



January 19, 2009

Dear Prospective Volunteer:

We appreciate your inquiry into the Master Gardener volunteer program. The Master Gardener's Mission Statement is as follows, 'Our mission as University of Florida Lee County Master Gardeners is to assist the Extension Agent in providing horticulture information to noncommercial clients; assisting in plant production, management and research; identifying and addressing community horticulture needs, and to continue self education through University of Florida programs.' Since this is a volunteer program, we strongly discourage anyone from applying if their sole purpose is to enhance personal or business activities.

Master Gardener classes begin on Thursday, February 27, 2009. A schedule is enclosed. Classes are usually conducted weekly over a 12 week period. Volunteer service will begin while the classes are ongoing. After signing up for a particular activity, you will be assisted in your work by the Agent, Extension staff, or a veteran Master Gardener.

Volunteer service can be done at the Fort Myers office or at another site identified by the Extension Agent. Types of activities include, working in the demonstration gardens, answering phone calls on gardening questions, bulk mail preparation, program registration, public speaking, research assistance, and various other duties requested by the Extension Agent.

After we have received your completed application form, questionnaire, and Master Gardener policy form, you will be considered for an interview. Interviews will be conducted February 2, 3, 4, and 12 and will last for approximately ½ hour. We will contact you as soon as possible to schedule your interview.

We look forward to you joining our Extension family.

Sincerely,

Stephen Brown
Lee County Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator