Dear “Broward Green Bites” Readers,

I am very excited to share with you our Spring Broward Green Bites newsletter. Our new issue is sharing impact stories, new 2021 projects, educational information, and collaborative initiatives for original programming. The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is a federal, state, and county partnership dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources, the life sciences and to making that knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. Enjoy our new newsletter!

Interested to visit our Sustainable Vegetable Garden? Email us at: samuel.chillaron@ufl.edu

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A Note From the Broward County's Urban Horticulture Extension Agent..

STAY CONNECTED-VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:

Instagram: @urbanhortbroward
Twitter: https://twitter.com/HortUrban
Facebook: @facebook.com/urbanhortbroward

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New 2022 Master Gardener Volunteer Scholarship Program

Applications are available for the 2022 UF/IFAS Extension Broward County Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) training scheduled to begin in February 2022. For the second year in a row, the program will be conducted virtually with two classes a week for 16 weeks. For the first time, a scholarship program has been designed for interested participants who might not otherwise be able to financially pay the complete cost of the training fee.

Interested? Contact: lbravo1@ufl.edu
http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfyl/ufs/ufl/broward/docs/pdfs/urban-hort/documents-page/MGV-Scholarship-Application.pdf

An Equal Opportunity Institution and Employer
2021 BROWARD COUNTY’S EXTENSION VEGETABLE GARDEN HARVEST
PRESENTED TO OUR FATHER’S HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN. MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS DONATING **225 LBS** OF FRESH VEGETABLES & CUT FLOWERS.

**THE OUR FATHER’S HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN**
Dedicated to serving God’s precious poor and homeless by preparing and serving a full-course hot lunch and providing a take-out bag with a sandwich and other goodies for later in the day.

**CROP DONATION:**
- KURLY KALE
- DYNO KALE
- BROCCOLI
- PEPPERS
- TOMATOES
- CILANTRO
- GREEN BEANS
- CARROTS
- RADISH
- SNOWPEAS
- COLLARDS
- CUT FLOWERS

**SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLE GARDEN MISSION STATEMENT:**
UF/IFAS Extension Broward County Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens seeks to create vegetable and herb gardens to educate and promote best practices for urban gardeners in South Florida. Vegetables from the garden will be shared with volunteers and designated charitable organizations.
Introducing Urban Gardening to Broward Schools

FNP & MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM DELIVER GARDENING KIT AND SELF-WATERING CONTAINER PROJECT TO BROWARD SCHOOLS

INTRESTED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR 2021-2022 GROW Kit & SELF-WATERING CONTAINER GARDEN BROWARD SCHOOL PROGRAM?

Broward County Master Gardener Volunteers will teach research-based information on plant growth, soil nutrient management, irrigation and water conservation. The end result will be versatile and efficient micro school gardens at all participating schools along with teachers and students trained by our Master Gardener Volun-

CONTACT: UF/IFAS EXTENSION BROWARD COUNTY
SAM CHILLARON @ SAMUL.CHILLARON@UFLEDU

Picture Credit: MGV Amy Rielly

The Grow Kit and Self-Watering Container Garden Program for Urban Schools

Picture Credit: MGV Jeannie Schmidle & Colossal Academy
Urban Horticulture
January 2021—MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  Lorna Bravo—CED

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 BROWARD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

GINA ALZATE  City: Hollywood  MALCOLM STEELE  City: Fort Lauderdale  JOANNE EWART  City: Sheridan

Gina Alzate teaches Vocational Education, Horticulture and Mind-Body Medicine to adults with disabilities at Seagull Alternative School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Her love of gardening in South Florida reminds her of childhood memories - growing tropical fruits and vegetables in the Philippines. Gina became acquainted with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences when the Broward County Extension reached out to the Adults with Abilities Program at Seagull. UF/IFAS offered to assist their program with training on Family Nutrition and with funds to revitalize their school gardens.

Malcolm Steele is a Navy Veteran and is recommended by UF/IFAS Extension Broward County Master Gardener Volunteer Beverly Williams. Malcolm has already volunteered quite extensively with Beverly Williams at the Frank Coleman Community Garden located in a food desert are in Lauderdale Lakes. When he was younger, he worked in his family’s landscaping company and was currently learning how to build vegetable gardens. He would like to become a Broward County Master Gardener Volunteer to help others learn how to grow their food and expand their knowledge to build raised bed gardens for low-income families.

Joanne Ewart is a Broward Schools Teacher at Sheridan Hills Elementary interested in developing a successful garden program at her school. She has taken many courses through Fairchild Botanical Garden and has entered her school in the Fairchild Challenge three years in a row. Joanne has led her school garden program for five years now and is interested in taking the MGV course to better train her horticulture students.

UF/IFAS Extension Broward County Master Gardener Volunteer program launches the first Broward County Master Gardener Volunteer Scholarship program! We will be honoring three scholarships for class 2022.

APPLY @ http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/broward/urban-horticulture/broward-master-gardener/

THANK YOU TO OUR UF/IFAS EXTENSION BROWARD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

An Equal Opportunity Institution and Employer
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program

Lorna Bravo – Urban Horticulture Agent

March 2021

Silver FFL Certification

Principle #9: Protect the Waterfront

- Plant a border of low-maintenance plants between lawn and shoreline/seawall

2021 MARTHA CRAINE RESIDENCE
FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING SILVER CERTIFICATION

- Following Watering Mandates: 2 days/week
- Reduced 50% TURF & Fertilizer reduction
- Annual Watering Savings of $200 (First year)
- Adopted (4) 55-Gallon Rain barrels
- Installed a Smart Irrigation Meter (Broward County Program)

Protect our bodies of Water

- Absorbs nutrients
- Provides wildlife habitat
- Prevents erosion. Plant native shoreline plants.

"I have always dreamed of having a butterfly garden. My Master Gardener Training gave me the knowledge I needed to plan my garden following Florida Friendly Gardening Principles, reduce my water usage, and place the right plants, nectar and host, in the right place to encourage a diverse and active butterfly community." - Martha Crain Ed. D

Principle #2: Water Efficiently

Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program

- Following Watering Mandates: Thursday & Sunday

- Water Savings $200/year

RAIN SENSOR RAIN BARREL SMART IRRIGATION SYSTEM

PARTICIPATED IN THE 1ST BROWARD COUNTY IRRIGATION REBATE PROGRAM

ADOPTING FOUR RAIN BARRELS

http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/broward/urban-horticulture/
GOLD Certification

- Reduce Irrigation from 3 days/week to 2 days/week
- 66,020 gallons/year of water savings
- Removed 6 invasive plant species from property
- Reduced monthly broad spectrum pest control spray
- Quarterly educational FFL workshops to 80 residents
- Landscape Specs/IPM created for maintenance foreman

“My Master Gardener, Water Star and Florida Friendly Landscape training allowed me to put in place a landscape project that reduces irrigation and chemical use for a medium-sized residential building located on a sensitive waterway. This can be a great example for other buildings planning for the future.” - James O’Connor

http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/broward/urban-horticulture/
“I have been gardening with food ever since I was six years old with my father in Guyana. We always had a kitchen garden in our backyard along with chickens and a goat. Everywhere I lived I had a small vegetable garden along with flowers. Gardening is in my blood; it is a passion of mine for as long as I can remember. In 2002 we bought a home in North Lauderdale with a big backyard which is almost half of an acre. That’s when I decided that I would have a huge vegetable garden. I wanted to learn more about pest and disease control.”
In 2011 the City of North Lauderdale launched a community garden and as a sustainability board member I was asked to manage the garden. For two years I brought residents in and we had a garden with twenty plots that were successful. We grew over 100 pounds of food as a community and I was motivated to do more so I decided that I would go to school. I knew for a long time that I wanted to be a Master Gardener so I can learn more of what I had already was doing and to know more of what I didn’t know. In 2017 I learned that UF/IFAS Broward County Extension was having a Master Gardener volunteer (MGV) class on Wednesday and Saturday so I signed up and graduated in 2018.

After I graduated as MGV, I met with the Economic Development Director for the City of North Lauderdale and we discussed starting a garden at a new location and a club for the residence that would be sustainable. In 2019 I formed my garden club with 12 individuals who had an interest in growing their own food. We met once per month and I taught them some of what I had learned from the MGV class. I was motivated by the group and their efforts to learn. These ladies were eager to soak up all that they can to learn how to grow food right in their own backyard or patio and condo.

Then came Covid-19 in 2020 and it changed everything. We started zoom classes on how to compost, build soil, pest and insects, and fertilization. Due to COVID-19 I lost half of my group who were challenged by technology. People are eager to learn when they know that there is someone they can rely on to teach them what they don’t know. In September of 2020 I decided to bring the ladies into my backyard for hands on training and I taught them how to start seeds and set transplant out in the garden. We have several vegetables currently growing. My long-term goal is to work with the City of North Lauderdale to teach the residents about growing their own food sustainably when the garden reopens to the public this year.” -MGV Lee White

PICTURE CREDIT: MGV  LEE WHITE

VOLUNTEERING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

GROWING FOOD IN URBAN PLACES
The Ruddy Daggerwing are members of the brush-foot family and one of four ‘wing’ butterflies in Florida. This orange butterfly embraces wasps and moths! This medium-sized bright orange hue butterfly with a wingspan of 2 ¾ to 3 ¾ inches has three thin straight black lines on each elongated wing, while the hindwing has long dagger-like tails. The wing base and body are white. The males that like to wait for 30ft up in trees for females are more drab-brown. Young females have a purple iridescent sheen. The undersides of both genders resemble a dead leaf. Female Daggerwings doing three or more broods a year are more common from May-July. Males may sip mud to get minerals or salts through nectar plants include bloodberry, Cordia globosa, climbing hempvine, Mikania scandens, lantana, and giant milkweed.

The Ruddy prefers to lay eggs on the stems of fig trees. Fig trees are tropical plants with numerous species around the world. There are just two species native to the United States: the Florida strangler fig (Ficus aurea) and the shortleaf fig, also called giant bearded fig or wild banyan tree (Ficus citrifolia). Both trees serve as hosts for the Ruddy Daggerwing butterfly. Wild Banyans that can reach 71ft in South Florida hosts Daggerwing caterpillars and other insects such as the Edwards’ wasp moth and the Fig sphinx moth. Pollination, however, is done by a wasp so tiny that it does not have a common name, only a scientific one. That’s the Pegoscapus tonduzi wasp which bores itself inside the shortleaf fig to utilize its cluster of seeds. The inflorescence (flower head) is found inside a bulbous stem that animals devour as a ripe pinkish, purple fig. The colorful Daggerwing butterfly is also the product of native figs.-MGV Pat Rossi
Florida-Friendly Landscape Principle # 5
Attract Wildlife

Plants in your landscape that provide food, water and shelter will attract Florida’s diverse wildlife.

WATCH OUR VIDEO: https://youtu.be/HEawBSpvlEY

STAY CONNECTED-VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:

Visit our new Instagram Page: @urbanhortbroward
Visit our new Twitter Page: https://twitter.com/HortUrban
Visit our new Facebook Page: @facebook.com/urbanhortbroward

READ OUR BLOG:
https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/browardco/2021/04/06/provide-for-wildlife/

UF/IFAS EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER AMY RIELLY