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: Suwannee County
Name of Project: The Suwannee County Youth Garden
Project start date: September 2002  Project end date: Ongoing
Name of person(s) typing application: Ann Fender
Name or names of Master Gardeners preparing application: Ann Fender and Anne Carraway

Name of Agent: Jim E. Davis

Revised 7/2013
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.

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

**Email PDF Applications to:** Tom Wichman
twichman@ufl.edu

**TO BE ELIGIBLE ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 19, 2013**
FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER
SERVICE TO 4-H AND/OR OTHER YOUTH AWARD

This award category recognizes the Master Gardener(s) who has or have contributed the most to Florida 4-H and/or other youth horticulture while serving as a Florida Master Gardener.

Entry forms must be TYPED AND COMPLETED for consideration by the committee. Remember to submit Form 10 with your entry. Entrants are limited to the category they indicate on that form.

The basis for the award is outstanding contribution to 4-H and/or other youth in the area of horticulture, including fruits, vegetables and ornamentals. These projects may be carried out on the grounds of the Extension Service, school yards, backyard plots, or community owned properties. The award will be based on the following criteria (please scan and package any supporting materials into a PDF document)

A. Objective of youth educational activity (100 words or less): (10 points)
B. Master Gardener's Role (100 words or less): Please provide a listing of Master Gardener who participated in this project. (25 points)
C. Brief description of activity (100 words or less): (10 points)
D. Major benefits to 4-H and/or other youth (100 words or less): (25 points)
E. Other recognition received for this activity (50 words or less): (10 points)
F. Educational components and other relative information (100 words or less): (10 points)
G. Documentary materials such as photographs, illustrations, and news clippings. (Two pages or less): (10 points)
H. A 150 word (or less) summary of your project so that we can let others know of your accomplishments. Your application will NOT be judged without this summary included.

Please add a few paragraphs describing any problems you encountered or things you might change if you were to do the project again.

Examples of service to be recognized are:

a. 4-H horticulture club leader(s).
b. Coach(es) of a county 4-H and/or other youth horticulture judging team.
c. Organizer(s) of a 4-H and/or other youth community garden project.
d. Developer(s) of a 4-H and/or other youth horticultural therapy special education project, such as wheelchair gardening.
e. Adult leader(s) at State 4-H Horticulture Camp.
f. Author(s) of literature, video program, or slide set on 4-H and/or other youth horticultural activities.
g. Financial contributor(s) or fund raiser(s) for 4-H and/or other youth.
h. Organizer(s) or worker(s) at 4-H and/or other youth exhibit, fair, or other youth display event.
i. 4-H horticultural demonstration coach(es)

Revised 7/2013
A. Objectives of youth educational activity: The Sumter County Youth Garden educated 252 students between the ages of 5 to 14 from September 2012 to May 2013. In 2012/2013 the participants became a certified Jr. Master Gardener's Garden Club, named "Busy Bugs." The program objectives of this project were to provide hands-on activities for children to learn about horticulture, gardening and eating healthier by growing vegetables. Children gain a clear understanding of the source of food and the hard work it takes to grow food. They strengthen skills in math, science, and team building. Most importantly, they develop a deep love for horticulture.

B. Master Gardeners' role: The Master Gardener Youth Garden Committee plans activities, as well as donates and purchases items for age specific projects, lessons and hands-on activities. Master Gardeners instruct, encourage, supervise, and guide "Busy Bugs" in all aspects of a working productive garden every Tuesday and Thursday from September 2012 to May 2013. Master Gardeners involved include Ann Carraway (Committee Chair), Wendel Martinkovic, Barb Schroeder, Nick Brown, Clarice Maurer, Anita Gray, Barb Peterson, Tom Nielsen, Anita Gray, Carol Frederick, Bridget Smith, Porgy Smith, Johanna Jones, and Roger Jones. Master Gardeners contributed over 970 volunteer hours between September, 2012 and May, 2013.

C. Brief description of activity: The youth garden site includes 40' by 80' raised vegetable garden beds, with plots separated by a grape pergola. Participants have planted over 30 fruit trees such as plums, peaches and apples. Master Gardeners also installed a micro-irrigation system. A composting grant resulted in construction of a 25' x 25' pole barn, used as the outdoor classroom and to house an Earth Tub™ composter. The complex includes a storage/potting shed. Children gather after school for interactive presentations and then use the knowledge they gain to produce food in an environmentally friendly fashion.

D. Major benefits to 4-H and/or other youth:
- Students learned how to work together as a team building skills to develop lasting friendships with each other and Master Gardeners.
- Students learned the value of giving. Selected produce harvested from the youth garden was given to a local food bank.
- Students learned about horticulture and agriculture using hands-on activities by planting seeds and harvesting vegetables.
- Students learned to eat healthier. Children were given the opportunity to take their harvest home with them to share with their family.

E. Other recognition received for this activity: The youth garden was featured in a full page article in the Sumter Times, which is distributed throughout the county.
F. Educational components and other relative information:
The entire project is educational. Topics include:
• soil preparation
• hoeing/raking techniques
• soil enrichment
• plant propagation
• seed planting/transplanting
• micro-irrigation
• pollinators and their role in horticulture
• bug identification
• distinguishing beneficial bugs from crop destroying pests
• organic ways to control bugs
• recycling and composting
• identifying and eradicating weeds
• proper pruning, harvesting
• distribution of harvest among family, friends and food bank
• safety in the garden
• the value of physical exercise
• nutritional benefits of consuming fruits and vegetables
• learning to work together

G. Documentary materials such as photographs, illustrations and news clippings:
Photographs and news clipping of Master Gardeners and students are enclosed

H. Summary: The Sumter County Youth Garden began in 2002 with a partnership between Master Gardeners and Sumter County Youth Center. When Master Gardeners established this after-school children’s horticultural program, they emphasized hands-on learning. That emphasis continues, but with added formal training. Through the years, the garden plots, orchards and facilities have expanded. This garden provides active educational learning throughout the school year. “Busy Bugs” develop a deep and long lasting bond with their Master Gardener mentors. They learn to work together as a team for a shared goal.

Problems encountered: It takes great effort to maintain this labor intensive program over a long period of time. In addition to two weekly meetings with the children who participate, Master Gardeners must provide heavy maintenance behind the scenes. Because the program extends over the school year and is an aftercare program, children come and go, with this said, it is a challenge to integrate the full Jr. Master Gardener program and it’s requirements for individual certification. We are looking for ways to improve this in 2014.
Wendel Martinkovic and Ann Carraway (left) teach Busy Bugs how to monitor and document bug activity in the garden.

Nick Brown (below) excites the Busy Bugs with his talk on worm castings and how it enriches the soil. He also lets them know that worms are eaten by some humans, but not today!

(Above) Master Gardener President Johanna Jones helps this little Busy Bug harvest a big bag full of goodies from the garden. Who is smiling bigger? I think it is our President.

Busy Bugs and Master Gardeners Mentors bonding in the garden.
In the garden with the Busy Bugs Garden Club

Donna Lester
UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County
Horticulture Program Assistant

In 2002, Sumter County Youth Center Manager Della Boysheley, partnered with Wendel Martinkovic, who at the time was the UF/IFAS Sumter County Master Gardener (MG) coordinator, to bring a life-sustaining educational opportunity for the children in the after-school care program. The Sumter County Youth Center supplied the plot of land with lots of seeds to sow and the garden took root.

The objective of the Youth Garden is to introduce gardening to children in every aspect of a true functional, productive, sustainable and fruitful garden.

The program, affectionately called the Junior MG Busy Bugs Garden Club, is so popular it boasts service to 32 children, ages 5 to 14, with a waiting list.

The Busy Bugs learn by doing everything necessary to have a good garden. They dig and prepare the soil and learn to compost including composting with worms. They learn when to plant seasonal vegetables, fruit trees, muscadine grapes, plums and peaches, flowers and shrubs. They learn how to propagate from seeds then transplant seedlings when they are ready for the garden. A favorite activity is hunting for the good and bad bugs and properly identifying them.

This ensures that the most rewarding time for the Busy Bugs, harvest time, is a huge success when the vegetables and fruits are ready to eat. They share the harvest with family and friends and with others in need. The program has its challenges; and the work is not always easy, but the rewards are priceless. The pictures show the love Busy Bugs have for gardening.

The program gives the children precious gifts: a deep understanding of the importance of caring for the land, respecting wildlife and our environment, a clear picture of where our food actually comes from, how much hard work goes into growing this delicious food, and how much fun it is to harvest the bounty and enjoy eating it. It's a true win, win situation.

Wendel Martinkovic has since retired from UF/IFAS Extension to start a farm of his own, but he still devotes his time and passion for farming, along with a special group of Master Gardeners: Ann Carraway (butterfly expert), Barb Schroeder, Clarice Maurer, Anita Gray, Barb Peterson, Johanna and Roger Jones, Tom Nielsen, Nick Brown, Carol Frederick, Bridget Smith and Porgy Smith.

Other Sumter County master gardeners support the youth garden behind the scenes by raising funds for supplies needed.

Jim Davis is the new Master Gardener coordinator, for UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension and is currently studying for his masters in entomology at University of Florida.

He will be able to share his expertise with the children for many years to come about their beloved bugs.

Martha Maddox, Family Consumer Science agent, will be teaching exciting food and nutrition lessons for the children. This is a newly added educational series being introduced to the Jr. MG Busy Bugs Garden Club.

For other services UF/IFAS Extension has to offer please visit our website at www.sumter.ifas.ufl.edu.

If you wish to start a garden or have any questions on services: call 352-795-2726 ext. 222 or email dmlester@ufl.edu.

*Editing by MG Kathy Porter*