Most of us have been passionate gardeners and Master Gardeners for many years and yet we still have a lot more to learn. Have you visited your large box store nursery lately? Apparently many of them are always testing the boundaries by offering unusual plants for sale. As is the trend, these new plants are almost always splashed with colors. No more green only plants. The trend also is for hardy perennial adapted to our area. Have you driven around the county to see what’s growing in your neighbors yards? We’ll never get rid of the lawn in our life time but am I correct in saying that there is just a little bit less of it? Perhaps Extension, the box stores and independent nurseries and all those many other garden sources are having an effect on the way we garden locally. I know our efforts have increased the numbers of butterfly gardens in the county. Our numerous demonstration gardens have inspired visitors to make changes including decreasing lawn space. Since we are living in an ever-changing world of gardening, it behooves us to keep us with these changes and relearn some of the old facts. Enclosed in this mailing, you’ll find numerous opportunities to attend various educational functions that will increase your knowledge. They are informative, fun and represent changes to mix with other like-minded persons. This Monday evening affords us an opportunity to hear something of why the ornamental plant industry has taken off. Our speaker will be Dr. Jianjun Chen. He is a plant physiologist at Mid Florida Research and Education Center. He’ll speak about the science behind the growth of the industry.

Finally, my thanks for all the great work that’s going on out there. It always warm by heart to see the impact we are making in the garden practice of many. Take care.

Stephen H. Brown
Master Gardener Coordinator

Master Gardener Program Changes
1. The Master Gardener Board dissolves at the end of June.
2. As is the custom, by September, an audit will be conducted of the Master Gardener checking account.
3. The balance remaining in the MG account will be transferred to the Overall Extension Advisory Board account.
4. The board will be replaced by an advisory committee made up of MGs and people from the community.
5. The advisory committee will meet approximately four times a year.
6. Beginning in September, we will meet every other month, not monthly.
7. Meetings will be in the afternoons.
8. There will be a total of five such meetings.
9. Meetings will be in the afternoons.
10. It will be mandatory to attend at least two of these meetings to remain a certified Master Gardener.
11. Meetings will consist of an educational portion, report of activities, new projects, etc.
12. A committee made up of MGs will plan walkabouts, field trips, holiday get-togethers, etc.
13. Volunteer activities will remain the same. This includes work at the Horticulture Desk, works in the demonstration gardens, planning conferences and classes, etc.
Dear Mary Ann Parsons,

We appreciate your time, experience and love of children, and for helping us out at our annual 4-H Fair Judging.

Mel Markward  
Lee County Extension Service  
4-H Agent

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**March 2004**
- 24, 31 — Master Gardener Certification Training, Lee County Extension Service, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

- 22 — Master Gardener Monthly Meeting  
  Lee County Extension Service,  
  6:30 p.m. Dr. Jianjun Chen, Plant Pathologist.

**April 2004**
- 7, 14, 21, 28 — Master Gardener Certification Training, Lee County Extension Service, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

- 17 — Fairchild Tropical Gardens Field Trip  
  7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

- 22 — Master Gardener Monthly Meeting  
  Lee County Extension Service,  
  6:00 p.m.

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**STEVEN WILL BE UNAVAILABLE**

March 22—29

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**Things for the Web Site**

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

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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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**LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

Dear Mary Ann Parsons,

We appreciate your time, experience and love of children, and for helping us out at our annual 4-H Fair Judging.

Mel Markward  
Lee County Extension Service  
4-H Agent

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**Refreshment Request**

We all like to eat and drink, so please bring something to share at the meeting on March 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

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The Extension Service is part of a publicly funded statewide educational network that provides information and scientific knowledge to area residents, businesses and government leaders. The University of Florida, Extension Service offers the latest research and technology in more than 200 subjects related to horticulture, energy/conservation, agriculture, youth development and family and consumer sciences. Last year, the Lee County Extension Service provided assistance to more than 70,000 people and provided 463 classes and workshops on everything from family financial planning to pesticide training.

The Lee County Extension Service is an Equal Employment Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer that provides research, educational information and other services without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE, HOME ECONOMICS, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.