



Nov & Dec 2024 Volume 3

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Coming -Thanksgiving then December - the end of 2024

Well, we made it! It's the end of the year and it's been one impactful year. We moved back into the Extension Office after repairs were completed in Dec 2023. Given the turmoil of the renovations, we didn't hold a MGCV class this year; we needed time to get reorganized and take stock of where we are as a team. We had a very successful team of Sheryl van der Heiden and Marcy Lambert who did a tremendous job getting BetterImpact organized & their success was greatly appreciated by all who now use the system. Sheryl also organized the Help Desk; got them set up for success by putting together a Help Desk Manual and training. We had a new Administrative Receptionist join us in March, Ms. Sherma Clarke Bute. It's been a busy year!!

Happy Holidays to All !! Steve



Have a fine celebration whatever way you celebrate in December

Featuring

MGV BIRTHDAYS

Pilar Londono-Cortes	Nov 20
Stephen Deegan	Dec 5
Laura Koehnlein	Dec 5
Suzanne Smith	Dec 10
Wendy Wilber	Dec 13
Inger Jones	Dec 21
Kari Botek	Dec 24
Sheryl van der Heiden	Dec 29
Lizette Lewis	N/A

Water Ambassador Program

Don't forget the 2024 Water Ambassador Short-Course
Oct 4 through Nov 8, 2024

Needed: from MGVs
Your ongoing projects, email:
lbravo1@ufl.edu
Next issue: Pines & pinelands

2024 MGCV Recognition Event

Sat Oct 26, 1-3pm

A great event! Celebrated the hard work and dedication of our MGVs. The Location was
UF-IFAS Broward County
Extension Auditorium 3245
College Ave. Davie, FL 33314



Master Gardener
Volunteer
2024 Fall Celebration



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White Flowers. Endangered, native Pale Passionvine, *Passiflora pallens* found in south FL. The flowers close during the evening, open by late morning. Host to: Zebra longwing, Gulf Fritillary; Julia; Variegated fritillary butterflies. Bees incl. carpenter bees do pollination. Familiar are the: Corksystem & Purple passionflower

Sources: Wiki; FNPS.



* Announcements*

Upcoming Webinars Local & State

Reminder don't forget to do your Education Hours; log those into the Better Impact system

MGV 2024 Broward Urban Horticulture Webinar Series

Location: Virtual

- ❑ **November 12** - Creating a Florida-Friendly Landscape with Tropical Fruit Trees with Tropical Fruit Agent Jeff Wasielewski
- ❑ **December 10** - Mulch in The Landscape with Dr. Chris Marble

Zoom links coming



MGV 2024 Webinar Series by Wendy Wilber, Gainesville

Location: Virtual

- ❑ **November 14** - Honey Bees: What MGVs Need to Know with Amy Vu
- ❑ **December 12** - MGV Projects That Make Us Proud with Wendy Wilbur

Zoom links coming



For Past Webinars:
Scroll down to find "watch recording of the webinar" under each month's section

Past Webinars. June 2024: Great Southeast Pollinator Census; May 2024: Milkweed, Monarchs and OE in Florida; April 2024: Climate Change in Real Life with Larry Figart and Savanna Barry; March 2024: Turf and Soil Testing with Brian Unruh; March 2024: Special Pest Alert: Thrips Parvispinus with Dr. Lance Osborne and Nicole Brenda. Et al

LINK - PAST WEBINARS

[Webinars - Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Program - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](#)



The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact Lorna Bravo at lbravo1@ufl.edu at least one week in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.





In the Spotlight



Project Title: Bonnet House Museum and Rangpur Limes Orchard Restoration

Summary: The Bonnet House Museum and Gardens in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is known for its unique architecture and its extensive collection of art and unique botanical specimens. One of those specimens is a century-old Rangpur lime tree which Frederic and Helen Bartlett, owners of the house, brought back home to Fort Lauderdale from one of their trips to India over a hundred years ago. The Rangpur lime (*citrus x limonia*) is a hybrid citrus fruit, a cross between a mandarin orange and a citron. Despite its name, it is not considered a true lime. It's tart-acidic flavor contains hints of mandarin orange and, unlike traditional limes, turns bright orange in color when fully ripe. For decades the Bartlett's leveraged their bountiful Rangpur crops to make their signature Bonnet House Rangpur lime cocktail. Being gracious hosts, the family offered all those working on the property to end the day with a refreshing cocktail tradition, which was a welcomed reprieve after spending the day in the Florida sun. The average lifespan of a citrus tree is approximately 50 years, with fruit production drastically decreasing soon thereafter. The Florida ecosystem presents many challenges for those wishing to grow non-native plant species, including citrus.

The original Rangpur lime tree, being over a hundred years old, was showing signs of stress, decay and insect infestations. It hadn't fruited many years. With the goal being to keep the original Bonnet House botanical collection intact, removing the diminished Rangpur lime tree and replacing it with a new and healthier tree was not an option as it would not be a part of the original collection. Additionally, growing new trees from the seeds of its fruit was not an option, since citrus trees are hybrids and growing one from a seed doesn't guarantee the new seedling will have the characteristics of the parent plant. To solve this dilemma a team of Master Gardener Volunteers teamed up to address the preservation of the Bonnet House citrus courtyard. Using air layering, **a propagation method that allows root branches to form while still attached to the parent plant**, the team was able to produce a collection of new trees identical to the original Rangpur lime tree the Bartlett's brought back from India. Air layering enables the creation of clones from mature trees, meaning that the new trees, even though small, are genetically identical to the parent tree producing fruit in two seasons.

This approach also keeps the original collection intact as no new specimens are being introduced. Sadly, the original tree eventually died. But an orchard of clones has now replaced it **and this summer, Bonnet House was rewarded with a full crop of Rangpur limes from the newly established orchard, making the orchard an essential tour stop.**



Scope of Project: The goal was to restore the Bonnet House citrus courtyard, an important historical landmark in Fort Lauderdale.

Target audiences were stakeholders and visitors which included over 70,000 visitors, additionally 7,000 school children yearly. The citrus courtyard is also an educational stop for students visiting to showcase the significance of citrus in Florida, growing your own food, garden-to-table-meals, and citrus greening awareness. **A landmark of significance, Bonnet House is a great educational place in Ft. Lauderdale for art and ecology of a barrier island.**

Plans for the orchard included propagation of the Rangpur lime trees and maintenance: fertilizing, irrigation planning, overcoming citrus greening, disease prevention. **Teamwork:** The team, made up of 3 Master Gardener Volunteers-MGVs kept each other informed.

The MGVs layered/propagated, made new specimens. In the planting process they watered, fertilized with neem oil, tree trimmed and mulched. This was done using **Florida Friendly Landscaping-FFL principles 1 through 9**. They also oversaw the process setting up schedules communicating by chat to make sure someone was on site during the week. This was documented, pictures taken, writeups done for Bonnet House newsletter with observations by museum & garden staff and tour visitors.

Outcome: The Bonnet House citrus courtyard has been restored to a working orchard; **a bumper crop of Rangpur limes this summer is the result!** The restoration story of this historical citrus courtyard has been documented, shared by the house; sent out by the communications team for external publication to several magazines. Learning Aspect: A key challenge - since the original trees were brought back from a trip to India - they were considered part of the original collection by the museum curator. Replacing aging and decaying trees a hundred years later with new specimens from a nursery was not an option. There was a lot of work, yet success ensued restoring the orchard, reproducing replicas of original trees. And a lesson - we've kept additional specimens of the Rangpur trees growing, so we'll be rewarded with citrus well into the future. **Project Team Members:** Julieta Ross, Geo Tomczyk, and a Wisconsin MGV --Julieta Ross--





HOLLIES



These native holly trees are perhaps known, the American holly *Ilex opaca* found in natural areas, Yaupon or weeping holly *Ilex vomitoria*, Dahoon *Ilex cassine*, the native hybrid of American and Dahoon discovered in the wild called East Palatka, Foster or Topal holly *Ilex x attenuata* the hybrid of Dahoon & American holly. The shiny green leaves of them have different shapes and trees vary in size.
<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/shrubs/holly/>.

In the Atlas of Florida Plants site are another eleven natives in Florida which may or may not be available. Some holly varieties are dwarf, used as formal or informal hedges, popular in winter gardens or as specimen plants. One of them stands out for its beauty. The native deciduous American winterberry holly bush (*Ilex verticillata*) see above, female plant can be stunning laden with red or yellow berries. Hollies are dioecious; male and female trees, only the female plants produce numerous berries appearing in autumn ripening to colors, berries wildlife consumes. For female hollies to bear fruit - a male tree must be nearby.

It's hard to tell trees apart. Both male, female produce flowers, the male has small white flowers with 4 petals, 4 stamens like sticks composed of pollen tip anthers looking like knobs. Pollination happens with bees or flies taking pollen to creamy white female flowers, These have four petals and a single nodule[ovary] called the pistil - the reproductive part - which looks like one swollen vase that contains: the green ovule, style and stigma. Once female flowers are pollinated, berries form. One male tree will pollinate up to five female trees



L: Male R: Female
Holly tree flowers



L-R. Gray Catbird
Eastern Bluebird
Cedar Waxwing
Northern
Cardinal.
Sources: Wiki



The Gray Catbird, Eastern Bluebird & Cedar Waxwing favor the berries with high fat content, though toxic to humans is a crucial food supply to birds & small mammals in winter. Birds robins & thrushes among others visit for breeding and roosting. The holly trees prickly leaves & thick foliage provides protection giving shelter, nesting locations - a refuge from predators. By planting holly trees, you help maintain the natural balance of your surrounds and provide a welcoming home for a variety of animal species ~~Patr~~

Sources

[http://Ilex-GenusPage-ISB:AtlasofFloridaPlants\(usf.edu\);](http://Ilex-GenusPage-ISB:AtlasofFloridaPlants(usf.edu);)
<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/shrubs/holly/>.. <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov>. Magnolia grandiflora L-Southern Research Station-USDA and Magnolia virginiana L-Southern Research Station-USDA



Quailberry, Christmasberry
groundcover
Crossopetalum ilicifolium



WHAT'S YOUR GARDEN LIKE IN AUTUMN



Bad. Green Shrimp Plant



Good. Widemouth



Dayflower

White Flowers with Pollinators

There are a six native species of magnolia trees vouched for in Florida. Some are deciduous losing their leaves, some stay evergreen. They are good for lumber & wildlife. Two well-known natives are *Magnolia grandiflora*, **Southern Magnolia** and *Magnolia virginiana*, **Sweetbay** are popular. Southern Magnolia, also bull-bay, big laurel, is an evergreen, not deciduous, has large fragrant white flowers & reddish-brown leaves. Growth is 60-80ft or higher. The native range is eastern NC, south along the Atlantic coast to the Peace River in Central FL; westward through southern half of GA, Alabama, Mississippi-MS and across Louisiana-LA. It's most prevalent in LA, MS and TX. Some popular cultivars which grow in zones 7-10 developed from *M. grandiflora* includes Bracken's Brown Beauty, Glen St. Mary and Little Gem a diminutive version with smaller flowers. There are other Southern Magnolia cultivars available for zone 6 areas.

Sweetbay include names: swamp-bay and white-bay, maybe confused with Loblolly-bay, *Gordonia lasianthus* and Redbay, *Persea borbonia*. Sweetbay is semi-evergreen, losing leaves in winter for a short time. Typically, it grows to 35ft. The native range is chiefly along the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains from Long Island south through NJ and southern Pennsylvania to southern Florida. The underside leaf is pubescent-hairy and silvery, magnolias are listed by USDA as facultative, i.e. thriving in both wetlands and non-wetlands. Sweetbay cultivars in zones 5-10 include Henry Hicks, Northern Bell and Green Bay. Beetles pollinate, taking the rich protein pollen. Birds e.g quail, robins, consume seeds. Leaves are used for pharmaceutical purposes

Courtesy of Mariana Yi MGv,

Recognizing Good, Bad Weeds

First the bad. She warns us to look out on your lawn for: Green Shrimp plant *Ruellia blechum*, category II invasive by FL Invasive Species Council-FISC, pull it, even if malachite butterflies use this plant as a host. Nut grass *Cyperus rotundus* - it's highly invasive, undesirable. **Like a groundcover.** The showy Mexican Clover, *Richardia grandiflora* and cousins *R. scabra*, *R. brasiliensis* with nectar in pink, blue, violet colors attract pollinators. Poison Ivy *Toxicodendron radicans* a **vine or shrub**, if it has 'leaves of three, let it be' vs Virginia Creeper with 5 leaves. That poison ivy oil is in all parts of the plant, called urushiol, an irritant to humans, though unphased by birds, deer, bear who eat the berries. Moths like the leaves too - they'll turn red as an invitation to munch; for animals.

Now the Good. First there is Widemouth Dayflower, *Commelia erecta*, eatable nectar blue flowers, spreading stems of 6-10", likes sandy soils. Common Fanpetals or wireweed *Sida ulmifolia*, blooms pale yellow-deep yellowish-orange is host to Common & Checkered Skipper butterflies. And Spanish Needles, *Bidens alba*, nectar for over 30 butterflies, host to Dainty Sulphur butterfly

The Red Berry

Cranberries. We think of these November, thanksgiving time, at least that's in my case. It's made into juice, sauce, jellies. States supporting the growing conditions needed for cranberries to thrive: Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington. The specie is *Vaccinium macrocarpon* (American Cranberry, Bearberry, Cranberry, Large Cranberry) previously *Oxycoccus macrocarpus*. It's a low-growing vine, ground cover or trailing evergreen shrub native from the Ericaceae family. Pollinated by bees, there are many varieties or cultivars growing in states. Massachusetts cultivars incl. Early Black and McFarlin; NJ uses Crimson & Mullica Queen, the dominant being Early Black. Another popular plant grown for berries though not a true cranberry is American Cranberrybush, *Viburnum trilobum*. From plant family Adoxaceae & pollinated by wind & insects, is named- cranberrybush viburnum, American cranberrybush or high bush. With bright red berries & rich in vitamin C & a favorite of wildlife, it's grown commercially for jellies, jams or used medicinally.

Cranberries from *Vaccinium macrocarpon* go from white to a deep red color at peak flavor ready to pick. Harvested from mid-Sept through early Nov; they're harvested by a dry method of using walk-behind machines into burlap bags whereas the wet method flood bogs in 18-24 inches of water, machine loosen cranberries from vines, corralled, berries taken to trucks ending up in markets for sale, enjoy!

Cranberry Jelly Ingredients

1 lb fresh cranberries-about 4 cups, thawed if frozen
2 oranges, 2 cups sugar, 1 cup water, Kosher salt, a pinch
1 rap pure vanilla extract, optional, 1 tsp ground coriander optional

1. Put the cranberries in a saucepan or cooking pot. Remove wide strips of zest from ½ an orange with a peeler, then add to the saucepan with the juice of both oranges-about ½ cup
2. Add the sugar, salt & water. If desired add ground coriander. Bring to a simmer over medium heat, cook for 15-20mins stirring occasionally until berries burst & sauce thickens
3. Remove from heat and remove the orange zest. Stir in vanilla, Transfer to blender, puree until smooth. Strain thru fine-mesh sieve into serving dish, push sauce thru rubber spatula. Refrigerate for at least 3 hrs til set.

Florida's cranberry *Hibiscus sabdariffa*

This cranberry, also known as Roselle, Jamaican sorrel & other names, is a tropical or subtropical annual plant that's a member of the Mallow family. The bright red flower calyxes are used as tea or beverages; the leaves are used for pickling & curries. Patr