
 - Giving them the opportunity to see a plant rather than just looking at a picture



Extension Awareness

Santa Rosa County

Presented by: Mike Burba



FLORIDA
**MASTER
GARDENER**

2013 Award of Excellence Extension Awareness

Michael Burba

Santa Rosa County Master Gardener

Overview

- January 2013 – Established Outreach project
- Scheduled more events
- Developed business cards to distribute
- Encouraged MG recruitment at events
- Encouraged public to use Extension services
- Saw increase in clinic contacts_x

Improvements Seen

Year	Personal Contacts at Events	Clinic Visits
2011	51	1461
2012	113	1760
2013	344	2152
2014	838	2180
2015	725	745 (as of 6/30)

Challenges

- Volunteers who will engage public
- Expanding into focused areas
 - realtor groups
 - driver's license and voter registration office
- Volunteers for clinic hours
- Concern for dropping numbers this year_x



Newsletter

Manatee County

Presented by: Carol Davis

The Master Gardening Bench

The Manatee County Master Gardener Newsletter
October 2015 - Volume 14 - Issue 10

Bats: Over-Feared and Under Appreciated

by Norma Kisida, Master Gardener 2012

If you enjoy the occasional margarita, you can thank a small flying mammal. *Agave tequilana*, commonly called blue agave or tequila agave, is the base ingredient of tequila and is dependent on bats for pollination.

Although we may not think of bats as important pollinators, over 300 species of fruit such as mangos, bananas, guavas, dates, figs, and many others are pollinated by bats. In addition, they pollinate such important plants as the saguaro and organ pipe cacti, balsa wood, and the baobab tree in Africa.

Bats typically feed after dark, visit flowers that open at night and are large in size, pale or white in color, and have a fermenting fruit odor. Most bats that visit flowers reside in tropical or desert areas such as Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands where they are important pollinators. The bats feed on the nectar and flower parts as well as insects in the flowers.

Seventy percent of the bats in the world eat insects, each bat consuming its weight in insects each night and thus playing a major role in controlling night flying insects, a large proportion of which are agricultural or human pests. They also play a role in the survival and re-growth of rainforests as they spread seeds while digesting their food.

Due to their nocturnal nature, silent flight, and creepy roost sites, bats have become surrounded by much folklore, myths, superstitions, and fears. Bats are not flying rodents, are not

blind, do not attack people, and do not get tangled in your hair. There are no vampire bats in the United States. As for the concern about rabies, only about 1 in 200 bats have the disease compared to 1 in 3 wild raccoons. Unlike other animals, rabid bats are not aggressive but become sluggish and are usually found on the ground and die quickly. It is important to never touch a bat found on the ground as these bats are more likely to have rabies and may bite in self-defense.

Bats are disappearing as they lose their roosting sites and feeding areas to development since Florida bats prefer to roost in mature or dead trees or caves. As they lose these sites, they may take up residence in buildings where they can cause problems such as a bad smell, dropping of feces (guano) and urine, noise, and attraction of other pests. We can help by learning more about bats and their importance in the environment, and dispelling some of the rumors that have caused bats to be harassed or destroyed.

We can also help by preserving bat habitat on our property, providing bat houses, and supporting conservation groups that advocate for bats.

Effective Bat Houses for Florida:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw290>,

Bats in Buildings:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/edis/MG/MG34.200.pdf>,

Conservation of Bats in Florida:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw291>.





Invasion of the Body Snatchers: The Ghoulish New Guinea Snail-Eating Flatworm

by Andrew Derksen, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Scientist



The New Guinea snail-eating flatworm crawls along the bark of a rotting log. (Pierre Gros, 2014)

With its proximity to the Caribbean and a number of key international ports, South Florida is always home to the next great invasion. Once established in the tropical south, those invaders gradually begin to make their way north. Among the latest arrivals is the slimy “New Guinea snail-eating flatworm,” *Platydemus manokwari*. It has been three years since the first detection by Dr. Mary Yong Cong of the [Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ giant African snail eradication program](#). Since that time, this worm has become broadly distributed throughout the Miami area and has possibly spread much farther abroad.

Like all flatworms, this creature has a ribbon-thin body without the obvious segmentation seen on an earthworm or a leech. These slender worms range in size from less than an eighth of an inch as juveniles to almost four inches in length! They have a shiny dark olive-brown back with a single burnt orange to cream-colored stripe running down the middle. Their belly is the pale white or grey of a corpse. On their head, a pair of tiny grey eyespots follows the

the slender and pointy “nose” full of chemoreceptors. These are simple eyes capable only of discerning between light and dark and are not used for hunting.

They ride on a “floating sole” of mucous, pushed forward by tiny hairs called cilia. Surfing forward along this carpet of slime, they hunt prey by tasting the air and the ground with chemical sensors in their nose and along their belly. Once they come upon the slime trail left by a snail, they will flow along it until they encounter their prey. They will overtake the fleeing snail and may ensnare it with a sticky film of mucous to impede the snail’s escape. The flatworm will then begin to feed.

The mouth is a muscular white tube that is extruded from the belly like a tentacle. This tube can stretch out almost two thirds the length of the body! Flatworms will attach their suction-cup like mouth to their prey, and then alternate between vomiting digestive juices and



The New Guinea snail-eating flatworm thrusts its feeding tube into the dissolving remains of its victim. (Pierre Gros, 2014)

continued from page 2

other caustic compounds and slurping up the dissolving remains of their prey's body.

They prefer to live in the same dark and moist areas that snails might inhabit, and are most likely to be observed at dawn or dusk during rainy and overcast weather. During the day, they burrow down to hide in loose topsoil or under cool stones, and wait for the night to hunt.

These creatures can reproduce both sexually and asexually. The last eighth of an inch of the tail may break off and over the next week or so develop a mouth and eventually a head. As hermaphrodites with both male and female parts, sexual reproduction requires only two individuals. Mating flatworms will wrap around one another in a pulsating ball of as many as a dozen individuals and exchange gametes. Eggs will be laid several days later. After approximately a week, a new horde of flatworms will emerge to grow and hunt prey in the undergrowth.

Elsewhere in the world, *Platydemus* has been problematic when it feeds on rare and endangered tree snails. In Hawaii, it has been implicated in the extinction of several species of rare tree snails belonging to genus *Achatinello*.

Florida also has several species of [native tree snails](#) belonging to the genera *Orthalicus*, the "banded tree snails", and *Liguus*, the "jewel tree snails". These snails are considered beneficial organisms, grazing on algae, fungus, and lichen that might otherwise cover or sicken a tree. Some species of these snails are unique to Florida, and have striking purple, yellow, and red bands – slowly drifting through the hammock trees like living orchids. Unfortunately, these snails are already either [State-listed threatened](#) or [Federally protected endangered species](#)



A colorful *Liguus* jewel tree snail roosts on the bark of a gumbo-limbo tree one hot afternoon in Key Largo. (Andrew Derksen, FOACS 2011)

due to habitat loss, pollution, and over collection for their pretty shells.

While *Platydemus* appears to hunt mostly on the ground among the leaf litter, this is where Florida's tree snails must return to mate and lay eggs. *Platydemus* has already been observed to swarm and feed on these vulnerable snails. The predatory pressure the hungry flatworm provides may prove to be the final nail in our native snails' coffin.

While Florida scientists would like more information about the distribution and abundance of these creatures, it is not recommended that members of the public touch these flatworms with their bare hands. Aside from carrying parasitic diseases like the "rat lungworm", *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, flatworms may secrete noxious, caustic, or toxic chemicals as a defensive mechanism when handled.

You can help by reporting this invasive species as well as many others using the "IveGot1" app for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) phones. This app is a joint production by the Universities of Georgia and Florida, the National Park Service, and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. You can take a photo with the app itself and mail that image along with your contact information to scientists to examine and identify your critter!

iPHONE:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ivegot1-identify-report-invasive/id301326170>

ANDROID:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bugwood.ivegot1>



Are You Spreading Problems in the Landscape?

by Michelle Atkinson, Environmental Horticulture Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Manatee County

Pruners and other gardening tools can spread disease in the landscape if not properly cleaned and disinfected. By disinfecting gardening tools on a regular basis, you can help prevent the spread of disease. When pruning out a disease, equipment should be sanitized between each cut. For normal pruning it is recommended that you sanitize between each plant and commercial landscape companies should clean tools, at the very least, between each job site.

Cleaning tools is as easy as 1-2-3.

1. **Remove dirt and debris from tools.** Tools should be brushed clean of dirt and debris before placing in the disinfectant solution. This will allow the disinfecting solution to reach every cutting surface. For chain saws, it is recommended that they be taken apart and both the chain and bar soaked.
2. **Dip or soak tools in a disinfectant solution.** See Table 1 on page 5 for products and techniques. Tools should be soaked for at least 5 minutes. Disinfectant solution should be replaced at least every ten plants or every two hours. By having multiple pruning tools, one tool can be soaking in the disinfectant solution while the other tool is used for pruning. Disinfectant solution can be carried into the landscape in a tightly sealed plastic bottle, wide enough so that tools can be dipped directly into it. Larger pruning tools can be placed into a 5 gallon bucket to soak while rotating between two sets of tools. A longer soaking period may be needed for pruning tool surfaces that are not smooth. Sterilizing your tools is no guarantee against plant disease, but it can have a significant impact on disease incidence and severity.

3. **Dry tools.** Once the pruning task is complete, disinfect one last time and dry tools with a soft cloth. Do not allow water-based cleaning solutions to dry on the tools as they may rust the implements. In the case of pruning shears and other hinged tools, be sure to dry the inside and outside blades of the tool.

Numerous types of products can be used to disinfect tools. Table 1 lists the pros and cons of common products, as well as how they should be used and where they may be purchased.

No matter which type of disinfectant product is selected, diligence in using the product is important. Ideally, tools should be disinfected after working on every plant. However, since this practice is not always practical, tools should be sterilized as frequently as possible.

Tools that are regularly disinfected need to be kept in top condition. Older blades become pitted and these pits can harbor microbes that are unaffected by quick sterilization. This is especially true of bacteria associated with active cankers. Lastly, disinfectants should never be applied to pruning wounds on plants because of their ability to further injure the plant and prevent healing callus tissue from forming. Remember, keeping your tool clean helps prevent the spread of diseases!

Selected References: Denny, G. and G. Vallad. 2012. *Disinfection of Horticultural Tools*. EDIS #ENH1121
Lamborn, A. *Disinfecting Pruning Tools*. UF/IFAS Factsheet

Table 1 - Common products used to disinfect horticultural tools and surfaces.

Material	Pros	Cons	Technique	Sources
Quaternary Ammonium Salts	Very effective Stable (solution lasts for longer period) Not corrosive	Little residual activity Not as effective if mixed with hard water or organic matter	Follow the label directions	Many commercial products are available from horticulture-supply vendors
Hydrogen Dioxides	Less toxic More biodegradable Some products recognized as "organic"	Corrosive Effective on only a limited number of pathogens Life span of solution is short	Follow the label directions	Many commercial products are available from horticulture-supply vendors
Chlorine Bleach	Inexpensive Effective	Corrosive Fumes can be harmful Short life span of bleach solution (about ½ effect is gone after 2 hours), requires fresh batches immediately before disinfecting tools	10% bleach solution (1 part bleach : 9 parts water) 30-minute soak Rinse with water after soak	Grocery and hardware stores and home-improvement centers
Alcohol (Ethanol or Isopropyl Alcohol)	Immediately effective (no soaking) Can be used as wipe No need to rinse	Flammable	Wipe or dip tool in 70 - 100% alcohol	Grocery stores and pharmacies
Trisodium Phosphates (TSPs)	Inexpensive	Very corrosive	10% solution (1 part TSP : 9 parts water)	Many commercial products are available at hardware stores and home-improvement centers (used to clean surfaces for painting)
Pine Oil Products	Not corrosive	Not as effective	25% solution (1 part pine oil : 3 parts water)	Many commercial products available at grocery and hardware stores and at home-improvement centers
Household Disinfectants	Easy to find Usually not corrosive	Little research on effectiveness of products Relatively expensive	Full-strength spray or dip, depending on the product	Many commercial products are available at grocery and hardware stores and at home-improvement centers

Table was reproduced from UF/IFAS EDIS Publication ENH1121 Disinfection of Horticultural Tools

KEEPING FIT FOR GARDENING

by Amy L. Stripe, Master Gardener 2008

Gardening in Florida is a physically demanding activity, and as such, makes it one of the best workouts going. You will notice that many gardeners are trim, but this doesn't mean they don't struggle with physical challenges. At any age, gardening can be the source of joint overuse, shoulder and knee pain, low back pain, and even herniated disks.

Palmetto-based certified fitness trainer Tamara Bryant says these kinds of injuries or aches and pains may largely be due to a lack of **basic posture control**. Muscle strength is helpful, but it needs to be coupled with muscle control in order to be effective in preventing injury.

Bryant, a gardener herself, stresses two main body areas in terms of strength and control for gardening:

- "Quads" (quadriceps, the body's largest muscles, those of the upper leg and thigh)
- "Core" (abdominals and back muscles.)

Repeated bending and twisting - as we do as gardeners - put heavy demands on these muscle groups.

She also points out the importance of **stretching** every muscle group every day. Constant use of hand pruners, for example, stresses tendons of the fingers. Stretching exercises of fingers and hands may prevent carpal tunnel syndrome and foreshortening of muscles and tendons of fingers. Many people, especially men, have tight hamstrings (the muscles at the back of your upper legs). Hamstrings help with overall body stability and leg strength; the longer (more stretched) your hams are, the better your ability to bend, walk and squat without discomfort.

Lastly, she likes to incorporate **exercises to help with balance**, since as we age, balance can become a major challenge.

So: muscle control, stretching, and balance exercises are the three keys. See some exercises here. These are Tammy's "easy" versions; she always has on hand



KEEP CALM AND GARDEN ON



a "harder" and "hardest" version of the same exercise if you want a challenge.

Quad squats: Stand in front of a chair with shoulders back, chest up, head level, feet shoulder-width apart and abs firm. Swing hips and butt back and slowly lower into seated position. Stand and repeat ten times. Key: keep knees from going over toes to keep pressure off of knees.

Core wall plank: Stand facing a wall at arm's length. Keeping body in solid plank position, lean in and place forearms on the wall shoulder-width apart and level with shoulders; step feet back as far as is comfortable, keeping body in solid plank position (abs, glutes, back and legs tight). Hold for a ten count. For added strengthening, come up on palms, widen arms until slightly more than shoulder-width apart. Bend elbows to bring chest close to the wall, then push back. Bend and repeat ten times. Keys: keep body straight; sagging inwards, place strain on low back. The further the feet are from the wall, the more challenging it will be.

For balance: Two balance exercises to incorporate in everyday activities are:

- Single leg stance: Lifting one foot off the ground and standing on one leg sounds easy, but isn't, especially if you close your eyes! Alternate legs as you're brushing your teeth or standing in line at the grocery store. Key: keep your weight in the heel of the leg on the ground.
- Walk a straight line: Putting one foot directly in front of the other, take the age-old sobriety test and you'll see why many sober people fail! Not that easy! Key: keep head level and eyes forward.

Have fun with these; don't think "exercise" but "transform-acise!"

Tamara Bryant can be reached at (941) 722-5463 or tamx@verizon.net.

Photos from fitonthebox.com and shout.com

MUSHROOMS

By John Dawson, Master Gardener 2007



Destroying Angel
Amanita virosa



Oyster Mushroom
Pleurotus ostreatus



Fly Agaric
Amanita muscaria



Dog Stinkhorn
Mutinus caninus



Fairy Ring Mushrooms

Mushrooms are a type of fungus. Like all fungi, they contain no chlorophyll, and so depend on surrounding decaying material for their nutrition. So what's the difference between mushrooms and toadstools? They're really the same thing, but some texts distinguish toadstools as the aboveground, stem and cap of the mushroom, which is its reproductive portion. Beneath the toadstool are the mycelia, fine white bundles of hair-like root structures (hyphae) that collect nutrients. Hyphae may persist in soil, mulch, or decaying wood for years before emerging under favorable conditions (seemingly overnight) to develop toadstools.

Gill structures found on the underside of the cap are arranged like spokes on a wheel. The gills hold many spores that may start new mushrooms. In order to produce a mushroom, a spore must land on some kind of organic material that is in the right stage of decomposition to provide food for the germinating spore. Not all mushrooms have the classic toadstool shape. Some have short stems and non-rounded caps and look like shelves, while others take on other peculiar shapes and colors; one even glows in the dark.

Some mushrooms are edible; most aren't, and some are deadly poisonous. Most commercial edible mushrooms grow best in a moist, cool, well-ventilated place. Temperatures need to be controlled within a range of 50-70°F. Relative humidity must be maintained above 70% or mushrooms may dry out and split. Doesn't sound much like our part of Florida, does it? However, Florida has its fair share of mushrooms which are usually found during our rainy season. Retired University of Florida/IFAS Mycologist Dr. James Kimbrough has written a book "Common Florida Mushrooms" which identifies and describes 268 species of mushrooms found in Florida's mild, subtropical climate.

Homeowners may encounter mushrooms in their lawns and landscaping. Sometimes lawn mushrooms will form a circular pattern known as a "fairy ring." According to the UF publication on fairy rings, "fairy rings" occur when large quantities of organic matter, such as lumber, tree stumps, roots and logs, have been buried under a lawn. Thatch can also create a moist, organic layer conducive for the mushrooms. The mushrooms are not harmful to your lawn and can easily be picked or mowed, but will return each season expanding their radius (some as much as 50 feet). Mushrooms in your lawn or mulched beds should be removed to avoid accidental ingestion by small children and pets and to reduce spore release.

Mushrooms release nitrogen to the soil, so where they are growing the grass may appear much greener than surrounding grass areas. Fairy rings can be managed through dethatching, proper lawn fertilization, and a reduction of watering. Fungicides are available, but usually very expensive. Effective fungicides that contain azoxystrobin, flutolanil, metconazole, pyraclostrobin, and triconazole will help. For more information on fairy rings, please go to <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/h046>. Decomposing landscape mulch is a perfect feeding source for mushrooms. A common landscape invader of odorous note is the stinkhorn, quite harmless, but repugnant.

Being a forager, I have encountered many wild mushrooms. While fun to identify using field guides, I've never eaten any (why take a chance?). I have found more inedible and toxics than edibles, including several of the most deadly. Even experienced collectors have made mistakes and paid the consequences. Mushrooms are quite variable and look different at different stages of development. For every edible mushroom, there always seems to be one or more inedible or toxic look-alikes. If you like eating mushrooms, buy them in the store. If you must grow your own, get a good mushroom kit; however, growing mushrooms from a kit is much more difficult than growing vegetables!

Special Note: Parents should be wary of their children taking a sudden interest in mushrooms. Several "magic" mushrooms contain psychotropic compounds which can be harmful or deadly if ingested.



October CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Event
2 nd & 4 th Saturday	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Ask a Master Gardener – Rocky Bluff Library – 6750 US Highway 301 N., Ellenton. Visit the Extension Master Gardener information table and get answers to your gardening questions.
2 nd Saturday	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Ask a Master Gardener – South Manatee Library – 6081 26 th Street West, Bradenton. Visit the Extension Master Gardener information table and get answers to your gardening questions.
October 3, 2015 ~ 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Agriculture and Extension Service Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale Fundraiser		
Thursday October 8	2:00-3:30 p.m.	Common Snakes of Florida - This workshop will discuss the native and invasive snakes in Florida, their habitats and personality, and whether you should have concerns if one is in your landscape. Note Location: Island Library; 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Register online http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu or call the Extension Master Gardeners (941) 722-4524.
Friday October 9	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Compost Happens – Home Composting Workshop - Learn to turn your kitchen scraps and yard waste into useful soil amendments, along with details on how to set up a home compost bin. Workshop is free. Compost bins will be available for purchase at the workshop for \$40, (cash or check only). Register online http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu or call the Extension Master Gardeners (941) 722-4524.
Saturday October 10	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Vertical Gardening - Grow up! Utilize more space in your garden and make a statement by growing vertically. Learn the how's and why's as well as which plants work best in Florida with Master Gardener Mairryann Wrentmore. Register online http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu or call the Extension Master Gardeners (941) 722-4524.
Saturday October 10	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour – Emerson Point Preserve - Stroll through Emerson Point Preserve to learn more about Florida's native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. Tour begins in tower parking area at 5801 17 th Street West, Palmetto. Call the Extension Master Gardeners at (941) 722-4524 to register.
Saturday October 10	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour – DeSoto/Riverview Pointe Preserve - Stroll through DeSoto National Memorial and Riverview Pointe Preserve to learn more about Florida's native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. The hike begins in the parking area of the DeSoto National Memorial Park and enters into the Riverview Preserve at 8250 DeSoto Memorial Highway, Bradenton. Call the Extension Master Gardeners to register (941) 722-4524.
Wednesday October 14	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Propagation Workshop - Grow your own plants from seeds and cuttings and save money! Learn several ways to propagate plant material, proper timing, and materials that are needed to have successful propagation. Techniques demonstrated include seeding, cuttings, and air layering. Attendees will receive one cutting to take home to propagate. Presented by Barbara Davis, Master Gardener and Lisa Hickey, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent. Register online http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu or call the Extension Master Gardeners (941) 722-4524.
Friday October 16	2:00-4:00 p.m.	Coyote Awareness - Are there precautions for homeowners to reduce coyote encounters? This workshop will discuss the history of coyotes in the United States and Florida, their behavioral patterns and habits, and how coyotes are interfacing with our lifestyle. Can we live in harmony with the coyote? Yes! Note Location: Island Branch Library - 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Register online http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu or call the Extension Master Gardeners (941) 722-4524.
Sunday October 18	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour – Robinson Preserve - Stroll through the Robinson Preserve's salt marshes to learn more about Florida's native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. Tour begins in parking area by main entrance at 1704 99 th Street Northwest, Bradenton. Call the Extension Master Gardeners at (941) 722-4524 to register.
Tuesday October 27	2:00-4:00 p.m.	Taking The Mystery Out of Micro-Irrigation - Tom Funari, Irrigation Technician, will introduce you to micro-irrigation. Learn how to select, install, and operate your own water-saving irrigation system. He will discuss why it is important to water shrubs and other landscape plants separately from your lawn. This class satisfies the irrigation educational requirement for the Manatee County Outdoor Water Conservation Rebate Program. Register online http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu or call Joann (941) 722-4524.
Wednesday October 29	2:00-4:00 p.m.	Ground Covers – Plants That Work - Come join Valrie Massey, Horticulture Program Assistant., as she presents how landscaping with low-growing ground cover plants has become a popular trend in landscape practices because once they are established, these plants need little or no water. Learn noteworthy plants, site considerations, and management of these plants. Register online http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu or call Joann (941) 722-4524.



University of Florida IFAS Extension - Manatee County
1303 17th St. W., Palmetto, FL 34221 Telephone: (941) 722-4524
Web site: <http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu> E-mail: ManateeMG@gmail.com



Service to 4-H and Other Youth

Sumter County

Presented by: Ann Carraway

Special Audiences

Sumter County

Presented by: Howie Johnson



Special Audiences

Howie Johnson

Sumter County Master Gardener



Our Population

Of the 115,000 residents of The Villages, most are:

- From other states/ countries
- Unfamiliar with the plants, climate and soils of Central Florida
- Anxious to landscape their new homes
- Tempted by the pretty colors and exotic foliage of tropical plants that may not survive Central Florida winter freezes
- Making poor and often expensive landscape choices

The Objective

Develop an education program on how to plan, plant and maintain landscapes using Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles.

Mission Statement: “To inform and instruct residents of The Villages, Florida in Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices. This includes the selection of plants suited for Horticultural Zone 9A, proper water management practices and general care of residential landscapes.”

Master Gardener Speaker Series

Monthly seminars on the selection and care of landscaping appropriate to Central Florida, designed for an audience of senior citizens

Format

- 10 minutes welcome and introduction period
- 45 minutes presentation
- Q & A period

Added a “donate to win” component using Zone 9A plants as prizes

Publicity is key to growing attendance

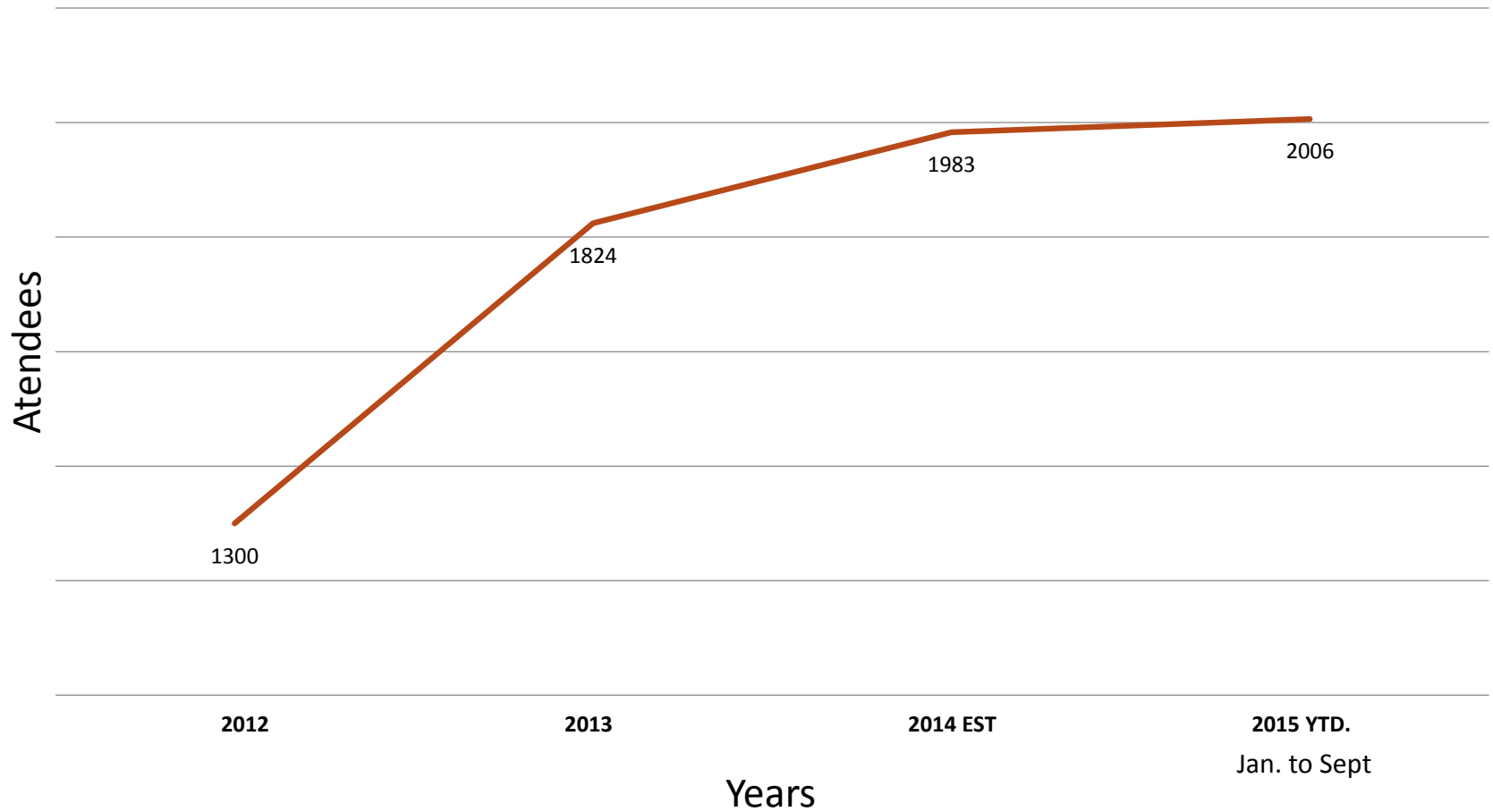
- Local newspapers
- E mail blast to approx. 4,700 recipients of the UF/IFAS Sumter County monthly “Gardener’s Journal”

Popular Programs

- To prune or not to prune
- Lawn care - fertilizing, irrigating, mowing & pests
- Rejuvenating landscapes
- Landscaping for wildlife
- Plant this, not that
- Growing healthy palms
- Citrus and alternatives
- Perennials in the landscape
- Container gardening and herbs
- Winter landscapes and cold protection

The Numbers

MG Speaker Series



Survey Results

Quantified behavior changes:

	41.1%	water usage declined
	48.1%	now water only on assigned days
	33.4%	use least toxic pesticides
	34.1%	apply pesticides as spot treatments versus broad application
release	35.6%	use UF recommended slow release or controlled fertilizer for landscape plants
plants	74.1%	changed their plant selections to Florida-Friendly™
	86.7%	shared knowledge gained with others