

# Master Gardener Clippings

A Newsletter for Columbia County Master Gardeners

April 2009



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## Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

April 15—**Budding Class at Shirley's, Instructor, Linda Landrum**

April 16—**Alumni Meeting**

April 16—1 pm @ the **Library, Lawns Presentation**—by Tony & Marge

April 17—**Epcot**

April 19—**Epcot**

April 24—10 am-12 noon @ **NFREC, Attracting Beneficial Wildlife**—by Luke and Holly Ober.

April 25—10 am-2 pm @ the **Mall—TIP "Celebrating Springs"**

May 2—**MG Plant Sale**—(Prep April 29-May 1)

May 6—9:30 am, **Ichetucknee Plant ID** @ Ichetucknee State Park, South End

May 9—**Mall Daylily/Plant Sale** **CANCELLED**

May 14—**Fruit & Nut Twilight Field Day** @ NFREC

May 16—1 pm @ the **Library, Rain Gardens Presentation**—by Betsy & Vicki

May 16—**Alachua County Plant Sale**

May 21—**Alumni Meeting**

May 27—**Kanapaha** with Suwannee & Linda Landrum

## Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale

### May 2

**O**ur numbers are considerably smaller this year, so I ask each of you to do as much as you can to contribute, and thereby maintain the excellent reputation of our **Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale**.—Judee



*Rainy*

## ~~Native Plant ID at Ichetucknee~~

By Mae Brandt

**O**n April 1 (no “foolin”), there was a scheduled Plant ID walk at Ichetucknee State Park. Well. . . it rained, and rained, but I figured. . . we are gardeners and what is a little rain?? It wasn’t raining too bad when I left my house, but the dirt road I live on was just TERRIBLE!! My car slipped and slid down the road until I got to paved road. I had my MapQuest map with me, as I had never been to Ichetucknee Park before. I arrived at the park in good time and waited for the other Master Gardeners to arrive. A few cars pulled up in the parking lot but I didn’t recognize anybody. A man in uniform—park uniform—came up to my car. It was Sam Cole, the man from the park that was going to do the plant ID. I told him I was a Master Gardener and that I was waiting for the rest of my group. Well—no other Master Gardeners came but 5 other people came for the tour. It was sprinkling—but I came prepared, I wore my raincoat.

**April showers  
bring  
May flowers**



We began the walk around the parking lot. Sam pointed out the different plants, identified them and even told little stories about them and why they were given those names. We saw a cute little groundcover called Convolvulaceae, which is in the Morning Glory family. It is commonly called Carolina Pony’s foot because it looks like a little bitty pony’s footprints (hoof-shaped). We saw Lady’s sorrel, Climbing hydrangea (Cowitch vine), Virginia willow, Lyre leaf sage and Red buckeye and much, much more. It was still just sprinkling so we decided to walk down a trail into the woods. We crossed a bridge and saw Jack-in-the-Pulpit, with its little hooded spathe. We saw a plant in the Rue family called a Polecat bush—when you crush the leaf it smells like a skunk!! Sam made the walk so interesting with his knowledge of all the plants. There wasn’t a plant he couldn’t identify.

Well, after a couple of hours the rain really cut loose and it began to POUR! Sam was willing to continue but the rest of us were ready call it a day. We headed back to the parking lot where I got a rather unpleasant surprise—I had left my car’s driver side window open and my seat was soaked!

**There is another Plant ID walk scheduled for May 6th. I would highly recommend that you go, rain or shine :), I know you will really enjoy it and learn a lot too.**

## A Message from Betsy



### Great gardening workday for the plant sale at Betsy's House!

(April 11) LOTS of plants were transplanted and even more were labeled, thanks to all who came and helped. It was a long and fun day but not without reward, all got to take home their favorite plants.

### Demo Garden Update

The demo garden crew has been hard at it for the past few weeks. We have had three workdays in the past 6 weeks and have gotten the garden cleaned up. We even got the Variegated Giant Reed dug out that was taking over the corner by the power pole. Thanks to Le Simons for making sure we had a dumpster back there now, it makes it so much easier to clean and remove the debris.

This past weekend we checked the irrigation system to make sure it is working and put in a few plants. We also laid out the bricks for the edging, GO Hilbert!. I would like all to go back and check out the brick edging and let us know what you think before we cement it in place. We will discuss it at the April meeting.

I would like to ask all to save their newspapers for a little while and bring them into the Extension Office and put them in the shed so that when we put down the pinestraw in a couple of weeks we can use it as a weed block. I would also like to ask anyone that has raked and bagged some leaves to bring them in for mulch. We will be having a major workday on April 25<sup>th</sup> in which we will put down the pinestraw in back and some mulch out front to get the place spruced up a little before our plant sale.

Betsy Martin



**R**osemary is a wonderful culinary herb, and it is also a great medicinal. It is delicious in ham and lamb, beef or bread, soup and salads, pizza, spaghetti, eggs and lots more. Rosemary is also one of the best sources of antioxidants in the herbal world. It possesses antibacterial properties also. This herb is beneficial to the immune system, the digestive tract, the respiratory system and the skin. It is also good for enhancing circulation. Rosemary helps increase the oxygen supply to the brain, which helps with memory and concentration.

In the field of aroma therapy, it has been said that Rosemary can help with mild symptoms of depression.

Rosemary is from the Mediterranean region and prefers hot temperatures and moderately dry soil. It will tolerate cold weather fairly well in our area.

Propagation can be done using cuttings. If you are going to use a rooting hormone, be sure to use an organic product since the other kind is not recommended for use on plants that are going to be consumed.

Rosemary is a symbol of good health, fidelity and remembrance.

By  
Karen Mullins

I've been volunteering at the **Florida Veteran's Domiciliary Home** about 6 hrs a week working with a guy who's hands don't work and he has had a stroke and doesn't



speaking very well, but boy does his mind work. I am helping him write his 6th and 7th books. Five are published already.

There are some

great guys and gals over there and I love working with them. I'm planning inside flower pots for them and we are trying to get a greenhouse and garden club started.

Would anyone like to volunteer over there? They have all sorts of needs like reading to them etc. Very rewarding. They have to be able to take care of themselves, it's not a nursing home but they love company, maybe even playing games with them. When we get the greenhouse up, there will be needs for that. I've decided to not go to Shell Point this summer so I will be manning the office on Thursdays. See ya

*Yvette Graham*



# Most Excellent!

Gerry Murphy presented a "most excellent" program, on planting vegetables, March 21st at the library. There were 32 people present, including 8 master gardeners.

Some favorable comments were; very informational, liked info on fertilizer and question and answers. Only 1 negative comment by several people was the noise due to several children attending with their parent.

Suggestions for future topics are; hydroponics, container gardening, organic gardening, raised beds, small gardens area, and tree trimming. Anyone interested in doing a presentation contact Nichelle.

The library program is growing and there is a lot of interest so please volunteer and have some fun teaching the people in the area. The University Of Florida will be proud of you.. Stupendous job Gerry!!!!!!!!!!!!

Shirley Bellows.