Master Gardener Newsletter

Message from Stephen
Stephen Brown, MG Coordinator
Brownsh@leegov.com
www.lee-county.com/extensionservices

It should be borne in mind that there is nothing more difficult to arrange, more doubtful of success, and more dangerous to carry through than initiating changes - Machiavelli, 1514

Now is apparently the time for some changes in our program. As I’ve spent more time with you, the Master Gardeners, it appears to me that we can do more to improve our service to the community. We’ve already touch residents of Lee County in significant ways. We respond to thousands of phone calls, maintain several excellent demonstration gardens, present great workshops and conferences and we deliver many more activities too frequent to mention in this small space. However, while we guard our present successes we must move to make our future organization and programs more efficient. Here are some of the changes that will take place. The Master Gardener Board will be dissolved at the end of our regularly scheduled June meeting. The board will be replaced by an Advisory Committee made up of Master Gardeners and members of the community. Beginning in September, we will move to afternoon meetings. The meetings will have a different focus and will center around programmatic and educational activities. We will continue to have walkabouts, field trips, and holiday get togethers that will be organized by a Master Gardener committee. I will be available at our next monthly meeting to discuss these changes.

Our new Master Gardener class has begun. As usual, our new colleagues will be excellent Master Gardeners. Classes are on Wednesdays and you are welcome to attend any of the classes at anytime. I’ve kept some of the afternoons flexible such that the new class can do activities that are dictated by events.

See you on Monday.
Dear Sir:

I called your department for information concerning my fruit trees in my back yard. I was handled very professionally and knowledgeably and want to complement you on your staff. A gentleman by the name of Ken deserves the credit for my assistance. I want to thank you very much for the help.

Thanks again,
Paul McFarland

Dear Stephen,

Lisa Oxton has done a thorough and well planned talk and demonstration at Schandler Hall on February 2nd and 4th teaching children how to observe trees.

She must have put in at least 12 hours of planning, travel, visiting the site, reading the 4-H project book, Adopt A Tree, organizing her outline and teaching approximately 38 children.

We appreciate this Master Gardener!

Thank you for the excellent recommendation!

Mel Markward  
Lee County Extension Service  
4-H Agent

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Thanks again,
Paul McFarland
Al Buralli has been faithfully testing soil pH and water quality since 1985.

Debbie Hughes led a recent tour of the Butterfly Garden.

Barbara Meyer conducting a plant clinic at a recent Home Depot Garden/ Landscape Day.

Gerry Sanzone, second from left, with The New Beginnings Group Home in North Fort Myers. Gerry is assisting the group with a new butterfly garden.
Let us advertise where and when you will be speaking by putting it on the web page. Just e-mail me with the name of the group to be served, the date, and the location. This will help us to better serve the public.

WHERE are all the LILIES and GINGERS?

Two new demonstration gardens will be planted at the Fragrance Garden. The new additions will be a Lily Garden and a Ginger Garden. Your lilies and gingers will add greatly to the start of the garden. Contact Master Gardener Dixie Loudenback with your contributions.

Things for the Web Site

If you have something that you think should get on the web site. Let me know.

Public Speaking Announcements

Palm Fertilization Trial
Hy Lans water a fox tail palm as part of a fertilizer response trail. The Dunes, Sanibel.

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Master Gardener Board Members

President .............................................Terry Wolfley
Vice President .................................Helen Novella
Secretary .........................................Gerry Sanzone
Treasurer .......................................Kim Cooprider
Appointed Member .......................Faye Granberry

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