

**January to March 2021- Volume 4, Number 1**

In this issue

FFL-Broward County Water Ambassador Project.....	2,3,4
Frank Coleman Community Gardens-MGV Beverly Williams	
Giving Back to Our Community .....	5,6,7
Master Gardener Volunteer 2021 Lecture Series.....	8
Florida-Friendly Landscape Plant of the Month.....	9
Florida-Friendly Landscape Butterfly of The Month.....	10



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

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!

*Lorna Bravo*



Interested to get a Rain barrel? Email us at: [Anthony.gross@ufl.edu](mailto:Anthony.gross@ufl.edu)

Lorna Bravo, Urban Horticulture Agent II, CED LEED AP BD+C

Phone: 954-756-8529 | Fax: 954-357-5271

Email: [lbravo1@ufl.edu](mailto:lbravo1@ufl.edu)

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Visit our new Twitter Page:  
➤ <https://twitter.com/HortUrban>



Visit our new Facebook Page:  
➤ [@facebook.com/urbanhortbroward](https://www.facebook.com/urbanhortbroward)

## Upcoming Events

# DRIVE-THRU CELEBRATION!

RECOGNIZING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS ON WHEELS

## JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 12TH 2021

*This will be an all day event with staggered appointments.  
All CDC guidelines will be followed for the safety of our staff/volunteers*

For more information on your time slot, please contact  
Anthony Gross, by email to [Anthony.gross@ufl.edu](mailto:Anthony.gross@ufl.edu)

## New 2021 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](mailto:lbravo1@ufl.edu)

# Urban Horticulture

## 2020 WATER AMBASSADOR SHORT-COURSE

Lorna Bravo –Urban Horticulture Agent  
Anthony Gross- Urban Horticulture Training Specialist

BROWARD  
COUNTY  
FLORIDA

UF IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

2020 WATER AMBASSADOR SHORT-COURSE  
FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING PROGRAM  
URBAN HORTICULTURE AGENT: LORNA BRAVO



OUR YARDS ARE THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE IN  
PRESERVING FLORIDA'S FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT

*"The importance to conserve water. Control pest waste to avoid nitrogen contamination as well as leveraging my rain barrel to harvest water. I will look into a driveway swale as well to prevent water runoff."*

*-Julieta R.*

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COUNTY  
FLORIDA



SMART TECHNOLOGIES FOR EFFICIENT  
USE OF WATER RESOURCES  
DR. HAIMANOTE BAYABIL



*"Encourage those around me to know a little more about their irrigation system and I plan to put in a water barrel and / or create a rain garden."*

## Success Stories

13 responders  
MGC Class 2020, 2016, 2018

80% respondents who  
were highly satisfied  
90% who were satisfied

In general what did you think of  
this program?

*"Informative and educational"*

*"Enjoyed it. Since it was a brand new class I didn't have any expectations except that it would be worthy of my time, it was!!"*

*"Very important content. Exceeded my expectations."*

*"Excellent program. All expectations met."*

*"Exceeded my expectation and contain great information."*

*"I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I see that the course was well thought-out and deliberate. Thank You."*

Florida-Friendly  
Landscaping™ PROGRAM



*"It exceeded my expectations! Both the extension team and my classmates were fully engaged in making this class a productive, efficient, effective learning environment! I learned a great deal and look forward to continuing to work with the team!"*

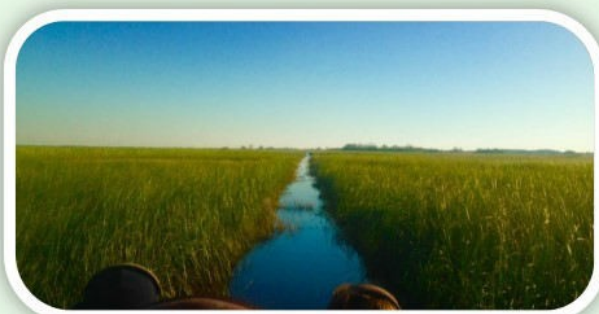
<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/broward/urban-horticulture/>

# Urban Horticulture

## 2020 WATER AMBASSADOR SHORT- COURSE

Lorna Bravo–Urban Horticulture Agent  
Anthony Gross- Urban Horticulture Training Specialist

OUR YARDS ARE THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE IN  
PRESERVING FLORIDA'S FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT



*"I have enjoyed the program. The information has been beneficial, interesting and, at times, fascinating."*

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BROWARD COUNTY  
FLORIDA

Florida-Friendly  
Landscaping™ PROGRAM



**What Knowledge gain are you taking away from this course?**

*"Better understanding of Broward water systems."*

*"Better understanding of the water cycle and the importance of efficiency have become further embedded in my brain. I have a better understanding of soil structure, plant nutrition requirements."*

*"The 9 FFL principles have now become solidified for me. I will make sure I follow them and share my knowledge with others."*

*"Received detailed information about fertilization and watering, will calibrate my system better."*

## Success Stories

13 responders  
MGC Class 2020, 2016, 2018



## WATER UNITES US



Florida-Friendly  
Landscaping™ PROGRAM

*This course changed my approach in talking about gardening. I think using the discussion of water is more important in all gardening discussions. Conserving water is not a tacit understanding, but it is something to bring to the front of the gardening discussion.*  
-Karen W.

<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/broward/urban-horticulture/>

# Urban Horticulture

December 2020

Lorna Bravo –Urban Horticulture Agent

BROWARD  
COUNTY  
FLORIDA

UF IFAS Extension  
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## Success Stories

### #1 Florida-Friendly Landscaping Certified Professionals

- Congratulations to our first Broward County Master Gardener Volunteers graduating from our Water Ambassador Class 2020 and becoming the First Florida-Friendly Landscaping Certified Professionals in South Florida.



Jennifer Sirop, GI-BMP & FFLCP



Gerritt Striker, GI-BMP & FFLCP



Mario Rios, GI-BMP & FFLCP



Karen Wheeler, GI-BMP & FFLCP



Jannine Griffiths  
FWS, GI-BMP & FFLCP



Shauna Boughton  
GI-BMP & FFLCP



Katy O'Hara  
GI-BMP & FFLCP



UF IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

2020 WATER AMBASSADOR SHORT-COURSE

FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING PROGRAM

URBAN HORTICULTURE AGENT: LORNA BRAVO



## Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM Certified Professional

### Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Certification

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program offers a Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Certified Professional (FFLCP) designation to individuals who have completed the required training in FFL principles and are familiar with the latest UF/IFAS recommendations. These trained professionals have demonstrated the ability to recognize and address common landscape issues by using environmentally sustainable landscape management practices that help preserve and protect Florida's water and natural resources.

### How do I become a Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Certified Professional?

Contact UF/IFAS Extension Broward County  
Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program:  
Urban Horticulture Agent Lorna Bravo



EMAIL: [lbravo1@ufl.edu](mailto:lbravo1@ufl.edu)  
[anthony.gross@ufl.edu](mailto:anthony.gross@ufl.edu)



<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/broward/urban-horticulture/>

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GIVING BACK TO OUR  
COMMUNITY  
EMPOWERING OUR NEXT  
GENERATION



UF/IFAS EXTENSION BROWARD  
COUNTY MASTER GARDENER  
VOLUNTEER BEVERLY WILLIAMS

Beverly Williams completed the Master Gardener Volunteer class in 2010. She always had a garden at her home and was convinced to take the class by a former City Manager. In 2011, after Beverly Williams had completed the MGV course, the Lauderdale Lakes Community Garden was born.

The CRA Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funded the project. They received \$10,000 to begin the project. "We renamed the garden Frank Coleman as he was the other half for starting the garden. He passed away two years ago.", said Beverly Williams

## FRANK COLEMAN COMMUNITY GARDENS

LAUDERDALE LAKES BROWARD COUNTY- (PRE-COVID)



GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY-SUSTAINABLE GARDENING

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER: BEVERLY WILLIAMS

## Frank Coleman Community Garden-Broward County

The gardens are located in food desert areas. Food deserts are urban areas in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food. The project's goal was to teach people how to grow food. Teaching families to eat healthier, learn to enjoy eating new vegetables, and meeting their neighbors were part of the mission. Each participant is responsible for the area. Before COVID, classes were held on the weekend to assist anyone and to ask questions. "We eventually ended up with neighbors who had grown food prior or grew up on a farm, which helped the project", said Beverly Williams.

Both gardens are on City-owned property. The first garden's location is near the Vincent Torres Park parking area. In the beginning, they had 18 people who we recruited residents to learn how to grow pesticide-free vegetables. They recruited people who lived in apartments or condominiums; they lived in homes that had decided they could not do it. The majority of the children were with their families.

The garden project began with 18 residents; it became so popular they eventually ended up with 42 individual 10x5 cement block beds. They have three beds that are high enough to use a wheelchair; handicapped, and they have two teaching beds, where whatever seedlings are grown, they can remove them to plant in their individual beds. They began with untreated wood, but in two years, they had rotten wood. "We all learned how to use tools because they created the beds", said Beverly Williams

They organized the LL Garden Club. Each person is responsible for caring for their space and helping in the upkeep of the property. In this garden, what is grown in the individual beds is the member's choice; however, we encourage them to try something different.



PICTURE CREDIT: MGV BEVERLY WILLIAMS



GROWING FOOD IN URBAN PLACES  
PRE-COVID



GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY-SUSTAINABLE GARDENING



## HARVESTING TIME GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

### Harvest-Frank Coleman Community Garden

The Frank Coleman Community Garden donates bags of vegetables to the garden's senior citizens. Before the pandemic, the community garden had 40 seniors who attend adult day care Monday thru Thursday, and the garden donates to the Alzheimer's program. The community garden has some city staff, homeowners association, Cheerleader, and Band participants who volunteer for some of the community residents.

## GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY-EMPOWERING OUR NEXT GENERATION- LAKES CHILDREN'S GARDEN

LAUDERDALE LAKES COMMUNITY  
GARDEN-BROWARD COUNTY



MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER BEVERLY WILLIAMS



### LAKE'S CHILDREN GARDEN

The Children's Garden is located at 3100 NW 40th Street on NW 31 Ave and 40th under the yellow canopy. The CRA funded the children's garden in 2013. They received \$10,000 to purchase what was needed. Because of the school structure, the children visit the garden on Saturday. The kids that need hours toward their graduation requirements are allowed, and Beverly Williams signs for them. Special programs included The after-school program for kids, and most kids get picked up from school. Twice a week, the kids would walk across from the park garden to watch the progress and watch the vegetables grow. The Piney Grove Boys academy would come every Thursday before the pandemic.



PRE COVID



## HARVESTING TIME GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY EMPOWERING OUR NEXT GENERATION

The kids grow farm style at the Children's garden. They grow Collard Greens, turnips 7Top and Purple top turnip Cauliflower, okra, tomatoes, onions, different lettuce, radishes, carrots, beans and beans cucumbers basil, celery, ruffled top Mustards, Southern Mustards, Spinach, Brussels sprouts

# UF/IFAS Extension Broward County 2021 MGCV LECTURE SERIES



## 2021 Master Gardener Volunteer Lecture Series

January 12th	<b>Speaker:</b> Lorna Bravo, Urban Horticulture Agent/ Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator <b>Topic:</b> 2021 UF/IFAS Extension, Broward County MGCV Program and Initiatives
February 2nd	<b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Lyn Gettys, Associate Professor of Agronomy, Aquatic and Wetland Plant Science, UF-FLREC <b>Topic:</b> Invasive Pathways and IPM for Aquatic Species
March 2nd	<b>Speaker:</b> Lorna Bravo, County Extension Director <b>Topic:</b> Florida Friendly Landscaping in an Urban Environment, the 9 principles and what you can do to begin your journey to becoming a Certified FFL residential Landscape
April 6th	<b>Speaker:</b> Rob Northrop, Extension Program Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Hillsborough County, Extension Forester and Urban Canopy Specialist <b>Topic:</b> Healthy Urban Tree Canopy
May 4th	<b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Shelly Johnson, Florida Master Naturalist Coordinator <b>Topic:</b> Citizen Science, How to attract wildlife
June 1st	<b>Speaker:</b> Lorna Bravo, Urban Horticulture Agent/ Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator <b>Topic:</b> Rain Barrel Program
July	No Meeting This month
August 3rd	<b>Speaker:</b> Jeff Wasielewski, Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade County <b>Topic:</b> Fruit Trees - Post Production Care
September 7th	<b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Lisa Krinsky, Florida Sea Grant and Center for Land Use Efficiency Agent, Water Resources Regional Specialized Agent <b>Topic:</b> Water Issues as they relate to Urban Environments
October 5th	<b>Speaker:</b> Christine Kelly-Begazo, County Extension Director/MGCV Coordinator, UF/IFAS Indian River <b>Topic:</b> Best Practices, Raising Backyard Chickens
November 2nd	<b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Alan Chambers, Assistant Professor, Tropical Fruit Genetics and Breeding <b>Topic:</b> The Vanilla Project
December TBD	Awards

# Florida-Friendly Landscape Plant of The Month

## Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM

### Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*)

- ❑ **Family:** *Zamiaceae*
  - ❑ **Scientific Name:** *Zamia integrifolia*
  - ❑ **Common Name:** Coontie
  - ❑ **Zone:** 8b to 11 ( Native to Florida)
  - ❑ **Uses:** border; mass planting; accent; attracts butterflies; suitable for growing indoors
- PICTURE CREDIT: LORNA BRAVO

## Coontie & the Atala Butterfly, *Eumaeus atala*

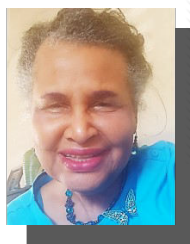
What is black, blue-green with flashes of a red tail? You guessed it, the Atala butterfly. They fly like a moth, please you with a good perch for photos and stick around once you give them plenty of host plants and likable nectar. As Master Gardeners you learn about cycads, the ones called Coontie or *Zamia integrifolia* that Atala butterflies use as host with the advantage of the toughness and toxicity of the plants. The name Coontie or koonti is derived from the Seminole Native American language.

This cycad inhabits all habitats including well-drained, sandy soils though it prefers filtered light or partial shade. The Coontie is native to most of peninsular Florida and southeastern Georgia east of the Apalachicola River. None of the Florida native species are known in the West Indies, but related *Zamia* species are found there. The Atalas are found in southeastern Florida, in counties of Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade though some colonies have been introduced into Martin, Monroe and Collier counties. They occur in the West Indies in the Bahamas, Caicos & Turks, Cayman Islands and Cuba. The plant was useful to the early settlers and native Americans of South Florida. The starchy tuber-root and stems made flour after the process of removing, washing out the poison cycasin. It was known as "Florida Arrow-root" but this over harvesting caused the plant to almost disappear and the butterfly thought to be extirpated. There was a pause in collection 1937-1959. As it happened in 1979 a colony of butterflies were found by Roger Hammer, naturalist, author on Key Biscayne. Since then Atala populations have rebounded. Gardeners avidly plant Coontie in hopes to see the butterfly. The Coontie is included in Florida's Commercially Exploited Plant List. Collection of the Coontie from the wild is prohibited. We've seen coonties now available commercially, planted in South Florida counties in homes and at local towns sites over the years and where the coontie is, the Atala butterfly has shown up, delighting enthusiasts.

-Pat Rossi



FLORIDA  
**MASTER  
GARDENER  
VOLUNTEER**



### WATCH OUR VIDEO:

- <https://youtu.be/dskkicNDodo>

UF/IFAS EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PAT ROSSI

# Florida-Friendly Landscape Butterfly of The Month



## 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/dskkicNDodo>

### STAY CONNECTED-VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:



Visit our new Instagram Page:  
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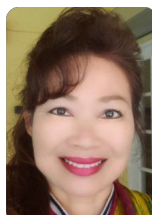
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**FLORIDA  
MASTER  
GARDENER  
VOLUNTEER**



UF/IFAS EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER AMY RIELLY



### READ OUR BLOG:

- *Provide for Wildlife-The Atala Butterfly - UF/IFAS Extension Broward County (ufl.edu)*