

Message from Flagler Horticulture Agent

Master Gardener Volunteers and Friends of Horticulture,

As we slowly transition into winter the UF/IFAS Flagler County Extension Demonstration gardens are being prepared for new plantings. An area of ornamental grasses is being designed to replace the edible garden formerly located on the rear corner of the building. Three new raised beds are nearing completion on the other side of the walkway (see photos on page 6). The next steps are to finish running irrigation lines and filling the beds with premium compost.

The Horticulture Program Educational efforts over the past eleven weeks have been focused on training a class of new Master Gardener Volunteers. Topics ranged from Botany to Turfgrass with an emphasis on utilization of resources to correctly answer the most common horticulture questions that Flagler County residents require assistance with. Competency was determined through a final exam requiring a passing grade of at least 80 percent. This year we were lucky enough to have thirteen new Master Gardener Volunteers successfully complete training.

On November 16th the new graduates received their diplomas in a joint ceremony between Flagler and Putnam Counties held at the UF/IFAS Flagler County Extension Office in Bunnell, Florida.

The graduating class will join the current active Master Gardeners in filling critical roles in extension that include being the first point of contact for residents with horticultural issues that include lawn and garden problems. Master Gardener Volunteers help to improve the quality of residents lives by providing science based solutions developed from research at the University of Florida. The Horticulture Program relies on these volunteers to perform important plant and soil diagnostics, assist with outreach, and help educate residents.

This was the first class of Master Gardeners that I have had the pleasure of teaching, so I don't have any comparison to make about the class, however, I am very pleased with the level of participation and performance of the new Master Gardeners. They are very eager to get started and all seem like team players. I am very certain our organization will benefit from their skill sets and volunteer efforts.

**SOL LOOKER—UF/IFAS Flagler County Extension
Horticulture Extension Agent I, Master Gardener Coordinator**

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PLANTS FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT—Crinum Lily

Julia Wilson, Flagler County Master Gardener Volunteer



Have you ever stopped in wonderment when seeing a four-foot lily with over a foot-wide bloom on a long stalk in a landscape? This is a Crinum lily. It definitely makes a statement as a single plant or as a grouping. There are several species of crinums and dozens of varieties with plants ranging from thirteen inches to six feet tall. They produce fragrant spidery flowers atop 2 to 5-foot stalks. The flower color varies depending on the species and can be white, pink, deep rose or striped. Most blooms are in the summer but the crinum will

continue to bloom in the spring, and fall. Many of the 130 species of the genus *Crinum* are not in cultivation, but the *Crinum Americanum* is a Florida native. It is often called the swamp lily and works well on the banks of ponds and streams. Its white or pink striped flowers sit atop a succulent cylindrical flower stalk. Each 6-inch floral tube bears six petals and sepals while rosy stamens that are tipped with yellow emerge from the throat of the tube.

The *Crinum x amabile* is called the giant spider lily. Its glossy leaves are greenish-red and reach a length of 2 to 4 feet. Red and pink fragrant flowers sit atop its flower stalk. And there is the Grand Crinum Lily which definitely will turn heads when featured in the landscape. Its green, strap like leaves grow at least three feet long and four inches wide. The big rosette of leaves growing up to seven feet across can reach up to five feet high. The bulb formed underground is one of the biggest in nature with some weighing up to forty pounds. The flower head is a cluster of white sweet-smelling flowers that open and flare out into a large, foot-wide corona of delicate petals intersecting with maroon-colored filaments.



Now that you understand the beauty of these lilies, let me tell you about their easy-going nature. They don't demand a lot and survived Irma's flooding. Once established, crinums require little aside from occasional irrigation. They can be planted year-round in our zone 9a but try to avoid planting when there is the possibility of a freeze. Part shade to part sun is best and they tolerate almost any soil. They even have moderate drought tolerance. To gain new plants for other areas or to share, they are easy to divide. It is best to do so during the winter when they are not actively growing. The large clump is simply lifted and some of the off-shoot bulbs removed. Also, the large seed pods that develop may sprout new plants. Their long-term health is usually not affected by pests. Lubber grasshoppers are perhaps the worst as crinums and others in the lily family are their favorite foods. As for disease, leaf spot issues are the biggest problem. Red blotch fungus causes red spots on leaves and crinum mosaic potyvirus causes yellow streaks in the leaves. A word of caution on the grand crinum lily, it is also called the poison bulb. All parts are poisonous so be aware if children and pets are present.



The Crinum lily is a Florida Friendly Landscaping plant recommended for our area. They make excellent under plantings for palms or other coarsely textured landscape plants. Plant four to six feet apart in a mass planting or use as an accent plant or ornamental specimen. You will enjoy their low maintenance and be complimented on the beautiful, fragrant flowers. Other cultivars for color choice are Crinum x powelli which has fragrant rosy-pink flowers, Crinum moorei with a rose-red flower and in the cultivar 'Album' white flowers and 'Roseum' pink flowers. Crinum latifolium var. zeylanicum is the milk-and-wine lily.

In conclusion and to clear up any confusion, the true spider lily is the genus Hymenocallis. This spider lily is a Florida native with attractive foliage and fragrant white blooms. These flowers have petals that are connected by membranous tissue while the crinum has six separate petals.



References: UF IFAS Extension Documents FPS154, FPS 155, FPS 156 and FPS260 UF IFAS Gardening Solutions "Crinums" and "Spider Lily"

Image credit Julia Wilson

Native Plant—American Beautyberry

Mary Hobbs, Flagler County Master Gardener Volunteer



American Beautyberry *Callicarpa Americana* is the bright spot in a fading summer garden with its magenta-colored berries clustered along the stems. It is a rapidly-growing North American (Florida) native that forms a rather loosely arranged, rounded shrub, five to eight feet tall and equally wide. Its long branches bend toward the ground almost as if weeping when it is established. It thrives in a wide variety of soil and moisture conditions. It is not salt tolerant. Beautyberry grows best in a partly sunny location. When planted in too much sun the leaves may turn yellow and planted in too much shade it may become leggy and produce few flowers and fruit. Clusters of small pinkish flowers bloom along the stems at the leafnodes in late spring and early summer. They are not especially attractive to butterflies and are pollinated mostly by bees. Magenta-colored berries, 1/8 inch in diameter, ripen along the stems in the fall. The fruit is what we look forward to in the fall and may remain until late winter unless eaten by birds

and mammals. Deer may eat the foliage. Beautyberry tolerates regular pruning but is best used in areas where its arching branches have room to spread. Use in mixed hedges or as an understory shrub in a partly sunny location. edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp090

I found an interesting fact sheet from the USDA – NRCS with the Ethnobotanics as follows:

“The roots, leaves and branches were used by various Native American tribes for medicinal purposes to treat malarial fevers and rheumatism. The roots were used to treat dizziness, stomachaches and dysentery. Roots and berries were boiled and drunk to treat colic.”

“In the early 20th century, farmers would crush the leaves and place them under the harnesses of horses and mules to repel mosquitoes then they would rub the crushed leaves on themselves to repel biting bugs and mosquitoes. Studies conducted by the Agricultural Research Service have shown two compounds – calli-carpenal and intermedeol – that are responsible for the repellent.”



Image credit Donna Frangipane



Creekside Festival is held annually under the majestic oaks at Princess Place Preserve.

Princess Place Preserve, with its rich history and 1500 pristine acres, attracts nature enthusiasts from near and far. It provides a glimpse of old Florida. Visitors can take in its splendor while on one of the many hiking trails, fishing the salt marshes along the Matanzas River and Pellicer Creek, or camping out under the stars. The preserve is a popular spot for horse enthusiasts, with an equestrian campsite and plenty of trails that make it is easy to embrace nature while enjoying a ride.

This beautiful 1,500-acre preserve is situated in the northern part of Flagler County. It was purchased by Henry Cutting in 1886 and passed on to his widow Angela Mills Cutting Worden, who eventually married Boris Scherbatoff, an exiled Russian prince. Angela assumed the title of princess and it was then that the once named "Cherokee Grove" came to be known as "Princess Place." The original lodge, built by Henry Cutting, stills stands as Flagler County's oldest intact structure. It is also home to Florida's very first in-ground swimming pool

<https://floridahikes.com/princess-place-preserve>

Creekside Festival

Jeanne Florio, Flagler County Master Gardener Volunteer

Our information booth has been at a number of events throughout Flagler County this year, most recently at the Creekside Festival. On this occasion, in an effort to meet and educate the public on all things horticulture our posters and literature included Florida Friendly Landscaping Principles, the importance of limited water usage, pollination of flowers and shrubs, the Master Gardener Program, and a list of our upcoming programs.



At this event we were joined by staff of the 4-H and Commercial Agriculture Programs that are offered at the Extension Office.

At least 60 consumers sought specific information in this two day event. In addition we had many who stopped by to learn about our services and programs. We added a number of new Flagler County residents (full time and snow-bird) to our mailing list and shared the vast services we provide free of charge.

Washington Oaks State Park

Ellen Botschka, Flagler County Master Gardener Volunteer

Residents of Flagler County are very lucky to have such a beautiful park located here. The 425-acre park is on route A1A; it is bordered on one side by the Atlantic Ocean and on the other side by the Matanzas River. Habitats preserved by the park include beach, coastal scrub, coastal hammock and tidal marshes.



Native Americans used the area for hunting and fishing. European settlers used it for agriculture. The property went through a number of owners, one of whom was George Washington, a surveyor, who was a relative of President George Washington. In 1936, Louise Powis Clark, wife of industrialist Owen D. Young, purchased the property as a winter retirement home. She named the property Washington Oaks and is responsible for developing the formal gardens. In 1964 Mrs. Young donated the property to the state of Florida specifying that the 20 acres of formal gardens be maintained in their original form.

Washington Oaks offers an opportunity to engage in numerous recreational activities: bicycling, fishing, hiking, picnicking areas, beaches on both the Matanzas River and the ocean. The original residence is now a visitor center with interpretive exhibits. A good way to see all the park has to offer is to take the First Friday Garden Walk. The knowledgeable Park Ranger will explain the rich history of the park and it is a perfect opportunity to see the lovely formal gardens.

There are several events held in the park throughout the year. Some examples are: Earth Day Celebration, Holidays in the Garden and Saltwater Fishing Clinics. See Friends of Washington Oaks Gardens website for more information on events.

One event that is of special interest to Master Gardeners is the Second Saturday Plant Sale. This year we have been having a Master Gardener information table at the sale each month. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other gardeners and to spread the word about Florida Friendly Landscaping, as well as informing people about our Flagler County Extension Office and the services we offer. Many of the people we meet are new to Florida and are looking for ideas to beautify their landscapes. We give them information on the UF website and how to use it to solve problems and make better plant choices. Of course, the plants offered by The Friends of Washington Oaks at the sale are wonderful!!



There is usually an informative garden topic talk given each month at the plant sale. Our chairperson Donna Frangipane, has given a few of these talks this year.

A day spent at Washington Oaks is so worthwhile. There is so much to see and do. The magnificent live oaks are amazing; the formal gardens - so picturesque; the beach, the river, and don't miss my personal favorite, the

rose garden.

www.washingtonoaks.org

Congratulations



Graduating Flagler and Putnam County Master Gardener volunteer class of 2018

Invasive plant workshop.

Held at the UF/IFAS Flagler County Ag Center on October 24th. The Halifax Gardening Angels were some of the 35 attendee's





Upcoming Events



**Flagler County 4-H
Healthy Living Workshop, January 14, 2019.
Volunteers needed.**



January 21, 2019 at 9am. All Master Gardener Volunteers are invited to attend.

Tri-County 4-H Potato Plantings in Hastings, 9600 Cowpens Branch Road.

UF IFAS Flagler County Community Horticulture Education

Future Horticulture Education is listed on www.eventbrite.com

Registration on <https://www.eventbrite.com>

150 Sawgrass Road Bunnell, FL 32110-4325

“Speakers Bureau” available to non-profits, homeowners associations, clubs, etc. Contact us if you would like an Agent or Master Gardener to present information to your group on horticultural topics.

Contact us for More Info: Sol Looker 386-437-7464 or lookers@ufl.edu

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University of Florida Master Gardener Volunteers

Our Mission

To assist Extension Agents in providing research-based horticultural education to Florida residents.

Our Vision

To be the most trusted resource for horticultural education in Florida.

Name That Creature, first correct answer earns \$5 credit towards admission to Horticulture classes held at the Flagler UF/IFAS Extension Service.

Contact Sol Looker by email with your answer.

lookers@ufl.edu



Stay Connected with Flagler County Horticulture!

Flagler County Extension.....<http://district3.extension.ifas.ufl.edu/flagler.shtml>

University of Florida Solutions for Your Life.....<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/>

Florida Friendly Landscaping.....<http://http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>

University of Florida Gardening Solutions.....<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>

University of Florida Master Gardener.....<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener>

If you are interested in joining the Flagler County Master Gardener Program, please contact Sol Looker at lookers@ufl.edu or 386-437-7464.

The Flagler County Master Gardener and Horticulture program is open to all regardless of gender, race, color, nationality, creed or disability.