It looks as if we have our work cut out for us. It’s no secret that Lee County is experiencing a housing boom. Along with the surge in housing comes phenomenal growth in landscape and new demands for Florida friendly yards. New single-family housing permits in Lee County is expected to grow to 10,800 in 2005. Lee County statistics include the unincorporated areas, Bonita Springs, and Fort Myers Beach. In Cape Coral, 6,600 permits are expected to be issued in 2005. That compares to 5,500 in 2004 and 3,818 in 2003. It is generally accepted that the landscape cost of new housing ranges from five to 10 percent of the total cost of the house. A property that sells for $300,000 has approximately $15,000 of landscaping at the low end and $30,000 at the high end. A million dollar property landscape installation would be valued at $50,000 at the low end, and $100,000 at the high end. For the most part, the investment includes labor, lawns, ornamental plants and irrigation. Higher end single-families are adding pathways, fountains and other hardscapes. Assuming that each single-family residence has 2,500 square feet of yard, then Lee County will have an additional 1,000 acres of residential gardens and landscapes in 2005. This figure does not include a significant increase in condominiums, apartments, commercial, public and roadway landscapes during the same period. Assuming that the median price of new

(Continued on page 5)
Florida Native Plant Society Policy:

Transplanting Native Plants From the Wild

Approved and Endorsed by AFNN

By promoting the use of native plants in landscaping, the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) has helped create a demand for native plants. This has promoted some individuals and companies to offer for sale native plants dug from the wild. Selling harvested plants avoids the time and expense of growing the plants under nursery conditions, but this harvest of native plants is in most cases not sustainable in the long run, and damages land that has potential for preservation.

FNPS does not approve of transplanting native plants from natural areas for landscaping, mitigation, or restoration purposes. Such transplanting is in direct conflict with the society’s goal of preservation and conservation of native plants in their natural habitats.

From the beginning, the society has promoted the preservation of existing native plants in their natural habitats, while encouraging the planting of additional native plants grown under nursery conditions from seeds or cuttings. This position should result in a net gain of native plants. Transplanting from the wild merely transfers native plants from natural to manmade habitats and results in a net loss of native plants, as a good percentage of transplanted plants fail to survive the transplanting process.

The society recognizes that there should be an exception to this policy to allow for the salvage of native plants from areas where land clearing activities are both imminent and assured. This type of transplanting saves plants that would otherwise be lost. It is expected, however, that salvage activities not take place until all planning approvals for the site have been obtained and all possibilities for preservation have been exhausted. Salvage and plant rescue operations should be undertaken only in compliance with all state and local native plant protection laws.

Members of the society are asked to abide by this policy as a matter of ethics. Specifically, members are asked to inquire about the origins of plant material and not buy plants that have been transplanted from the wild. Landscape architects and designers are asked, when writing plant material specifications, to specify only nursery-grown plants. Government agencies with jurisdiction over landscaping, mitigation and restoration projects are asked to require these projects use only nursery-grown native plants or those from on-site or nearby salvage operations.

While it is unrealistic to think that FNPS can totally stop the practice of transplanting from the wild, it can supply needed leadership on this issue, and, with the support of its members, help dry up the market for such plants. It is critical that native plant communities remain as undisturbed and undamaged as possible so that potential sites for preservation remain intact.

Adopted by the FNPS Board of Directors on November 19, 1988.

Source: AFNN Wholesale Native Plant & Service Directory • 2005—2006

Library Classes for Homeowners

Hy Lans has been working with the library system to offer a home gardening series at two county libraries. The classes will be taught by Master Gardeners. A copy of the schedule is included in the newsletter.

Master Gardener Certification

The MG Certification starts on Wednesday, September 28, and every Wednesday thereafter for 11 weeks. You may attend any or all classes to maintain your certification and increase your knowledge. See the schedule in this newsletter.
PLANT RECOVERY WATCH
A report on the progress of several damaged palm and trees one year after Hurricane Charley.

This royal on Sanibel had its crownshaft cut. August 04.

One year later, the crown is recovering. August 05.

Arancaria heterophylla on Sanibel, August 04

Arancaria heterophylla on Sanibel, August 05
**PLANT RECOVERY WATCH**

*Rystonea regia* on Bokeelia, August 2004. These royals had their crowns stripped by Hurricane Charley.

Close-up of the royal on the extreme left of the photograph above.

*Rystonea regia* on Bokeelia, August 2005. One year later, the same royals have almost made a complete recovery.

One year later, this is the crown of the royal to the left.
residences in Lee County is $350,000 then the total value of new landscape is approximately $304,000,000 at the low end and $609,000,000 at a maximum. This is a significant investment in county greening, and with the many thousands of acres of already established gardens and landscapes, these are great times for us to make an impact on county gardening. As you come back from your summer break, or if you had remained during these hot and humid days, I look forward to sharing a reinvigorated gardening season will you all. See you on the 26th.

Message from Stephen  (Continued from page 1)

Butterfly Conference  
November 12, 2005, 9:00 a.m.

Agenda  
8:15 a.m.  Registration
9:00 a.m.  Alana Edwards
Lifestyles of Butterflies in the Garden
10:30 a.m.  Break with Raffle
11:00 a.m.  Mel Markward
Project Wings
11:15 a.m.  Tom Allen
Caterpillars of North America
12:45 p.m.  Break and Raffle
1:00 p.m.  Lunch with the Speakers

Bring your lunch, sit down on a picnic bench and relax with our guest speakers and other butterfly enthusiasts. What a great way to spend your lunch time —talking butterflies!

Exhibitors
All Native Nursery
Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium
D&D Growers
Nic Bodvin
North American Butterfly Association
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
University Publications

Organizers: Gayle Edwards, Debbie Hughes, Anita Marshall, and Gerry Sanzone.

Master Gardener
Bimonthly Meeting Agenda
Monday, September 26, 2005

2:00 p.m.  Mingling of Master Gardeners
2:10 p.m.  Introductions
2:20 p.m.  Activities of the last few months
2:40 p.m.  FYN Update
   Tom Becker, FYN Coordinator
2:50 p.m.  Lantana Sterilization Program, Caladium and Gerber Breeding
   Dr. Zhanao Deng, Gulf Coast REC, Balm
3:20 p.m.  Break

New Program Activities
The following individuals will speak on new program activities. Learn first hand the reason, the how, the duration and the places of new programs.

3:30 p.m.  Project Community Garden
   Ann Maier, Society of St. Andrews, Fort Myers
3:40 p.m.  Manatee Park Activities
   Nancy MacPhee, Senior Park Supervisor
3:50 p.m.  Ixora Nutrient Study
   Dr. Kelly Morgan, SW FL REC, Immokalee
4:00 p.m.  Pond Renovation
   Winfield Lentz, Leewinds Ponds & Landscape

For more information go to our web page at http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu

Stephen H. Brown, Master Gardener Coordinator

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.