

The Green Gazette

Volume 3 Issue 2 April—May 2012



An a-Maze-ing Path to Hope for Haiti's Secret Garden

By Barbara Gaffney and Virginia Williams, Master Gardeners and project Co-Chairs
Each year, the Naples-based non-profit organization [Hope for Haiti](#) (HfH) holds a Gala event to raise funds to improve the education, nutrition, and community services for Haiti's children and families. And when they announced the "Passport to a Secret Garden" theme for their March 3rd 2012 Gala last fall, organizers dreamed of patrons wandering through an outdoor greenscape maze into an indoor English style garden awash in lavenders, fuchsias, and purples.

So Executive Director Elizabeth Davison and the Gala planning committee asked the Collier County Master Gardeners for guidance, and the result was an amazing transformation of the Gala site, St. Ann's Jubilee Center, into a spectacular garden venue for the evening.

As Gala guests arrived, they were greeted beneath a vine-covered arbor, and invited to meander along a 50-yard-long path created from 300 waist-high Schefflera arboricolas accented with



over three dozen Areca palms, all on loan from Bill DeMotto, Manager of Pelican Nursery. They paused at several "dead ends" to admire a large Victorian-style bird feeder, and a cobalt blue bubbler fountain and matching Japanese snow lantern on loan from Seth Hayes, Owner of Pottery as Art.



The challenge of allocating the Gala Center's ballroom space among the secret garden, a live band with light and sound equipment, and various Gala activities was creatively resolved with the assistance of Gary Kallio, a local event designer and consultant. But how would the Master Gardeners create an English garden using



plant materials available in our SW Florida environment?
Visit the Secret Garden on Page 2 to find out

Inside this Issue

- 2 *An A-Maze-ing Path to Hope for Haiti's Secret Garden*
Top Zone 10 Performers: Amazon Lilies
- 3 *Extension Horticulture Turns Over a New Leaf*
- 4 *The Frugal Gardener*
- 5 *Edibles that Grow with the Flow: FFL™ Principle #2*
- 6 *What's Playing in SWFL Gardens*
- 7 *Calendar of Events and Announcements*
- 8 *Nectarines*
Plant Clinic locations

Gulf Currents

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener and Green Gazette Editor

Change is the watchword in SW Florida as we swing into Spring. Some changes are difficult: on a personal note, our Master Gardeners marked the recent passing of MG-extraordinaire and friend Linda Sue Plourde. Yet other changes we welcome: in this issue, the Extension's newest horticultural staff member Fred Johnson shares his insights, enthusiasm and plans for growing our county's [Master Gardener](#) and [Florida Yards and Neighborhoods \(FYN\)](#) programs.

We welcome potential Master Gardeners: summer classes are forming now, and fall classes are planned. And for homeowners and condo / homeowner associations desiring changes to an easy care Florida-friendly lifestyle, summer FYN classes are being organized. But no matter the change, season or weather, you can count on our delivering the latest research-tested recommendations from the [University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(IFAS\)](#).

SW Florida News
from the
Master Gardeners



An A-Maze-ing Path to Hope for Haiti's Secret Garden

Continued from Page 1

All gardens, including secret and English ones, benefit when they follow the Florida-Friendly Landscape Principle #1 "Right Plant, Right Place." And as the Collier Master Gardeners added the [University of Vermont Extension's English garden design tips](#), and Designer Gary Kaillo's motto "Simple, Massed color, and Drama," the effect became magical.



Cathy and Ron Torp, Owners of Landscaper's Choice Nursery in east Naples, loaned 150 green plants and flowering shrubs, including the fuchsia *Bougainvillea* 'Barbara Karst' which lent depth and drama to the 8-foot tall arbor behind massed Emerald Goddess Liriope and annuals bordering the rear of the Garden.



And with the help of Sales Representative Sarah Cicora, local grower American Farms donated 700 annuals, including Carmine Cosmos, Dark Pink Gauras, Survivor Blue Geraniums, Clear Pink Kalanchoes, Royal Nemesias, Butterfly Lavender Pentas, Purple Salvia, Labella Lavender Snapdragons, Clear Crystal White Sweet Alyssum, and Vio-las, along with ten special color bowls filled with Bacopas, Rose Ger-beras, Pink Petunias, and Blue Violas.

Master Gardeners Diane Breithaupt, Barbara Gaffney, Kris Morton, Elaine Sima, Carol Sweat, and Virginia Williams arranged a total of 1200 plants, accented with native Collier Limestone rock, decorative lattice and metalwork, pottery urns and lanterns throughout the maze, garden and Gala space, all provided at no cost to Hope for Haiti.

You can browse Hope for Haiti's ["Passport to a Secret Garden" Gala Photo Album](#) to see additional photos of their 2012 Gala event, then head to the [Hope for Haiti Photo Album](#) to view their latest good works for Haiti's children and families.



And in a future Green Gazette issue, we'll provide all of you South Floridian secret garden dreamers with the design tips you need to create your own a-maze-ing magical space.



Top Zone10 Performers

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener

This little beauty just might become one of my favorite ground covers for shady spots. The *Eucharis amazonica* Amazon Lily is a member of the Amaryllis family and native to the Andes of Colombia and Peru. When you plant their bulbs in Zone 10—11 sandy soils enriched with moist, organic matter, you'll see wide, green foot long leaves begin to emerge from the soil in about ten days. Bulbs can be planted any time of year, and will grow into mature specimens 1-2 feet in width and height.

Amazon lilies will perform best if provided with occasionally wet soils during most of the year, but kept on the dry side during early winter to stimulate flowering. And in early spring, a cluster of fragrant, long-lasting white flowers emerges from a single 1-2 foot tall stalk. These lilies are generally not bothered with any pests or diseases, but their salt tolerance is low. And while they can be propagated by division, Amazon lilies appear to bloom better under crowded conditions.

They also make beautiful accent plants for containers, or shady rock gardens and patio areas. To learn more, request [UF Factsheet FPS198 Amazon Lily](#).



Collier Extension Horticulture Programs Turn Over a New Leaf

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener

A spring flush of growth in the Collier County Extension Horticulture staff is generating excitement, since the addition of Fred Johnson as Coordinator of the [Master Gardener](#) and [Florida Yards and Neighborhoods \(FYN\)](#) Programs. And as you get to know Fred, it's easy to see why.

Fred's early interest in the outdoors began in picturesque Port Hope, Ontario, a rural community on the shores of Lake Ontario. But after receiving a University of Toronto bachelor degree in Recreational Planning, a professor introduced him to the field of Landscape Architecture, where Fred could merge his diverse interests in art, history, geography and the outdoors into a single career.

After completing a bachelor degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Guelph, Fred operated a successful design firm for a few years before pursuing dual Masters degrees in Landscape Architecture and Historical Preservation at the University of Virginia. A term of study at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland before graduation furthered his experience in outdoor space planning principles.

Click photo to view Park Video

A Walk In The Park

A photo tour of the walking paths, flowers and critters found in Lakes Regional Park
All photos by Kim Sutton

LPEF

Fred then turned to projects and teaching at such universities as Auburn, Texas Tech, and Florida International University, where he met his wife Shellie, a Florida Gulf Coast native. While completing a project with the native Tewa people of the San Juan Pueblo along the lower Rio Grande River, he was asked to become Parks Director for Los Alamos, NM. His responsibilities for planning and maintaining such areas as hiking and skiing trails, horse stables, a golf course, parks, and city street-scapes prepared him for a return to South Florida, as Planning Manager for Lee County Parks and Recreation.

As Parks Planning Manager, Fred undertook several major enhancements to the 279-acre Lakes Regional Park, a former working rock quarry being transformed into a haven for wildlife, nature lovers and families to enjoy. In 2007, he directed the addition of over 1,000 native trees and several thousand shrubs as part of the Lakes Park Master Plan. The funding for this \$ 180,000 first-of-its-kind planting project was provided through the Florida Division of Forestry Urban and Community Grant Program, which is supported by the U.S. Forest Service.

Fred also collaborated with a local design firm to create the conceptual design for the Lakes Park Botanic garden. In 2009, this garden's first phase became reality with the opening of a sunburst-shaped 50-plot community garden. Facilities for classes and meetings, and children's, contemplation and medicinal gardens are among the planned additions.

And what is Fred planning for Collier County? In the next few weeks, potential Master Gardeners will have the first of two opportunities to complete their training. And homeowners, property managers, and condo/homeowner associations will be able to learn Florida Friendly Landscaping principles through FYN classes, and arrange on-site visits with Fred and Master Gardener teams. For the latest news? [Visit the Collier Extension](#) today!

Across the Foliage With Fred Johnson

First landscape job Helped my Port Hope High School English teacher care for her gardens

Favorite non-gardening hobby Traveling on my motorcycle around the country

Past experience with Master Gardeners? My Mother-in-Law was a Florida Master Gardener, and a long-time friend in Alabama was also a Master Gardener. And more recently, I worked with the Lee County Master Gardeners in creating the Lakes Park Community Garden

I spend my spare time Volunteering at the [Firehouse Community Theatre in Labelle](#)

Activity I enjoy in Collier County Hiking the upland Pine Hammocks with my three dogs

Favorite garden style Regional landscapes that change with the seasons, from the Washington DC Tidal Basin Cherry Trees and Keukenhof, Holland tulips to English country gardens and natural spaces



The Frugal Gardener

By Leah Ray, Master Gardener

Ahhh...Time to swing into Spring...by saving water, and re-purposing the OLD into NEW...



Save water

Change out "high water demand" plants for those that aren't so thirsty. Cluster plants together by their water needs, and provide water only when they begin to show signs of stress. Looking for ideas? Request UF article [ENH1135 How to Convert your Yard into a Florida-Friendly landscape.](#)

Re-Purpose old Lids

I started to recycle some OLD plastic jug lids, when I realized....Why buy NEW tray liners for my plants to keep surfaces clean when I can just re-use these OLD plastic lids? They even come in different colors....



Re-Purpose old Plants

The stems of these pineapples were sitting in water in a floral department. With no apparent further use, the florist was about to throw them out. I asked if I could have one to grow. And now I have a pretty pink ornamental pineapple growing in my yard.



Save water

Make sure you thoroughly water the soil around plants. By doing so, you will actually have to water less and save money. A soaker hose is a wonderful way to do it, and most are made of recycled material, a FL-Friendly win win.

Practice your swing

Balance your watering, weeding and fertilizing efforts with a little hammock time. Relax and enjoy your new Florida-friendly view.



Re-Purpose old Furniture

I started with an OLD broken baby changing table. I added a little OLD fence materials, and presto! I have a wonderful NEW potting table!



Email your nifty thrifty gardening photos to the Frugal Gardener at CollierMG@ifas.ufl.edu

Edibles that “Grow with the Flow”

Courtesy of Florida Friendly Landscaping Principle # 2: Water Efficiently

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener, and Trisha Aldridge, Collier Extension 4-H Outreach Coordinator

Plants appear to grow larger in Florida, but a recent lettuce harvest at [Veteran’s Memorial Elementary School](#) topped the scale. A full 8 pounds of luscious lettuce leaves fed plenty of students in the cafeteria after being harvested from a not-so-ordinary garden tended by the school’s 4-H youth. While young people in [the 4-H program](#) learn leadership, citizenship, and life skills, this [Collier County 4-H](#) group also explored a 500-year-old method of gardening with water.



Click photo to view UF hydroponic gardens videos
Veteran’s Memorial 4-H youths’ hydroponic lettuce garden



4-H youths build and plant their hydroponic lettuce garden

Just as the ancient Aztecs’ floating gardens wowed the Spanish conquistadores, Florida residents and small farms are adapting “soilless” techniques to produce herbs, peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce, and strawberries. Advantages of this growing method called hydroponics includes more efficient space, water, and nutrient use, lower pest and disease incidence, faster time to harvest, and larger crop yields.

In a hydroponic garden, plant stems and leaves are suspended above a solution delivering nutrient-laden water to the roots. Basic garden design elements include

- ◆ a suitable container, arranged horizontally or vertically;
- ◆ a method of suspending plants above the solution;
- ◆ an appropriate nutrient solution, and
- ◆ aeration of the nutrient-laden water solution.

And when these 4-H youths followed the tips found in UF articles [HS943 Building a Floating Hydroponic Garden](#) and [HS510 Grow your own Vegetables without Soil](#), the results were delicious. To learn more, listen to UF’s [Hydroponic Gardening in a Minute](#) radio broadcast while you browse additional publications on this growing trend.



4-H lettuce harvest and weigh-in

The Nine Florida Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Principles

1. [Right Plant, Right Place](#)
2. [Water Efficiently](#)
3. [Fertilize Appropriately](#)
4. [Mulch](#)
5. [Attract Wildlife](#)
6. [Manage Yard Pests Responsibly](#)
7. [Recycle](#)
8. [Reduce Storm Water Runoff](#)
9. [Protect the Waterfront](#)

See the new Articulate E-Learning
[Nine FFL Principles Presentation](#)

And for a little “hydroponic fish farming” on the side, visit [UF’s Aquaculture website](#) for information, then register for the [SWFL Introduction to Aquaculture Workshop](#), to be held May 4th at the Lee County Extension, 3406 Palm Beach Blvd., in Fort Myers. For more details, [Contact Pam Abbott](#) at 239-533-7523.

Purchase Rain Barrels for Water-Restriction-Free Irrigation

Collect and store rainwater for landscape and garden irrigation in these 55 gallon food grade plastic drums. Barrel comes with spigot installed. For more installation and use tips, see the [Homeowners Rain Barrel Guide](#).

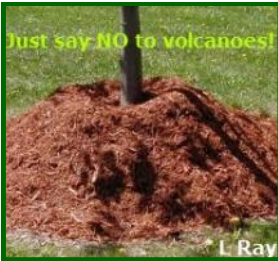
Cost: \$ 50 each, payable with cash or check.
Where to Purchase: Collier County Extension Office, 14700 Immokalee Rd. Mon-Fri 8am—5pm. Call 239 353 4244 for more information.



Now Playing in SWFL Gardens

By Leah Ray, Master Gardener

With average annual rainfall of 53 inches, SW Florida is one of the rainiest regions in North America. But the bulk of that rainfall occurs June through September, with much lost to evaporation and runoff. Plus, our 4 month winter drought can be challenging, but we make the best of it with our lovely plumerias, adeniums, jatrophas, aloes, tabebuias, herbs, and more.



Just say NO to volcanoes!

L Ray

Mulch: If you see a tree that has been mulched a foot up the trunk, you are seeing a tree on the way out. Roots may become waterlogged and suffocate. Secondly, the volcano shape acts as an umbrella, shedding water away from where it is needed.

Pruning: Royal palms, foxtail palms, and pines are self-pruning. But for all other trees and palms, [find a licensed certified tree care service](#) that uses these [proper pruning practices](#), and you'll have a beautiful and resilient landscape.

And when you see inept commercial operators [over-pruning palms?](#) Call Collier County Code Enforcement at 239-252-2440 to report them.

Turf Pests: Due to the warm winter and spring, the chinch bugs may get an early start. UF experts have determined that over-watering and over-fertilization contribute to infestations. Water as little as possible and use only slow-release nitrogen fertilizers. Apply an insecticide as needed. Request UF article [ENY325 Southern Chinch Bug Management](#) to learn more.

Lovebugs and Lubbers: Give your car a fresh coat of wax now to ease removal of harmless but messy lovebugs during late April and May. And while you're outside, watch for young hungry lubber grasshoppers. See [UF's All about Lovebugs site](#) and [Dr. Caldwell's article on Lubbers](#) for more management tips.



Are your Impatiens dying?

Click this photo to learn WHY

UF

Impatiens: While they make our landscapes colorful, they also demand loads of water during our drought months. And now, we have another reason to quit planting these thirsty annuals. For alternatives, request UF article [CIR1134 Growing Florida Annuals](#) or our [December 2011 Green Gazette Top Zone 10 Performers article](#).

Irrigation: Follow the [current Collier County Irrigation Guidelines](#). Join conservation-minded homeowners who set their irrigation timers on "manual," and water when the landscape is thirsty. Then check your system's operation by following the tips in [UF's Gardening in a Minute Irrigation System Spring Maintenance Radio Broadcast](#), and related articles here.

Your rain sensor Do you know where it is, and is it working? This inexpensive device saves you water, electricity, irrigation system maintenance AND embarrassment when it's raining and your sprinklers are on! [Request this Rain Sensor Factsheet](#) to learn more.



UF

Irrigation Timers: If setting your timer confounds you, contact your landscape or irrigation service to show you how. OR just click on the photos below to learn how to operate your mechanical or digital timers.



Click here to learn how to set a Mechanical Timer



Click here to learn how to set your digital timer

UF

Need your Irrigation Checked?

The Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) is a service available to homeowners, condo / homeowner associations, and property managers. MIL technicians perform onsite irrigation system evaluations, and provide the client with a written report, including recommendations for improving irrigation system efficiency.

This service is sponsored by the [Big Cypress Basin of the South Florida Water Management District](#), the [Collier Soil and Water Conservation District](#), and the [USDA Natural Resources Conservation District](#).

To schedule a **FREE** irrigation evaluation, contact "Nik" Nikolich at (239) 455-4100.

Budding Opportunities

Collier County communities and organizations recognize the value of our Master Gardeners' knowledge and experience by requesting their assistance with garden projects. Here are a few of their most recent requests.

To volunteer, please register through the [Master Gardener VMS](#) or [contact Peggy](#) at 239 353 4244.

Let's Grow Collier County Together!

- ✿ **Commercial Landscape Maintenance Class April 13** Assist Dr. Caldwell with morning class sign-ins and / or afternoon exam proctoring
- ✿ **Yard & Garden Show Steering Committee** Help with planning October 27-28 garden show and sale
- ✿ **2012 Master Gardener Class Teacher Assistants** Aid MG Coordinator with administering training classes for new Master Gardeners
- ✿ **FYN Yard Advisors** Help FYN Coordinator administer FYN classes, and advise homeowners, and condo/homeowner associations in Florida-Friendly landscape principles



Master Gardener Classes Forming!

Want to expand your local gardening knowledge, and share what you learn with others? Then volunteer to **become a certified Florida Master Gardener!**

Master Gardeners provide a valuable service to our community by sharing the latest University of Florida horticultural knowledge. They assist residents in finding solutions to landscape problems, advise organizations as they create gardens, and educate homeowners, and Condo/Homeowner Associations with Florida Friendly landscaping guidance. You can learn more about the [Master Gardener Program](#) and the [roles of Master Gardeners](#) before requesting the [Collier County Master Gardener Program brochure](#). Then call Peggy at the Collier County Extension Office at 239 353 4244 for an application and course details.



Master Gardeners Virginia Williams, Diane Breithaupt, Barbara Gaffney and Carol Sweat arranging the Hope for Haiti Gala's Secret Garden.

SW Gulf & Garden Calendar

See [Collier Extension Calendar](#) for more details. All events held at Extension office unless noted. Call the Collier Extension at 239 353 4244 to register for all classes.

April

- Apr 1** [April South FL Garden Calendar](#)
- Apr 10** [Project Greenscape Urban Pond Management Refresher Class](#), [Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center](#), 300 Tower Rd, Naples, 8:00 am—Noon. \$ 15/person. CEUs available. [Advance registration required.](#)
- Apr 10** [2012 Scientific Angler Series Tarpon Fishing: What Matters, what Doesn't, and How You Can Help](#), by [FWC Research Institute's](#) Dr. Kathy Guindon, [Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center](#), 6:30—8:00 pm. Free. [Contact Collier Sea Grant Agent Bryan Fluech](#) to register.
- Apr 11** [Florida Seafood Sustainability and Safety Brown Bag Series Webinar "Mackerel,"](#) 12:15—12:45 pm. Free. [Click this link to register](#), or [Contact Bryan Fluech](#), CC Sea Grant Agent.
- Apr 21** [2012 Earth Day Festival](#), Conservancy of SWFL, 1450 Merrihue Dr, Naples, 9:00 am—3:00 pm. Free.
- Apr 21** [2012 Earth Day Celebration](#), Collier County Freedom Park, 1515 Golden Gate Pkwy. 3:00—5:00 p.m. Free.
- Apr 23** [Coastal Forums 2012 Sea Turtle Ecology](#), Pelican Isle Yacht Club, 410 Dockside Drive, Naples, 6:30—8:00 pm. Free. No registration required.
- Apr 24** Learn about growing peaches at the [Peach Fest](#) with Dr. Richard Rouse, [SWFL Research & Education Center](#), Immokalee, 9:30—11:30 am. Free.

May

- May 1** [May South FL Garden Calendar](#)
- May 4** [SWFL Aquaculture Workshop](#), Lee County Extension, 3406 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, 9:30 am—4:00 pm. \$ 10/person for lunch and materials. [Contact Pam Abbott](#) at 239 533 7523 to register or for more details.

June

- Jun 1** [June South FL Garden Calendar](#)
- Jun 1** [Next Green Gazette newsletter](#)

Nectarines: The Fuzz-less Peach

By Suzanne Fundingsland, Family Nutrition Program Agent

The sweet fragrance and flavor of fresh nectarines makes them a favorite fruit for many of us. From the same family as peaches, plums and almonds, nectarines are coming into season now in SW Florida. With only 63 calories in a full cup, nectarines are a good source of fiber, vitamin A, Niacin and Potassium, and a very good source of vitamin C.

Nectarines are often smaller than peaches, and a redder color. The color isn't usually a good indication of ripeness. High quality nectarines will be firm and free of bruises, and while their color is not a good indicator of ripeness, you'll want to avoid green ones. And because they are fragile, nectarines in the grocery store will be a little under-ripe, and firmer, making shipping easier. Leave them at room temperature for two to three days. Ripe nectarines will be fragrant and give, slightly, to the touch. One pound of nectarines (3 medium size) will yield 3 cups sliced.

With just 4 nectarines, you can make this light, delicious dessert. And costing only \$0.29 per serving, it's also thrifty! Please contact the Collier County Extension office for a Spanish edition of this article.

Nectarine Crisp

4 cups nectarines, washed, sliced	2 Tbsp. margarine or butter
¾ cup quick-cooking oats	½ cup sugar
¼ cup flour	2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon lemon juice	

Preheat oven to 375° F. Wash and slice nectarines. Spread the nectarine slices on the bottom of a 8" X 8" baking pan. Melt the margarine in a saucepan. In a small bowl mix together the oats, sugar, flour, cinnamon and lemon juice; add melted margarine and blend well. Sprinkle the oat mixture on top of the nectarines. Bake for 20 minutes. Six servings; each serving has 200 calories, 3 grams of dietary fiber along with vitamins C and A. *Adapted USDA National Ag Library RecipeFinder.*



**Forward this issue to your gardening friends, and
Browse the complete library of interactive Green Gazette issues at
<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/Newsletters.shtml>**

FREE OFFER! Subscribe to the Green Gazette by emailing us at CollierMG@ifas.ufl.edu

Visit a [Master Gardener Plant Clinic](#) Near YOU!

Call us at **239 353 2872**, email CollierMG@ifas.ufl.edu, or Walk In

“Bring us your tired, your poor, your pest-infested plants, yearning to be healed...”

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

9 am — Noon and 1 — 4 pm
Collier Co Extension 14700 Immokalee Rd.

Tuesdays through April 24

9 am — Noon
Naples Regional Library 650 Central Ave.

Thursdays

9 am — Noon and 1 — 4 pm
Naples Botanical Garden 4820 Bayshore Dr.

Fridays

11 am — 2 pm
Collier County Govt. Campus Farmers Market

Saturdays—Two Locations

7 am — Noon **through May 5**
3rd St South Farmers Market
10 am — Noon
Home Depot 1651 Airport-Pulling Rd S.