2009 marks the 30th Anniversary of Florida Master Gardeners
Since 1979, Master Gardeners have been actively involved in serving Florida residents through volunteering with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

From 1979 to 2009, more than 5.4 million volunteer hours have been contributed for a value of over $83 million! Thanks to all the Master Gardeners who have served so generously over the last 30 years.

The Martin County Master Gardener Volunteer Program has been in existence since 1983 and have put in countless hours, time and money to educate the homeowners of Martin County.

Plant of the Month (August): Canna
Related to bananas and ginger plants, cannas come in an array of tropical colors. These heat-loving perennials like sunny, moist conditions.

August in Your Garden
Apply slow-release nitrogen or iron to St. Augustine and Zoysia lawns this month if they need “greening up.” Start the fall planting season now with many varieties of cool and warm season crops.

Family Nutrition Program
The participating schools of J.D. Parker, Warfield and Port Salerno found FNP Program Assistants Jenny Buntin and Gale Ryan at their Open House Orientations for the parents. At the FNP information booths, Gale and Jenny handed out over 1,400 nutritional information kits for the parents and fun activity sheets for the children.

We are looking forward to adding Voluntary PreK at Hope Rural, Gertrude Walden, and two YMCA locations for this upcoming year starting in September.

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods
This Best Management Practices Program was a big success certifying 80 people who participated for 8 weeks of training. The course manuals had a total of 2,960 handouts distributed. Here are some of the topics in August:

- Dr. Phil Busey, spoke on Sports Turf Weeds
- BMP, Soils with Fred Burkey, Integrated Pest Management with Randy Phillips
- BMP’s Graduation Day, Mark Perry spoke on Environmental Ramifications if no BMP’s are followed
- Kevin Brockschmitt spoke on Alternative Fertilizers - Controlled Experiment.

In another venue, FYN taught the Rain Barrel Program with South Florida Water Management District on Water Conservation with 12 participants.
• **100 Years History**
  4-H began as a simultaneous response to needs throughout the country, rather than as the idea of one individual. The goal of the program was to extend agricultural education to rural youth by organizing boys and girls clubs and through “learning by doing.”

• **Early Development**
  The roots of 4-H began at the turn of the century when progressive educators started to emphasize the needs of young people and to introduce nature study as a basis for a better agricultural education. Boys and girls clubs and leagues were established in schools and churches to meet these needs. To spark the interest of young people, Farmers Institutes cooperated with school superintendents by promoting production contests, soil tests and plant identification.

  By March 1904, several boys and girls clubs had already exhibited projects. Most states organized clubs outside the schools with rural parents acting as volunteer leaders and County Extension agents provided materials. Farmers saw the practical benefits and public support and enthusiasm for 4-H grew throughout the nation.

• **Ties to Formal Education and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
  The Morrill Act of 1862 provided federal lands to establish land-grant colleges and universities. In 1890, colleges and universities for black citizens were established in the southern region to insure that all people were served. The state land-grant universities and the Cooperative Extension Service of the USDA maintained close contact with the development of 4-H.

  The land-grant institutions recommended organizing a distinct administrative division in each land-grant institution to direct the many Cooperative Extension activities that were developing. By 1912, virtually all of the land-grant institutions in the southern states had signed cooperative agreements with the USDA and had organized Extension departments.

• **Formal Establishment of 4-H**
  Congressional appropriations to the state land-grant institutions began in 1912 for development of early Extension work within the states. In 1914, the Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension System within the USDA, the state land-grant universities and the counties. Since the early legislation Congress has continued to support 4-H.

• **Recent History**
  Through the years, the overall objective of 4-H has remained the same: the development of youth as individuals and as responsible and productive citizens. 4-H serves youth through a variety of methods:
  - organized clubs
  - 4-H special interest or short term groups
  - 4-H school enrichment programs
  - 4-H instructional TV
  - 4-H camping
  - 4-H activities
  - 4-H centers or
  - as individual members.

  [http://florida4h.org/events/centennial.shtml](http://florida4h.org/events/centennial.shtml)

---

**One person can make a difference!**

This was our trash on a weekly basis, everything we used at our **Best Management Practices** program was recycled, leaving us with a minimum of half a trash can. All the paper, cans and bottles were recycled. Thanks for all of your cooperation.