

# Demonstration Garden brings in grand prize

Special to My Nassau Sun

Nassau County Environmental Horticulture Extension Agent Rebecca L. Jordi and Nassau County Master Gardeners won the Grand Prize in the Institute Marketing Awards for Gaining Excellence, or IMAGE, awards for 2006 for the Demonstration Garden at the Nassau County Governmental Complex in Yulee.

The award recognized their efforts to create, install and use the Demonstration Garden for educational programs. Nassau County received a perfect score from judges.

"What an excellent project. I love the collaboration that went into this project from the very beginning," one judge wrote. "... You involved the community in every facet of development and the community as a whole continues to benefit from it every day. ... I also appreciate that you designed this project to encourage sustainable landscaping practices for future generations. It's clear that you've made a major impact on your community."

The garden was made possible through the contributions of the Nassau County Commission, Nassau County



**SPECIAL**/Nassau County Extension Service

Nassau County Master Gardener volunteers and Extension Horticulture Agent Becky Jordi (standing) were honored for winning the Grand Prize from the Institute Marketing Awards for Gaining Excellence during the Nassau County Commission meeting June 6, in Yulee.

Master Gardener volunteers, Bridgeview Nursery & Garden Center, Fernandina Beach Mulch & Stone, Glen St. Mary Nursery, Home Depot, Lowe's Home Improvement, Page's Landscape Nursery, Reflections of Nature Nursery, Taylor's Nursery, The Sign Shoppe, White Oak Plantation, 4-H Youth and community volunteers.

The Nassau County project shares this year's Grand Prize with Citrus County Extension. There were more than 100 applicants.

The award comes with a

\$500 check that will be used to further the purpose of the Demonstration Garden, which provides an opportunity for Nassau County residents and businesses to see the care and maintenance of landscape plants best suited for the area.

Principles highlighted in the garden include micro-irrigation, "Right Plant/Right Place," mulching, recycling, attracting wildlife and integrated pest management.

The garden features a variety of recommended trees, shrubs, ground covers, grasses, perennials and hardy sub-tropicals.

The Demonstration Garden may be visited anytime. The garden is self-touring with helpful plant signs and information sheets in a special mailbox.

More information about the garden is available through the Yulee extension satellite office at 548-1116 or contact Rebecca Jordi at [rljordi@ufl.edu](mailto:rljordi@ufl.edu).

Detailed planting descriptions of the Demonstration Garden can be seen at [nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/horticulture/demogarden/demogarden.html](http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/horticulture/demogarden/demogarden.html).