



## The Baker Bulletin

A  
Baker County  
Extension  
Service Monthly  
Newsletter

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Dear Extension Friends,

Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy our annual Spring Garden Festival and congratulations to our prize winners who received a free bag of organic fertilizer: Ashley Hauge (Macclenny), Enid Yarbrough (Glen St. Mary), Judith Horne (Macclenny) and Sharon Kelly (Macclenny)! Our next big event includes a dinner and benefit auction on Saturday, May 6th to support our local 4-H Youth Development Program. Please contact our office if you would like to make a donation for the auction and plan to attend the fiesta for a fun-filled evening (see page 5 for more details).

Sincerely,

Alicia Lamborn  
Interim Director / Horticulture Agent  
UF/IFAS Extension Baker County



### Contact Information—Baker County Extension Service

1025 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, FL 32063

Phone: (904) 259-3520, FAX: (904) 259-9034

Email: baker@ifas.ufl.edu Hours: M—F 8:30am to 5:00pm (Closed Noon to 1:00pm for Lunch)

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4-H Agent



# Highlights in Horticulture

By:  
*Alicia Lamborn,*  
*Horticulture Agent*

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## Epiphyllums

*These tropical rainforest cacti are perfect for the patio.*



Alicia Lamborn

Epiphyllum plants (also called orchid cactus) are a type of cactus native to the tropical rain forests of Central and South America where they grow in trees along with orchids and bromeliads. Grow them in hanging baskets or elevated containers that allow them spill over the sides of their pot. While they can be slow growing, they are easy to care for and make a great addition to your patio plant collection.

Some Epiphyllum species are night-bloomers, having white flowers that only bloom for one night. This means you will want to watch your plant for the formation of flower buds and stay up late (or get up early the next morning) to see the flower in full bloom.



<https://sewaneherbarium.wordpress.com>

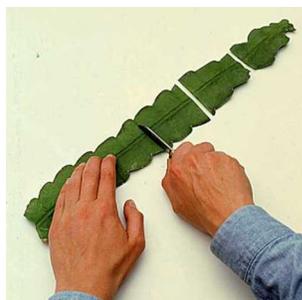
Other species have colorful flowers that last several days. Depending on the species, you can expect flowers in spring or early summer. Some species also have thorns.

If you have a friend willing to share, these plants are easy to start yourself. Just cut one of the long leaves off of the mother plant, cut that leaf into sections and place the cuttings in a good quality, light weight potting mix to root. To avoid rotting, you may want to allow the cuttings to "harden off" by letting them sit and dry out on the potting bench for a day or two before sticking them in soil. It may take a couple of years before you see any flowers, but if you oriented the cuttings correctly (the cut end closest to the leaf base goes in the soil) then you should have no trouble getting your plant off to a good start.



Alicia Lamborn

Unlike desert cacti, these jungle species prefer shady conditions. Find a spot on the patio or under a shade tree to keep them happy. A slow-release nitrogen fertilizer applied once or twice during the growing season is beneficial. Water as needed to avoid drought conditions. If the soil stays dry for too long, it can permanently affect the appearance of your plant. When winter arrives, be ready to bring them indoors or protect them from freezing temperatures.



<https://cuttings.info/epiphyllum-cv/>

## Native Insect Pollinators



When people think about pollination, the honey bee immediately comes to mind. But honey bees are not native to the Americas. There are many other native insects that serve as pollinators for 75% of U.S. flowering plant species. These include over 4,000 species of bees, 750 species of butterflies, and thousands of species of wasps, flies and beetles.

Some great ways to help these native pollinators is to plant native wildflowers, provide nesting habitats, spray pesticides wisely and minimize mowing. In our native pollinator workshop (details on page 5), we'll cover all of these topics plus identify the many native pollinators you may encounter in the great outdoors. The workshop also includes a make and take pollinator house so that you can start providing for native pollinators as soon as you return home.



*Pollinator Workshop—Friday, May 19th @ 10am*

MOTHERS  
GET IN FOR  
\$1

FOOD VENDORS  
BOUNCY HOUSE  
LOCAL FARMS  
AGRICULTURE INFO  
KIDS GAMES  
FARM PETTING ZOO  
BAKER COUNTY ROCKS

MUCH MUCH MORE!

HERITAGE PARK  
102 S LOWDER ST  
MACCLENNY, FL.

**UF|IFAS**   
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA  
An Equal Opportunity Institution

Local Band   
Lonely Highway

BAKER COUNTY  
4-H  
LIVESTOCK CLUB  
PRESENTS  
AG-HERITAGE DAY  
MAY  
13 2017

11am-3pm Admission \$3

# May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6  Baker County 4-H Auction & Dinner 6pm
7	8 	9	10	11	12	13  Ag Heritage Day Heritage Park 11am-3pm
14	15 	16	17	18	19 	20
21	22 	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 	30 	31			

Upcoming Programs are marked with a Program Area Symbol. Please match these symbols with the list on the following page for more information about the program.



4-H



Horticulture



Agriculture

# Upcoming Programs & Events

Programs will be held at the Baker County Extension Office (Agricultural Center) unless otherwise noted.

**May 2** **Suwannee Valley Twilight Field Day, 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm, Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, 8202 CR 417, Live Oak, FL 32060.** An educational experience where you can tour the facilities and learn about current greenhouse and field research. The program will feature 5 different tour options. Cost: \$5 per person. Registration deadline: April 26th. To register go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/suwannee-valley-twilight-field-day-registration-32415412371>. For more information, call 386-362-1725, ext. 101 or ext. 102.

**May 3-5** **Florida Beef Cattle Short Course, May 3 at 1:00 pm through May 5 at noon, Straughn IFAS Extension Center, Gainesville, FL.** A premier educational event for serious beef cattle producers in the southeast. For more information go to [http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/beef\\_extension/bcsc/2017/short.shtml](http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/beef_extension/bcsc/2017/short.shtml).

**May 6** **Baker County 4-H Auction & Dinner, 6:00 pm, Baker County Agricultural Center Auditorium, 1025 West Macclenny Ave.** Public Auction & Dinner to benefit Baker County 4-H. Items donated from businesses and individuals includes: theme park tickets, gift baskets, plants, arts and crafts, gift cards, tools, and more! Free entry and \$5 Taco Dinner will be available to purchase. If you would like to donate an auction item, please call 259-3520.

**May 13** **Ag Heritage Day, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, Heritage Park, 102 South Lowder Street, Macclenny, FL.** Sponsored by Baker County 4-H Livestock Club. Live band, farm petting zoo, agriculture information, local business and food vendors, and more! \$3 entry per person. \$1 entry fee for Mothers.

**May 19** **Pollinator Workshop, 10:00 am to Noon, Baker County Extension Office (Ag Center), 1025 West Macclenny Ave.** Topics include: Florida's native bees and other pollinators; Pollinator plants for your garden; DIY nesting boxes. Registration cost is \$20 per person and includes a make and take pollinator house (similar to the one shown), allowing participants to stuff a pre-built house with nesting materials of their choice. Register at the Baker County Extension Office. For more information, please call 904-259-3520.



## 4-H Club Meetings

**Cloverleaf Cloggers** — Every Monday at 7pm in the auditorium. Contact your club leader to confirm.

**Livestock Club** — Fourth Tuesday of each month at 6pm In the auditorium. Go to Baker County 4-H Livestock Club Facebook Page. **Please note: This month's meeting on May 30th (instead of the 23rd)**

**SPIN Club— Pallet Project**—For more information, go to Baker County 4-H All County Facebook Page.

**New - Outdoors Club**—For more information, go to Baker County 4-H Outdoors Club Facebook page. This month's meeting May 6th at 9am at Baker County Sheriff's Office.



The **Mandatory Livestock Animal Orientation Meeting** is **TUESDAY, APRIL 4th (6:30pm-7:30pm)** **OR TUESDAY, APRIL 25th (after Livestock Club meeting) in the Auditorium.** **If you do not attend one of these meetings you cannot participate in a livestock project.**



# Lucky Clover Chronicle

By:

*Shaina Spann,  
4-H Agent*

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## Upcoming 4-H Events

### May

06– Annual 4-H Auction, Auditorium, 6pm  
10– District Tailgate Competition Registration DUE  
13– Ag-Heritage Day, Heritage Park, 11am-3pm  
20– District Tailgate Competition, UF Horse Teaching Unit, 8am  
20– Camp Cherry Lake Counselor Training, Camp Cherry Lake, 10am-4:30pm

22– Registration for Exploring 4-H Day Camp DUE  
30– Registration for Bee Day Camp DUE

### June

05-08– Exploring 4-H Day Camp, Auditorium, \$60  
06– Camp Cherry Lake Registration DUE  
13– Camp Cherry Lake Orientation, 6:00pm  
12-15– Bees: The Original Social Network Day Camp, Auditorium, \$60  
19-23– Camp Cherry Lake, Madison Florida  
26-30– 4-H Legislature, Tallahassee

## Community Service Opportunities

Are you 14 or older and in need of community service hours? The best way to get community service hours for college scholarships is through volunteering with a 4-H Day Camp or by going to Camp Cherry Lake as a counselor.

Training for being a camp counselor will be May 3rd at 6pm at the Extension Office and at Camp Cherry Lake (for Cherry Lake counselors) on May 20th from 10am to 4:30pm. This means that we will be leaving the office at 8:15am and returning around 6pm. Youth who participate as a camp counselor will receive a \$50 scholarship towards the cost of camp and 40 hours of community service. Youth who would like to volunteer to help with day camps can get anywhere from 10 to 20 hours of community service per week of volunteering. Please get with Ms. Shaina to see how you can help!

## Summer Events for 2017



### June 05-08: Exploring 4-H Day Camp Cost: \$60 Age: 5-12

This camp will be exploring the different areas that youth can be involved with in the 4-H program. From animal and plant sciences to crafts and the arts, this camp will touch on the options that are available for all youth!



### June 12-15: Bees, the Original Social Network Day Camp Cost: \$60 Age: 8-14

This camp will take a deeper look into bees! What are the benefits that they give to us? How do bees do what they do? Why do native bees differ from honey bees? We will explore all this as well as tasting different types of honey, cook with honey, and participate a field trip to a real hive!



### June 19-23: Camp Cherry Lake Age: 8-18 **Deadline to register is June 8th**

This camp takes place in Madison, Florida. Youth stay in cabins for the week and go to campfires, swim, kayak, recreational dance, and so much more! Ages 8+ as of 9/01/16; Member as of 4/1/17. Early registration due June 2: Member \$230; Non-Member \$260. Registration after June 2: Member \$250; Non-Member \$280. Camp Orientation June 13th at 6:00pm, Ag Center Auditorium.

**To register for summer camps, go to: <http://florida.4honline.com> and follow instructions below.**

**Non-members:** If you are not already registered in 4-H Online please follow the directions to register your family on the main page. Under "Add a New Family Member", select "Youth". Then "Add Short-Term Member" and complete. Add the Group "2017 Day Camps" or "Camp Cherry Lake 2017" under the Participation section. Submit enrollment for approval. Once you receive email that enrollment is approved then you may then proceed to register for events by logging into your family profile.

**Members:** Sign in to your family profile. Scroll to the bottom of page. Select the appropriate member from drop-down list under the "Register a Member in an Event" box. Select the event from the drop-down list.

**Pay camp registration fees at the Baker County Extension Office. Payment secures your spot! For more information, call 259-3520 or email [slbennett@ufl.edu](mailto:slbennett@ufl.edu).**

## Pond Water Quality

There are many ponds in and around Baker County and now that the weather has warmed up many people are enjoying leisure activities at their favorite body of water. Ponds not only provide for leisure activities such as fishing and swimming but they also provide water for livestock, water for irrigation and aesthetic enhancement. Water quality in the pond can have an effect on any of these activities and it is important to make sure that the water quality in your pond is optimum so that you can enjoy it in the months to come.

**Dissolved Oxygen**—The amount of dissolved oxygen in the pond will have a direct effect on the health of any fish that are in the pond. Like all animals, fish need oxygen to survive and they use the dissolved oxygen in the water the same way as land animals use the oxygen in the air. A lack of dissolved oxygen is one of the most common causes of fish kills. It is important to note that as water gets warmer its ability to hold dissolved oxygen decreases. This can be very important during hot summer months with little to no rainfall. A majority of the dissolved oxygen in a pond will be produced by the plant life in the pond. Having a few weeds in your pond is actually good for it. However, overgrowth of weeds in a pond can cause issues. If you believe that you need to apply herbicide to your pond, please come and talk with us in the Extension Office for recommendations. Dissolved oxygen in pond water is typically at its lowest point just before sunrise.

**pH**—The pH of water is the measure of its acidity. Pure water is said to be neutral and has a pH of 7.0. Since many of the soils in Northeast Florida are acidic, ponds that are built on them will typically be acidic as well. Most freshwater fish can tolerate a pH level from 6.0 to 9.0. This is in the slightly acidic to slightly basic range. Like dissolved oxygen, pH levels will vary during the day with the typical low point being in the early morning and the high point in the late evening. Ponds that have a low pH can be treated with dolomitic or calcitic lime to increase the pH of the water,

**Alkalinity**—Pond water alkalinity is related to its pH. Alkalinity in a pond system refers to the water's ability to buffer changes in its pH (given that the alkalinity is at the correct level). Freshwater ponds should have an alkalinity level of 100mg/L or higher, although most ponds in this area have a hard time reaching that level. It should be noted that it is not advisable to use copper-based treatments for weed control in ponds that have an alkalinity below 50mg/L.

**Ammonia**—High levels of toxic ammonia are another common cause of fish kills. High ammonia levels can also cause very rapid growth in aquatic plants which can also lead to problems. The main source of ammonia in ponds is via animal wastes, most commonly from the fish themselves. High ammonia levels are usually present when the pond is overstocked and/or the fish are being overfed. Fish feeding is recommended to take place no more than three (3) times per week. If your fish need more food than this, the pond is most likely overstocked. Ammonia levels should be 0.05mg/L or less for a healthy pond. Flushing the pond with well-aerated well water can also help to decrease the ammonia level, but you should test the oxygen level of the water being used to make sure that you are not lowering the oxygen levels in the pond.

There are many commercial water testing kits available for pond owners which will allow you to test the levels of oxygen, alkalinity, pH and ammonia. The Baker County Extension Office offers this service free of charge, but you should set up an appointment to have the water tested by calling 904-259-3520. We also have an informative video that will show you the correct way to take a water sample from your pond. It is located on the Baker County Extension YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/user/BakerCountyExtension/videos>.

**Baker County Extension Service**  
1025 West Macclenny Avenue  
Macclenny, FL 32063

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Extension programs are open to all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, handicap, or national origin. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in any activity, should contact the Baker County Cooperative Extension Service at 1025 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063 or telephone (904) 259-3520 no later than five (5) days prior to the event. Hearing impaired persons can access the foregoing telephone by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).



## **Baker County 4-H Benefit Auction & Dinner**

**Saturday, May 06, 2017**

**Dinner at 6:00pm**

**Auction starts at 6:30pm**

**DON'T SIESTA, JOIN OUR FIESTA!**

**\$5 Taco Dinner**



**Agricultural Center Auditorium  
1025 W Macclenny Ave.  
32063**