



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County graduates Master Gardener Class of 2016
~ Eighteen new Master Gardeners complete intensive volunteer training program ~

PASCO COUNTY, FL- On Thursday, August 4, 2016, the UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County Office proudly graduated a class of 18 new Master Gardeners. The UF/IFAS Master Gardener Program offers an intensive horticultural training for select citizens who then volunteer in the community to teach, conduct research, help start school gardens, help homeowners solve pest problems, help promote Florida -Friendly Landscaping and water conservation, give lectures and provide many other important outreach programs.

The Pasco Master Gardener class of 2016 went through a demanding 13-week course totaling more than 72 hours of classroom instruction. New volunteers also completed volunteer service hours at the Pasco County Cooperative Extension Service office in various capacities and have now embarked on a year-long training program where they must earn more than 85 hours of volunteer service and continuing education credits in various capacities throughout Pasco County.

UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Director and Urban Horticulture Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator, Dr. Whitney Elmore says, “Master Gardeners are ambassadors for the UF/IFAS Extension Office. They are at the front line helping homeowners and business owners solve a variety of problems. Master Gardeners aren’t just gardeners – they are agents of change and community development. We are always a step closer to fulfilling our mission with their help.”

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