

THE

GARDEN BENCH

The Manatee County Master Gardener Newsletter

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UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA
MASTER
GARDENER
VOLUNTEER

Manatee
County
FLORIDA

Photo: Norfolk Pine, Araucaria heterophylla courtesy UF

Announcing New Masthead for the Manatee County Master Gardener Newsletter

The editorial staff have announced two changes to their newsletter:

- 1) A revival of the initial name of our newsletter, "The Garden Bench"
- 2) A new masthead design, allowing us to change photos of plants and animals whilst providing a bold new look to our newsletter name.

We sincerely hope those of you receiving our full-color issue via email appreciate the difference in our masthead. In other news, we will be printing our hard copies (available in libraries, at Extension, at our events, etc.) in full color from now on. We feel it makes a world of difference to our readers.

Thank you for your continued support and readership of *The Garden Bench* and feel free to pass along questions and comments to: cindy.mozeleski@mymanatee.org. Your loyalty won us the statewide award for best newsletter for the fourth time this past year!

Editors Amy Stripe and Joy Derksen

COOL WEATHER GARDENING

By Joy Derksen, Master Gardener Volunteer 2004

Welcome back if you're a part-time Floridian. And welcome to the cooler weather if you, like me, are a full-time Floridian. This has been a different summer with heavy rains, but no hurricanes, followed by a period of unusual dryness. The odd weather has come with a rise in palm diseases and fungal problems. Hibiscus have had a very hard time of it, dropping leaves from too much or too little water. If your hibiscus look sad, cut them back and fertilize them, and then hope for the best! Tropical milkweeds should be cut way back as this is the time it spreads a parasitic disease to butterflies.

It's time to get your vegetable garden up and running for cold weather. Buy transplants or seeds from local vendors to be sure of getting varieties that do well in our area. Check with Mack Lessig (941-722-4524 ext. 1821 or mlessig@ufl.edu) if you'd like to join a seed bank with tried and true seeds that do well in Florida. Mack test-grows all his plants before recommending them for local gardens. He holds classes, leads community gardens, and gives advice! Choose a sunny location for beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, collards, celery, peas, eggplant, lettuces, peppers, radish, spinach, tomatoes, and turnips. Herbs that do well in the winter include parsley, fennel, dill, and basil. Consult the University of Florida's Vegetable Gardening Guide: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>.

This is also the time to plant cold tolerant, colorful flowers. Pansies, nasturtium, snapdragons, allium, and petunias are some northern summer favorites that can only be grown now in Manatee County.

If you need some ideas wander past Selby Garden's sidewalk displays. Geraniums do especially well this time of year, as do impatiens, torenia, and phlox. Don't forget mums or poinsettias for their burst of front porch color. You can try and replant your mums after blooming-cut them back and wait and see if they thrive through our summer heat and hurricanes. Poinsettias will thrive here with little care, but they won't rebloom at Christmas time without special care. Here is a link for what to do with holiday plants: http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/archive/hot_topics/lawn_and_garden/after_holiday_plants.shtml.

Lawn care becomes easier now. Most lawns need mowing only once every two weeks or less. Lawns do not need fertilizer once very cold weather sets in. If your lawn is being invaded by cool season weeds you have time to apply a broadleaf weed selective weed killer (Atrazine) before temperatures become too cool for good results. Remember to spot treat only where there are weeds. St. Augustine lawns, in particular, are stressed by the application of Atrazine.

Stop pruning tropicals and semi-tropicals. The tender new growth that results can be killed by cold weather. Broken or dead branches, however, can be pruned at any time. Deciduous trees should be pruned now while they are semi-dormant. Citrus plants are starting to produce. The fruit is sweeter when allowed to stay on the tree until night temperatures dip below 55 degrees. If you are not impressed with the quality of your fruit, remember to fertilize more regularly next year with a citrus special fertilizer. Call a Master Gardener Volunteer for a schedule or go online for publication: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep450>.

Be prepared for cold weather before it arrives. When you know a frost is heading for the area, water your plants thoroughly. Often cold weather comes with strong winds that can cause more damage by drying out plants. Get ready to take container plants inside or put under the protection of a porch roof or garage. Physically protect other tender plants in the landscape by covering with newspaper or cloth. Keep some bricks on hand to anchor the covering down in strong winds. Use stakes or make a frame around trees or shrubs which aids in keeping the protection on during windy nights. Do not attempt to irrigate during the freeze. This is a very tricky way to save crops that requires constant water flow, constant supervision and constant temperature monitoring, and is not suitable for homeowners.



ASK A MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER

Dear Master Gardener Volunteer:

I am a Manatee County resident with a mystery plant that has popped up in my mulch bed. I've attached a photograph and wondered if you could identify it. Its roots are strong because I tried to pull it out and couldn't! Thanks, L.K.



Dear L.K.:

Your mystery plant is *Eulophia graminea*, Chinese crown orchid. Although it gets a cute little flower, this orchid is an escaped exotic and is considered invasive. It first appeared in Miami 2007 in a mulched bed and has advanced northward. It appears to prefer mulched sites, however, as they spread rapidly, especially in the Southern parts of the state, the crowding out of natives in places other than mulched beds poses a threat.

They are not hard to pull if you loosen around the pseudobulb and give it a yank. It's recommended that you dispose of them in your regular trash as opposed to yard trash. I've included a couple of links to publications about the orchid:

<https://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org/species/eulophia/graminea/>,

<http://charlottecountyextension.blogspot.com/2015/10/invasive-orchid-resurgence-in-charlotte.html>.

Dear Master Gardener:

While trimming my red firespike plant I noticed several end shoots which were very different and deformed looking. The ends were brown and flattened into a fan shape, and looked like coral at the ends, very colorful, but I don't think this is normal. Help, I don't know if I should cut them off or leave alone.

N and K, Bradenton

Dear N and K:

You have encountered a somewhat rare condition called "fasciation" that can occur in any place on a plant but is most common in the stem or inflorescence, as seen in your firespike (*Odontonema strictum*.) The apical meristem, the growing point of a plant, usually puts out cylindrical growth but for reasons that aren't clear, occasionally the growth elongates and flattens like a ribbon or becomes crested. Fasciation is a physiological condition; that is, the plant responding to an insect, virus, physical damage or even cold temperatures. The "witch's broom" growth we see on hardwood plants is fasciation brought on by a fungus.

The garden annual *Celosia cristata*, cockscomb, is so dependently fasciated they are grown for just that reason. The creting on your firespike isn't harmful to the plant and after the blooms fade, the spikes can be pruned off. Your plant may or may not produce fasciated flower spikes next year - I guess if you're lucky, they will! Following is a link to an article about this fascinating plant condition.

<https://wimastergardener.org/article/fascinating-fasciation/>



Master Gardener Volunteer Karen Holleran answers your email questions and looks at photographs for identification of problems at ManateeMG@gmail.com.

Or visit our Plant Diagnostic Clinic Monday through Friday (closed Wednesdays) from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at 1303 17th St. W., Palmetto, FL.

Or call us with questions at 941-722-4524 and ask for a Master Gardener Volunteer.



YES! WE HAVE NO BANANAS!

By John Dawson,
Master Gardener Volunteer 2007

Bananas (*Musa spp.*) may be the oldest cultivated fruit (actually a berry), with humans manipulating its breeding for more than 5,000 years. There are three types of bananas: sweet, starchy, and ornamental. The starchy ones called plantains are used in cooking whereas, the sweet ones are eaten out of hand as a nutritious, healthy snack and sometimes dessert.

The sweet banana first came to the U.S. in 1870 and the banana plant (an herb, not a tree) was featured at the Centennial Expo in Philadelphia in 1876 where bananas were sold for the outrageous price of \$0.10 apiece (\$2.35 at today's price). From the late 1800's to the 1950's a single sweet banana dominated the global market, called the Gros Michel (colloquially, "Big Mike.") Throughout the 1950's, Big Mikes were slowly replaced by our current sweet banana, the Cavendish. Those of you who are old enough may remember that the Big Mikes were a bit larger, creamier, and not as firm, with a slight tart after taste. They also had more visible sterile black seeds. Big Mikes were last sold commercially in 1965.

What happened to Big Mikes? In the 1950's, the fungal disease banana fusarium wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cubense*) wiped out vast areas of the monocultural Gros Michel banana plantations in Central America. The disease, termed Panama Disease (Tropical Race 1, or TR1), was soilborne and attacked the root structure, inhibiting the plant's ability to absorb water and nutrients. No fungicides were effective, and the fungus was viable in the soil for decades.

The only defense was planting on unaffected areas, with disease-free plants and sanitary control. Vast areas of jungles were cleared to stay ahead of the disease and a decline in global availability saw many markets without bananas. The search to find a suitable substitute which was unaffected by TR1 was found in - of all places Devonshire,

England, where a banana called Cavendish (the family name of the Duke of C.) had been growing in their Chatsworth greenhouse since 1835 (it still grows there today!) The original banana was sent to the family gardener from Mauritius.

Cavendish banana plants (all clones from the Chatsworth plant) eventually spread throughout Oceania. Because the Cavendish is not susceptible to TR1, it slowly replaced the Gros Michel. Through natural mutation and selective breeding, today's Cavendish is slightly bigger, uniformly firmer and has less visible seeds than its original ancestor. Unfortunately, the TR1 strain has also mutated into a strain called TR4 first observed in Australia in 1960. The Cavendish is not immune to TR4, which has spread to Africa but has yet to find its way to the Americas. An immune sweet banana substitute has yet to be found and it may be only a matter of time before the TR4 fungus finds its way here.

Plant scientists are working on solutions, some of which may require the use of genetic engineering and gene splicing to create a genetically modified banana. Big Mikes did not become totally extinct and are still grown in individual gardens and small farms, isolated from TR1 disease. Unfortunately, bananas are also being attacked worldwide by another fungus called Black Sigatoka (*Mycosphaerella fijiensis*) which affects the leaves. Fungicides are effective but expensive. In the meantime, there are many varieties of bananas available to the home grower. Visit <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st409> and <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg040> for more information.

(Note: "Yes. We Have No Bananas" was a novelty song written in 1923 by Frank Silvers and Irving Cohn. There is no evidence that it was a direct reference to a possible banana shortage at the time.)

Petscaping

By Rob Hinz, Master Gardener Volunteer 2016



“Petscaping” is the art of landscaping to protect and enhance your pet’s experience in your yard. When creating pet-friendly spaces consider safety first. Safety includes identifying toxic plants, watching for plants with thorns, and being aware of the hazards of mulch, compost, fertilizers, and insecticides.

For example, three common toxic plants for cats are some lilies: Asiatic (*Lilium asiatica*), Easter (*Lilium longiflorum*), and day (*Heimerocallis spp.*) lilies can cause kidney problems.

Dogs and cats find daffodils (*Narcissus spp.*), amaryllis (*Amaryllis spp.*) and lantana (*Lantana camara*) toxic. Other common plants like oleander (*Nerium oleander*), hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*), bird of paradise (*Strelitiza reginae*), caladium (*Caladium hortulanum*), lemon (*Citrus limonia*), sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*), azalea (*Rhododendron spp.*), Carolina jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), and American holly (*Ilex opaca*) are also toxic to pets.

For a more complete list of plants visit the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) website. You may not witness your pet eating a toxic plant, but you may observe symptoms that could include holding their head down, acting disoriented, refusing to eat, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. Seek professional help immediately if you suspect your pet has ingested a toxic substance by consulting your vet or calling the Pet Poison Helpline at 800-213-6680. Keep in mind that “toxicity” is largely a question of dose, so when calling the helpline, you should be able to identify the plant and the amount of which plant part was consumed.

Other hazards to pets include chemical fertilizers, insecticides, and mulch which may contain colored dyes and/cocoa. Read the product labels for information and safety warnings. Also, secure compost bins keep pets away from rotting vegetables.

Tall grass is prime habitat for ticks and mosquitos that may prey on your pets. Mowing, trimming grass, and removing leaf litter will help reduce these pests. Remove any standing water and change water in birdbaths to reduce mosquito populations. Beware of thorny plants that can scrape pets, and thorns which can puncture foot pads and scratch eyes.

Also consider for a pet friendly yard is design. Pets need access to fresh water, shade and a place for elimination. They need places to dig, scratch, run, play and rest. Solid fences four to six feet create barriers for curious dogs. Cats need more attention or an overhead enclosure. Raised garden beds, large potted plants, shrubs and trees can help keep pets within boundaries. Permanent paths of grass or hard surfaces are best. Keeping soil moist may keep cats from eliminating in flower beds since they prefer dry soil. Planting catnip around a litter box can entice cats to eliminate in a specific area. Dogs can be trained to use certain areas for elimination.

“Petscaping” requires owners to know their pet’s needs. Designing pet friendly spaces can protect your pets and your plants while providing a beautiful and functional yard.

For information about other types of animals, Google Mark E. Hostetler’s article “*Landscaping Backyards for Wildlife: Top Ten Tips for Success.*” Many homeowners upgrade outdoor spaces that are pet related. Cost can be from zero dollars to as much as \$50,000 and more.

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design/types-of-gardens/petscaping.html>

Rain Sensors

Text and Photos by John Dawson,
Master Gardener Volunteer 2007



Recently my wife asked why the sprinklers were running after all the rain we'd just had. Since our system usually shuts off before I wake up, I would never have noticed.

I got out the ladder to check the rain sensor mounted on our gutter. I turned on a zone close by so I could see the water running. At the sensor, I depressed the test stem at the top and the water shut off. This basically tells you that the electrical system to the controller is functioning.

I then poured a cup of water on the sensor and nothing happened. Two more cups later, the system still had not shut off, indicating the sensor was not functioning. I have no idea how long the sensor had stopped working or the last time I checked to see if the system was operational.

Rain sensors are devices that connect to automatic irrigation systems in order to interrupt scheduled irrigation events as a result of a measured amount of rainfall. Florida statute 373.62 reads, ***"Any person who purchases and installs an automatic landscape irrigation system must properly install, maintain, and operate technology that inhibits or interrupts operation of the system during periods of sufficient moisture."***

The statute went into effect in May 1991 and has been amended since, but still requires homeowners to maintain their systems. Time for me to fix mine! My sensor is hard-wired and uses hygroscopic discs to shut off the system by disconnecting the common wire that allows the electricity from the controller to the irrigation heads without affecting the controller settings. The discs swell at a constant rate to a fixed width when enough water is applied.

After a rain, the discs begin to dry out through evaporation allowing the system to operate again. It's something like your sink sponge: it swells when wet

and then shrinks when dried out. It turns out that these discs start to lose their consistency after about two years of use and are usually inoperable after four. On inspection, mine were totally worn out. Having no previous experience with irrigation systems I was unaware that the hygroscopic discs may need changing. My new discs arrived in three days and I was able to replace them in about 5 minutes as follows:

Step 1 was to remove the top of the sensor by twisting and aligning the adjustment slot and lifting straight up. The hygroscopic discs (8 in my system) were stacked on the stem in the top.

Step 2 was to remove the old discs by removing the stem from the top then sliding the discs off the stem.

Step 3 was replacing the new discs (8) on the stem. I also cleaned the whole top unit before I replaced the stem with the new discs back into the top.

Step 4 was replacing the top back onto the sensor and notching it into the $\frac{3}{4}$ " mark. I then tested the sensor with another cup of water to make sure it was working.

Lesson learned: I will check my system each dry/wet season with my hose and track how long it takes for the system to shut off. Any large deviation will require investigation. At the two-year mark, I will evaluate response times and recalibrate. I will continue to use both rain gauge and sensor to efficiently irrigate. I'm sure my wife will remind me if I forget. When the new ground sensor system becomes more affordable, I will change over.

I had several options: replace my system with a newer model (@\$35) or replace the discs (\$6). The newer system is battery operated and wireless and has delay features making it more efficient. It still uses the same hygroscopic discs and the battery lasts about two years.

For more information visit <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ae221>.

“Form Follows Function”

By Jim Haupt, Master Gardener Volunteer 2015



Powderpuff Tree



Japanese Privet



Sweet Alyssum

American architect Louis Sullivan first coined the famous axiom “Form follows function” stressing that the function of a space should be considered first, which, in turn, “dictates the design itself.” The same meaning applies to landscaping. A beautifully sculpted garden is great, but useless if it doesn't meet the needs of a homeowner.

Suppose your goal is to transform a drab, nondescript cement slab into a functional outdoor living space. You have defined the function of the space, but choosing the right plants for that space, and how you want them to function is another important consideration. This will require knowledge of the site, areas of sun and shade, wet and dry areas, and soil conditions and pH. Do you want to use Florida natives for a more maintenance-free site? Do you need trees and large shrubs for shade and screening? What are the physical attributes and limitations of the site? Unlike a painting (think Claude Monet’s garden of Giverny), landscape art is a completely different art form in that the picture changes as plants grow, environmental conditions change, and usage of the site continues to fluctuate over time.

Plants are generally divided into three forms: trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. Trees function by providing shade, lowering temperatures, increasing property value, and acting as barriers or screening. Powderpuff tree (*Calliandra spp.*), a vase-shaped tree with upright branches and growth habit, can be used as a screen while still giving the homeowner a view of the rest of the yard. A pyramidal tree with drooping branches would work as a barrier, but limit the viewing area. Mounding, spreading, spiky, and cascading shrubs can also serve as screens, shade, or individual specimen plants. Japanese privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*), often used as a shrub or hedge, works well when allowed to grow into a small tree. Clumping, mounding, and spreading groundcovers are low maintenance, suppress weeds, reduce water use, and increase biodiversity. Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*), a fall to winter bloomer, is an example of a flowering groundcover that can tie together various other kinds of plants within a single or multiple landscape beds.

Like form, texture, size, shape, and the properties of color provide interest and contrast in the landscape. These aesthetic elements

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can be found in foliage, flowers, stalks, blades, bark, and branching patterns of plants.

Form is usually the dominant visual in a landscape, lending a three-dimensional perspective. Larger plants have arching and cascading shapes, and smaller low-growing plants cover larger beds. Rounded, natural forms soften a hardscaped surface or outdoor structures. Vertical forms create interesting line and structural components. Rigid forms can be used to give the perception of order and formality.

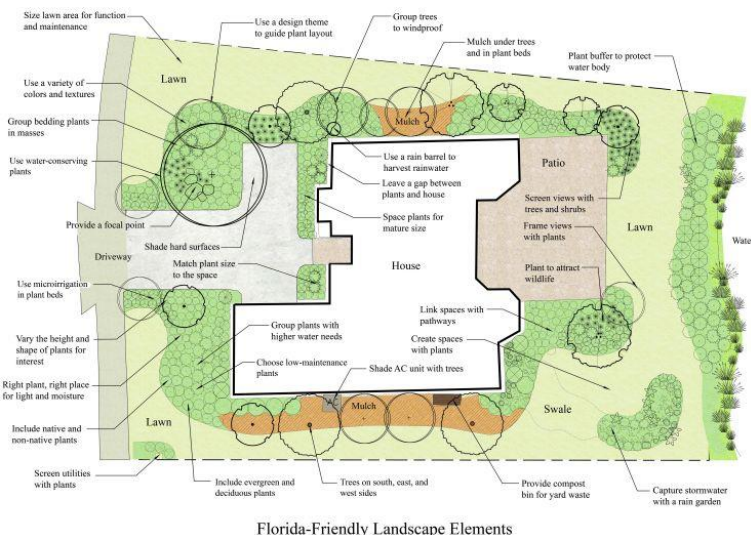
An excellent starting point is to download "The Florida-Friendly™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design." This contains invaluable plant information and landscaping tips:

https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf

When considering your next landscape project, think about the purpose you are trying to achieve, then you can think about the plant material suitable for the site. This will drive your project and ensure long-term enjoyment and satisfaction when you complete it. In other words, "don't put the cart before the horse," let "form follow function."

For more information on landscape design and plant selection, visit:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/MG/MG08600.pdf>
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP37500.pdf>
<https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/form.shtml>



SPENDID COLOR

Visit the Master Gardener Volunteers at the Manatee County Fair (January 16 - 26, 2020) for a free tour of our Educational Gardens. We're also giving away free flowering plants (one per family) while supplies last. This year's selections include:



Begonia (*Begonia spp.*) Favored for multicolored leaves and lovely flowers, these grow well in pots, beds and hanging baskets. Keep soil moist but not soggy and feed lightly. Depending on the species, they do well in partial shade to full sun. Plant in late February in slightly acidic soil.



Gerbera daisy (*Gerbera jamesonii*). In Central Florida, this beauty can act as a perennial. Plant in well-drained soil where it will get morning sun and afternoon shade; fertilize regularly. Dig up and replant every two years, since the growing point tends to sink into the soil over time.



Penny blue violet (*Viola cornuta* 'Penny Blue'). This violet will give you garden color in the spring, fall and mild winter, but will perish in our hot, wet summer. Plant in any type of soil in full sun to partial shade. Keep it moist but not soggy. The flowers are edible!

January

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Event
1 st Saturday	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Ask a Master Gardener Volunteer – Island Library – 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Visit the Extension Master Gardener information table and get answers to your gardening questions.
2 nd & 4 th Saturday	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Ask a Master Gardener Volunteer – Rocky Bluff Library – 6750 US Highway 301 N., Ellenton. Visit the Extension Master Gardener information table and get answers to your gardening questions.
3 rd Saturday	11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Ask a Master Gardener Volunteer – Central Library – 1301 Barcarrota Blvd. W., Bradenton. Visit the Extension Master Gardener information table and get answers to your gardening questions
Saturday January 11	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour - Riverview Pointe Preserve – DeSoto National Memorial – Stroll through Riverview Pointe Preserve to learn more about Florida’s native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. The hike begins in the parking area of the DeSoto National Memorial Park and enters into the Riverview Preserve at 8250 DeSoto Memorial Highway, Bradenton. To register call the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers at (941) 722-4524.
Saturday January 11	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour – Emerson Point Preserve - Stroll through Emerson Point Preserve to learn more about Florida’s native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. Call the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers to register (941) 722-4524.
January 16-26	Varies	Visit the Master Gardener Volunteers at the Manatee County Fair for a free tour of our Educational/Demonstration Gardens and receive a free flowering plant (one per family) while supplies last.
Friday January 17	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Home Landscape Maintenance Series: Tree Care in the Home Landscape – Join us for the first in a series of classes aimed to help you maintain a healthy and sustainable home landscape. This class will focus on tree care and maintenance. Learn about proper tree planting, irrigation, mulching, and long-term maintenance. We will discuss proper pruning and recommendations for selecting tree care professionals. Workshop held at the Emerson Point Preserve classroom located at 5801 17 th Street West in Palmetto. \$5 online registration - \$10 in person registration fee. Register online at http://uf-ifas-extension-manatee.eventbrite.com/ or call the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers (941) 722-4524.
Saturday January 18	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour – Rye Preserve - Take a hike through upland habitats along Rye Branch and learn about Florida native plants, natural history, and early settlement of the area. Drinking water, sturdy shoes, and hiking sticks are recommended. Visitor Center open 9am-noon and 1-4pm. Call the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers to register (941) 722-4524.
Sunday January 19	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour – Robinson Preserve - Stroll through the Robinson Preserve’s salt marshes to learn more about Florida’s native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. Trail consists of shell paths with little shade. Good walking shoes, drinking water, hat, and sunscreen are recommended. Call the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers to register (941) 722-4524.
Monday January 20	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Kid’s Korner in the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Educational Gardens – Learn about bugs with insect crafts and activities. Suitable for kids of all ages. Families have an opportunity to see all the fun elements of the Children’s area and other demonstration gardens. Pick up a free plant in the greenhouse too!
Wednesday January 29	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Basic Irrigation & Basic Operation - Learn the basic operation of your in-ground irrigation system and maintenance repairs you as a homeowner can do yourself. Held at the Braden River Library located at 4915 53 rd Avenue E., Bradenton. To register contact Deina (941) 722-4524 or email deina.brinker@mymantee.org .
Thursday January 30	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Drought Tolerant Plants 101 - Learn how to choose beautiful drought tolerant plants for your landscape and know what to put back on the shelf! See samples of Florida-Friendly plants suitable for Manatee County residents and discuss the difference between the good and the bad plant! To register, call Deina (941) 722-4524 or email deina.brinker@mymantee.org . This workshop held at the Rocky Bluff Library located at 6750 US Highway 301 N., Ellenton.