



The Green Gazette

Volume 3 Issue 6 December 2012 - January 2013

Inside this Issue

- 2 Top Zone 10 Performers: Holly Fern
- 3 GWS2013 Schedule
- 4 The Frugal Gardener
- 5 Creating Healthy Lakes with Award-Winning Potential FFL™ Principle #1
- 6 It's Been a Very Good MG Year What's Playing in SWFL Gardens
- 7 Calendar of Events and Announcements
- 8 Eats with Heat for a Cool Yule Plant Clinic locations

Cover Design by Ginger Peeler, Master Gardener

Ring in 2013 at the Garden Workshop Series

By Kris Morton and Liz Pedersoli, Master Gardeners and GWS Co-Chairs

After weeks of considering topics submitted by past series attendees, our Garden Workshop committee is offering a series of very interesting and diverse topics and speakers for the New Year's Educational Garden Workshop Series.



GWS audience enjoys Unity of Naples hall and amenities

The 2013 Series is once again being held at **Unity of Naples, 2000 Unity Way**. The Series **begins on Thursday, January 10**, with each presentation scheduled from **10:00-11:30 am each Thursday through March 14**. A complete schedule with hyperlinks to related UF publications is available on page 3.

We begin on **Thursday, January 10** with **Diva Plants – Gardenias, Bougainvilleas, and Hibiscus** by Mike

Gill of Driftwood Garden Center. Mike attended the [University of Florida Agricultural Business Management program](#) while managing a ten acre wholesale nursery in Gainesville. He joined forces with his two brothers, and started a wholesale nursery. When they sold the business in 1998, they were the top ranked independent florist supplier in South Florida. Mike came to Naples and Driftwood the following year. Mike will discuss how some of our most popular bloomers can be the most challenging.



Multi-color Tropical Hibiscus

On **Thursday, January 17**, Brian Galligan, Director of Horticulture at the [Naples Botanical Garden](#), will discuss the **Underground Network – Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes & Tubers**. *Continued on page 2*

Gulf Currents

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener and Green Gazette Editor

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletters as much as we enjoy producing them! Cover Design graphic artist Ginger Peeler continues to introduce us to SFL "plants and friends," while Frugal Gardener Leah Ray provides us with timely tips for repurposing items and "playing" in our gardens. Thanks to all the Master Gardeners who contribute articles of interest, and to Nutrition Agent Suzanne Fundingsland who brings us the best in Fresh from Florida feasting.

The Collier Extension continues to grow, with a new class of potential Master Gardeners pursuing Certification in January. The Educational Garden Workshop Series begins, while Florida Friendly Landscaping for Homeowners classes are offered monthly. You can register for Extension events at [Eventbrite](#), and Like us on [Facebook](#). And for a preview of our next generation Extension Service, request a [UF IFAS Extension Roadmap 2013-2023](#), and come grow with us!



SW Florida News from the Master Gardeners



Ring in 2013 at the Garden Workshop Series

Continued from Page 1



Amazon Lily

Brian has an extensive background in landscape grounds management. Along with his work on commercial projects in Southwest Florida, Brian's personal collection of over a thousand plant specimens has expanded his botanical expertise to the tropical and sub-tropical world. Brian will talk about plants that are easy to grow, multiply and travel readily, and can survive almost any Florida garden. And you will always have something to share with your gardening friends.

On **January 24**, Gene McAvooy will talk about **Growing Vegetables in Our Tropical Climate**. Gene is the [Hendry County Extension](#) Director, and a Regional Specialized Vegetable/Horticulture Agent working primarily with the commercial vegetable industry in southwest Florida.

Find out how your vegetable garden can reward you with fresh and nutritious produce.



Fresh from Florida fare

We are pleased to welcome back Bob Cook as our speaker for **January 31**.

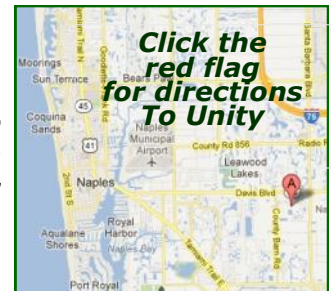
Bob will be speaking on **Fertilization**, a topic that is often confusing even to our most seasoned gardeners. Bob is an [FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional](#) and has been teaching the class since 1999. FNGLA awarded Bob *Outstanding Educator* in 2008. He has published many gardening articles, in addition to appearing weekly on live radio shows. He is currently a sales representative for Southern Agricultural Insecticides Inc.



Tropical Theme Garden

And on **February 7** Master Gardener Chris Gilbert will help us find inspiration and ideas for our own outdoor space with **Theme Gardens**. Chris and his gardening interests have carried through his amazing career in the Boston area, working with Martha Stewart, Julia Child and PBS. He has been nominated four times, and received an Emmy for directing the Restoration of the [historic Governor's Mansion in Richmond Virginia](#). We are fortunate to have him as a Master Gardener and speaker.

In the February Green Gazette we will showcase the second half of the Series, which includes Joel Toledo on **Success With Succulents**, Chad Washburn on **Your Pond's Littoral Zone Does More Than You Think For The Environment**, Mike Malloy on **Florida Smart Gardening**, and Dr. Doug (Dougbug) Caldwell with **The Plant Clinic Comes To You**. And as a special treat for Series card holders only, we will conclude with a tour of one of Naples most tropical gardens.



Top Zone10 Performers

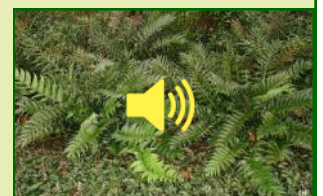
By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener

Although we enjoy the shade beneath the branches of our maturing shade trees, understory plantings that grow well under these conditions can present a challenge. But the Holly Fern *Cyrtomium falcatum* is an exceptionally well-mannered and easy care option.



This introduced species produces attractive clumps of deep, glossy green fronds 2-3 feet long, with pointed leaf edges, giving the fern its holly-like appearance. This part-sun to full shade tolerant plant performs well in containers, rock gardens, borders and in woodland gardens. The Holly Fern is salt-tolerant, and stands up well to coastal breezes. Plant in loose, fertile, moist soil with high organic content, and you'll enjoy this plant for many holiday seasons.

For more information, click on the sound icon in the photo at right to hear a broadcast of the [UF Gardening in a Minute on Holly Ferns](#) while you browse articles. And for more shade plant recommendations, request UF publication [Shade Plants for South Florida Friendly Yards](#).



2013 Educational Garden Workshop Series

Admission: \$25 for the complete series, or \$ 7 / event, payable at the door.
Series ticket pre-registration is not required, but why not beat the rush?

Purchase your \$ 25 series ticket today at <http://2013gws.eventbrite.com>

Eventbrite payment options include all major credit cards, with email confirmation and payment receipt.



Thursday, January 10, 2013

Diva Plants - Gardenias, Bougainvilleas, and Hibiscus

Mike Gill, Driftwood Garden Center

"Our most popular bloomers can be the most challenging."

[UF Publication CIR1098 Growing Gardenias](#)

[UF Publication](#)

[ENH874 Warm Climate Production Guide for Bougainvillea](#)

[UF publication ENH999 Hardy Hibiscus](#)

Thursday, January 17, 2013

Underground Network - Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes and Tubers

Brian Galligan, Naples Botanical Garden

"They multiply, travel readily and survive in almost any Florida garden."

[UF Publication CIR552 Bulbs for Florida](#)

Thursday, January 24, 2013

Growing Vegetables in our Tropical Climate

Gene McAvoy, Vegetable Extension Agent, Hendry County

"Your vegetable garden can reward you with fresh and nutritious produce."

[UF Publication SP103 Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

Thursday, January 31, 2013

Fertilization

Bob Cook, Horticulturalist

"What and how to use, when to use it, and which plants need it."

[UF's Fertilization and Nutrition site](#)

Thursday, February 7, 2013

Theme Gardens

Chris Gilbert, Master Gardener

"Find inspiration and ideas for your outdoor space with these theme gardens."

[UF's Theme and Specialty Gardens](#)

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Success with Succulents

Joel Toledo, Green Door Nursery

"Tips on growing low maintenance succulents."

[UF's All about Succulent Gardening site](#)

Thursday, February 21, 2013

Your Pond's "Littoral Zone" does more than you think for the Environment

Chad Washburn, Naples Botanical Garden

"The use of littoral/aquatic plants help protect our ponds and wildlife habitat."

[UF Publication CIR912 Creating Wildlife Habitat with Native Florida Freshwater Plants](#)

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Florida Smart Gardening

Mike Malloy, Naples Butterfly

"Beautify your landscaping while saving time, energy and money."

[UF publication SP191 Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook](#)

Thursday, March 7, 2013

The Plant Clinic Comes to You

Doug Caldwell, Entomologist, Collier County Extension

"We'll discuss the latest pests, and answer your questions."

[Dougbug's Horticultural Videos](#)

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Garden Tour

For Series Card Holders Only.

Space is limited. **Register by February 28th to be eligible to attend.**

[UF's Gardening in a Minute — Demonstration Gardens](#)

The Frugal Gardener

By Leah Ray, Master Gardener



Christmas Trees - for real this year

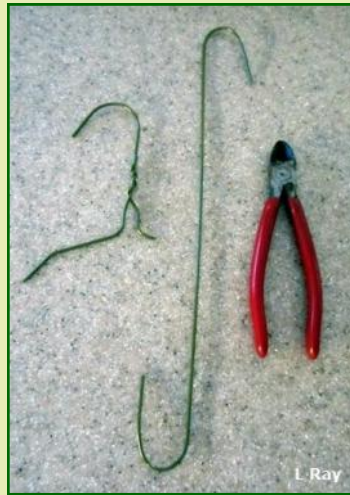
The Frugal Gardener says go for the real deal and buy local. [Natural living Christmas trees](#) are the most environmentally friendly choice. Consider purchasing a container-grown tree to use for a Christmas tree, then plant it in your yard. Red Cedar, Sand Pine, and Leyland Cypress are great choices. But resist the urge to plant that Norfolk Island Pine, with its fast growth, shallow roots, and hazardous branch shedding habit.



Prefer a pre-cut, living tree? In Florida, Red Cedar, Virginia Pine, Sand Pine, Spruce Pine and Leyland Cypress are grown specifically for use as

Christmas trees. [Visit a Florida Christmas](#)

[tree farm](#) to cut your own, or find pre-cut trees in area sales outlets. After Christmas, recycle your tree in several ways. You can shred the tree, and add it to your compost pile. If you have residential curbside trash service, [Waste Management provides Christmas tree disposal free of charge](#) on your yard waste collection day.



DIY "Hanger"

Need an extender hook for a holiday wreath or hanging plant? A coat hanger wire will do the trick.

Or consider donating your tree, with all decorations removed, to the [Naples Shy Wolf Sanctuary](#). Your tree will be placed within the shelters for their wolves and hybrid wolves, allowing them to enjoy the natural scents of the season.



Enjoy an ever-green scene

Grow grasses instead of turf. This [Fakahatchee Grass *Tripsacum dactyloides*](#) is about as cheap and carefree as it gets. And don't let your landscapers shape them into Christmas trees. It's unnecessary.



BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag)

Rather than paper or plastic, choose recycled whenever and wherever you shop. Do your part for the environment by providing your own bags. Most countries are now charging 23 cents and more for each bag. Many fabric shopping bags, like this [UF/IFAS Reusable Tote Bag](#), sport sturdy reinforced handles and a board bottom.



Recycle Poinsettias

Don't toss those branches that snap off those fragile poinsettias. Some will last for two weeks in a vase.

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

Creating Healthy Lakes with Award-Winning Potential

Courtesy of Florida Friendly Landscaping Principle # 1: Right Plant, Right Place

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener

A landscape with award-winning potential lies right here in Collier County, just east of Collier Boulevard. The [Vanderbilt Country Club Community Association](#) is putting the final touches on their Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) entry for the 2013 [Florida Communities of Excellence Awards](#). And after their recognition as an FFL award finalist in 2012, and another year of enhancing their 16 Florida-friendly lakes, the possibility of a 2013 win is within their grasp. But another award category, known as the "The Comeback Kid," may more aptly describe the journey of this community and their lakes.



Cannas and Cordgrass frame the views around Vanderbilt Country Club's lakes



2003 'Before' photo of torpedograss infested lake



'After' photo of lake with littoral plantings

Vanderbilt Country Club's development began in 1999, as a 330-acre residential community surrounding a Gordon G Lewis signature design golf course, nestled among 70 acres of natural preserves and 16 lakes serving as stormwater retention ponds. But by 2003, the lake banks were heavily infested with [Torpedograss *Panicum repens*](#), one of Florida's most invasive plants, impeding water flow, displacing native vegetation, and endangering golf course quality. So Golf Course Superintendent Stuart Bothe, along with the Community's Greens Committee and Board of Directors, developed a three-phase plan to restore their lakes' water quality and environment.

Phase 1 Eliminate Torpedograss After two years of persistent management, and repeated herbicide applications by a lakes management contractor, all of the torpedograss was eliminated. And as the "brown stripe" of bare lake banks became more visible to residents, particularly during the drier winter seasons, community leaders kept residents informed of the purpose and progress to date, and shared plans for future plantings.

Phase 2 Design and install littoral plantings around one lake "This phase was the tipping point for our success," says Stuart Bothe, Golf Course Superintendent and project leader. "Residents were understandably skeptical about the appeal of lakes surrounded by plants. So we selected one small but very visible lake as a demonstration project. We chose the best plants for each lake zone, and installed them in late Spring, between the last frosts and first summer rains. Within 3 months, the [Spikerush](#), [Arrowhead](#), [Pickerelweed](#), [Cannas](#), [Cordgrass](#), and [Muhlygrass](#) were flourishing, and further slope erosion had stopped. And best of all, delighted residents began clamoring for us to plant the remaining lakes as soon as possible."

Phase 3 Plant all lakes After all re-permitting issues and requirements with [Collier County Environmental Services](#) and [South Florida Water Management District](#) were addressed, the remaining lakes were planted, and native plantings were added in lake upland zones. And now? Vanderbilt Country Club community residents are already enjoying their winning landscape.



Click the photo above for a Guide to stormwater pond management

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](#)

It's Been a Very Good MG Year...

By 81 Master Gardeners

- * 16,000 volunteer miles driven
- * Over 4,000 hours of volunteer service
- * 1,200 loaned and donated plants designed and arranged for [Hope for Haiti](#) "Secret Garden" fund-raising Gala
- * 19 new certified Master Gardeners
- * 10 Garden Workshop classes offered
- * 8 horticulture videos produced
- * 6 area MG Plant Clinics operating
- * 6 Green Gazette newsletters published
- * 2 day Yard and Garden Show broke attendance record
- * New FYN and MG Coordinator Fred Johnson welcomed
- * Assisted Ag Tour and Farm City BBQ
- * Renovated Extension's Entrance and Horticultural Learning Center Gardens with [Rotaract Club of Naples](#) assistance
- * Dedication of hand-crafted garden bench in memory of longtime Master Gardener Linda Sue Plourde in HLC Garden of the Senses
- * Designed and installed kid-friendly Butterfly Garden at [Golden Gate Community Center](#)



Now Playing in SWFL Gardens

By Leah Ray, Master Gardener

Did you know that more vegetables can be grown in the winter months than any other time of the year in Florida? Plus, there are fewer pests, and it's just so nice outside for gardening. Keep in mind that the ever popular tomato is actually one of the hardest plants to achieve success. So for a complete list of options, see UF article [SP103 Planting Guide for Florida Vegetables](#).

Vegetables Plant leafy vegetables like cabbage, collard greens, lettuce, mustard greens, kale, spinach, and Swiss chard in full sun with a rich composted soil. Broccoli and cauliflower will also do well.

Seasonal Colors Plant cold-tolerant alyssum, petunias, pansies, and violas. Try ornamental cabbages and kales for unusual foliage color. But it's time to say farewell to impatiens. Click Dr. Doug Caldwell's photo at right to learn why.

Holiday Plants Water only when the soil surface is dry to the touch. Continue to fertilize Christmas cactus monthly. See UF article [FPS423 Narcissus](#) for care instructions: good drainage is key. Do not fertilize pot-grown poinsettias or kalanchoes during winter months. Keep blooms away from heat sources and breezes, which will dry out the flowers. Pick off declining blooms as needed. Plant amaryllis and poinsettias outside after blooming.

Frost Protection Some authorities are predicting a colder and drier than normal winter. History indicates that mid-January is the time to be prepared to protect plants. See UF's [FL Automated Weather Network FAWN](#) for more info.

Gardenias Apply 3-4 pounds fertilizer and apply a chelated iron foliar spray every other month to green them up and produce more blooms. South Florida usually has inadequate potassium in the soil, so use a fertilizer containing 30-50% slow-release potassium. See [CIR1098 Gardenias at a Glance](#) for more info.

Orchid Care Most orchids will not thrive below 45 degrees, but some will surprise you with their resilience. SWFL experiences a natural winter drought, so water orchids regularly during this time. Water them like you 'take a shower'. Get them all wet, pause a few minutes, then rinse them off!

Arbor Day January 18th [Florida's Arbor Day](#) is earlier than most due to our milder climate. Planting now will give tree roots a head start before the increased water demands kick in during warm weather.



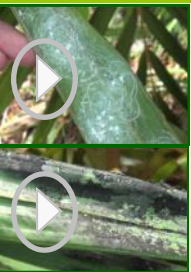
Dr. Doug Caldwell's Dying Impatiens video

Does Your Yard Qualify as a Florida Friendly Landscape™?

Is your turf tired? Plants looking poorly? Are you in need of an easy-on-the-eyes-and-wallet landscape do-over? The Collier Extension's [Florida Friendly Landscaping \(FFL\) Program](#) can guide you towards maintaining an environmentally-vibrant landscape you can enjoy.



Attend a *free* **Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) for Homeowners workshop** to learn UF's powerful principles for healthy landscapes. Then schedule an FFL yard recognition visit with a Master Gardener FYN Advisor team. You'll receive time-and-money-saving tips for maintaining a healthy, [Florida Friendly recognized landscape](#). [Register Today!](#)



Have you Seen THIS?

Many SWFL plants are now hosting this new pest, the [Rugose Spiraling Whitefly](#) (upper photo), which also produces sooty mold (lower photo). Click either photo to view a video about this pest, and how to manage it.

Master Gardener Class in January

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 Community Associations with Florida Friendly landscaping guidance. You can learn more about the [Master Gardener Program](#) and the [roles of Master Gardeners](#) by requesting the [Collier County Master Gardener Program brochure](#). Then [email MG Coordinator Fred Johnson](#) at the Collier Extension, or call him at 239 353 4244 for an application and complete course details.



Registration for January class ends December 15.

Click on Master Gardener Brooke Hollander (photo top right) to view video of kids planting a butterfly garden at [Golden Gate Community Center](#) with Master Gardeners and [Keep Collier Beautiful](#) volunteers.

SWFL Gulf & Garden Calendar

See [Collier Extension Calendar](#) for more details. Unless noted, all events held at Collier Extension, and registration is available at <http://ufifascollierextension.eventbrite.com>

December

- Dec 1** [December SFL Garden Calendar](#)
Dec 6 [Florida Friendly Landscaping for Homeowners Workshop](#), 1 - 3 pm, Collier Extension, 14700 Immokalee Rd. Free. [Register at eventbrite](#), or email Fred Johnson, FYN Coordinator.
Dec 15 **Master Gardener Certification class registration ends.** [Email Fred Johnson](#) for certification information.
Dec 19 [Florida Seafood Sustainability and Safety Brown Bag Series Webinar "Mullet"](#) 12:15-12:45 pm. Free. [Register at eventbrite](#), or email Bryan Fluech, Sea Grant Agent.

January, 2013

- Jan 1** [January SFL Garden Calendar](#)
Jan 9 [Florida Friendly Landscaping for Homeowners Workshop](#), 1 - 3 pm, Collier Extension, 14700 Immokalee Rd. Free. [Register at eventbrite](#), or email Fred Johnson, FYN Coordinator.
Jan 10 [Garden Workshop Series begins](#), Unity of Naples, 2000 Unity Way, 10:00—11:30 am. [Purchase advance series tickets at eventbrite](#). See page 3 for complete GWS details.
Jan 15 **Master Gardener Certification Course begins.**
Jan 16 [Marine Fisheries Management and Regulations Workshop](#), 9 am - 12:30 pm. Free. Collier North Regional Park, 1500 Livingston Rd. Free. [Register at eventbrite](#), or email Bryan Fluech, Sea Grant agent.

February, 2013

- Feb 1** [February SFL Garden Calendar](#)
Feb 1 Next Green Gazette issue

Save this Date!

- Mar 20** [Collier 2013 Ag Tour](#)
Details in next Green Gazette issue
[Tickets on sale now at Eventbrite](#)

Eats with Heat for your Cool Yule

By Suzanne Fundingsland, Family Nutrition Program Agent and Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener



The cooler the weather, the warmer we like our food. And during this holiday season, we can all use healthy and hearty meals that are easy to prepare and fun to share, especially when we gather with friends and family.

So when we invited the [OrganWise Guys \(OWG\)](#) foods for December and January, and the [Florida Fresh2U local produce](#) to join us in the kitchen, we found all the ingredients we need for this festive spicy dish, coupled with a fresh and frosty milkshake to cool things off.

Southwestern Spaghetti Squash Serves 6

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 medium spaghetti squash | 3 - 4 Tbsp olive oil |
| 2 garlic cloves, minced | 1/4 cup minced onion |
| 2 tsp minced jalapeno peppers | 1/2 tsp chili powder |
| 2 tsp cumin | 1 cup tomatoes, diced |
| 1/2 cup chicken broth | 1/4 cup each broccoli, carrots, and red pepper |
| 1-1/2 cups cooked black beans, drained and rinsed | 1 Tbsp minced oregano |

Preheat oven to 375°. Cut squash in half lengthwise, and discard the seeds. Brush the flesh with half of the olive oil, plus salt and pepper. Line a baking sheet with foil, and roast the squash flesh side down for 50 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add garlic and onion, and sauté for 4 minutes. Add jalapeno pepper, chili powder, and cumin, and sauté for 3 minutes. Add tomatoes and broth, and bring to a boil. Lower the heat and add remaining ingredients. Simmer for 10 minutes. When the squash has cooled, use a fork to scrape up the flesh. Top the 'spaghetti' with the bean mixture and serve warm.

And when the spicy heat begins to kick in, enjoy a refreshing sip of this [Citrus Dream milkshake](#). With a mere 56 calories per serving, this easy to make treat may quench the fire, AND help you keep those healthy resolutions in the New Year!



**Share this issue and forward it 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](tel:2393532872), 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 Extension 14700 Immokalee Rd.

Tuesdays October - April

10 am — 1 pm
Naples Regional Library 650 Central Ave.

Thursdays

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

Saturdays - Two Locations

10 am — Noon
Home Depot 1651 Airport-Pulling Rd S.
8 am - 11:30 am *November - April*
3rd Street South Farmers Market