



# **SEASONS IN WAKULLA COUNTY**

**Agriculture, Horticulture, Natural Resources  
Quarterly Report, Jan - Aug 2023  
Volume 1**

## Who We Are

UF/IFAS Wakulla Extension is a federal, state, and county partnership throughout Florida, with the mission to improve our lives by developing knowledge in agriculture, natural resources, and the life sciences and to make that knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. The partnership includes Florida Cooperative Extension, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), University of Florida (UF), Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) and the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners.

**UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County**  
**84 Cedar Avenue**  
**Crawfordville, FL 32327-2063**

**Phone: (850) 926-3931**

**Email: [wakulla@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:wakulla@ifas.ufl.edu)**

**Web: <http://wakulla.ifas.ufl.edu>**



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Khadejah Scott ▪  
[khadejahscott@ufl.edu](mailto:khadejahscott@ufl.edu) ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 3

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

## Table of Contents

Who are We and Where are We	Page 2
Table of Contents	Page 3
Advisory Officers	Page 4
Wakulla County Master Gardener Volunteers	Page 5
Khadejah's Corner	Page 6
A Word of Encouragement from our Director	Page 7
Flower of the Month	Page 8
Highlights From Recent Events Around Wakulla	
Workshops	Page 9 - 10
Field Days	Page 11
Field Trips	Page 11
Partnerships	Page 12
Articles	Page 13 - 14
Participation & Outreach	Page 15 - 16
Stay on the Vine - Upcoming Events	Page 17
Veggie Visit - What's Growing On	Page 18 - 19
Having Fun With Garden Puns	Page 19
UF/IFAS Wakulla Extension Staff	Page 20
Community Business Sponsors (Coming Soon)	



# Hort/ANR Advisory Committee:

The activities offered by UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County are based on statewide priorities, national initiatives, current research, and local community needs. In an effort to best represent Wakulla County, the Horticulture, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Extension Advisory Committee was developed. The Extension Advisory Committee provides advice to Extension Faculty in the creation and updating of program plans to make sure that Extension programming reflects both the mission and vision of the organization as well as the interests and requirements of the audience.

## Advisory Committee Members

Lorraine Calway  
Katasha Cornwell  
Bryan Green  
Tonya Green  
Kellie Keys  
Kenny Manning  
Robert Manning  
Kaitlyn Sheffield



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Khadejah Scott ▪  
khadejahscott@ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 3

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

Page 4

## Wakulla County Master Gardener Volunteers

Dianne Amburn, Maxine Chentnik, Linda Clemens, Mary Cortese, JoAnn Green, Michele Hackmeyer, Ruth Jacobs, Jenny Lorch, Roy Malmberg, Evelyn Reid, Rita Schuetz, Diana Whitmore, Shannon Whitmore

2023 Master Gardener Class Trainees : The new Master Gardener Volunteer Trainees are a diverse and enthusiastic group of individuals passionate about horticulture and sustainable gardening practices. Comprising a mix of seasoned gardeners looking to deepen their knowledge and novices eager to embark on their green journey, this year's class boasts a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Ten participants will undergo training in 2023.



**UF** | **IFAS Extension**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Khadejah Scott ▪  
khadejahscott@ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 3

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

Page 5

# KHADEJAH'S CORNER

Greetings Wakulla County! I'm Khadejah Scott, the latest addition to the UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County team. As the Horticulture, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Extension Agent since July 2022, it is my pleasure to serve Wakulla County. Since stepping into this vibrant community, I've been humbled by the warm embrace of southern hospitality. It's an honor to be part of a community that values its environment and future. I thank the citizens of Wakulla County for their welcoming spirit and trust in my role.

My mission is to enhance Wakulla County by offering expertise in horticulture, agriculture, and natural resources. Whether you're a home gardener, farmer, or have a keen interest in these fields, I'm here to guide and support you. Through workshops, informative articles, and other client connections, I'm committed to sharing the latest transformative information in horticulture, agriculture, and natural resources. My ultimate aim is to empower you with the knowledge needed to thrive and make informed decisions.

Coming from Memphis, TN, I'm a crop scientist with a passion for sustainable food production and environmental education. Being raised in an urban environment, I'm dedicated to addressing food system issues and ensuring access to fresh foods through sustainable agriculture.

I'm excited to invite you to celebrate the launch of "Seasons in Wakulla County" newsletter. It's not just a newsletter; it's a source of insight, inspiration, and innovation in agriculture, horticulture, and natural resources.

"Seasons in Wakulla County" is designed to foster a community dedicated to nurturing life and the land. Whether you're an experienced farmer or new to horticulture, I want this newsletter to be your home—a place to connect, learn, and grow with like-minded individuals passionate about these fields.

Thank you for joining me on this journey. Together, we'll sow the seeds of knowledge, and reap the rewards of progress.



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Khadejah Scott ▪  
khadejahscott@ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 3

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

# A Word of Encouragement from our Director

Letter from the Director  
by Samantha Kennedy

Extension's roots are firmly planted in agriculture. When the Cooperative Extension Service was first established in 1914, its primary focus was on providing research and education to rural families and individuals to help support their livelihood. Over the next 110 years, Extension has grown to include a variety of program areas, sharing research-based information in healthy eating, mental wellness, financial literacy, horticulture, natural resources, and life skills for youth.

One of the most effective ways Extension fulfills its mission is through its volunteers. Volunteers are the lifeblood of many Extension programs and other community efforts. Trained volunteers allow Extension to reach a wider audience and help spread the word about Extension and all it has to offer throughout the community.

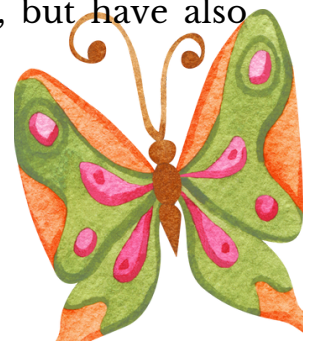
The Florida Master Gardener Volunteer program is a well-known and well-established program within the Extension Service that provides in-depth training and hands-on learning to participants. Those who complete the program go on to share their expertise with clientele, helping them answer a question, gain a new skill, or solve a problem.

I am so appreciative of all the hard work and dedication of our Wakulla County Master Gardener Volunteers. Under the guidance and expertise of Khadejah Scott, our Horticulture/Agriculture/Natural Resources agent, their passion and drive have greatly impacted not only the beautiful grounds here at the Extension office, but have also touched the lives of many people in our community.

Please join me in thanking them for everything they do.

*SAMANTHA KENNEDY*

County Extension Director & FCS Agent



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Khadejah Scott ▪  
khadejahscott@ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 3

An Equal Opportunity Institution.



August flower of the month is the **Gladiolus**

Gladiolus, symbolizes strength of character, imagination and integrity.



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Khadejah Scott ▪  
khadejahscott@ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 3  
An Equal Opportunity Institution.



# Highlights From Recent Events Around Wakulla

## Workshops:

**Pollinators in Pots 1: (3/7/2023)** We cannot have beautiful flowers or a sustainable food system without pollinators. Pollinators pollinate the fruits and vegetables we consume, and the plants that dairy and market animals eat in and to much more. Landscapes and lawns can sustain many of our native pollinators as we transition into spring, but not everyone has a traditional yard. Pollinators in Pots is perfect for environmental enthusiasts, without traditional space.

**Pollinators in Posts 2: (3/13/2023)** Pollinators play a crucial role in the natural world and are of immense importance for several reasons. Whether you have a small balcony, a sunny windowsill, or limited garden space, this class shows you how to create a flourishing pollinator habitat in the confines of pots and containers, with an emphasis on designing beautiful containers.



**Plant Morphology: (3/17/2023)** This class explores the remarkable diversity of the plant world, ranging from single-celled algae to mammoth sequoias.

**Planting for Pollinators: (3/22/2023)** Pollinators help support healthy habitats. You can make a difference by planting pollinators, whether you have a few feet on your apartment balcony, a yard that requires landscaping, or several acres. Participants learn simple instructions on how to include pollinators in the garden.



## Continued Workshops:

**Intro to Backyard Composting: (5/15/2023)** Backyard composting is important because it helps to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills while also providing a nutrient-rich soil amendment for gardens and plants.

**Guardians of the Green: (6/13/2023)** This comprehensive workshop equips participants with practical knowledge and effective strategic to combat garden pests while promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. The program will explore the intricacies of integrated pest management, natural remedies, companion planting, and much more.

**Flutter Your Garden: (8/16/2023)** Our Butterfly Gardening workshop is designed to take you on a delightful journey into the world of butterflies and how to transform your outdoor space into a mesmerizing sanctuary for these delicate pollinators. From selecting the right plants to understanding the intricacies of butterfly behavior, this workshop equips participants with the knowledge and skills to craft a vibrant and captivating garden that will leave you and your fluttering guests in awe.



**UF** | **IFAS Extension**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Khadejah Scott ▪  
khadejahscott@ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 3  
An Equal Opportunity Institution.

## Field Days

**Grape Field Day: 1/18/2023** Grape Field day introduced proper management practices such as pruning and fertilizing to participants. Grape pruning is a vital practice for grapevine health, productivity, and overall grape quality.

**Fruit Tree Field Day: 2/9/2023** Participants learned proper pruning technique of fruit trees. Fruit tree pruning is a fundamental horticultural practice that supports the health and productivity of fruit trees. Properly pruned trees are more disease-resistant, yield higher-quality fruits, and add beauty to the garden or orchard.

## Field Trips

**Sopchoppy Depot Park: 6/29/2023** Nestled within the serene beauty of Sopchoppy Depot Park lies a captivating Native Plant Display that is a true homage to Florida's natural heritage. Master Gardener participants enjoyed an educational tour of the park with the Florida Wildflower Federation and Florida Native Plant Society Sarracenia Chapter.

**The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve: 7/25/2023** The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) is a breathtaking testament to the ecological richness and significance of the estuarine environments. Master Gardener participants learned about the importance of biodiversity on the watershed.



**UF** | **IFAS Extension**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Khadejah Scott ▪  
khadejahscott@ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 3  
An Equal Opportunity Institution.

## Partnerships

**Son Blessed Garden:** The Son Blessed Garden is an allocation type community garden. Partnering with UF/IFAS Extension and local gardeners, Son Blessed Garden strives to help community members achieve a sustainable and cost-effective way to ensure their families have access to nutritious food.

**No Mow March 2023 :** Agents from UF/IFAS Extension in the Florida Panhandle urged locals to postpone their outdoor duties until April. Why? Landscapes and lawns have potential to support many of our native pollinators during our transition into Spring. Winter weeds and wildflowers provide native bees and other pollinating insects with nectar and pollen. You may help pollinator populations by allowing your lawn or a portion of your landscape to be more natural.

**Apalachee Beekeepers Introduction to Beekeeping Short Course:** The Apalachee Beekeepers Association, a rapidly expanding beekeeping organization in North Florida, is making a buzz in the local community. Their spring Introduction to Beekeeping Short Course has proven to be a phenomenal success, attracting enthusiasts from all walks of life. If you've ever dreamed of becoming a beekeeper, this program is the perfect gateway to get started on your journey into the world of bees and honey.



**UF** | **IFAS Extension**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Khadejah Scott ▪  
khadejahscott@ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 3

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

## Articles

**Every Rose Has Its Thorn: 2/23** The famous proverb "Every rose has its thorn" is well-known and frequently used to illustrate an important fact about life: nothing is perfect. Roses can be either low-or high-maintenance. Low-maintenance roses require little care and include the "old garden roses" and shrub roses. It's important to choose rose varieties that work well in Florida and fit your lifestyle.

**Florida Natives: Stokes' Aster: 3/23** There are many lovely flowering perennials in Florida. Native to Florida, Stokes' Aster (*Stokesia laevis*) is a low maintenance, but visually appealing plant. This perennial creates a beautiful border plant with elegant daisy-like flowers that surround the colorful foliage during summer. Stokes' Aster packs can add vibrant color to the landscape.

**Pollinator Gardening: Tips for Apartment Living 3/23** Tips for Apartment Living: Gardening for pollinators is not only beneficial for the environment, but it can also be a rewarding and fulfilling hobby. However, living in an apartment can pose a challenge for those who want to create a pollinator-friendly garden. But fear not! With a little bit of creativity and effort, you can still create a welcoming space for pollinators to thrive.

**Planting for Pollinators: 4/23** Pollinators are essential to our ecosystem, as they play a crucial role in the reproduction of plants, which in turn supports biodiversity and food production. However, pollinator populations have been declining in recent years due to factors such as habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change. Planting for pollinators is an easy and effective way to help support their populations and ensure the continued health of our ecosystems.

**Gardening With Pollinators in Mind: Tips for Success 4/23** Pollinators are affected by how homeowners manage their yards and neighborhoods at both local and regional scales. The great news is that even small actions by individuals can make a difference. Gardening with pollinators in mind is an easy and effective way to help support their populations and ensure the continued health of our ecosystems.



## Articles Cont.

**The Art of Mowing: 5/23** A well-manicured lawn not only enhances the beauty of your property but also provides a welcoming outdoor space. In North Florida, where warm weather and abundant rainfall create ideal conditions for lush green lawns, proper mowing practices play a crucial role in maintaining a healthy and vibrant landscape. With the right techniques and considerations tailored to the unique characteristics of this region, you can achieve a pristine lawn that becomes the envy of the neighborhood.

**The Enchanting Allure of the Purple Coneflower: 6/23** Among the notable floral species is the striking and resilient Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea Purpurea*). With its enchanting blooms and remarkable adaptability, the coneflower has captured the attention of both nature enthusiasts and gardening enthusiasts alike. The Purple Coneflower has fascinating characteristics that thrive in our unique region.

**From Yard to Haven: 7/23** Steps for Starting a Garden at Home: With its favorable climate, Wakulla County offers a perfect canvas to cultivate your own garden haven. This article explores considerations for starting your garden at home.



## Participation & Outreach

**2023 MANRRS LEAD Mentorship program:** UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County's Hort-ANR agent served as a professional mentor for the Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources related sciences LEAD program presented by Smithfield Foods for 2023.

**Crawfordville Arbor Day: 1/21/2023** UF/IFAS Extension Hort/ANR agent and Master Gardeners participated in the Crawfordville Arbor Day Celebration. Arbor Day is essential for promoting environmental stewardship, improving ecosystems, fostering community involvement, and creating a greener, more sustainable future for our planet.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Breakfast: 2/23/2023** Recognizing volunteers is not just a form of gratitude; it's a strategic approach to building a strong community. UF/IFAS Extension recognizes all volunteers that assist in the garden.

**Wildlife Heritage & Outdoors Festival: 2/04/2023** The WHO Festival aims to foster a deep connection between people and nature through a vibrant community celebration highlighting the diversity, opportunities, and local heritage of the natural world. During this event, UF/IFAS Horticulture/ANR agent engaged park guests in an exciting "Wild about Wildlife" trivia activity.

**Annual African Heritage Celebration: 2/18/2023** The annual African Heritage Celebration in Crawfordville, FL, is a vibrant and culturally enriching event that honors the rich traditions, history, and contributions of African heritage to the local community. The UF/IFAS Horticulture/ANR agent engaged guests in a fun "Garden in a Cup" activity, celebrating the joy of food production at home.

**Hort/ANR Advisory Committee: 2/27/2023** The Hort/ANR Extension Advisory Committee provides advice to Extension Faculty in the creation and updating of program plans to make sure that Extension programming reflects both the mission and vision of the organization as well as the interests and requirements of the audience.



## Participation & Outreach Cont.

**Volunteer Day in the Garden: 3/11/2023** Public event for the community to help the Wakulla County Master Gardeners prepare the community garden for the spring and learn about gardening too! Some activities include planting, weeding, and mulching.

**Spring Seed Library Launch: 3/16/2023** The 2023 Spring Seed Library Program provides small packets of seasonally appropriate vegetable and flower seeds to encourage members of the Wakulla community to try growing their own plants from seed.

**Plant Sale: 4/01/2023** The Annual MGV Plant Sale continues to be a great community event and fundraising opportunity in Wakulla County. Almost 800 Florida friendly plants were sold at this event!

**Carrabelle Riverfront Festival: 4/22/2023** UF/IFAS Extension Hort/ANR agent and Master Gardeners participated in the Carrabelle Riverfront Festival, providing landscaping advice to attendees. It serves as a gathering point for the community and visitors to come together, enjoy the coastal ambiance, and experience the charm and culture of Carrabelle.

**Emerging Farmer's Symposium: 5/03/2023** The UF/IFAS Extension and FAMU Extension Teams presented the 2023 Emerging Farmers Symposium. The Emerging Farmers Symposium featured topics such as cost-share and lending programs, agritourism and marketing opportunities, a tradeshow of agricultural vendors, and an educational farm tour.

**Plant Sale: 6/10/2023** Our knowledgeable Master Gardeners offer a diverse selection of healthy plants and expert gardening advice to help the community grow! Almost 400 Florida friendly plants were sold at this event!

**Fall Seed Library Launch: 8/24/2023** The 2023 Fall Seed Library Program provides small packets of seasonally appropriate vegetable and flower seeds to encourage members of the Wakulla community to try growing their own plants from seed.





## Stay on the Vine - Upcoming Events

**Sow & Stow: Seed Saving 101 9/6/23:** Discover the art and science of preserving plant biodiversity through seed saving. This workshop is perfect for anyone interested in sustainable gardening practices and self-reliance.

**Florida Fall Vegetable Gardening: 9/12/2023** Are you ready to embark on a journey of cultivating your own abundance? This immersive workshop on fall vegetable gardening at home will teach the essential skills and knowledge to transform your outdoor space into a thriving vegetable garden.

**Grow Your Groceries:10/14/2023** Grow Your Groceries will guide you through the entire process of vegetable gardening, from selecting the right location to pest management. Whether you have a spacious backyard or just a small balcony, this workshop is designed to equip you with the tools and techniques needed to successfully grow your groceries.

## Mark Your Calendars Now!



**UF** | **IFAS Extension**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Khadejah Scott ▪  
khadejahscott@ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 3

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

## Veggie Visit - What's Growing On

Fall is almost here, which means it is time to start planning your fall vegetable garden. As the vibrant colors of summer give way to the cozy hues of autumn, there's a new chapter waiting to be written in your garden. Fall vegetable gardening offers a fresh opportunity to cultivate an array of delectable delights that thrive in the cooler temperatures. From crisp lettuces and hearty root vegetables to fragrant herbs, the fall garden is a canvas for both seasoned gardeners and newcomers alike. So, don your gardening gloves and remember these tips when you begin planning your fall garden!

**Location:** It is most convenient to locate your garden closest to a source of water. Additionally, the area must get at least six hours a day of direct sunlight. Vegetables can be grown alongside ornamental plants in the landscape with the right care.

**Timing:** It is important to pay close attention to planting dates. Check out the UF/IFAS Planting Guide (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/vh021>).

**Garden Plan:** Before planting, make a garden plan that includes details about the type of veggies you intend to grow such as their name, location, and planting date(s). Be sure to make a list of the necessary supplies and purchase seeds in advance.

**Plant Selection:** Cool-season veggies include broccoli, lettuce, carrots, spinach, radishes, and many more. Start with the vegetables that you and your family enjoy eating. Then, narrow down varieties based on the taste, textures, and growing requirements. The UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla Co. Master Gardener Volunteer Seed Library provides a great selection of FREE fall vegetable seeds. It is located at the Wakulla Co. Public Library.

**Soil:** You may want to have your tested to check the pH level and to determine what nutrients you may need. Soil test kits are available at UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County. The soil should be worked, spaded, and prepared a few weeks before planting. Rework the soil to create a smooth, firm surface before right before planting.

**Watering:** Mature vegetable requires more water but less frequently, young plants require frequent, light watering. Utilize mulch, organic matter, and drip irrigation to conserve water.



## Having fun with Garden Puns

So until our next quarterly,  
"Fennel I see you again?"

To our new Master Gardener class, "You make my heart skip a  
beet." I want Everyone to "romaine calm." You got this.  
Remember this class is a little bit rad, but not totally rad. It's only  
rad-ish. If you have any questions, speak now or forever hold  
your peas.

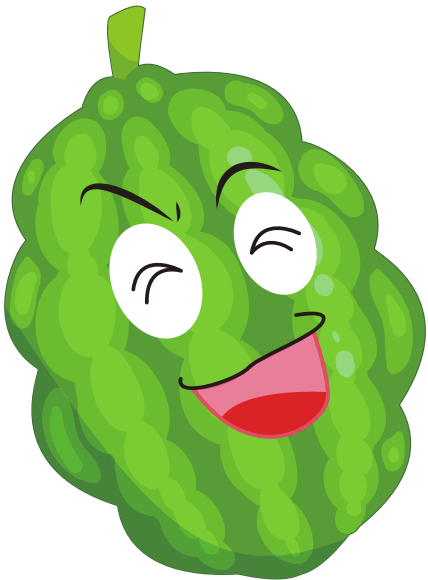
Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

The raisin wine'd about how he couldn't achieve grapeness.

Lettuce do our best.

Don't kale my vibe.

Oh my gourd, that is funny.



**UF** | **IFAS Extension**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



## UF/IFAS Wakulla Extension Staff

**Samantha Kennedy, County Extension Director &  
Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent III, M.S.**

**Khadejah Scott, Horticulture, Agriculture, and Natural  
Resources Extension Agent I, M.S.**

**Rachel Pienta, 4H Youth Development Extension Agent III,  
Ph.D.**

**Sherry Balchuck, Office Manager**

**Patricia Standeford, Administrative Assistant**

**Christine Pearson, 4-H Program Assistant**

**Thank You  
Extension Team  
for all  
Your Support**

