



More than Gardening

Newsletter of the Indian River
Master Gardeners

December, 2007 Issue 3



In this issue:

- New Grads
- From Holly
- From Tanya
- New Officers
- Bio of a star
- And.....
- Activities
- Opportunities
- Trips
- Mystery plant
- Recipes
- From Christine



We are so proud to have the new Master Gardeners join us. Congratulations, Grads: (back row, l-r) **Mallory Lorino, Scott Davis, Sue Whisenant, Kate Stensland, and Cheryl Ann Burke** (front row) **Karen Vatland and Cara Woods**

Meet the New MGs!

Class of 2007

Officers:

- Tanya Goldsmith,
President
- Kathy Wegel,
V. President
- Margie Davis, Sec.
- Richard Hope, Tres.

**Remember
the
Christmas
party:
December
13, 10:00am
Bring a dish
and an
exchange
present for
good fun.**

From Holly:

The last few months have been unbelievably busy and exciting for me. I could also add overwhelming to that list! While trying to get settled, I have had the opportunity to get to know many of you Master Gardeners, and for that, I am grateful. You have all been so kind and generous with your knowledge of Florida gardening. I have also had the opportunity to make my way around South Florida and visit with other counties and their Master Gardener groups. This has been especially helpful in guiding my decisions about the direction of our county's program. There are a few activities that I cannot wait to begin.

To start, I am excited that we now have some interest in fundraising. Fundraising is an important aspect if we want to expand our presence and service to Indian River County. It also gives us a chance to do some good in our community. I hope to use funds raised for many activities and items. There are many supplies that would be helpful when doing research on plants, insects, and diseases. Dissection tools and some new books are on the top of my list. What ideas do you all have? Other counties use monies raised to pay for some of the trips and conferences attended by their members. I think may be a good long-term goal for our program. I also believe that scholarship should be a part of our program here. Helping a young student with goals and ambitions related to horticulture is very rewarding. And finally, I think that we could all agree that Gifford Garden can always use extra funds. This garden is a huge asset to the county, and I am so lucky to have Master Gardeners interested in helping the Gifford community kids.

Secondly, I believe we may be on our way to getting our *Florida Yards and Neighborhoods* yard recognition back up and running. This is an important program in Indian River County and a favorite with homeowners. Thanks to all of those interested in helping me with this as we start anew with the revised regulations. I cannot wait to see where this program takes us!

Lastly, I want to commend you all as a whole for your patience and hard work. I truly realize that I could not perform my day-to-day tasks without your presence in the clinics. We have quite a bit coming up to keep us all busy with the Landscape Lecture Series, trips, and activities. And I cannot forget to thank and congratulate my new Master Gardeners. Each and every one of you has made me so proud. I am so excited about all the possibilities for the upcoming year!

Holly

From our president, Tanya

The bales of straw are piled up and bright colored leaves and orange pumpkins surround them. Sound like your yard? Well, it looks like that in my front yard. I must admit the leaves are silk and the pumpkins are plastic!

I love this time of year when a hint of cool weather teases us and we beg for more.

Seems just yesterday I took the prez position not knowing WHAT I was getting myself in to. It has been a great year and definitely a learning experience. I am still learning not only plant names but MG names also.

The hardest thing I found was pinning people down to speak.

The most exciting was welcoming Holly Mixon into our midst as Environmental Horticulture Agent! And the saddest was saying goodbye to Walter Hearn at his funeral. I can still hear him bragging on his 7-up tree. I hope he has a grove of them in heaven!

The year isn't over yet and the rest will be but a blur with Holidays, field trips, elections and garden sales yet to come. But it means cooler weather which means more time in the garden and more time in the garden means less stress in life. I am ready for that!



This isn't our reelected president but I thought a really neat picture of her grandson would be an interesting substitute. OK?

Tanya

At the November meeting the nominating committee suggested the following slate of officers for the 2008 year. Those present voted to accept the following officers:

President: **Tanya Smith**

Vice President: **John Beukers**

Secretary: **Cheryl Roseland**

Treasurer: **Richard Hope**

Each of the above agreed to serve for the 2008 year. All present at the November meeting gladly accepted the slate of officers presented. Congratulations and thank you.

Speaker's Bureau – Please come for some good information and invite others:
 Presentations will be given at the Extension office on the second Wednesday of the month.
 December 12: **Violet Krochmalny** on “Winter Gardening, Cold Prep etc.”
 January 9: **Lois Schwartz** on “FYN Right Plant, Right Place”
 February 13: **John Beukers** on “Get Ready for Spring”
 March 12: **Pat Beckwith** on “Flitters and Flutters”
 April 9: **Kathy Wegel** on “Pests and Pesticides”
 May 14: **Margie Davis** on “Beat the Heat – Summer Gardening”

Meetings:

November 13th: We welcomed the new MG grads at a special meeting. MGs brought a dish so we had a feast. Thank you, Dedra for organizing the affair.

December 13th: Thursday was our Christmas party. Again Dedra is organized the Food, and a god time was had by all!

January 17th: Regular meeting. 10:00 AM Terry Zinn will be talking about wildflowers.

Trips – Trips – Trips:

January 11, 2008 – Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Ft. Pierce
February 2008 – Mounts Botanical Garden for their Spring Plant Sale
March 6, 2008 – Ravine State Park in Palatka
April 2008 - Marie Selby Botanical Garden or Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
May 2008 – Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven
June 2008 – Suzanne Liggett's Private Garden
July 2008 – Valkaria Tropical Gardens in Grant
August 2008 – Flagler Museum in Palm Beach
September 2008 – Flamingo Gardens in Ft. Lauderdale

Thanks to Olivia Larkins and Lucy Hope for their work on these trips!

Opportunities for service:

Frogleg festival, Fellsmere, 3rd weekend in Jan., contact **Arzella Hatfield**
 Gardenfest, VB, February 2-3, contact **Lois Schwartz**
 Pelican Island Wildlife Festival, 2nd Sat. in March, organizer TBA
 IRC Fire Fighters Fair, March 14-22, contact **Christine or Adam Cletzer**
 EcoFest, ELC, 3rd Sunday in March, contact **Janet Bargar**
 Busy Bee Cust. Day, Seb., 4th Sat in March, contact **Dedra McCallister**.
 Goby Fest. Seb. Preserve, Last Sat. in March, contact **Janet Barger**.
 Fellsmere Day. Fells., 1st Sat. in April, contact **Arzella Hatfield**
 Hibiscus Festival, VB, 3rd Sat., in April, contact **Ann Dann**
 Earth Day, Seb. Sat. about April 22nd, contact **Kathy Wegel and Pat Beckwith**.
 Earth Day, VB, Sat. about April 22, contact **Tanya Goldsmith**
 Arbor Day, Seb., last Sat., in April, contact **Kathy Wegel and Pat Beckwith**.
 Horizon Tree Day, VB, moving to fall, contact **Violet Krochmalny**.
 Clam Bake, Seb. (on hold) contact **Dan Sullivan**.
 Champion Tree Day, Seb. contact **Kathy Wegel and Pat Beckwith**.
 Saturday events at McKee, Orchid Fest, Water Lily Fest, etc. contact **Lee Day**.

John Beukers will be working with children in the Gifford garden. Call him if you can help with the children or weed the garden. 563-0627.

Christine Kelly-Begazo is looking for MGs who would work with children to teach them about plants and agriculture. A short training session will be provided.

Successful events:

Sebastian Champion Tree Day:

Kathy Wegel reported on “tree day”. The speaker was Dr. Richard Baker. He gave a presentation on the time-line of planet Earth. Humans have not been around all that long, but we have destroyed half of the forest growth. In fact 1/3 of that loss has occurred in the last 50 years. MGs present were **Kathy, Dedra McCallister, Cheryl Roseland, Ann Dann, Lucy Hope, Richard Hope, and Pat Beckwith**

Master Gardener Profile:

Biography of a star Master Gardener: Margie Davis

I was born and raised in Clearwater, FL, almost directly west of Vero Beach where State Road 60 ends at the Gulf of Mexico. My father was famous in Clearwater for having the biggest avocado tree in town. He named the tree “Bozo”, and enjoyed sharing the huge avocados it bore with many friends and neighbors until the tree was killed in a major freeze during the 60’s. He built our home in a former grapefruit grove, and we enjoyed wonderful, huge Duncan grapefruit as well as other citrus that he planted during the winter season. In addition to avocados and citrus, Dad grew mangos, figs, bananas, hydroponic tomatoes, pineapples and scuppernong grapes from the vines he dug up and brought back from his old family farm in south Alabama. One of my earliest personal gardening memories was the summer he helped me plant watermelon seeds in the back yard – the vines took over most of the grass and bore a few decent watermelons, but I was very proud of my accomplishment.



My mother was equally influential in developing my interest in gardening. She and her sister, who also lived in Clearwater, were members of the Garden Club, and my cousin and I joined the Junior Garden Club when we were old enough. We learned how to arrange flowers, make corsages and compete in flower shows for kids!

My first exposure to the County Extension Service occurred in 1975 in Orlando, where we were living at the time. Tom McCubbin offered an evening program once a week for several weeks to help homeowners learn about lawn care. We had just moved into a new house with major lawn problems, so I signed up and took the course. The knowledge I gained was very useful and we were able to get the lawn back into shape within a fairly short time.

My husband and I have moved around the state quite a bit during our 40 years together, and have always selected a home based primarily upon the yard and its potential for improvement! I enjoy designing the informal plan and purchasing the garden materials, while hubby provides most of the manual labor to get unwanted items removed and new items planted.

I learned about the Master Gardener program while we were living in Tallahassee, and immediately knew that I wanted to become a Master Gardener. I decided to wait to take the classes until we moved to Vero Beach, since gardening is completely different in this part of

Florida. I took the classes in 2002, where I learned how much I didn't know about gardening! I enjoy working with the public at the Vero Beach Clinic and at special events such as Gardenfest!

On a personal level, I have found gardening on the barrier island to be quite challenging. The alkaline soil, salt spray, and salt-water intrusion into our well water for irrigation has been quite frustrating.....those citrus trees I've always been able to grow before are struggling in this environment. I think I'll give them one more year before giving up!! On the positive side, I'm growing orchids for the first time, and am able to indulge my lifetime fondness for bromeliads here as well.

It's a real honor to be a Master Gardener and the 2007 secretary– I look forward to working with you and learning more about Florida gardening through our outreach and educational activities.

Margie Davis

Quiz Time: Name the Butterflies



More Quizzes:

a. What is a **hilum**? B. What is **Fabaceae**? C. What does **hestate** mean? D. What is a **Red Admiral**? (Answers for a,b,c,d at the end of the newsletter.)

Why take a turn as a volunteer at *Gardenfest!* 2008, February 2& 3rd ? Lois Schwartz tells us:

Master Gardeners have participated in this annual event since it was first staged by the Garden Club of Indian River County at Riverside Park, Vero Beach in February 2001.

Dan Culbert, then County Extension Director, whose enthusiastic support of the concept when approached by Garden Club officers in 2000, gave guidance and direction to the Garden Club and actively participated in the event, together with a group of Master Gardeners, until he relocated to Okeechobee County.



Since then, MGs have continued to participate "under the University of Florida blue tent," answering questions from homeowners and the public in general. The variety of information being sought not only presents interactive educational opportunities for MGs, but also calls the public's attention to the availability of the resources of the UFL/IFAS through the County Extension office.

Now approaching its 7th year, the original concept of *Gardenfest!* continues to be validated by the public's enthusiastic acceptance, with attendance growing from 5000 in 2001 to 15,000 in 2007.

Gardenfest! 2007 gave MGs additional recognition by a formal invitation from the GCIRC to take part in its "Ask the Experts" tent. Violet Krochmalny spoke on 'Proper Palm Pruning' and John Beukers on 'St. Augustine Grass and its Maintenance.' Both topics proved of considerable interest by attendance count, the questions asked, and the University literature handed out. Violet and John will repeat these topics and additional MGs and their topics are expected for G-fest 2008.

With Holly Mixon, newly appointed Environmental Hort Agent for IRC, and the addition of Karen Vatland, 2007-8 president of the Garden Club of Indian River County as a newly certified Master Gardener, we may anticipate that G-fest 2008 will bring greater attention to the services offered by the University of Florida and Indian River County Extension office and its public awareness programs.

Gardenfest! is one of two annual fundraising events, proceeds of which are used by the GCIRC for its local beautification projects. In 2007 it also gave financial support to the Gifford Youth Garden and scholarship support for an environmental horticulture student at the University of Florida Indian River Research & Education Center in Ft. Pierce.

Lois Schwartz, MG-2001, Member and 2000-2 president of the GCIRC

Why go on field trips? Ask Olivia:

IN THE GARDEN.....A TRAVELOGUE
UF's Teaching Garden

Have you ever had a perfect day happen unexpectedly? Well, once in a while that happens to me and September 18 was one of those days! I joined Holly's master gardeners-in-training for an offsite class at UF's IRREC campus in Fort Pierce. It was early afternoon when Holly met me in the hallway and escorted me to the lab where the class was about to begin. What a great place to work. The lab was clean and neat. The computer and screen was already set up in a permanent place. No unknown or tangled cords or shifting of equipment here! Just cut the lights, hit the button, and go.



Dr. Sandy Wilson began her presentation, which was specifically designed for the Indian River Master Gardeners. The subject: Defining Native and Invasive Plants—Applications to the Landscape. Her passion for the subject was immediately evident and remained so throughout our day with her and her staff.

Dr. Wilson reads extensively on the topic of native and invasive plants and identifies the following three items as common threads in literature: (1) plant species categorized today as invasive were deliberately introduced, (2) by the time the severity of an invasion is recognized it is too late for effective control measures, and (3) global change will result in a world with more rather than less invasive species.

Discussion also included: effects of invasive plants and why we should care; the National Invasive Species Management Plan (did you know there is one?), codes of conduct for the gardening public (do you know these?), how invasive plants got to Florida, and much more. Did you know Florida is the second largest producer of ornamental plants in the US with \$15.2 billion estimated total sales? Did you know invasive plants are divided into categories (sort of like hurricanes and tornadoes!)?

You may be interested to know the Association of Florida Native Nurseries (AFNN) members have introduced to the trade more than 900 kinds of native plants. They have a directory which contains more than 4,200 plant availability listings from 82 growers. Their Web site is: www.afnn.org.

After Dr. Wilson's lecture, Holly and Joan tested the master gardeners-in-training on plant identification. Remember those tests? While they did that exercise, I took the opportunity for a better look around the lab. What I observed: a very clean place, medium colored wood cabinets some with glass doors. In one of the cabinets, I saw a blender! Did not ask what it was for! But, here is a great idea they are using in the lab. There are several flower pots, various sizes, holding pens, pencils, scissors. A couple of larger pots were holding papers! Some pot saucers were holding paper clips! Great use of plant-vacant pots!

When Dr. Wilson arrived at UF about eight years ago one of her duties was to teach plant identification. As we all know, you need to have tools to do a job and Dr. Wilson needed an outdoor laboratory from which to teach. So there was an acre of land behind the UF IRREC building, flat and empty of all but grass. Dr. Wilson started the process of site preparation in May of 2000 and changed that plat of land into a lovely teaching garden! Did you know you can go there and enjoy it, all for free?! Dr. Wilson said she did not really have a plan for the teaching garden. It just happened. Well, it is the best laid-out "just happened" garden I have seen. They do not have the staff to maintain it perfectly, but that is part of the beauty of it. It is just like a homeowner's garden!

Our day in the teaching garden was sunny and warm (not too hot), cobalt blue sky with white puffy clouds, gentle breeze, and lots of butterflies. Dr. Wilson and her staff walked us through the garden, identifying plants and we all just enjoyed the thrill of being in a beautiful place with like-minded garden lovers.

Then we walked across the street to the front-side of the UF IRREC building to the linear garden. We had to jump a ditch for this! Note: no one slipped in! This garden, in contrast to the teaching garden, was planned. This garden is only three feet wide and about one-half mile long. One of Dr. Wilson's graduate students intentionally did design this linear garden. She used an electronic spreadsheet to place plants according to growth time, height, color. There are still some blank spaces in the linear garden awaiting the right time donation for the right plant to go in the right place.

Holly called the time and we had to come to the end of our garden walk. It was mid-afternoon. Where did the time go? I just know I want to go back with my sketch book and camera! That is a suggestion for you all too. Both the teaching garden and the linear garden are

delightful to just wander through at leisure. You will definitely come away in a better place because these gardens will make you happy you were there!

Many thanks to Dr. Wilson and her staff for their hospitality. It was truly an outstanding learning experience and a perfect day!.

J Olivia Larkins
Florida Master Gardener
Indian River County

Note: A copy of Dr. Wilson's lecture slides are available upon request. There are several Web sites that may be of interest. Also, check out this Web site: www.provenwinner.com for beautiful flowers and to get their catalog.

Favorite Recipe:

We prevailed on **Dan Sullivan** to give us a *favorite family recipe*:
 Dan's Stuffed Meat Loaf, submitted
 courtesy of Jean Sullivan

¼ cup butter
 1 lb. Mushrooms, sliced (leave 7 whole)
 1 tsp lemon juice
 1 medium onion, minced
 4 cups fresh bread crumbs lightly packed
 1 tsp. Salt
 1/8 tsp. Pepper
 ¼ tsp. Dried thyme
 ¼ cup snipped parsley
 2 eggs
 3 lbs. Ground chuck
 1 Tbsp. Salt
 1/8 tsp. Pepper
 ¼ cup milk
 1/3 cup catsup
 1 ½ tsp. Dry mustard

Early in the day: Melt butter in skillet. Sauté all but 7 mushroom with lemon juice and onion for 3 minutes. Toss in crumbs, 1 tsp. Salt, 1/8 tsp. Pepper, thyme and parsley. In a bowl, lightly beat the eggs with a fork. Add the meat to the eggs. Then add 1 Tbsp. Salt, 1/8 tsp. Pepper, milk, catsup and mustard. Pack half of meat mixture into a 10 x 5 x 3 inch loaf pan. Pack stuffing on top. Then top with rest of meat mixture. Refrigerate. Press 7 mushrooms on top.

About 1 hour and 25 minutes before serving: Heat oven to 400 degrees. Bake meat loaf about 1 hour, 10 minutes. If desired, brush top with heated currant jelly. With 2 broad spatulas, lift onto heated platter. Slice. Makes 8 servings.

What is it??

When Anne Dann was in Gainesville at the conference she was given a plant. She wasn't told what it was - no genus, no species, no common name – a blank slate. So how do you find out. Ann's daughter had a great idea. On Google she asked for a "plant that looked like a butterfly." She GOT IT! It is *Christia obcordata*, a plant of the legume family from Asia.



<http://toptropicals.com/index.htm>



[Christia \(Cristia \) obcordata, Christia subcordata, Lourea obcordata](#)
 (Butterfly Stripe Plant, Swallowtail, Iron Butterfly, Cordata)

Quiz on page 5 – Answers:

- a. The scar on a seed where it was attached to the seed pod.
 - b. Bean family.
 - c. Arrow-head shaped leaf
 - d. A black and red butterfly.
-

Comments? Contact Carol Houck at
CAHk@aol.com

*Hope your
Holidays are Safe
and Merry !*

&

