In the Garden

The Florida Friendly Demonstration Garden at the Sumter County Extension office is not only attractive but serves many educational purposes. This time of year the garden is alive with butterflies! Both nectar and larval plants have been planted to encourage the butterflies to stop and lay eggs which quickly turn into caterpillars.

A visitor to the garden can learn about water conservation, composting, wildflowers, vegetable production, herbs and plant selection. The centerpieces of the garden are two 3,000 gallon cisterns that provide most of the landscape irrigation. It is also officially designated as a Florida Wildlife Habitat.

The garden was originally funded through a grant from the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. Sumter County Master Gardeners also contribute many volunteer hours to designing and maintaining the garden.

A New 4-H Year

4-H is a youth development program that is unique to any other youth activity. Through 4-H, Sumter county youth experience belonging to a group, they master skills through experience, they learn to influence others and learn the meaning of service.

Some highlights from the year that is just ending:

(continued next page)
Enrollment
13 Clubs (10 in 2009)
1 School Club
242 Youth Members
140 Adult Volunteers
1609 Youth Participated in 4-H School
Enrichment: Tropicana Public Speaking

Educational Activities
52 participated in County Events Day
16 State Leadership Events
8 4-H Day at the Capitol
31 County Summer Camp—64 Day Camp
124 Completed Project Books

Extension provides assistance to City of Wildwood by organizing Growers’ Market
The officials at the City of Wildwood were looking for a community event and liked the idea of a market featuring local foods and plants and homemade crafts. The market is celebrating its first year as a successful weekly market. According to a survey conducted by Susan Kelly, who assists with the development of the market, 85% of the vendors attending the market had no where else to sell their products or started their farm or business because of the market.

Extension Welcomes...
Lloyd Singleton—Florida-Friendly Landscape/Urban Horticulture Agent.
Lloyd’s position is part of the Southwest Florida Water Management partnership and he works with the landscape industry and homeowners in the area of sustainable landscapes.
Kimber Sarver—4-H Program Assistant
Kimber replaced Linda Burt (retired) and is doing a wonderful job working with 4-H youth and volunteers.

Website: http://sumter.ifas.ufl.edu
Facebook: University of Florida/Sumter County Extension