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Nassau County's Master Gardeners and Extension Agent Rebecca L. Jordi were recognized by the county commission recently for creating the award-winning Demonstration Garden located at the Nassau County Governmental Complex on Nassau Place Road in Yulee.

## Garden blossoms into award-winner

*For the News-Leader*

County commissioners recognized Rebecca L. Jordi, UF/IFAS Nassau County Environmental Horticulture Extension Agent, and Nassau County Master Gardeners for winning the grand prize in the annual IMAGE (Institute Marketing Awards for Gaining Excellence) awards competition.

The group won the award for their Nassau County Demonstration Garden and their effort to create, install and use it for educational programs.

A judge's evaluation stated, "What an excellent project. I love the collaboration that went into this project from the very beginning ...

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 award comes with a \$500 check that will be used to further the purpose of the Nassau County Demonstration Garden.

The Nassau County Demonstration Garden is located at the Nassau County Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place Road in Yulee, and provides an opportunity for Nassau County residents, children and businesses to

see the care and maintenance of landscape plants best suited for our area.

These principles include: micro-irrigation; "Right Plant/Right Place"; mulching; recycling; attracting wildlife; and Integrated Pest Management. The garden features a variety of recommended trees, shrubs, groundcovers, grasses, perennials and hardy sub-tropicals.

Visitors are welcome to visit the garden anytime. The garden is self-touring with helpful plant signage and information sheets in a special Nassau County Demonstration Garden mailbox. More information is available through the Yulee extension satellite office, 548-1116, or contact Rebecca Jordi at

rljordi@ufl.edu. Detailed plantings descriptions of the garden can be seen at <http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/horticulture/demogarden/demogarden.html>.

The garden was made possible through the contributions of the following sponsors: Nassau County Board of Commissioners; Nassau County Master Gardener volunteers; Bridgeview Nursery & Garden Center; Fernandina Beach Mulch & Stone, Inc.; Glen St. Mary Nursery, Home Depot, Lowe's Home Improvement, Page's Landscape Nursery; Reflections of Nature Garden Center; Taylor's Nursery; The Sign Shoppe; White Oak Plantation; 4-H Youth; and community volunteers.