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Form 10

Florida Master Gardener Awards and Recognition Form Awards of Excellence

Each county is allowed **ONE ENTRY PER CATEGORY**. Although your Master Gardener Coordinator may have been heavily involved in this effort, only the efforts of the Master Gardeners themselves are to be evaluated. Points will be deducted if it is perceived that most of the effort or submission of entry forms came from the Master Gardener Coordinator.

Only efforts made since the last awards ceremony will be considered by the judges. Any new or re-certified active Florida Master Gardener(s) are eligible. In the event your entry does **not** take top honors in this category this year, we would encourage you to improve your submission and resubmit your entry next year should you *repeat or continue* this project. If your project has won in **ANY** year, it **CANNOT BE RE-ENTERED** again, despite any significant changes in format or participants.

Judges for the awards shall be appointed by the State Master Gardener Program Leader, University of Florida. Decisions by the judges will be final.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT

SEE BELOW FOR APPLICATION CRITERIA:

The correct and completed award application forms including:

- A typed application form not to exceed 3 pages in length. Supporting materials (where requested may be additional pages)
 - The three pages must include the 150 word project summary.
- 12 point font
- No more than 8 photographs in addition to the three pages of text. (Photos no larger than 8 x 10)
- This form typed and completed including: appropriate category checked
- Name of MG Coordinator (The coordinator must approve application prior to admission)
- Application, photos and supporting materials must all be in PDF format and packaged into one document. Submissions are to be emailed to: twichman@ufl.edu

County:..... Nature Coast (Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties)
Name of Project:..... OUTSTANDING MASTER GARDENER
Project start date:..... November 2011..... Project end date:..... July 29, 2011
Name of person(s) typing application:..... Daine Dola
Name or names of Master Gardeners preparing application..... Daine Dola, Star Lara, Sherry Harmon, Hjordia Owens
.....
Name of Agent:..... D. Anthony Drew

Revised 06/2012

CATEGORY: Indicate only one category per entry form. *You must assign your entry to a specific category to be considered for an award in that category.* **Entries are limited to the categories indicated below.**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 11 Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 18 Personal Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 12 Demonstration Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 19 Service to 4-H and other youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 13 Educational Materials Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 20 Special Audiences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 14 Extension Awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 22 Written or Verbal Mass Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 15 County Displays/Exhibits | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 23 County Master Gardener Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 16 General Achievement | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 17 Outstanding Master Gardener | |

Email PDF Applications to:

Tom Wichman
twichman@ufl.edu

TO BE ELIGIBLE ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 1, 2012

OUTSTANDING MASTER GARDENER AWARD

Nature Coast Master Gardeners are proud to nominate Sherry Harmon for the Outstanding Florida State Master Gardener award. She has worked cooperatively with fellow Master Gardeners, local businesses, schools, community organizations, and at horticultural information booths to disseminate University of Florida research-based information. Leading by example, Sherry has supported the MG program with time, physical activity and creativity by planning, designing and encouraging MG participation (*News article 1*). Sherry exemplifies the characteristics that define an outstanding Master Gardener, involved in a wide range of projects and activities.

1. Areas of participation, length of time with the program and number of hours served:

Sherry Harmon graduated from initial Master Gardener training in May of 2009. Volunteer hours represent participation in a wide range of activities and programs. Through these activities she has dramatically increased public awareness of the tri-county Extension Offices (Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy), the availability of researched-based information, the Master Gardener program and the principles of Florida Friendly Landscaping/Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FFL/FYN). She has staffed local horticulture information booths and EPCOT International Garden and Flower Festival [inset lower right], provided submissions to our MG newsletter, prepared student and adult presentations, served as classroom assistant, photographer, works in the Levy Extension Office demonstration garden and serves as FYN yard advisor.



An avid learner, Sherry has completed thirty-three hours of continuing education and driven nearly seven hundred volunteer miles.

2. Brief Description/explanation of the projects and her involvement:



* Sherry was instrumental in the establishment of the semi-monthly horticultural booth at the Chiefland Wal-mart. She met with the manager of the store to plan, implement and schedule a garden center booth. One-on-one contacts number more than four hundred a year at Wal-Mart. These contacts' email addresses are added to a database where electronic newsletter provides continued follow-up and North Florida gardening information on a continual basis. In addition to Wal-Mart, Sherry has participated at numerous Levy

County booths including Chiefland Watermelon Festival, Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve programs, Yankeetown Seafood & Crafts Festival, Williston Peanut Festival and Cedar Key Seafood Festival. While at Melon Festival, Chiefland ACE representatives requested a weekly information booth at their local business. (49 hours)



* Sherry has worked cooperatively to plan, prepare and plant the Demonstration Garden at the Extension Office. Currently plans are in the works to develop a shade garden. Sherry volunteers to lead groups through the garden answering questions and



providing literature. Sherry also points out the Quick Reference (QR) codes linking to UF sites for detailed information on specific plants or FFL principles [image left].

Her creativity was utilized for the ribbon cutting ceremony that designated the site as the “Discovery Garden,” November 2011, at which she was a “scarecrow hostess” (*News article 2*). She continues to maintain an active role on the planning and maintenance committee for the garden. If you visit, you may see her weeding, pruning, mulching or talking with citizens either as part of an organized program or impromptu while volunteering in the Extension office. (27 hours)

* Sherry is an accomplished photographer who uses her work to develop scrapbooks, newsletter pictures and other visual displays, used for educational purposes (*News article 3*). Sherry produced a photograph and journaling scrapbook illustrating the various stages of preparation, purchasing, planting, plant growth and training that has taken place in the Demonstration Garden. It is a very popular tool with Extension clientele.



Sherry initially planted North Florida larval host plants in her home garden. She began photographing the Gulf Fritillary’s stages of development and produced a PowerPoint program and a large colorful chart of the developmental process (*News article 4*). She then presented “Life Cycle of the Gulf Fritillary” to Advanced Placement (AP) Science students at Chiefland High School, complete with plant specimens and larvae [image left]. (*News article #5*).

Utilizing images from her own bird sanctuary, Sherry designed a visual for the Williston Women’s Club, depicting Bluebirds and their habitat. “Attracting Backyard Birds: Bird Feeder Selection,” UF/IFAS EDIS publication WEC 162 of hummingbird at feeder with Sherry’s photo credit. (*News article 6*) (37 hours)

Sherry eagerly participates in the Nature Coast FYN “12 in 2012” challenge where she will meet with homeowners one-on-one. Program goals include completing twelve yards visits in each of our tri-county localities. As an experienced FYN yard advisor, Sherry expects to personally visit twenty yards in 2012. Sharon S., transplant from Alaska stated “*appreciate you taking time to come and help me out here...it’s like I’m a virgin...98% of the plants here are totally new to me.*” (16.5 hours)

3. How did you evaluate your efforts in these projects (ex. Questionnaire, telephone surveys, etc.)?

The horticultural booths have generated many public information requests as indicated by increased phone calls and emails after each of these events. Scout leaders, garden club program chairs and others often request a MG speaker as a result of these booths. To date these requests exceed 1,200 contacts with majority expressing appreciation for the help. Several 'repeat' visitors have told us of success after implementing UF recommendations, and approach with a new concern. Uses of QR codes, linking to our website, indicate an increase in site hits following a public event. Public comments and news articles have been increasing in local media. She has received positive comments at Williston Garden club, Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve program and demonstration venues regarding the quality of the trainings or demonstrations as well as written evaluations. To date, more than five hundred people have viewed the demonstration garden as part of programs in; IPM, Right Plant, Right Place, Identification and Removal of Invasive Plants, Landscape Design, weed ID and control, native plant roundtable meetings, vegetable gardening short-course, and other community programs. One garden visitor responded ***"I like it...especially that turf grass side-by-side so...you look at it and gives the homeowner an idea..."***

4. What was the educational impact of the projects that you were involved with?

The educational impact has exceeded all expectations as evidenced by the increased number of requests for UF/IFAS EDIS information, the volume of visitors to the demonstration garden and the high attendance at the horticultural information booths. Her presentations have been well received by Garden clubs and organized groups. Dan D, Trenton following a FYN yard visit expressed ***"so much information, I would definitely recommend this to others...wish neighbor were here... he would enjoy this."*** Pre and post evaluations using TurningPoint technology has been a popular with youth and audiences, especially since anonymous responses may be viewed real-time and a variety of analytics are available. We plan to use TurningPoint more in the future, in addition to surveymonkey.com and paper evaluations.

SUMMARY

A lifetime resident of Volusia County, Sherry moved to north Florida in 2001. In 2009 she completed UF/IFAS Master Gardener training and became involved supporting Extension programs. She continues to actively seek opportunities to share UF research-based information in the Nature Coast area of Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy counties.

Small in stature but persistent in spirit, Sherry develops, plans and encourages MG to participate in these programs. She shares her horticultural passion with enthusiasm and energy. Striving to educate residents using photo journaling, demonstrations, FYN yard visits, and public information venues, she seeks to enrich the lives of those Extension serves. Sherry candidly and openly evaluates her programs, making adjustments as needed. To increase knowledge and sharpen her skills, she regularly looks for, and participates in, UF/IFAS training opportunities.

Sherry is an excellent Ambassador of UF/IFAS Extension, exemplifying the integrity, knowledge and skills needed as an outstanding Master Gardener.



News article 1. Sherry (seated far right) was instrumental in planning, designing and participating in the UF/IFAS Master Gardener float that earned 2nd place in the float competition. **Several hundred FFL/FYN planting guides, pencils, water saving tips, notepads, solutions for your life business cards and promotional items were distributed to parade onlookers.**

LEVY COUNTY JOURNAL
Levy Life
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2011

Master Gardeners Dedicate Discovery Garden

By Kathleen Lowmyrs

Nature Coast Master Gardeners (NCMG) dedicated the Florida-Friendly Discovery Garden with a fall-themed ribbon-cutting ceremony in cooperation with the University of Florida/IFAS Extension and Levy County Board of County Commissioners Albert E. Fuller, Levy County Extension Director, Anthony Drew, Levy County Agricultural Agent, and Barbara Edmonds, Multi-County Master Gardener Service Coordinator provided various views of the history and benefits of the Discovery Garden and Nature Coast Master Gardener program. In his twenty-five years at Levy Extension "this is the best demonstration garden



Left to right: Master Gardeners Sherry Harmon, Star Lark 2011 Volunteer of the Year, Danny Steevens - Chairman Levy County BoCC, Albert Fuller - County Extension Director, Marsha Drew - District 3 Commissioner, Dr. Eric Simonne - UF NE District Director, David Anthony Drew - Levy Agriculture Agent, Barbara Edmonds and Lamar Greene - Nature Coast Master Gardener.

It has been... to educate people" stated Fuller. Applauding their volunteer efforts, "Master Gardeners volunteers fill a vital role as they reach far more people than Anthony Drew could hope to serve single-handedly." Dr. Eric H. Simonne, UF North East District Extension Director, interjected humor with his message that the days of "move, blow and go" horticulture have been replaced with research-based Florida-Friendly Landscaping practices and principles.



Master Gardeners continued from page 2B

Commission Chairman Danny Steevens and Marsha Drew, District 3 Commissioner, spoke on behalf of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners, addressing the crowd with reflections on the many benefits of gardening, and how principles illustrated in the Discovery Garden prove that more can garden successfully and still be gentle on the world around us.

"These gardens demonstrate principles that emphasize an environmentally friendly approach to gardening and landscaping" stated Steevens. "Using common sense we can make use of natural resources without using them up. We can meet the needs of the present without compromising our future."

The Florida-Friendly Landscape Discovery Garden is designed, planned, and maintained by UF/IFAS NCMG serving Davis, Gilchrist

and Levy counties. The Discovery Garden is free and open to the public at the Levy County Extension Office, 625 North Hathaway Avenue, Alt 27, Bronson. In addition to the Garden, you can find a wealth of UF/IFAS publications, knowledgeable Extension agents and Master Gardeners ready to assist your gardening efforts.

Levy Extension will be hosting a Landscape Design program with Gail Hanson, DC, Chairman of the UF Environmental Horticulture Dept. on Wed., Dec 7, from 10 a.m. until Noon at the Levy County Extension Office in Bronson. There is no charge for the program. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited. Call Barbara Edmonds, 352-486-5131 or e-mail barbaraed@gnmail.com to



News article 2. Enhancing festive fall atmosphere at Dedication Ceremony, Sherry dressed as a scarecrow. Homeowners [inset upper right] were challenged with sloped, well-drained sandy soils. Sherry discussed their goals and possible landscape options.



Headline photo by Sherry Harmon, MG 2009

Master Gardeners, Lifetime Learners

By JoJo Dixon and participating NCMG's

The anticipation of attending two IFAS Extension field trips in two days was almost more than I could stand. I thought my head would surely explode from all the knowledge gained. **The Beneficials & Pollinator class** was at Live Oak where Chris and I volunteered last winter. This class was presented by Bob Hochmuth and the North East Green Team comprised of UF specialists and agents. Topics included Scouting, Bats as pollinators and a special on Extra-Floral Nectaries. Huh! That was



The second program was **Turf Grass Field Day**. Citra at their new facility. The morning was spent in the field talking with different departments on Turf Grass Breeding, Disease Sampling, Design, Soil Moisture Sensors and Leaching Nutrients. I asked fellow Master Gardeners what their take was on these field days, here are some responses.

[Linda "Digger" Headley:](#)

I really enjoyed the

last two days of classes. My favorite parts were the talk about fertilizing the turf grasses. I have not fertilized my turf at all, but now I know the proper amount and timing to be the most beneficial. All information about turf was new to me. Second I found the Turf disease talk very informative, knowing now what to look for and treat.

...now I have a better understanding what that [irrigation] is all about and why it is important to use it and finding out how lit-



July 2012
Volume 5 Issue 1

Featured Article

Master Gardeners: Lifetime Learners

Tarmac Mines May Affect Our Environment

MG Profiles

"12 in 2012" Standing

Gardener's ShowNTell

Judging the 4H Garden Master Gardeners' Birthdays



2011 Award Winning FL State Master Gardener Newsletter

News article 3. An illustration of some of the many photos submitted to MG newsletter



News article 4. Photos taken by Sherry Harmon have to prepare Gulf Fritillary PowerPoint for Chief land High School.

Education

Science in the garden



Students plant dahlias, pentas, buddleia, justicia, parsley, oregano, thyme and ligustrum in their butterfly garden at Chiefland High School.

Chiefland High School students in Lita Weingart's class got a lesson on butterflies Friday, Oct. 7. Barbara Edmonds with the University of Florida IFAS program Levy County Extension and multi-county master gardener coordinator, and Sherry Harmon, master gardener and photographer, partnered with Dana Langford, education coordinator Levy Soil and Water Conservation District, to educate the students on creating a butterfly garden to support the life cycle of the butterfly. Harmon presented a Powerpoint program with photos from her butterfly garden that showed the life cycle from egg, larva, pupa, chrysalis to butterfly. Edmonds presented an in-depth look into the life cycle, the kinds of butterflies in the area and what a garden would need to support the life cycle. Langford assisted the students in creating a garden. Special thanks to Levy Soil and Water Conservation, A.K. Nursery and Suwannee Lumber in Cross City.



Students pose with their newly completed butterfly garden outside Chiefland High School.

News article 5. Sherry enjoys working with children and youth. She freely shares her gardening passion, mingled with UF based research, to develop our next generation.

Attracting Backyard Birds: Bird Feeder Selection¹

Emma V. Willcox, Mark E. Hostetler, Martin B. Main, and Maena Voigt²

The earliest written account of bird feeding in the United States dates back to 1845, when Henry David Thoreau reported feeding birds at Walden Pond. The first commercially-made bird feeder was designed for hummingbirds and went on the market in 1926. Today, more than 50 million Americans put out a billion pounds of bird food each year.

In most cases, native plants are best-suited to provide food for birds and require little maintenance. One of the most effective ways to attract birds to your backyard is to use native plantings to provide the natural habitats that have supported them for thousands of years. However, bird feeders can be used to supplement the food provided by native plantings. They also provide a way to observe birds at close range.

Before placing bird feeders in your backyard, consider the bird species you would like to attract. Different birds are attracted to different bird feeders and foods. The following suggestions are useful guidelines, but it is best to experiment. Try a variety

of feeders and foods located in different spots around your yard.

Types of Feeders

A wide range of different bird feeders is available. Some are non-selective and used by a variety of birds; others are more selective, attracting only one or two specific species (Table 1). If you are interested in attracting a wide diversity of birds to your yard, consider installing at least two of the different types of feeders discussed below.

- **Tube feeders** - These hanging feeders can be filled with a variety of different seeds. A tube feeder is a hollow cylinder, usually made of clear plastic or glass so that the seed is clearly visible, with multiple feeding ports and perches. Tube feeders with perches and feeding ports made of metal are more expensive but preferable because they are less easily damaged by squirrels. The feeding perches of most tube feeders are located below the feeding ports. Because these perches are generally fairly short,

1. This document, formerly titled "Birdfeeders: What to Consider When Selecting," is WEC 162, one of a series of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. First published September 2003. Reviewed April 2009. Revised April 2011. Please visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> for more UF/IFAS publications.

2. Emma V. Willcox, regional specialized agent, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611; Mark E. Hostetler, Wildlife Extension Specialist and assistant professor, Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation; Martin B. Main, associate professor, Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee; Maena Voigt, graduate student, Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

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Figure 6. Nectar feeders come in a variety of shapes and sizes, but most feature plenty of red, since this is a very attractive color to hummingbirds. Credit: S. Harmon.

of their nectar and are usually filled with su water. They come in a variety of shapes sizes, but most feature plenty of red, since a very attractive color to the tiny birds. Cardinals and woodpeckers will also use feeders with larger feeding ports. Nectar must be frequently cleaned because the s water they contain rapidly ferments and i serious threat to feeding birds. See cleani section below for cleaning instructions.

- **Fruit feeders** - These hanging feeders co mix of styles. All are designed to hold la pieces consumed by bluebirds, orioles, hi

News article 6. Assisting agents and specialists across a wide range of volunteer activities, Sherry generously shares photos for EDIS publications.