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<http://mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu>  
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 recertified 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 REENTERED 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)

- o 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](mailto:twichman@ufl.edu)

County: ....Columbia.....  
Name of Project: ..Oak Lawn Cemetery.....  
Project start date: ..July 2011..... Project end date: ..February 2012.....  
Name of person(s) typing application: ...Gayle Rogers.....

Name or names of Master Gardeners preparing application ..Gayle Rogers. ....  
Name of Agent: ..Nichelle Demorest.....

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.

Form 11 Beautification

## OAK LAWN CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT by: Columbia County Master Gardeners

### 1. Scope of Landscaping Project –

The entrance gate area and the area surrounding the Civil War memorial at Oak Lawn Cemetery was in dire need of attention. The gate area receives full sun while the memorial obelisk receives at least 6 to 8 hours of full sun daily. Irrigation to the area ranges from spotty to non-existent. Therefore, the Columbia County Master Gardeners decided to give OLC a “face-lift” with native and drought tolerant, low maintenance plantings. The city hosts the Olustee Festival annually with a re-dedication at Oak Lawn Cemetery. Potentially, the entire population of Lake City and Columbia County (in excess of 12,000 people) benefits from the beautification of the Oak Lawn Cemetery because of the increased marketability of the community through positive exposure during the Olustee Festival week and throughout the year. The Columbia County Master Gardeners who participated in this project were as follows: Aileen Allen, Marjorie Anderson, Harry Colson, Dean Demorest and his wife Nichelle, Janet Frank and her husband, Judy Futch, Lin Gill, Geoff Hart, Kathy Kazmierczak, Judy Kovaks, Lou Lowder, Diana McDonnell, Amy Morie, Gerry Murphy, Rose Pavey, Peg Phillips, Diana Roder, Hilbert Roder, Gayle Rogers, Le Simons, and James Thiele.

### 2. Horticultural Accuracy –

The project consists of entrance enhancement and landscape plantings around the central memorial obelisk. The color theme is red, white, and blue with a focus on native and drought tolerant, low maintenance plants. The plants were also chosen in order to have something in bloom almost year round. The following plants were chosen for use at the Cemetery entrance and along the fence on either side of the entrance gate: muhly grass, firebush, mock orange, Confederate rose, and Alachua red rose. Around the monument, the Master Gardeners planted lilyturf and creeping rosemary.

### 3. Maintenance –

Native and drought tolerant plants were chosen to facilitate minimal maintenance and maximum beauty. The entire planted areas were mulched to help with water retention and allay some of the weed growth. Maintenance for the plantings consists of limited pruning for the Confederate rose and mock orange and periodic weeding. Because the plants are native and drought tolerant, they adapt well to whatever conditions Mother Nature throws at them and do not require supplemental waterings. On-going maintenance (pruning and weeding) has been accomplished by Jim Thiele and Gayle Rogers with additional manpower provided as needed by other Master Gardeners in the Columbia County group and the grandchildren of Gayle Rogers.

### 4. Accomplishment –

Twenty-two of the Columbia County Master Gardeners participated in the Oak Lawn Cemetery project along with six additional people from the general community. Their duties included digging, planting, and watering-in the initial plantings. Three times a week for the first six weeks, the plantings were watered by Master Gardeners on a rotating basis. An additional workday was called prior to the Olustee Festival in February 2012 in order to “spiff-up” the area prior to the re-dedication of the memorial and the gravesites of the Civil War soldiers. Before the actual “gardening” at OLC, a dedicated handful of Master Gardeners did the considerable “background” preparation work necessary to accomplish the beautification project including: soliciting donations from multiple retailers in the

## OAK LAWN CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT by: Columbia County Master Gardeners

community, setting up a silent auction to raise monies for the project, preparing themed baskets for the auction, meeting with the Lake City Beautification Committee, Lake City Mayor Steven Witt, the City Manager Wendell Johnson, and the head of the Public Works Department Tom Henry to get project approval and permission. Attached herewith are photos of the Cemetery throughout the project, a copy of a Lake City Reporter newspaper article highlighting the project to the Community, and several notes and letters received from members of the Community in appreciation of the work of the CCMG's at Oak Lawn Cemetery. Lake City hosts the Olustee Festival every year and, during Festival week, there is a re-dedication at Oak Lawn Cemetery in recognition of the sacrifices made by our ancestors to secure our freedoms and way of life. The Olustee Festival and Battle of Olustee Re-enactment draw hundreds of re-enactors from around the country and thousands of people from North Florida and South Georgia. The beautification project at Oak Lawn Cemetery will have a long range impact on the marketability of Lake City during the Festival and throughout the year making for a more financially advantageous environment for the entire community which has in excess of 12,000 people. Further, the youth of the community will gain an increased appreciation for the sacrifices of our ancestors by the positive example of appreciation and respect given to this most historic of local sites.

### 5. Summary –

A rich and important part of our North Florida heritage lies buried within our own neighborhood. Oak Lawn Cemetery is the final resting place for 155 unknown Confederate soldiers who died in the 1864 Battle of Olustee or in a Confederate hospital. There is an old memorial obelisk in the gravesite area of the Cemetery which is dedicated to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the war. This area was much neglected and greatly needed some attention. The Columbia County Master Gardeners elected to enhance the Cemetery entrance and the Civil War veterans area by landscaping with a red, white, and blue color scheme. Plants were chosen that are Florida natives, drought tolerant, and have low maintenance requirements. With minimal effort and considerable love, this landscape project will provide residents with an historic tourist attraction the City can be proud of for many years to come.

Gayle Rogers  
% Columbia County Master Gardeners  
Colmbia County Agricultural Extension Office  
164 S. W. Mary Ethel Lane  
Lake City, Florida 32025-1597

Dear Gayle:

As you know, James and I are both retired from military service for our Country. We are very dedicated to the armed services and consider ourselves extreme patriots. Thank you and your group for all the work you put into beautifying the Oak Lawn Cemetery around the Civil War monument and grave area. The native plantings will prove to be an excellent choice (I always think ease of care in my own gardens) and we especially like how you used a red,white, and blue color scheme.

Watching how the plants have grown gives new meaning to the phrase, "The South shall rise again!"

Sincerely,

Carol and James Robinson  
Branford Highway  
Ft. White, Florida

Columbia County Master Gardeners  
164 S.W. Mary Ethel Lane  
Lake City, Florida 32025

Dear Master Gardeners,

Every year my husband and I bring our children to the Olustee Festival in Lake City, Florida. During our visit, we also attend the re-dedication at the Oak Lawn Cemetery honoring the Civil War soldiers who lost their lives during that war.

I was excited to see that this year the cemetery had been beautified by the Master Gardeners with some landscaping around the entrance gates and the monument. It looks very pretty and I am sure it will only get better as the plants mature.

I just wanted to thank you for working to make the old cemetery more beautiful and for not forgetting the rich history in this place.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Snow  
Valdosta, Georgia

Master Gardeners  
Columbia County Extension Office  
164 S.W. Mary Ethel Lane  
Lake City, Florida 32025

Thank you for the work you have done at the old Civil War cemetery here in town.  
I am a veteran of the Viet Nam war and appreciate anytime people acknowledge the  
military past or present.

Jeff Stapick  
Lake City, Florida

















TO THE SLEEPING  
OF OUR  
THIS MONUMENT WAS  
ERECTED  
THEY FELL  
THE BATTLE OF  
CLUSTEE

IN MEMORY OF THE  
CONFEDERATE  
DEAD

ROWN

TOP