



Trash²Treasure

VERTICAL GARDEN

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MARINE DISCOVERY CENTER
UF IFAS: FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM, COASTAL
RANGER JOSEPH BYRD || 04/28/2017

Above Photo:
Joseph Byrd
Marissa Elion
Ron Bradley
Donna Bradly

After joining the Florida Master Naturalist Program at the Marine Discovery Center, I learned I was required to complete a course project. I wanted my project to promote environmental protection efforts. Of the course of a month or so, I began thinking of ways to incorporate natural resources, and unnatural resources, to design my project. I came to a conclusion to build a native plant garden to attract bees and butterflies. Well, how do you build a garden inside a National Park with limited amount of space, when you cannot dig up the ground, and you cannot tend to the garden due to your other work related obligations? The answer is to, “go vertical,” which allows you to grow a variety of native plant species while occupying a very narrow space; “go natural,” which incorporates solar power and rain water to water the plants; and finally I decided to “go unnatural,” which allowed me to incorporate marine debris cleanup and to utilize the items to build the vertical garden, a “Green Wall,” so to speak.

Throughout the course of the Florida Master Naturalist Program, Marissa, Ron, Donna, and I, teamed up and we each played our part in the construction of our Vertical Garden Project. Ron and Donna conducted beach cleanup in both New Smyrna Beach and Canaveral National Seashore to collect the wood we needed. Marissa conducted a beach and lagoon cleanup in West Palm during paddle boarding events to collect plastic bottles. I played “project engineer,” and “team leader,” to design and organize the construction of the project, as well as collected and worked on bottles from the beach. We all worked from home during our spare time, cut and painted bottles, constructed the wall, and collaborated together after class on Friday evenings to complete and present the project to our classmates on the final day of the program.

Ranger Joseph Byrd

Vertical Garden Plant Identification							
Lyreleaf Sage	White Aster	Painted Leaf Poinsettia	Milkweed	Milkweed	Painted Leaf Poinsettia	White Aster	Tropical Sage
Goldenrod	White Aster	Painted Leaf Poinsettia	Milkweed	Milkweed	Painted Leaf Poinsettia	Lyreleaf Sage	Goldenrod
Goldenrod	White Aster	Painted Leaf Poinsettia	Milkweed	Milkweed	Painted Leaf Poinsettia	White Aster	Goldenrod
Tropical Sage	White Aster	Painted Leaf Poinsettia	Indian Blanket Flower	Indian Blanket Flower	Lyreleaf Sage	Beach Sunflower	Tropical Sage
Beach Sunflower	Beach Sunflower	Indian Blanket Flower		Indian Blanket Flower	Indian Blanket Flower		Beach Sunflower





