Dear Master Gardeners,

I am excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2012 Master Gardener Continued Training Conference. The conference this year is being held in Clearwater at the Clearwater Beach Hilton beginning Oct. 1st and runs through Oct. 3rd. This location is right on the beach and there are all the shopping and unique restaurants within walking distance that anyone could want. I think the planning committee has done a great job creating a diverse schedule providing something for everyone.

We are again starting things off with optional pre-conference tours. These tours will take place on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 30th and require pre-registration by September 4th. We have three great choices. One will expose you to six landscapes designed by renowned landscape architect Phil Graham Jr. The second trip visits the beautiful Florida Botanical Gardens and also makes a stop at the historic Sunken Gardens. The final trip involves a horticulture tour of Busch Gardens and the Bette Walker Discovery Garden. All the trips will provide you with a great deal of information and a fun experience.

The conference formally kicks off on Monday, Oct. 1st with two great general session presentations. Ed Gilman will share his insights on trees and Laurie Trenholm and Bryan Unruh will help you learn how to manage turf for low maintenance. The afternoon is filled with your choice of a wide range of concurrent presentations. The afternoon sessions end with Russ Mizell teaching you on what plants you should add to your gardens to attract beneficial insects. The evening wraps up with a beachside welcome reception where you can meet new friends and catch up with previous acquaintances. The rest of the evening is yours to enjoy the many area attractions.

Tuesday, Oct. 2nd begins with a general session dealing with climate change and information on how to get involved with plant phenology monitoring. We then proceed with two concurrent session groups for you to continue a morning of learning. Following lunch, we are holding the 4-H Plant ID and Judging Competition. Make sure your county fields a team or compete on your own to test your knowledge. If you are not competing in the contest, there will be an opportunity for you to interact with other MGs and learn from their experiences. Following the competition, the education continues with one more round of concurrent sessions all before the always-entertaining horticulture auction. The proceeds of the auction go to recognize volunteers for their service and innovative programming. The evening is free to spend with your new Master Gardener friends.

Wednesday, Oct. 3rd begins with the Awards breakfast. This is followed by the awards program to recognize the Awards of Excellence winners and to recognize Master Gardeners for their years of service. Following the awards, the always popular Rick Schoellhorn will share his insight on Hot New Plants.

The conference is filled with lots of opportunities to learn and to share information with other volunteers. Come to hear the latest information, meet new Master Gardener friends from around the state and to enjoy all that Southwest Florida has to offer.

To see the full schedule and speaker list, browse to:  www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.htm

I hope to see you in Clearwater!

Sincerely,

Tom Wichman
Florida Master Gardener Coordinator
Tentative Agenda

Sunday, September 30, 2012

12:30pm-5:30pm Optional Pre-Conference Tour fee is $35.00
(Registration for each tour is limited and Advance Registration is Required)
A - Landscape Tour of Clearwater Beach and Downtown St. Pete
B - Florida Botanical Gardens and Sunken Gardens
C - Busch Gardens and Walker Garden

Monday, October 1, 2012

7:00am-5:00pm Registration Open (Grand Ballroom Foyer)
7:30am-8:30am Continental Breakfast
8:00am-5:00pm Auction Donations Check-in/Viewing (Citrus/Mangrove Rooms)
8:30am-9:00am Welcome and Opening Remarks – Tom Wichman, UF (Grand Ballroom DEF)
9:00am-10:00am General Session 1 – What’s New in Tree Care and Establishment - Ed Gilman, UF
10:00am-10:30am Beverage Break
10:30am-11:30am General Session 2 – Selecting and Maintaining Turf for Low Maintenance - Laurie Trenholm and Bryan Unruh – UF
11:30am-1:00pm Lunch on Own [Hotel to offer special menu]
View County Displays (Executive Conference/Mandalay Rooms)
11:30am-5:00pm IFAS Bookstore Open (Tarpon Room)
1:00pm-2:00pm  Concurrent Session 1
A-1 Florida Friendly Ground Covers – David Shibles, UF
Participants will be presented with a variety of groundcovers that can be included in a Florida-Friendly Landscape. Come and discover the range of groundcover options available for erosion control, turfgrass replacement, and maintenance reduction.
B-1 Heirloom Vegetables - Aparna Gazula, UF
Learn why you should plant these relics from the past and which varieties you might be most successful with.
C-1 Cut Arrangements from the Landscape – Janice Hamlin, Manatee County MG
Learn some tips on how to use your landscape plants to create beautiful cut flower arrangements.
D-1 Tree Cultivars – The Best of the Best – Ed Gilman, UF
Learn why you should be thoughtful in selecting your trees and what benefits some of these selections offer.
2:00pm-2:15pm Move to Next Session
2:15pm-3:15pm  Concurrent Session 2
A-2 The new world of Smart Irrigation Equipment – Michael Dukes, UF
After attending this session, participants will be abreast of the most recent developments in the world of smart irrigation equipment. Topics to be covered include; evapotranspiration controllers, soil moisture sensors, and irrigation scheduling.
B-2 Organic Gardening – Sydney Park-Brown, UF
This session will provide the tips to help you be successful in your organic gardening efforts.
C-2 Orchid Basics – Carolyn Saft, UF
Do you get orchid questions and are not sure how to address them? Have you always wanted to grow these exotic beauties but did not feel comfortable or have been unsuccessful in the past, this session will provide the info you need to be successful and get started.
D-2 Creating a Backyard Habitat and providing for Bats – Holly Ober, UF
Your backyard can be a much better place for wildlife. Learn what you can do to attract more wildlife to your yard and what special things you may need to do to attract bats.
Tuesday, October 2, 2012

7:00am-5:00pm Registration Open (Grand Ballroom Foyer)
7:00am-8:00pm Continental Breakfast
7:30am-5:00pm IFAS Bookstore Open (Tarpon Room)
8:00am-9:30am General Session 4 – Climate Change, Weather Patterns and Plant Phenology Monitoring - David Zierden, FSU and George Kish – USGS
9:30am-10:00am Beverage Break and Move to Next Session View County Displays (Executive Conference/Mandalay Rooms)
10:00am-11:00am Concurrent Session 4

A-4 Landscape Design with Edibles – Gail Hansen, UF
Participants will learn how to combine traditional landscape design principles with edible plant material to create an amazing landscape. Examples of edible landscapes will be presented for inspiration.

B-4 Backyard Chickens – Randy Gornto, UF
As we all try to be green in our gardening efforts, learn how to bring a little piece of the farm to your own yard. Find out the steps needed to be successful in adding chickens to your yard. What are the benefits and costs of adding chickens to your yard?

C-4 The Amazing World of Succulents – Keri Leymaster, UF
Growing succulents is becoming very popular. Learn about the best succulents and cacti for the landscape, containers and even hanging baskets.

D-4 Youth Gardening Activities – Wendy Wilber, UF
Discover some of the most effective and exciting children’s gardening activities. You will be able to use these activities in your school gardens, summer camps and with after school groups.

11:00am-11:15am Move to Next Session
11:15am-12:15pm Concurrent Session 5

A-5 Florida-Friendly Plants for Retention Ponds – Gail Hansen, UF
Participants will learn how to turn that bare pond edge into a beautiful and healthy landscape feature. Two cases studies will be presented to demonstrate lessons learned about plants to use, and tips on how best to use them.
**B-5 Preserving What You Produce – Mary Keith, UF**
Learn how to handle the produce you grow to keep it safe after harvest, and preserve the extra for later use. Home canning as a way of preserving food has become very popular, but not all produce can be safely canned. And whether you save it or eat it all, proper handling to keep it safe and top quality is essential.

**C-5 Online Training Resources Developed for Master Gardeners – Stephanie Stocks, UF**
There have been several online training resources developed recently for Master Gardeners on topics such as identifying plant pests and diseases, submitting digital and physical samples for identification, invasive species, entomology 101, etc. Each comes with a certificate of completion and all of these are available at no cost to you!

**D-5 Composting for Everyone – Lynn Barber, UF**
Today it is more important than ever to turn Kitchen and yard waste into compost which can be managed on site. Learn the basics of backyard composting so you can better educate the homeowners you advise.

12:15pm-1:15pm Boxed Lunch (Grand Ballroom Foyer)
View County Displays (Executive Conference/Mandaly Rooms)
1:15pm-3:15pm Hort. ID and Judging Contest (Waters Edge B/C)
1:15pm-3:15pm 3 County Interaction Sessions – Moderated by County Agents
(1:15 – 2:00)
Demo Garden
Fundraisers and Budgeting
Innovative Projects and Youth Gardening
(2:15 – 3:00)
Demo Garden
Fundraisers and Budgeting
Innovative Projects and Youth Gardening
3:15pm-3:45pm Refreshment Break and Move to Next Session
View County Displays (Executive Conference/Mandaly Rooms)
3:45pm-4:45pm Concurrent Session 6
A-6 Invasive Plants and the IFAS Assessment – Ken Langeland and Luke Flory, UF
Participants will learn why we have an “IFAS Assessment”, how to use it, and have the opportunity to ask questions relative to invasive plants.

B-6 Citrus Pest Update – Steve Futch, UF
Find out the latest information about citrus pests, care and the latest recommendations for citrus in the urban landscape.

C-6 Great Native Plants for Florida - Brightman Logan, All Native, LLC
Learn how to choose the best native plants for your region of the state and learn about resources to help you locate them.

D-6 FAWN Weather Resources – Lee Staudt and Rick Lusher– UF
Learn about the great resources that this statewide weather monitoring system offers to help you and the public.

4:45pm-5:00pm Move to Ballroom for Auction
5:00pm-6:30pm Horticulture Auction & Light Reception (Grand Ballroom DEF)
Dinner on Own

**Wednesday, October 3, 2012**
7:30am-11:00am Registration Open (Grand Ballroom Foyer)
7:30am-10:30am IFAS Bookstore Open (Tarpon Room)
8:00am-9:00am Plated Awards Breakfast (Grand Ballroom)
9:00am-10:00am Florida Master Gardener Professorship & Awards Program
10:00am-10:30am Beverage Break
10:30am-12Noon General Session 5 – Hot New Plants - Rick Schoellhorn, Proven Winners
12:00 Noon Conference Closes
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGISTRATION FEES</th>
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| Optional Pre-Conference Field Trips     |                                |                                   |
| Sunday 9/30                             |                                |                                   |
| A - Landscape Tour of Clearwater Beach and Downtown St. Petersburg | $35.00 (Advance registration required by Sep. 4) |                                   |
| B - Florida Botanical Gardens and Sunken Gardens |                                |                                   |
| C - Busch Gardens and the Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden |                                |                                   |

NOTE: The guest room block and group rate negotiated with the hotel includes costs incurred to provide us with the large quantity of meeting space we require for our meetings. If we do not occupy a sufficient amount of guest rooms throughout the meeting, we will incur additional costs for meeting room rental charges. Therefore, we encourage all meeting participants to stay in the host hotel. Consequently, guests not staying at the Clearwater Beach Hilton during the conference will be charged a $100 facilities fee to cover their portion of meeting room rental charges incurred. Please note: If your residential address is in Pinellas County, you are exempt from the Facilities Usage Fee.

The Registration fee includes: 2.5 days of educational program, conference materials, a proceedings book of speaker handouts, a Monday Welcome Reception, daily refreshments breaks, the Tuesday boxed lunch, Horticultural Auction, and the Wednesday Awards Breakfast. If you decide to not stay at the Clearwater Beach Hilton during the conference, your registration fee will include a facilities usage fee to cover your portion of the meeting room rental charges. Please see the Explanation of Facilities Usage Fee above.

A “Guest Registration Fee” is available this year that allows participation in the Monday Welcome Reception, Tuesday Horticultural Auction and the Wednesday Awards Breakfast. Please note that ‘guests’ are not permitted to attend the daily educational sessions or refreshment breaks. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

We are also pleased to announce “One-Day Fees” that allow full participation in all events for that day only. Each day will have a different colored nametag to help identify the one-day attendees. We hope that this will help those attendees that can only come for one day’s educational sessions and networking.

Sunday Optional Pre-Conference Field Trips - Participants have three (3) field trip options to choose from this year. You will select one (1) trip and the cost is $35.00 per person. ADVANCE Registration is required by September 4th and the maximum number of people for each trip is 50, so register early!

Register early for this year’s Master Gardener Conference to ensure participation!

Refund Policy: Requests for registration refunds will be honored if a written notification of cancellation is received by the Office of Conference & Institutes on or before September 14, 2012. Please note: a $50.00 processing fee will be deducted from each conference registration refund and a $25 processing fee will be deducted from each guest registration fee. Sorry, no refunds will be honored for cancellation after September 14, 2012.

Special Needs: Participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting the Office of Conferences & Institutes at least 10 working days prior to the conference. We can be reached by phone at 1-352-392-5930, by fax at 1-352-392-9734, or by calling 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). The TDD number can only be accessed from within the State of Florida.

PRE-CONFERENCE OPTIONAL EVENTS

This year things start a day early with three optional field trips (Option A - Landscape Tour of Clearwater Beach and Downtown St. Petersburg, Option B - Florida Botanical Gardens and Sunken Gardens, or Option C - Busch Gardens and the Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden), each event is scheduled from 12:30pm-5:30pm on Sunday, September 30th. Each tour will provide you with new knowledge and experience to help make this conference even more special. Advance registration is required by September 4. Guests will be able to attend the field trips with advanced registration.

Please check out the conference website for detailed information and registration fees to attend: www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

GOLD SPONSOR
PLANT AUCTION
Participate in the action at the Florida Master Gardener Horticulture Auction to be held Tuesday, October 2, 5:00PM-6:30PM. Everyone will get a kick (or a bid) out of this fun-filled event. Florida counties are asked to bring plants and plant related items to be auctioned. Please call your county agent for instructions on how to donate items. All donations are appreciated.
(Purchase of items at the auction does not constitute a charitable contribution. All proceeds will be used to support the Florida Master Gardener Program.)

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING
Clearwater is beautiful in October. Temperatures can range from the high 70's to the low 80's so clothing should be lightweight and comfortable. Please plan to bring a lightweight jacket or sweater for possible cold nights as well as cool meeting rooms. Sunglasses and hats are always recommended for any outdoor travels.

MEETING SITE & HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
CLEARWATER BEACH HILTON
400 Mandalay Avenue
Clearwater Beach, Florida 33767
Phone: 1-727-461-3222
Fax: 1-727-462-0610
Website: www.hiltonclearwaterbeach.com

The Clearwater Beach Hilton is offering participants of the 32nd Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference a very special rate of $119.00 per night (includes parking for overnight guests), with a two-night minimum required, plus 12% state and local taxes, for up to 4 people in a room. The group rate will be honored three days prior and three days following the conference dates, based on availability. In order to receive the special discounted group rate with parking you must state that you are with the Master Gardener Conference.

NOTE: The guest room block and group rate that has been negotiated with the hotel includes costs incurred to provide us with the large quantity of meeting space we require for our meetings. If we do not occupy a sufficient amount of guest rooms throughout the meeting, we will incur additional costs for meeting room rental charges. Therefore, we encourage all meeting participants to stay in the host hotel. Consequently, guests not staying at the the Clearwater Beach Hilton Hotel during the conference will be charged a $100 facilities fee to cover their portion of meeting room rental charges incurred.

If your residential address is in Pinellas County you are exempt from the Facilities Usage Fee stated above. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Wichman (twichman@ufl.edu) or Sharon Borneman (spb@ufl.edu).

To Make a Reservation:
• Reservations must be made by Sunday, September 9, 2012 in order to receive this group rate. Please be aware the block of rooms may fill before the deadline, so we urge you to make your reservation as soon as possible. After September 9, the discounted rate is not guaranteed on possible remaining rooms. Please call the Hotel reservations direct line at (727) 461-3222 OR (800) 753-3954, and identify yourself as a participant of the 32nd Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference to receive the discounted hotel rate with parking for overnight attendees. If you make an online hotel reservation, please note the GROUP CODE is: M31GN
• Florida government participants: Florida government participants: To receive tax exempt status, payment must be made in the form of a government issued check or credit card and be accompanied by a Florida sales tax exemption certificate presented at check-in. Note: The Hotel has received its Green Lodging certification.

Please note:
• All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. A credit card will be charged for one night’s deposit. Cancellation of individual reservations within three (3) days of arrival will result in forfeiture of deposit or first nights room and tax.
• If you are rooming with multiple people, all names must be included in the hotel reservation.
• The hotel check-in time is 4:00pm and check out is 11:00am. If early departure before scheduled check-out date is required, the hotel will add an early check-out fee to that guest’s individual account of one night’s room and tax. Guest’s should advise the Hotel at or before check-in of any change in planned length of stay.
• The hotel is offering participants of the 32nd Florida Master Gardener Conference:
  1. Complimentary high-speed wireless internet in the guest rooms and throughout the hotel.
  2. Day guests self-parking is $5.00/day for those attendees not staying overnight.
  3. An optional discounted HOT lunch on Monday for conference attendees.
  4. A luggage storage area will be provided for guests on Wednesday for checking out.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Conference Program Organizer
Tom Wichman
Florida Master Gardener Coordinator
University of Florida/IFAS
Environmental Horticulture Department
PO Box 110675
107 Mehrhof Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-0675
Phone: 352-273-4521
FAX: 352-392-1413
Email: twichman@ufl.edu

Conference Coordinator
Sharon Borneman, CGMP
Conference Coordinator
University of Florida/IFAS
Office of Conferences & Institutes
PO Box 110750
Mowry Road Building 639
Gainesville, FL 32611-0750
Phone: 352-392-5930
FAX: 352-392-9734
Email: spb@ufl.edu
### 32nd Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference

**October 1-3, 2012 • Clearwater Beach, Florida**

**Registration is limited. Register early to ensure participation.**

**Project # 1208**

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**Attendee Registration Fee** provides 2.5 days of educational program, conference materials, a proceedings book, Monday Welcome Reception, daily refreshments, Tuesday Horticultural Auction/Reception, and the Wednesday Awards Breakfast. **Guest Registration Fee** provides Monday Welcome Reception, Tuesday Horticultural Auction/Reception, and the Wednesday Awards Breakfast and Keynote Speaker.

**REGISTRATION FEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event/Location</th>
<th>Early Reduced (by 9/4/2012)</th>
<th>Regular and Onsite (after 9/4/2012)</th>
<th>ONE-DAY REGISTRATIONS</th>
<th>Early Reduced (by 9/4/2012)</th>
<th>Regular (after 9/4/2012)</th>
<th>Optional Sunday Events (9/4) (choose only one)</th>
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<td>$385</td>
<td>One-Day Registration Wed. 10/3</td>
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<td>Field Trip #A $35</td>
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<td>Guest Registration</td>
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<td>Tuesday Boxed Lunch Selection:</td>
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**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED** (payable to: University of Florida Leadership & Education Foundation, Inc.)

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**Early registration deadline is September 4, 2012. To qualify for the early fee, payment must accompany your registration form on or before this date.**

**SESSION SELECTION**: Select your 1st and 2nd choice for each session. Classes are limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. If your first selection is full, you will be assigned your second choice. Refer to the agenda for subjects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Monday, October 1</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tuesday, October 25</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00PM-2:00PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15PM-3:15PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45PM-4:45PM</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**CONVENIENTLY REGISTER IN ONE OF THREE EASY WAYS:**

1.) **ONLINE**: Conveniently register online via the workshop website located at: [www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener](http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener)

2.) **BY FAX**: Complete and FAX this registration form to: (352) 392-9734.

3.) **BY MAIL**: Complete the registration form and mail it with payment to: Florida Master Gardener UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes (OCI) PO Box 110750 (Bldg 639 Mowry Road) Gainesville, FL 32611-0750 USA PHONE: (352) 392-5930

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**Make check, money order or purchase order payable to:**

UF Leadership and Education Foundation (UFLEF)

*Journal Transfer Payments not accepted.*

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- [ ] American Express  
- [ ] Discover

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Credit Card #:  
Expiration date:  
Amount:  
Name of cardholder: 

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Note: If making payment for multiple registrants, please submit a registration form for each conference attendee and list all names on the form of payment. This will ensure proper crediting for each registrant.

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