



For Immediate Release

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Seminole County Master Gardeners Present Free Garden Event

Make Plans to Attend the 2010 Seminole County Garden Walk

Sanford, FL -- March 20, 2010

It's Spring! Forget the cold weather and re-imagine your yard and garden. Be inspired as you experience exciting options for gardening in Florida.

The UF/IFAS Master Gardeners of Seminole County are sponsoring a unique opportunity for gardeners and garden lovers. The 4th Annual Garden Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 16, from 11am to 5pm. Plan a leisurely driving tour to view a diverse collection of outstanding gardens.

Each of the gardens has been selected on the basis of beauty, ease of maintenance, and resource conservation.

Garden exhibitors include:

Norb and Carole Jaworski, 2004 Magnolia Avenue, Sanford, 32771

The Jaworskis describe their garden as a "Northern take" on Florida gardening. Features 15 citrus trees, an extensive vegetable garden, and much more. An outstanding garden addition to Sanford's beautiful Historic District.

Stephanie Powers and Rami Yosefian, 5520 Wilson Road, Sanford, 32771

A garden of many gardens. Stroll along a pathway that takes you from an upland habitat, complete with garden gnomes and homemade crafts until you come upon a pair of ponds filled with koi. Enjoy the view of native plants, reliable standards, and shade-loving plants including bromeliads. If you're lucky, you'll meet an adorable miniature goat and then come upon the Aviary, home to two lovely birds. This yard is maintained with Integrated Pest Management techniques.

Seminole County Public Schools Student Museum, 301 W. 7th Street, Sanford, 32771

This Seminole County historic landmark is also the site of the Student Museum Gardens planted and maintained by the Seminole Master Gardeners. This site has thirteen individual gardens: Butterfly, Antique Rose, Wildflower, Florida Native, Asian and Sedum, Sub-Tropical, turn-of-the-century Pioneer Garden, Herb, Wildlife Habitat and Shade Gardens. Master Gardeners will be on hand to lead garden tours.

Bea and Mike Koch, 313 Oak Hill Drive, Altamonte Springs, 32701

Bea describes her garden as “a plant collector’s paradise” in an old English country style which is also a certified Wildlife Habitat. There are special spaces for relaxing and grass for playing with the grandchildren. There’s even a “Secret Garden”! Bring a small gallon pail to help yourself to some of Bea’s “black gold” compost!

Dix.Lathrop and Associates, Inc. The Bungalow and the Barn; 138 and 150 W. Jessup Avenue, Longwood, 32750

These properties feature two structures surrounded by water-wise, native and hardy ornamental plantings. One of the structures is a historic 1925 Craftsman Bungalow. The site was featured in a recent article in the Orlando Sentinel. Experimental areas are included to test plants not currently common in area gardens. Native plantings in masses are used to frame and complement the structures and garden rooms. Come enjoy the riot of colors and textures and enjoy learning from the plant experts who created these unique gardens

Jeff and Debbie Dix, 1580 Myrtle Lake Hills Road, Longwood, 32750

Jeff and Debbie describe their yard as “modern Florida cracker”. They have created a sustainable garden requiring minimal water, fertilizer, and pesticides – which also happens to look great! The garden has a modern style with a distinct structure using Florida plants. Note the unique diversion of stormwater runoff and the extended courtyard in the backyard.

Tabitha and Steve Miller, 606 Morgan Street, Winter Springs, 32708

A large property which features a tropically-themed oasis (complete with koi pond) and an array of gardens designed by Tabitha Miller. Tabitha is a certified feng shui consultant who will be on hand to answer your questions about designing gardens to promote peace, prosperity, and other feng shui principles.

Sue Tatum, 663 Cayuga Drive, Winter Springs, 32708

Sue tells us that her yard was designed to require no irrigation, and attract birds and butterflies. Many Florida natives have been included in the landscape. Integrated pest management techniques have been employed to also minimize the need for environmentally unfriendly pesticides and fertilizers. Sue and her landscape designer will be available to answer your questions.

Rick and Mindy Geer, 677 Olean Court, Winter Springs, 32708

Contrast the “Florida formal” front yard with the more tropical back and side yards. The Geers have combined colorful, textural plant masses and smooth, curvilinear bedlines to appeal to the eye while providing ease of maintenance. Mindy and Rick, a certified commercial landscaper and owner of R.G. Landscapes, Inc., will be on hand to answer questions and explain their vision for the property.

Admission to the Garden Walk is free and open to the public. This event is sponsored by the Sunniland Corporation, Do-It-Yourself Pest Control in Fern Park, South Seminole Farm and Nursery, the Seminole County Gardening Expo, and Wild Birds Unlimited of Winter Springs.

Brochures are available at the Seminole County Extension Office, local plant nurseries and retailers, and local libraries and municipal offices. For further information, contact Jan at 407 366 9474; or see us at Garden Walk 2010 on facebook and youtube.

The Seminole County Master Gardeners are volunteers working under the guidance of the Seminole County Cooperative Extension Service and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.