



■ FALL 2009 ■

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New President's Message	2
Gift Shop	3
Children's Trail	
Membership Benefits	
Value of FBG Membership	4
Going Green	5
Welcome New Members	
Holiday Light Show	6
What's In Bloom	7

Special Kudos to Master Gardeners Mary Crowe and Mary Ellen Warner

For many years these two ladies tirelessly worked on critical development and maintenance of FBGF membership. At almost every botanical event in the community, Mrs. Warner was a guiding presence, promoting Foundation membership. Behind the scenes Ms. Crowe worked on recording and processing the many memberships that Mary Ellen garnered. What a team.

The Board gratefully acknowledges their years of unsung service.
THANK YOU!

President of FBGF, Vivian Haicken Outgoing Message

NEWSFLASH. The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation has weathered the economic storm. In November 2008, the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Board decided to continue the Gardens' holiday tradition of lighting the Gardens. This meant that we assumed the financial responsibility that Pinellas County could no longer bear.

As a special gift to the community we (the Board) and you, its members, generously donated over \$25,000 to keep the lights on for another holiday season. Board members and Master Gardeners came to the gardens during the evening light displays welcoming visitors and gently requested donations. Despite the dismal economy, visitors (members and non members) donated over \$10,000. Once again Regions Bank contributed an additional \$1000.



However, the Holiday Lights in the Gardens was not our only accomplishment. We saw the Grand Opening of a four station Children's Trail this past fall. We've continued to operate our beautiful Botanical Bounty gift shop, which is a delightful enhancement to the Gardens and provides a modest revenue for the Foundation. Through the Botanical Bounty, operated by the creative and talented Manager, Stacey Zidi, and staffed by dedicated volunteers, we've sold memberships, continued the Tree bank, offered naming opportunities on our Omega leaf in the lobby, and sold pavers that appear in the gardens.

The Foundation is not going to rest on its laurels. We have much work to accomplish. We hope to increase our membership by offering events in the gardens, at a discount to members. We continue to have reciprocity with 100s of gardens throughout North America. We recently signed an agreement for reciprocity with both Bok Tower Gardens and Sunken Gardens, so that our members have free unlimited access. Several garden nurseries in the area offer a 10% discount to FBGF members (See page 3 for a current list of stores offering a discount). We have already approved the allocation of several thousand dollars to enhance our garden entry appearance. Best of all we are proud to team with Master Gardeners in the ultimate fashion. As I step down from the Chair position, I welcome the "Master" Master Gardener **Chuck Scaffidi** in my place.

Chuck and I will be working closely together as we oversee the forthcoming 2009-2010 Holiday Lights events. This year we plan to request a "minimum" suggested donation of \$2.00 per person. Last year we counted approximately 50,000 visitors, so hopefully people will come and enjoy as they have in past years.

Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as Chair. This is my 10th year with the Gardens.....and if I stay around much longer, you may see me composted!

**The Florida Botanical Gardens
Foundation**

12520 Ulmerton Rd.
Largo, FL 33774
727-582-2205

www.flbg.org/foundation.htm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chuck Scaffidi, Chair
Terri Ziegler, Vice Chair
Mary Sweeny, Treasurer
Sue Hamill, Secretary

Terry Berube
Alicia Chivers
Pat Dieterich
Barbara Goss
Vivian Haicken
Susan Hoffman
Bobbie Jones
Gail Rasmussen
Carrie Shelby
Art Shand
Dianne Wheatley-Gilliotti

ADVISORS

Mary Campbell, Extension Director
Paul Cozzie, Parks & Recreation
Director
Representative from Board of
County Commissioners

LIAISONS

Master Gardener Liaison
Emma Eshbaugh
Heritage Village Liaison
Wayne Ayers

Any comments about
The Florida Friendly Footprint
may be directed to Chuck Scaffidi,
Editor or Carrie Shelby, Assistant
Editor at 727-582-2117 or email
to cascaffidi@juno.com



Printed using 100% recycled
paper using 100% wind energy
in a carbon neutral process.

CHUCK SCAFFIDI Incoming President's Message



In these tough economic times I find both a challenge and an honor to be selected as Chair of the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation (FBGF). My goal is to keep FBGF a viable and healthy organization in executing its mission. I am confident we shall continue to fulfill the goals established by our past Chair, Vivian Haicken. I look forward to working with the FBGF board members who have impressed me with their love of the Botanical Gardens and dedication to maintain and further enhance these gardens.

Several years ago, I became the liaison between this organization and the non-profit Master Gardeners Association, where I served five years as Chair. A tremendous synergy exists between the two groups. This successful synergy resulted in the Childrens Trail, and a wooden deck with memorial benches that beautify our entrance to the Park and University Extension office. This unified effort led to support for the Holiday Lights in the Gardens celebration, as well as financial contributions for the creation of the Florida Friendly Landscape gardens. I am looking forward to strengthening our work together and recruiting MGs as active members of the Board. So watch out! My eyes are on you! A brief background of my volunteering started in the fall of 2000 when I became a Master Gardener. At the end of 2000, the Florida Botanical Gardens were opened to the public. What excitement I felt to be able to participate in and see the FBG evolve into a world class Botanical Garden. Yes, the economic climate has not improved yet, but I remain optimistic that with our FBGF membership and the public's love of the gardens we will find ways to foster the funding to accomplish the FBGF's mission.

I am also looking forward to Co-Chairing, with Vivian Haicken, outgoing FBGF President, this season's Holiday Light celebration in the FBG. Vivian and I anticipate large crowds again this year, and those willing to help us finance the event can become a sponsor or can volunteer time during the festivities. I would like to repeat an excerpt from a previous FBGF newsletter written by a former Chair to illustrate the need for everyone's continuing support.

Winter of 2008 issue:

By Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, Chair, FBGF

"The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc. (FBGF) provides support for the Florida Botanical Gardens (FBG) through the gift shop, memberships, donations and memorials. The FBGF actively promotes awareness of the gardens to Tampa Bay area residents and visitors. The FBGF serves as a source for volunteers desiring not only to keep the gardens growing but also wanting to propel the gardens into a signature aesthetic and educational destination. Yes, a cadre of volunteers is crucial to the Florida Botanical Gardens' success; particularly when local governments are operating under increasingly mandated fiscal constraints."

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve on the Board in this capacity. I shall do my best.

Coming Soon to the Gardens

The Florida Friendly Landscape demonstration garden located at the front entrance of Extension is in the works. To start this project, \$3,700 was donated by FBGF which included donations from Master Gardeners. Currently we are in the design and planning stage and have a candidate list of Florida Friendly plants to be donated or purchased.



News from Botanical Bounty

Got dirt? I'm sure you do and if you're like me you're getting psyched to do some fall planting as the weather changes.

We've got lots of books to guide and inspire you whether you enjoy perennials, bedding annuals or herbs. A vegetable garden for cooler weather veggies can be planned now and our books are valuable resources and reference guides.

Vegetable Gardening in Florida is an affordable paperback with great photographs and exceptional expert advice for soil prep, seeding, organic matter, diseases and insects. We also have lots of "Florida Native" books to help you create your successful, sustainable Florida landscape.

Stacey Zidi in the Botanical Bounty gift shop



Plan now to take advantage of our Pre-Holiday Sale, the week of November 16th! We've got unique and beautiful gifts for under \$10 - the "boutique mystique" without the high prices. We will have new stock in tees, mugs and ornaments, as well as gifts for all your gardening relatives and friends.

Just a reminder, we are a not-for-profit shop with all proceeds remaining right here in our beautiful Florida Botanical Gardens. As always, thank you for your continued support!



Childrens Trail Delights the Senses

Pat Dieterich, Committee Chair

What is yellow and green and fun all over? The Children's Trail at the Florida Botanical Gardens! Start at the Butterfly Garden, hike over to the boardwalk Tree Station, and scan for wildlife with the binoculars near the pond. Then stroll through our Fruit Garden, while our mascot, Flora, teaches fun facts about Florida fruits. Take your favorite child, age 4 or 84, on a lively exploration of our gardens—and watch for additional enhancements soon!

Benefits to Membership



One of the benefits of membership is the savings you have earned at some of your local nurseries. We have identified nursery owners in our communities who are willing to offer a discount to members of the Florida Botanical Gardens. When you make a purchase at these businesses, please present your FBGF membership card for the discount. We will continue to contact nurseries in the area to secure additional participants to this program. Participating nurseries are:

Art Stone Orchids

■ 10% off all purchases

3611 Tyrone Blvd
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
PHONE: 727-345-6733
HOURS: Mon - Fri 7:30am to 4:30pm
and Sat 8am to 2pm

Earthscapes Garden Room

■ 10% off all purchases

Donna Amend, Retail Manager
816 Alt. 19 N
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
PHONE: 727-786-4859
HOURS: Mon - Sat 9am to 5pm

Kathy's Korner

■ 10% off Trees

Nursery Inc. & Tree Farm
6095 Haines Road North
St. Petersburg, FL 33714
PHONE: 727-525-9640
HOURS: Mon - Sat 9am to 5pm
and Sun 10am to 4pm

Palm Harbor Nursery & Landscaping

■ 10% off Cash and Carry items

450 Riviere Rd
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
PHONE: 727-784-2992
HOURS: Mon - Fri 8am to 5pm
and Sat 10am to 4pm

Wilcox Nursery

■ 10% off all purchases

12501 Indian Rocks Road
Largo, FL 33774
PHONE: 727-595-2073
HOURS: Mon - Sat 8:30am to 5pm
and Sun 10am to 4pm

Willow Tree Nursery

■ 10% off all purchases

4401 49th St. N
St. Petersburg, FL 33709
PHONE: 727-522-2594
HOURS: Mon - Fri 8am to 5pm
and Sat & Sun from 10am to 4pm

Chair's note: *This is only a partial list and Terry Berube will continue to call local nurseries on our behalf to secure more discounts. Thanks Terry!*

The Value of your **Florida Botanical Gardens Membership**

Bessie Morse, MG



Did you know that the Florida Botanical Gardens is a gift that keeps on giving to yourself and your family?

Not only does your FBG membership support the gardens, it enables you to get free or discounted admission to gardens in 44 states, Canada and the Caribbean and sometimes a discount in their gift shop as well through the reciprocal member program of the American Horticultural Society (AHS). Free admission to other gardens can easily surpass the FBG membership cost. Visiting other gardens can give you new ideas to refresh your own garden.

In Florida, there are 11 gardens, not counting our own, that have free admission with your card. They are as close to home as Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota and as far as Miami's Fairchild Tropical Gardens. The Harry P. Leu Gardens is also well worth a visit anytime you go to Orlando, but especially so in January when the camellias are blooming. While the University of South Florida's garden in Tampa, does not charge admission, the card gives free early admission (\$4/pp savings) to their numerous plant sales. Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg again is offering free admission, as is Bok Tower Gardens.

If you are wandering out of the state, check out the brochure that came with your membership card or go to the garden's website at www.flbg.org/foundation.htm which has a direct link to the reciprocal gardens program. The list can be a starting point for trip planning: rest stops while driving, new gardens to discover in places you frequently visit or as an inspiration to visit a new area of the country. The AHS website www.ahs.org/events/flower_home_garden_shows.htm list garden and home shows that may be of interest as well. The reciprocal garden list is updated semi-annually so it is good to check the website for the latest version.

The reciprocal gardens can often be more than just gardens. Winterthur in Delaware, once owned by a member of the Dupont family, includes a tour of the fabulous mansion. Hillwood Estate in Washington, DC, boasts of its extensive decorative arts museum. Cheekwood Botanical and Museum of Art in Nashville, TN, has a small contemporary art museum.

Don't forget to check out arboretums, too. They can be a lot more than just trees. The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum just outside of Minneapolis, is especially interesting in the summer as each summer they tuck art in interesting places in their many themed gardens as well as in their large tree collection.

Even though we can't grow many of the plants we see in the northern gardens, they can be a source of inspiration for our own gardens. Olbrich Botanical Garden in Madison, WI, intersperses their roses with other plants to provide a pleasing landscape any time of year. Their rock garden shows how succulents can grow in even the narrowest of cracks. The huge Chicago Botanical Garden, 20 miles north of downtown, is extremely well signed, naming all the plants and is great for new varieties of old favorites. The explanatory signs in their Japanese garden make it possible to translate the concept into any garden using local plant material.

Enjoy the Florida Botanical Gardens knowing that your membership money enriches the lives of your family and thousands of others who visit the gardens each year. Don't forget to take your card with you when you travel and use it as a passkey to other gardens around the country.

Chair's Comment: Many Master Gardeners and FBGF members who love gardens continually use their membership cards. I could not have expressed the value of this any better than Bessie Morse. As she wrote "This is the passkey to other gardens around the country". Phyllis Larwson is also testimony to this. She recently returned from her vacation where these Botanic Gardens honored the reciprocal agreements: Dallas Arboretum, Denver Botanic Gardens, and Cheyenne Wyoming Botanical Gardens. Your membership serves as a reminder and incentive to visit any of the AHS gardens.

GOING GREEN!

Chuck Scaffidi, FBGF Chair

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES!!!

Great news!!

The first FREE to members workshop at FBG happened on Saturday August 22 at 9:30 am., entitled "Solar Power in the Sunshine State." The admission fee (\$15) was waived. We anticipate more opportunities for FBGF members to attend workshops in the future. Please keep this in mind (as a money saver) as you consider membership in FBGF. To sign up visit <http://pinellas.obsres.com/botanical/welcome.aspx>

In addition to reformatting our FBG Foundation newsletter to create a new look we have gone "green." Shifting to a "green culture" is our way of embracing the idea that environmental responsibility is everyone's responsibility. In fact, the issue you are viewing uses eco-friendly paper and ink. We are also in the process of converting this newsletter to an electronic version that we will e-mail to you. We are following the current trend to present messages (newsletters) in the body of an e-mail rather than opening the messages as attachments. In addition to viewing the message it will allow you to "click here" to link to the Foundation and FBG web site.

The Foundation will also e-mail you the monthly Master Gardener (MG) Newsletter *The Green Leaf*. It contains gardening articles, sustainability news, and a schedule of affairs and events including special fee-bearing seminars that you can enroll free by showing your membership card.

We will switch to this method in the near future, so to be sure you receive the FBGF and the MG newsletter **we need your e-mail address**. For those that do not have computer access we will keep a limited number of hard copies of both newsletters at the **Pinellas County Extension Office at 12520 Ulmerton Rd , Largo FL 33774**.

You can send your e-mail address to cascaffidi@juno.com, or call the volunteer office at Extension 727-582-2117.

The money we save will be returned to the Florida Botanical Gardens for expansions and enhancements to these Florida friendly gardens.

Thank you for your cooperation and remember **GO GREEN!**



Welcome New Members

Thanks to these special current members for their generous gifts.

\$1000 Garden Patron Donor

Elsie Sestrap Brown

\$500 Garden Steward Donors

Susan Hoffman
Patricia Sams

\$250 Supporting Gardener Donors

Sue Hamill
Michael Lopez
Terri & Lane Ziegler

Altenburg, Paul, Palm Harbor, FL
Anderson, Tim & Gail, Belleair Bluffs, FL
Archer, Lois, Clearwater, FL
Bandy, Nancy, St. Petersburg, FL
Bergren, Barbara, South Windsor, CT
Bond, Sharon, St. Petersburg, FL
Cameron, Carol, Clearwater, FL
Castoro, Viviane, Seminole, FL
Cole, Judith, Largo, FL
Crawford, Janice, Palm Harbor, FL
Davis, Chris, Largo, FL
Ellis, Nancy, St. Petersburg, FL
Eshbaugh, Emma, Largo, FL
Farrand, Carole & Tom, St. Petersburg, FL
Featherstone, Vicki, Largo, FL
Field, Jean, Largo, FL
Gould, Robert & Helen, Largo, FL
Hamill, Sue, Palm Harbor, FL
Herrington, Hansi, St. Petersburg, FL
Jalbert, Rene, Gulfport, FL
Jamison, Kathleen, Largo, FL
Jones, Cierra, Largo, FL
Kenny, Helena, Tarpon Springs, FL

Kieffer, Barbara, Seminole, FL
Kimmey, Carolyn, Orland Park, IL
Lopez, Michael, Largo, FL
Losch, Aaron, Tallahassee, FL
McParland, Bruce, Clearwater, FL
Melms, Debbie, Tampa, FL
Meyer, William, Seminole, FL
Muller, William, Oldsmar, FL
Niemi-Wood, Linda, Odessa, FL
Pollicino, Louis, Largo, FL
Redfering, Kristie Jo, Seminole, FL
Rudzinski, Mary, Lisle, IL
Schweitzer, Betsy, Largo, FL
Stiglitz, Avery & Claire, Dunedin, FL
Straub, Paul, Largo, FL
Todd, Linda, St. Petersburg, FL
Vassar, Wesley Jr, Clearwater, FL
West, Jim, St. Petersburg, FL
Whiting, Annie, Largo, FL
Wilken, Linda, St. Petersburg, FL
Yauchier, Kae, St. Petersburg, FL
Yound, Bobby, Seminole, FL

Holiday Lights in the Gardens Display

Welcomes Joyful Season to Pinellas County

Sparkling goodwill and cheer will spread across Florida Botanical Gardens this year during the *Holiday Lights in the Gardens* display beginning Saturday, Nov. 28. This premier Pinellas County celebration is a community tradition that visitors and residents can enjoy every evening through Sunday, January 3, from 6 to 10 p.m. A stroll through the shining Gardens adds a touch of festivity to everyone's holidays.

The Gardens transform into a holiday wonderland with more than 400,000 twinkling lights, many of which are environmentally-friendly LED lights. Free family-friendly entertainment and music are planned. Food and beverages will be sold.

This celebration is free to children under 12, and a minimum donation of \$2 per adult is suggested. Just follow the bright glow to free parking.

The Gardens are located at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo.

The annual celebration is sponsored by the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation. To learn more about the celebration or to volunteer to support the holiday event, please call (727) 582-2247.

The Florida Botanical Gardens display Florida's finest formal gardens, scenic landscapes and natural habitats that unfold across 150 acres in the heart of Pinellas County. More than 25 gardens and display areas showcase flora, fauna and natural resources to delight nature enthusiasts. Some of the gardens offer tropical plants, roses, fruits, herbs, hibiscus, bromeliads and create a Florida friendly footprint.

A Botanical Bounty Gift Shop located in the Welcome Center sells gifts with a horticultural flair and is ideal for holiday shopping.



Spectacular Blooms

during the Holiday Lights in the Gardens

As you enjoy the Holiday Lights in the Gardens you will encounter an unusual fragrance and delightful display of pink hanging flowers along the Tropical Walk. Our visitors are often awestruck by the fabulous Christmas Ornament Tree, *Dombeya wallichiana*. As you continue your walk through the Wedding Garden, you will find two more stunning flowering plants. One is the Wedding Bouquet, *Plumeria Pudica*, with its striking, white blooms. And the other is the Queen's Wreath, *Petrea volubilis*, which creates a natural arch of light purple flower clusters under which the bride enters on her way to the wedding dome. See what else you can find. Visit us during the daytime to learn more about the plants in bloom that you discovered.

If you have enjoyed these light displays and our beautiful gardens, you can help us continue this yearly event by your donation to the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774 or call 727-582-2205 to get more donation information.



Christmas Ornament Tree



Wedding Bouquet



Queen's Wreath



To learn more about the Florida Botanical Gardens, visit www.flbg.org or call (727) 582-2100.



Bulletin of The Florida Botanical Gardens
Foundation, Inc.
12520 Ulmerton Rd.
Largo, FL 33774



*Don't miss this year's
Holiday Lights in the Gardens Display*

ONE STORY OF THE GARDENS' MAGIC

My two-year-old granddaughter, Stella, has been a member of FBG since she was just weeks old. Her gift every Easter from her grandfather and me is a family membership. It has not been wasted on Stella. She was carried by her mother during her first visit and slept the entire time.

But her next visit was to Seasonal Sensations, and she was wide awake. She so marveled at the fire-fly children parading through the garden lighting during the Christmas display that she said the word "more" and her family determined then and there that she would someday join the parade.

Then she was pulled through the Gardens in a wagon accompanied by two pots of azaleas and several herbs. It was then that she smelled mint and rosemary and basil.

Stella's first word was "flower" and that was soon followed by "water," which she spoke as she crossed the bridge to the Gardens on the shoulders of her father. Soon she added "tree," "leaf," "mulch," and "aphid" and on to "butterfly," "caterpillar," "nasturtium," "aspidistra," and "heliconia." Now, I know you aren't going to believe me but, every time she enters the Welcome Center, she points to that strange tree at the end of the sidewalk and says as clear as a bell, "Roxburgh Fig."



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

	LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP COST								
	STUDENT \$10.	INDIVIDUAL GARDENER \$30.	GARDEN FAMILY \$50.	AVANT GARDENER \$100.	SUPPORTING GARDENER \$250.	GARDEN STEWARD \$500.	GARDEN PATRON \$1,000.	GARDEN VISIONARY \$2,500.	CORPORATE GARDENER \$5,000.
MEMBERSHIP CARDS	1	1	2	4	4	6	8	8	N/A
ADMISSION TO EVENTS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWSLETTER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RECOGNITION IN NEWSLETTER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CLASS DISCOUNT		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*
DISCOUNT AT BOTANICAL BOUNTY		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*
RECIPROCAL ADMISSION	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A
EARLY ADMISSION TO MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*
DISCOUNTS AT LOCAL GARDENS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A
GARDEN GIFT					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FRAMED LETTER OF APPRECIATION						✓	✓	✓	✓
INVITATION(S) TO RECOGNITION EVENT						2	2	4	8
LEAF ON COMMENDATIVE TREE							✓	✓	✓
ANNUAL PRIVATE TOUR							✓	✓	✓
LUNCH WITH DIRECTOR								✓	✓
USE OF FACILITY FOR ANNUAL MEETING									✓*
10% OFF INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY MEMBERSHIP FOR ALL EMPLOYEES									✓*

* WITH CORPORATE ID

YES, I'D LIKE TO BE A MEMBER!

- Student \$10.
- Individual Gardener \$30.
- Garden Family \$50.
- Avant Gardener \$100.
- Supporting Gardener \$250.
- Garden Steward \$500.
- Garden Patron \$1,000.
- Garden Visionary \$2,500.
- Corporate Gardener \$5,000.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____
(Cell) _____

Cash _____ Check _____

Credit  

Number _____

CCV (3 digits on back of card) _____

Expiration Date _____

Credit Card Mailing Address, if different than above

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Email address _____

Make checks payable to:

Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc.

Mail to

Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation

12520 Ulmerton Rd.

Largo, FL 33774