

Sarasota County Extension Service

Educational Program Schedule: Winter 2007

Free public programs are conducted on **Tuesdays** at **2 p.m.** at the **Florida House Learning Center**, located on the campus of Sarasota County Technical Institute at the NW corner of Proctor and Beneva Rds in Sarasota. *There is no charge but you must register* in advance either in person or by calling **316-1200**.

January 9: TROPICAL & SUBTROPICAL FRUITING FRUITS
2:00 –3:30 p.m.

Michael J. Holsinger,
Holsinger Horticultural Services

This program covers the basic principles for successfully growing a bounty of tropical and subtropical fruits in Southwest Florida. Specific information is provided on Citrus, Muscadine grapes, Carambola, Lychee, Atemoya, Banana, Pineapple, Papaya, Mango and several other interesting varieties that you can grow in your yard or even in containers.

January 13: PLANNING YOUR WILDLIFE GARDEN
10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon
(* Saturday Class*)

Dr. Robert Kluson, Sarasota Co. Extension
Laurel Schiller, Florida Native Plants, Inc.

Bring your home's site plan and we will help you create a haven for you and local wildlife—butterflies, birds and other friendly critters. This will be a 'hands-on,' interactive planning session to prepare you for your spring planting.

January 23: INSURANCE RATE REDUCTIONS THROUGH DISASTER RESISTANCE
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Matt Ross
Eco-\$mart, Inc.

Learn how to reduce residential and commercial insurance rates through disaster-resistance improvements. Insurance experts and home and building improvement specialists provide an overview of the methods and benefits available to Florida homeowners and commercial properties.

February 6: FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPES
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Annemarie Post
Sarasota County Extension Service

As our communities have grown, there has been tremendous pressure placed upon our natural resources, such as water. Learn how you can play an important role in minimizing the potential harmful effects of urbanization on our resources by adopting environmentally friendly landscape maintenance practices.

February 10: PLANNING YOUR WILDLIFE GARDEN
10:00 a.m.—12 Noon
(*Saturday Class*)

Dr. Robert Kluson, Sarasota Co. Extension
Laurel Schiller, Florida Native Plants, Inc.

Bring your home's site plan and we will help you create a haven for you and local wildlife—butterflies, birds and other friendly critters. This will be a 'hands-on,' interactive planning session to prepare you for your spring planting.

February 20: HOW TO BUILD AN AFFORDABLE GREEN HOME
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Matt Ross
Eco-\$mart, Inc.

An overview of the locally available, cost effective green building approaches for Florida.

(Over)

March 6: FLORIDA CRITTERS—THE GOOD, BAD AND HARMLESS Dr. Fred Santana
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Sarasota County Extension Service

Most people new to Florida are overwhelmed at first by the sight of a giant crab spider or what seems like a never-ending ant problem, plus the sudden appearance of small soft-bodied insects on a plant they admire. With more than a million species of insects, it is hard to know which ones are harmful, helpful, or harmless. Most people are surprised to learn that the vast majority of arthropods are beneficial and serve an important role in the environment, and only a small number are pests. Dr. Fred Santana will talk about these and a few non-buggy critters.

March 20: WEATHER RESISTANT LANDSCAPES - Prepare Donald Rainey
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. your landscape for the extremes of nature Sarasota County Extension Service

Learn ways to condition your existing landscape for the extremes of drought, water stress, high winds, and more.

March 27: CLOSING UP YOUR FLORIDA HOME Mary Jo Oswald
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Sarasota County Extension Service

Homes need special attention when they are closed up for prolonged periods. Whether living in a single family home, a mobile or modular home, or a multifamily structure such as a condominium, learn how to prepare your residence for your absence and avoid returning to unwanted mildew and other problems.

April 3: HEALTHY GARDENING Patricia Porchey
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Sarasota County Extension Service

Make your gardening experience more enjoyable. Learn about gardening techniques and tools that will make your gardening experience less of a chore and more of a healthy lifestyle.

April 17: SEASONAL LANDSCAPE PROBLEMS Patricia Porchey
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Sarasota County Extension Service

Learn what pests and other problems you may encounter in your landscape at this time of the year. Find out the easiest ways to prevent recurring problems in the future so that control is minimized or unnecessary.

May 1: ANTS IN AND AROUND THE HOME Dr. Fred Santana
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Sarasota County Extension Service

Learn about ants that are frequently encountered in your homes and yards. Learn some of their characteristics, habits and behaviors, and ways to control them with least-toxic pesticide materials. You are welcome to bring samples of ants found in your home or yard for identification.

May 8: To Be Announced

Inclusion in this class schedule does not constitute an endorsement of any particular product, service or company by the Florida House Learning Center or the University of Florida-Sarasota County Extension Service. It is recommended that consumers contact at least three different companies/contractors when purchasing products or services, and check with the Better Business Consumer Line at 366-3144 before making a commitment. Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, religion or national origin. Cell phones must be turned off during classes.