Downtown Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market

It began in 1997 and has grown to be a Saturday morning tradition in Fort Pierce. It’s called The Downtown Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market and it started as a brainchild of the St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Office. Over recent years, the Master Gardener Program has become a regular educational presence at the event thanks to MG’s Rolande Dahan and Suzanne Carnell and other volunteers.

Each Saturday, from 8am to noon, about 3000 people swarm the Fort Pierce downtown area in search of fresh produce, meats, plants and more. Some people simply go to enjoy a fresh baked breakfast or ethnic brunch while sitting on the river wall and listening to local musicians. Whatever their interest, every 1st and 3rd Saturday between October and April, they’ll find the St. Lucie County Master Gardeners amongst an assemblage of over 80 vendors, some of which are featured on the Market website. http://www.FtPierceFarmersMarket.com

The Market began twelve years ago from a humble idea and a grant application by the current director of the St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Office, Anita Neal, to start a community garden and farmer’s market. The grant was not funded, but the concept for a farmer’s market took off and a dozen community volunteers formed a Florida nonprofit corporation, established a board of directors and began the Market with less than a dozen vendors.

In the beginning, Anita Neal would set up, staff, and often, take down the booth all the while Master Gardener volunteers answered questions. For several years, MG Roland Dahan was the go-to-volunteer who organized the Saturday morning booth, ensuring volunteers were with her to assist the community. More recently MG Suzanne Carnell has volunteered to oversee the operation with help from other volunteers.

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For more information, contact Kate O’Neill at (772) 462–1660 or kasmi@ufl.edu

Master Gardeners Booth at the Farmer’s Market
Every 1st & 3rd Saturday
October – April
8:00 am–12:00 pm

Photo from left to right: Ruth Graff, Suzanne Carnell, and Richard Coan.

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The Farmer’s Market takes place alongside of the beautiful Indian River Lagoon in historic downtown Fort Pierce between the city Marina and the library on Melody Lane.

Master Gardener Program - http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener.html