

Azaleas, butterflies and clinics

Educational Seminar with Developer of Encore® Azaleas: Okaloosa County Master Gardeners invite you to enjoy an educational seminar with the developer of Encore® Azaleas on September 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (registration begins at 9:30 a.m.) at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds, 1958 Lewis Turner Boulevard in Fort Walton Beach. This event features guest speaker Buddy Lee, developer of Encore® Azaleas. Selected Encore® Azaleas and new varieties of Southern Living plants will be featured and available for purchase in a silent auction. Please preregister no later than September 10 by mailing check in the amount of \$10 to Daisy Pfoertner, 4082 Indian Trail Drive, Destin, Florida, 32541. Make checks payable to Okaloosa County Master Gardener Association or more simply OCMGA. Registration at the door is \$12. For more information on this event, contact Daisy Pfoertner at (850) 650-6170 or Joyce Waters-Smith at (850) 269-2170.

Monarch Madness Butterfly Festival Photo Contest: The Panhandle Butterfly House (PBH) is pleased to announce its first Monarch Madness Photo Contest. In celebration of the annual monarch butterfly migration through our area the PBH will hold its 4th Annual Monarch Madness Butterfly Festival on October 8 and 9, 2010.

A new feature is a photo contest. Photos of butterflies, larvae, pupae and/or butterfly eggs may be submitted from August 21 through September 20. Contest is open to all photographers, professional and amateur. There are five entry categories: professional adult, amateur adult and students (ages 6-10, 11-14 and 15-18). There will be two grand prize winners and five runners-up. Grand prize winners (one adult and one student) will receive \$50 and \$25 in PBH merchandise and runners-up (one in each of the five categories) will receive \$25 in PBH merchandise.

Awards will be presented and photos displayed at the Monarch Madness Butterfly Festival at the PBH on October 8 and 9.

Visit www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org for details and entry form. Or email webmaster@panhandlebutterflyhouse.org or call 850-623-3868.

Located at the foot of the Navarre Bridge on Hwy. 98 (8581 Navarre Pkwy in Navarre) the PHB provides a wonderful place to learn about butterflies and their habitats.

Plant Clinics: Plant Clinics to diagnose lawn, landscape and garden problems will be held September 22 and October 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Fort Walton Beach at the Okaloosa County Extension building, 127 West Hollywood Boulevard. To participate, bring a fresh sample of the weed, plant, insect, etc., that you'd like diagnosed. This may include a plant stem with several leaves, a 4-inch square of grass with roots attached, etc. For additional information on the plant clinics, call the Okaloosa County Extension Office at (850) 689-5850, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Larry Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Okaloosa County, September 1, 2010