The Northwest Horticulture PIT meeting was held November 16, 2006 via Polycom from eight sites beginning at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Larry Williams, Sheila Dunning, Eddie Powell, Mike Goodchild, Bruce Ward, Theresa Friday, Beth Bolles, Carrie Stevenson, Charles Brasher, Ken Rudisill, Gary Knox, Alex Bolques, Pete Vergot, Barbra Larson, Ondine Wells and Diane Baruch.

A call for dates of upcoming programs that would assist individuals to work on POW activities without conflicts was made. The results are:

- **November 28, 2006** – CORE training and testing in Quincy
  - Contact – Alex Bolques
- **November 30, 2006** – Tomato Forum in Quincy
  - Contact – Alex Bolques
- **November 31 and December 1, 2006** – Great South Tree Conference in Gainesville
- **December 5, 2006** – North Florida/South Georgia Peach Growers Meeting in Quitman, Georgia
  - Contact – Alex Bolques/Jim Ferguson
- **December 11, 2006** – Tree Care Workshop in Quincy
- **December 12, 2006** – Walton County Energy Expo in DeFuniak Springs
  - Contact – Mike Goodchild
- **December 14, 2006** – Urban Forest Inventory Systems – Polycom to 10 sites
- **January 25, 2007** – Curcubits Program in Marianna
  - Contact – Charles Brasher
- **January 30, 2007** – Florida Turfgrass Association Meeting
  - Contact – Beth Bolles
- **February 1-3, 2007** – Gulf State Expo in Mobile
- **February 6, 2007** – Limited Pesticide Application Training and Exam in Crestview
  - Contact – Sheila Dunning
- **February 8, 2007** – Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training and Exam in Panama City by LMA
  - Contact – Ken Rudisill/Mike Holsinger
- **February 9, 2007** – Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training and Exam in Tallahassee by LMA
- **February 13, 2007** – Best Management Practices in Tallahassee
- **February 14, 2007** – BMP Training in Crestview
  - Contact – Sheila Dunning
- **February 15, 2007** – BMP Training in Panama City
  - Contact – Ken Rudisill
- **March 2, 2007** – Arborist Training by Ed Gilman in Crestview
  - Contact – Larry Williams
- **March 5-9, 2007** – Shoreline Restoration BMP Training for Homeowners
  - Contact - Carrie Stevenson
- **March 15, 2007** – Goal 4 In-service in Apopka and Ft. Lauderdale
  - Contact – Gary Knox
- **April 5-June 3, 2007** – EPCOT Flower Festival in Orlando
May 2-4, 2007 – International Master Gardener Conference in Little Rock, AR
May 8-10, 2007 – Extension Symposium in Gainesville
June 3-6, 2007 – Florida State Horticulture Meeting in West Palm Beach
June 7, 2007 – Vegetable Field Day in Quincy
June 20, 2007 – Turf Day in Jay
July 15-19, 2007 – NACAA Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan
August 8-11, 2007 – SNA in Atlanta, Georgia
October 4-6, 2007 – FNATS in Orlando
October 16-18, 2007 – Green Industry Update in Quincy

A request was made that team members would share any additional dates they may be aware of through e-mails.

Barbra Larson and those at participating sites introduced each other to the next FYN personnel – Ondine and Diane. Ondine is hosting a meeting on January 26, 2007 in Lake County for those interested in working with the Builder FYN program. Diane is working on revising and updating FYN materials. Barbra gave an update on the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program. The residential certification has been changed to an evaluation recognition activity. Certification for Builders/Developers will continue with an addition of three levels of recognition. The [www.floridayards.org](http://www.floridayards.org) website was outlined. A request for input on needed promotional items was made. Personnel being added to the Center for Landscape Ecology and Conservation were mentioned. Due to funding from Southwest Water Management, handbooks are now available to agents at no cost. Barbra does ask that they are distributed to individuals that express interest rather than at large population random events in order to keep expenses down.

Participants were asked about needed programs that should be scheduled in 2007. Ken Rudisill inquired about WPS (Worker Protection Standards) Training. Alex Bolques suggested a train-the-trainer program. Larry Williams asked about pesticide trainings. According to information given to Ken Rudisill from the state, there is not a prepackaged program available yet. Advanced Master Gardener trainings were scheduled as follows:

- March 2, 2007 – Arborist training with Ed Gilman in Crestview
  
  Larry Williams is responsible for arrangements

- May 2007 – Africanized Bees in Panama City
  
  Ken Rudisill is responsible for arrangements

- August 2007 – Common questions from phone calls and clinics in DeFuniak Springs
  
  Theresa Friday and Eddie Powell are responsible for arrangements

- October 2007 – Plant Identification in Milton with Mack Thetford
  
  Beth Bolles is responsible for arrangements

If the agents on the East end of the district have additional advanced trainings would they please contact the others by e-mail.

Trainings needed by agents were identified. Ken Rudisill will schedule a palm training. Larry Williams will schedule an irrigation design and installation training. Agents will be notified via e-mail when dates have been established.
In other business, Larry Williams encouraged individuals to submit their work for NACAA awards. Dr. Vergot discussed international opportunities in Costa Rica. There is potentially a large group that will be going in November 2007 or small teams going monthly throughout 2007. Because Costa Rica is experiencing similar challenges with growth and development, there are opportunities to provide workshops/trainings in three areas: 1. Environmental Horticulture service/Nursery production, 2. Small farms/vegetable production, 3. Small plot/demonstration gardens with youth. Dr. Vergot also encouraged agents to look for opportunities to participate in Solutions For Your Life. Ken Rudisill asked that a meeting be scheduled for the agents to follow-up on the results of the five county Master Gardener meeting held earlier this year. A request for a district wide Horticulture newsletter was made, Ken Rudisill will send out an e-mail on the subject. Bruce Ward made a request for video taping to be done during Master Gardener training so that the tapes could be shared in the absence of an agent being able to participate in the training.

Finally, Larry Williams made a request for others to act as co-leaders of the Horticulture PIT in the upcoming year. Ken Rudisill and Theresa Friday volunteered. An e-mail will be sent out in an attempt to schedule three meetings during 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 12 pm.

Please send any additions or changes to these minutes to Sheila Dunning – sdunning@ufl.edu.

P.S. The Arborist training was announced for February 23, 2007 during the Polycom meeting. However, the date has been changed to March 2, 2007.