



# The DIRT

Leaving green footprints for tomorrow's generation

Spring Edition  
March 2016

Our mission: Sustainability, efficiency, and conservation: Planting seeds for a greener tomorrow.

A publication for the Airport Community of Orlando International & Orlando Executive Airports

## Mark Your Calendar

2016

International Year of Pulses

March

National Nutrition Month

- Mar 3 World Wildlife Day
- Mar 11 Johnny Appleseed Day
- Mar 14 Int'l Day of Action for Rivers
- Mar 20 International Earth Day
- Mar 21 Int'l Day of Forests
- Mar 22 World Water Day
- Mar 23 World Meteorological Day
- Mar 30 Take a Walk in the Park Day

April

Keep America Beautiful Month

- Apr 1 Fossil Fuels Day
- Apr 1 Nat'l Walk to Work Day
- Apr 7 No Housework Day
- Apr 7 World Health Day
- Apr 10 Golfer's Day
- Apr 13 International Plant Appreciation Day
- Apr 22 Earth Day
- Apr 25 World Penguin Day

May

National Bike Month

- May 4 Star Wars Day
- May 13 Blame Someone Else Day
- May 14 World Migratory Bird Day
- May 16 Love a Tree Day
- May 20 Bike-to-Work Day
- May 21 Endangered Species Day
- May 22 International Day for Biological Diversity
- May 30 Water a Flower Day

## Composting 101

The Green Team took a field trip to the Waste Management Vista Organic Composting Facility in Apopka in February. Nothing ventured nothing gained right?

Central Florida businesses, like the airport's Hyatt Regency, send their commercial food waste and clean demolition wood waste to this 16 acre facility where it is turned in a nutrient-rich, organic material (often called humus) in about six months. After the compost has completed its cycle from waste to humus, WMVOC tests it for quality to ensure it is balanced with good nutrients, pH, and stable biological properties.

Whether you live in the country, the suburbs, or have an apartment in the city you can compost anywhere, and you don't need acres of land, just a few square feet. You can use a compost bucket or build a small fenced area outside, depending on how much space you have or need. Googling "how to compost at home" yields over a dozen sites that give you instructions on how to compost. Check out EPA's page at <http://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home> to get started.

Composting: just another form of sustainability that can reduce the 20-30% of waste that is sent to the landfill. Try it out and send us your success stories!



Delivery



Dumping



Food waste



Adding yard waste



Mixing



Empty processing unit



processing—open



processing—covered



Maturing process



Final Product



Mark your calendar  
for Earth Day  
Friday, April 22.

April 2016						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30





# Green Team Sustainability Speaker Series

GOAA's Green Team hosts monthly Sustainability Speaker Series luncheons in the Carl T. Langford Board Room. All are welcome and lunch is provided at no cost. Registration is required.

## Speaker Series - January Gardening: From Dirt to Dinner

### Guest Speakers

Jessica Wright and Sheila DiPace

In the bleak midwinter the Green Team's January guest speakers, Jessica Wright and Sheila DiPace, spoke of spring and gardening. Jessica Wright, from ecoPreserve, started the presentation with reasons why people should have a garden: cultivate, create, and connect. Growing your own food tastes better and you choose the variety, not the store. Most importantly, you control what goes into your garden by being as organic as you want and breaking the chemical cycle. Jessica also added that other benefits of gardening include the pride you can have by putting your own food on the table, bonding with your family, and getting in touch with nature. Gardening is also a great way to relieve stress. Jessica presented a mini Planting 101 session on designing a garden, alternative gardening, what and when to plant, the right way to water a garden, and dealing with bugs. Her best tips? Start small and plan it, draw it, do it!

Sheila DiPace, president of Sanford Community Garden (AKA Green Queen from Southwest Airlines), followed Jessica's presentation with finding or starting community gardens. She gave tips on both creating a garden site operation as well as putting together a community organization. Sheila reiterated Jessica's benefits of gardening such as stress relief and bonding with family, but also added that gardening is a way of increasing neighborhood biodiversity.

Check out Page 3 for some helpful websites or resources on community gardening, and Jessica's Planting 101 tips and tricks.



Everyone was encouraged to BYOC (bring your own cup) for beverages while enjoying the wonderful pizza lunch sponsored by HMS Host.



## Speaker Series - February

### Guest Speakers

Jeff Daniels and Jane Gregory

The Green Team welcomed Jane Gregory, Orange County's Pollution Prevention Program Coordinator, and Jeff Daniels, GOAA Assistant Director of Maintenance and Board President of Green Destination Orlando, who spoke about the Central Florida Workplace Challenge. Jane explained that the six-month long challenge encourages local businesses to create healthier work environments for employees, reduce any negative environmental impacts, and volunteer in community service. Businesses use online scorecards to record their progress and score points in three categories: Green, Healthy and Involved. The Central Florida Workplace Challenge is sponsored by the City of Orlando, the City of Winter Park and Green Destination Orlando. Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs helped launch the initiative at the 2016 Economic Summit. Jeff commented that "many of us spend more waking hours at our job than we do anywhere else. In addition to being economic drivers, our workplaces are critical in shaping our quality of life and impacting our community in positive ways. The challenge is fun, it is free, and will help participants save money and reduce their environmental impact while creating healthier workplaces and enhancing our community through volunteer service." Registration is required, and the event is free. To join the challenge, visit <http://www.greendestinationorlando.org/> (excerpt from [www.orangecountyfl.net](http://www.orangecountyfl.net))



This month's lunch was a delicious taco bar sponsored by Republic Services, whose Major Account Executive, Tom Raymond, is an active Green Team member."





# In Other News



## Our Planet Earth

### Audubon Advisory

Albatross and petrels are some of the most imperiled birds on the planet. An estimated 100,000 albatross die every year, or one every five minutes, after becoming hooked on fishing lines and drowning. A new bill—the Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act of 2016—seeks to strengthen global efforts to protect these endangered and legendary birds To read more, click [BIRDS](#).

Old-growth clearcutting continues to threaten the Tongass National Forest, an ancient, temperate rainforest in southeastern Alaska, but a new U.S. Forest Service plan misses the opportunity to quickly end this outdated and destructive practice. To read more, click [OLD GROWTH](#)

Climate Corner: Fifteen of the world's 16 hottest years occurred in this century. Read the new study published in the journal [Scientific Reports](#) and see how it is affecting us and our birds.

### US Environmental Protection Agency—GoGreen! Newsletter

**Enviro-Tip of the Month:** Composting your food and yard waste reduces the amount of garbage you send to landfills and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. EPA's [GreenScapes program](#) provides tips on how to improve your lawn or garden while also helping the environment. For more tips on small changes you can make to your home or garden to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, visit <https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/home>.

About this newsletter: Americans want to help protect and improve the nation's land, water, and air. "GoGreen!" is a monthly newsletter from the US EPA summarizing recent news and info you can use to make a difference in your home, community, and workplace.

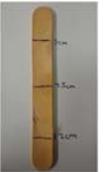
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## Planting 101

**By Jessica Wright, ecoPreserve**

- ⊗ Never, ever work your garden soil when it's wet. Soil will clump and be hard to work with. Once clumps dry, it is frustrating and laborious to loosen again.
- ⊗ Work organic fertilizers into soil before planting to give plants a "jump start." Check your local composting facility or farm for FREE compost.
- ⊗ Don't plant seeds too deep. Read seed packets for recommended planting depth. Use a popsicle stick with measurements to create the proper depth.
- ⊗ When planting seedlings, loosen root ball and plant up to the lower leaf location to give seedlings a strong root base.
- ⊗ Give plants room to grow. Don't plant too close together where they have to compete for nutrients.
- ⊗ Mulch! Mulch! Mulch! This helps with water retention and weed control. Use 2-3 inches to retain moisture by day and heat at night.
- ⊗ Build a trellis for plants that need a lot of room.
- ⊗ Water steadily for 2 days after planting, then water as needed. Watch for wilting or drooping. This is your indicator when to water. Remember, less is more. Roots will grow deeper and create healthier, stronger plants if you water as needed.
- ⊗ Try organic remedies first before using chemicals to save your garden.
- ⊗ Enjoy your garden!



## Community Garden and Food Co-ops Websites and Resources

### Websites

[www.localharvest.org/food-coops](http://www.localharvest.org/food-coops)   [getactiveorlando.com/get-active/community-garden.php](http://getactiveorlando.com/get-active/community-garden.php)   [occommunitygardens.blogspot.com](http://occommunitygardens.blogspot.com)  
[www.simplelivinginstitute.org/local-food.html](http://www.simplelivinginstitute.org/local-food.html)   [www.communitygarden.org/learn/what-is-a-community-garden/find-a-community-garden](http://www.communitygarden.org/learn/what-is-a-community-garden/find-a-community-garden)  
[www.homegrowncoop.org](http://www.homegrowncoop.org) (Orlando)

### Books

*Guide to Florida Fruit and Vegetable Gardening* by Robert Bowden  
*Let It Rot* by James Stephen  
*Vegetable Gardening in Florida* by James Stephen  
*Sustainable Gardening in Florida* by Ginny Stibolt



# Green Roots Around the Airport

## Every Little Bit Helps!



GOAA GREEN TEAM CHALLENGE

## Pull Tab Challenge Continues!

The GOAA Green Team will continue to collect pull tabs through 2016. Collected tabs will be donated to the third Ronald McDonald House in Orlando. This three story house is located near Nemours Children's Hospital in Lake Nona and has a projected opening in Spring 2016. The two other RMH Orlando are located on the Florida Hospital and Arnold Palmer Medical Center campuses. For more information on RMH Orlando, visit their website [www.ronaldmcdonaldhouseorlando.org](http://www.ronaldmcdonaldhouseorlando.org).

### December Pull Tab Results

Southwest Airlines	10 lb, .8 oz
GOAA Finance	8 lb, .9 oz
Paul Gula/GCI	3 lb, 12.6 oz
GOAA IT	2 lb, 9.2 oz
Disney Magical Express	2 lb, 4 oz
Delta	1 lb, 10.4 oz
Hyatt	13 oz
GOAA Mystery Donator	8.6 oz
GOAA Ops Admin	8.3 oz
Lufthansa	6.5 oz
GOAA Purchasing	6.2 oz
GOAA Access Control	4.6 oz
GOAA HR	3.5 oz

### January Pull Tab Results

Orlando Executive Airport	5 lb, 6.2 oz
Southwest Airlines	5 lb, 5.6 oz
Copa Airlines	2 lb, 5 oz
Disney Magical Express	10.4 oz
GOAA Access Control	3.6 oz

## December Pull Tab Challenge

Allie Gator returns to Southwest, who collected over 10 pounds of pull tabs!!! To the right is a photo of our GOAA Green mascot, Al E. Gator, being returned to the Green Queen, Sheila DiPace, Southwest Airlines, joined by Angela Howard and Anita Lemmon both of GOAA Customer Service.



Angela Howard, Anita Lemmon, Al E. Gator, and Sheila DiPace

## January Pull Tab Challenge

Congratulations to Orlando Executive Airport, January's Pull Tab winner with a collection of 5 pounds, 6.2 ounces of pull tabs! It was a close call this month with Southwest coming in second at 5 pounds, 5.6 ounces. Al E. Gator is settling nicely in her new home at ORL! Where will she move to next month?



Mary Maher, Al E. Gator, and Judith-Ann Jarrette

A big thank you to all who participated! Keep collecting those tabs! Every little bit helps!

## Volunteer Opportunities

### April 22, 2016

Earth Day at Orlando International Airport. To volunteer, contact [Yvonne Clay](mailto:Yvonne.Clay@goaa.org), email [GreenTalks@goaa.org](mailto:GreenTalks@goaa.org), or click on [Sign-Up Genius](#).

### April 23, 2016

Mead Gardens in Winter Park, 8:30 (sign in) to 11 AM. Volunteers will clear an area of invasive plants.

### May 14, 2016

Mead Gardens in Winter Park, 8:30 (sign in) to 11 AM. Volunteers will plant native plants in previously cleared area.

## Join Us!

Would you like to part of the Green Team? The Airport Green Team is an all-volunteer committee of airport employees who meet periodically. Please contact Judith-Ann Jarrette at [Judith-ann.jarrette@goaa.org](mailto:Judith-ann.jarrette@goaa.org) or Anita Lemmon [alemmon@goaa.org](mailto:alemmon@goaa.org) for details.

## Earth Hour—Saturday March 19

### 8:30-9:30 PM

Find out more at

<https://www.facebook.com/earthhour>

[http://earthhour.org/external\\_modules/splash/desktop.php?destination=node](http://earthhour.org/external_modules/splash/desktop.php?destination=node)

<http://earthhour.org/node?direct=true>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxhHhyjcTmo>

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Have comments, ideas, suggestions? Email [GreenTalks@goaa.org](mailto:GreenTalks@goaa.org)

Stay MCOConnected!

