

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Recommended By: Audrey R. Norman 4/16/2013  
Department Director Date

## II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

### A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs	<u>\$48,906</u>				
External Revenues					
Program Income (County)					
In-Kind Match (County)					
NET FISCAL IMPACT	<u>\$48,906*</u>				
# ADDITIONAL FTE					
POSITIONS (Cumulative)					

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes ☐ No ☒  
Budget Account No.: Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Object \_\_\_\_\_


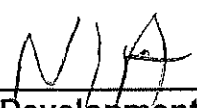
### B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

\*Includes changes in signage, letterhead, logo, printing, incorporation documents, etc.

### C. Departmental Fiscal Review: \_\_\_\_\_

## III. REVIEW COMMENTS

### A. OFMB Budget and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

 4/18/2013   
OFMB/Budget Contract Development and Control

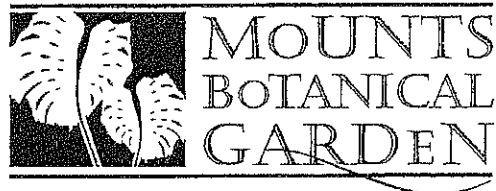
### B. Legal Sufficiency:

Anne Helgert 4-18-13  
Assistant County Attorney

### C. Other Department Review:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.



March 4, 2013

Board of County Commissioners  
Palm Beach County  
301 N. Olive Avenue  
West Palm Beach FL 33401

Dear PBC County Commissioners,

On Wednesday, January 2, 2013, the *Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden* held their Board meeting with a quorum present. With a continued commitment to the Garden's success, the Board unanimously voted to change the name to "Palm Beach Botanical Garden at Mounts."

This is a big step toward improved community support and recognition. Next steps include getting on the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners' calendar to demonstrate the need for this name revision. We would prefer the 9:30 a.m. meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, please.

Thank you, we appreciate your support.

Sincerely yours,

Mary "Polly" Reed, President  
Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden, Inc.

## **PALM BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN AT MOUNTS**

### **The Proposal:**

To officially designate the name of the Garden as the **PALM BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN AT MOUNTS**.

### **The Garden:**

Palm Beach County's oldest and largest botanical garden is generally referred to as **Mounts Botanical Garden**. With its gorgeous displays of tropical and sub-tropical plants, the Garden's 14 verdant acres contain more than 2,000 species of plants, including Florida native plants, exotic and tropical fruit trees, herbs, palms, bromeliads and more. In coordination with the Palm Beach County Extension Service (which partners with the University of Florida and the Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden), the Garden educates more than 50,000 people each year about the art, science and joy of gardening through its informative classes, workshops and other fun-filled events. With a mission to welcome and inspire the public, the Garden is an oasis of natural tranquility just minutes away from the hubbub of downtown West Palm Beach.

### **The Friends:**

The **Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden** is a 501©3 nonprofit organization with an interlocal agreement with Palm Beach County. The organization's primary responsibility is fiduciary: to grow, endow and sustain the Garden. Since 1983, "Friends" has become a financial backbone of the Garden by contributing more than \$20-million in direct support (half in dollars, half in volunteer hours based on the official IRS valuation of \$21.29 per hour).

The "Friends" have helped to keep the Garden stable over the last quarter century. Even during the tough economic times of the last few years when Palm Beach County was forced to cut operating budgets, the "Friends" have continued to fund a portion of the salaries of critical personnel and even enable the Garden to stay open on weekends.

Among the many major contributions to the Garden by the "Friends" have been a new bridge, overlook, teaching shelter and such large educational initiatives as the Color and Shade Island, Native Plant Garden, Dooryard Tropical Fruit Garden and the soon to be completed Garden of Well Being.

With more than 52 percent of Palm Beach County adults and visitors indicating an interest in gardening, the "Friends" have developed a \$52 million Master Plan for the Garden's future, including a new Children's Exploration Garden, Education Center, Visitor Center and a redesigned "gardener's garden" – all guaranteed to make the ***PALM BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN AT MOUNTS*** a major attraction for both residents and tourists.

The Background:

**This is NOT a Name Change, but a request to have an officially designated name for the first time – The *PALM BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN AT MOUNTS*.**

At the outset, the Garden was the vision of Clayton Hutcheson, Palm Beach County Extension Director (1980-2005), who referred to it as "Mounts" because of its proximity to the Mounts Building. Dedicated in 1954, the building was named after another long-serving Extension Director, Marvin H. "Red" Mounts, who is considered to be the father of modern agriculture in Palm Beach County.

While the Garden was in its early days referred to as The Mounts Horticultural Center – which led to the formation of the "Friends" organization in the early 1980s – it was never officially named Mounts Botanical Garden.

The Advantages:

***PALM BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN* will make it easier for visitors to identify and locate, particularly through social media like Google, Yahoo and Bing.**

The name ***PALM BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN AT MOUNTS*** says precisely who, what and where this valuable institution is. Unfortunately, the nickname "The Mounts" explains nothing. The new name will not only better brand the Garden, it will make it much easier for people to find online through search engines and through such traditional information sources like the Yellow Pages.

***PALM BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN*** will make it easier to raise funds from generous donors.

The new name will make it easier to explain to donors who, what and where the Garden is, while emphasizing the unique "Palm Beach" brand. It also will eliminate the misconception that a wealthy family or bequest comfortably funds the Garden.

In fact, unlike the vast majority of Botanical Gardens in Florida that are named after a person, the Mounts family neither donated the land on which the Garden is located nor have they ever been financial supporters of the Garden, other than paying for a single annual membership.

The Costs:

**Designating the official name as *PALM BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN* will NOT cost local taxpayers one extra cent.**

**In fact, the "Friends" have agreed to underwrite any internal costs resulting from a new name.**

The Precedents:

**There are numerous historical and botanical precedents, both locally and around the country:**

- **Morrison Field to Palm Beach International Airport**
- **Dreher Park Zoo to Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park**
- **Old School Square to Delray Beach Arts Center at Old School Square**

- Strybing Arboretum to the San Francisco Botanical Garden at the Strybing Arboretum
- Quail Botanical Garden to the San Diego Botanical Garden
- Shaw's Garden in St. Louis to the Missouri Botanical Garden

The Current Examples:

The Garden will be adopting the nomenclature used by other West Palm Beach-based institutions:

- Palm Beach International Airport
- Palm Beach Kennel Club
- Palm Beach Opera
- Palm Beach Photographic Centre
- Palm Beach Post
- Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park

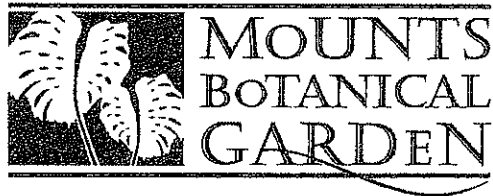
The Continuing Tribute:

**Red Mounts and the Mounts family will still be honored by both the Mounts Building, which is directly in front of the Garden's main gate, and by the new official name – The *PALM BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN AT MOUNTS*.**

The Conclusion:

The Friends of the Garden believes that a new name – and the clarity of purpose and place that it conveys – is in the best interest of both the Garden and the County because it will attract donors and visitors to a wonderful location that is now cloaked under a name that does not register with the general public.

The "Friends" Board of Directors is convinced that together we can preserve the glories of the past and address the growth potential of the future with the officially designated name: ***PALM BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN AT MOUNTS***.



April 10, 2013

Commissioner Paulette Burdick  
Board of County Commissioners  
301 North Olive Avenue, Suite 1201  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Commissioner Burdick,

Enclosed you will find our White Pages with background information for our request to officially name Palm Beach County's only educational public garden: **the Palm Beach Botanical Garden at Mounts**. We appreciate your careful review of this information as we feel it vital to adequately serve our citizens and visitors. In this time of leaner government budgets we feel this action will enable us to better financially support this Palm Beach County facility.

Your strong support of our request is essential.

Sincerely,

Mary G. Reed (Polly)

Mary G. Reed, President  
Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden

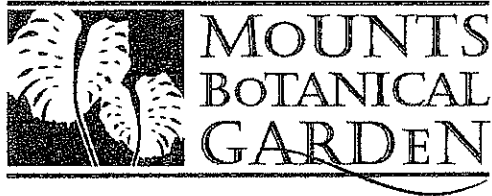
Attachment: White Pages

cc: Brad Merriman  
Audrey Norman

Hi - Hope you will support  
us on this - Polly

559 North Military Trail ♦ West Palm Beach, Florida 33415 ♦ Ph: 561-233-1757 Fax 233-1723





April 10, 2013

Commissioner Mary Lou Berger  
Board of County Commissioners  
301 North Olive Avenue, Suite 1201  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Commissioner Berger,

Enclosed you will find our White Pages with background information for our request to officially name Palm Beach County's only educational public garden: **the Palm Beach Botanical Garden at Mounts**. We appreciate your careful review of this information as we feel it vital to adequately serve our citizens and visitors. In this time of leaner government budgets we feel this action will enable us to better financially support this Palm Beach County facility.

Your strong support of our request is essential.

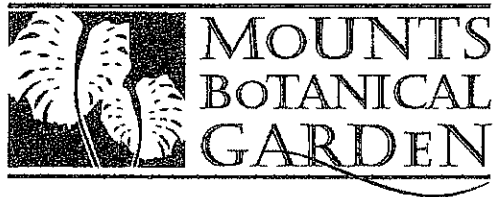
Sincerely,

Mary G. Reed, President  
Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden

Attachment: White Pages

c: Brad Merriman  
Audrey Norman

559 North Military Trail ♦ West Palm Beach, Florida 33415 ♦ Ph: 561-233-1757 Fax 233-1723



April 10, 2013

Commissioner Jess R. Santamaria  
Board of County Commissioners  
301 North Olive Avenue, Suite 1201  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Commissioner Santamaria,

Enclosed you will find our White Pages with background information for our request to officially name Palm Beach County's only educational public garden: **the Palm Beach Botanical Garden at Mounts**. We appreciate your careful review of this information as we feel it vital to adequately serve our citizens and visitors. In this time of leaner government budgets we feel this action will enable us to better financially support this Palm Beach County facility.

Your strong support of our request is essential.

Sincerely,

Mary G. Reed, President  
Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden

Attachment: White Pages

c: Brad Merriman  
Audrey Norman

559 North Military Trail ♦ West Palm Beach, Florida 33415 ♦ Ph: 561-233-1757 Fax 233-1723



April 10, 2013

Commissioner Priscilla A. Taylor  
Board of County Commissioners  
301 North Olive Avenue, Suite 1201  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Commissioner Taylor,

Enclosed you will find our White Pages with background information for our request to officially name Palm Beach County's only educational public garden: **the Palm Beach Botanical Garden at Mounts**. We appreciate your careful review of this information as we feel it vital to adequately serve our citizens and visitors. In this time of leaner government budgets we feel this action will enable us to better financially support this Palm Beach County facility.

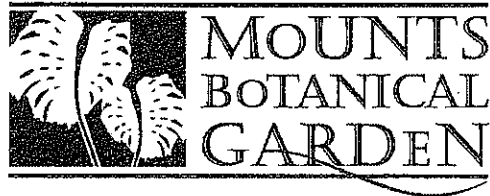
Your strong support of our request is essential.

Sincerely,

Mary G. Reed, President  
Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden

Attachment: White Pages

c: Brad Merriman  
Audrey Norman



April 10, 2013

Commissioner Hal R. Valeche  
Board of County Commissioners  
301 North Olive Avenue, Suite 1201  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Commissioner Valeche,

Enclosed you will find our White Pages with background information for our request to officially name Palm Beach County's only educational public garden: **the Palm Beach Botanical Garden at Mounts**. We appreciate your careful review of this information as we feel it vital to adequately serve our citizens and visitors. In this time of leaner government budgets we feel this action will enable us to better financially support this Palm Beach County facility.

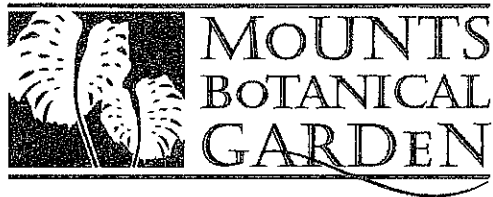
Your strong support of our request is essential.

Sincerely,

Mary G. Reed, President  
Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden

Attachment: White Pages

c: Brad Merriman  
Audrey Norman



April 10, 2013

Commissioner Shelley Vana  
Board of County Commissioners  
301 North Olive Avenue, Suite 1201  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Commissioner Vana,

Enclosed you will find our White Pages with background information for our request to officially name Palm Beach County's only educational public garden: **the Palm Beach Botanical Garden at Mounts**. We appreciate your careful review of this information as we feel it vital to adequately serve our citizens and visitors. In this time of leaner government budgets we feel this action will enable us to better financially support this Palm Beach County facility.

Your strong support of our request is essential.

Sincerely,

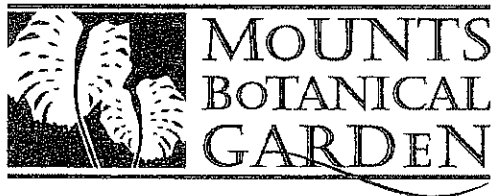
Mary G. Reed, President  
Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden

Attachment: White Pages

c: Brad Merriman  
Audrey Norman

Hi Shelley - Thanks for all your help - P.

559 North Military Trail ♦ West Palm Beach, Florida 33415 ♦ Ph: 561-233-1757 Fax 233-1723



April 10, 2013

Mayor Steven L. Abrams  
Board of County Commissioners  
301 North Olive Avenue, Suite 1201  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Mayor Abrams,

Enclosed you will find our White Pages with background information for our request to officially name Palm Beach County's only educational public garden: **the Palm Beach Botanical Garden at Mounts**. We appreciate your careful review of this information as we feel it vital to adequately serve our citizens and visitors. In this time of leaner government budgets we feel this action will enable us to better financially support this Palm Beach County facility.

Your strong support of our request is essential.

Sincerely,

Mary G. Reed, President  
Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden

Attachment: White Pages

c: Brad Merriman  
Audrey Norman

559 North Military Trail ♦ West Palm Beach, Florida 33415 ♦ Ph: 561-233-1757 Fax 233-1723

## History of the Mounts Botanical Garden

The acreage, which is now the site of the Cooperative Extension Service and Mounts Botanical Garden, was used for fruit and vegetable field trials under the direction of Marvin "Red" Mounts, the University of Florida, and Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Agent as early as the 1940s.

Palm Beach County government purchased 20 acres from Mr. John Goss and the Michael Stern family in 1953, approximately five acres of which was used for the newly constructed Extension office in West Palm Beach. The building was named by the Palm Beach County Commission in honor of Marvin U. "Red" Mounts ("Red"), County Extension Agent with the University of Florida and Palm Beach County. Tropical Fruit trees were planted by "Red" on this site as demonstrations to the public of healthy food choices that survive well in Palm Beach County.

The early beginning can best be told by "Red" himself in talking about the new Extension Service office and grounds he related the following. "We approached our County Commission concerning the possibility of developing an Arboretum on the grounds. The term Arboretum was too much; it indicated thoughts of extra labor and expensive upkeep. We gave up the Arboretum idea and began planting a few plants at a time. So we have at present sixty-nine plants that produce fruits, not all delicious, but all are possibilities." "Eleven varieties of mangoes exist on the property in 1964. There was also Mountain Soursop, coffee, strawberry guavas, Sapodillas, Barbados Cherries, Bignay, Sugar Apple, improved guavas, and Grumichamas. The rest of the plantings consisted of Pitomba, Surinam cherries, Longan, Star Apples, Lingaro, Spanish lime, Pomegranate, Muntingia, Jaboticaba, Imbe, Karanda, Persimmons, Macadamias, White Sapotes, Tamarind and a Red Ceylon peach." Several hurricanes have caused some of those early trees planted by "Red" to be lost, but many remain to this very day.

"Red" retired in 1965; Robert Pryor became the County Extension Director from 1965-75. During that time, expanded planting of tropical fruit trees by the Palm Beach County Rare Fruit Council International and Extension Agent, Gene Joyner, occurred. From the very beginning, these efforts have been the result of many citizens of the community.

Plans developed for the Mounts Horticultural Learning Center; local plant societies committed to participation in the Center; "work began on the Mounts Horticultural Learning Center in January 1978". The Mounts Horticultural Learning Center grounds behind the Mounts Building, was to be dedicated on September 6, 1978, however Hurricane David caused the event to be postponed until December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1978.

In 1979, \$10,000 was provided by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners for one full time and one half time maintenance worker positions; the first fund raising plant sale occurred, all plants were donated by the nursery industry; the Fern Society funded and constructed a lath plant house; and an irrigation system was installed.

In 1980, ten additional acres were acquired to expand the Horticultural Learning Center and Cooperative Extension Service offices. A year later, the Friends of the Mounts Horticultural Learning Center was formed to provide financial and programmatic support to the department. Soon thereafter, Mr. George Delacorte contributed \$10,000 through the Tequesta Garden Club for the construction of a pavilion.

"In 1983, The Friends of the Mounts Horticultural Learning Center was established. The effort grew out of a garden advisory committee formed in 1975 by Clayton Hutcheson." A master plan for the expanded site was developed by Hugh McArthur, landscape architecture student, University of Florida.

A Curator position and secretarial position was funded by the Board of County Commissioners; the Friends purchased a large lighted sign placed on Military Trail; and the Mounts Horticultural Learning Center became a member of American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA).

Mr. Douglas Galbraith was hired as the first curator of the Mounts Horticultural Learning Center in 1986; The Hoffinger Bridge was constructed with a \$5,000 donation from Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hoffinger; and the name of Mounts Horticultural Learning Center was changed by a vote of the Friends organization to the Mounts Botanical Garden.

Soon thereafter, the first paved paths were constructed, funded by the Friends; the Herb Garden was constructed, paid for by a grant from a Palm Beach County Community Foundation grant and monies raised by the two Herb Societies; a Xeriscape demonstration area funded by the South Florida Water Management district was installed; and a gazebo was constructed by Mr. Ted Bogaert. Construction of the expanded Cooperative Extension Service office space in the northwest part of the Garden, was formerly named by the Board of County Commissioners in honor of Clayton E. Hutcheson, Extension Director from 1975 – 2004.

Joe Oppe was hired as the second Garden Curator and a Vegetable Demonstration Garden was established; Turf grass demonstration area was installed by Extension faculty and staff.



In the late 1990's, GIS mapping of the Garden begins under the direction of Mark Jeter. Allen Sistrunk was hired as the Garden Curator/ Director (2003); and Clayton E. Hutcheson, Extension Director for 29 years, retires (2004). Hurricanes Francis and Jeanne (2004) significantly damaged the Garden and resulted in the Garden being closed to the public for six months followed by Hurricane Wilma in 2005 which damaged the Garden and Extension offices further. Almost 100 trees were lost due to the three hurricanes in two years; \$300,000 was granted by Palm Beach County Commission for garden restoration; The Native Plant Garden was designed, planted and funded by the Palm Beach County Native Plant Society, a Maintenance Building constructed, funded by Palm Beach County and the Tropical Rainforest restored, Fragrance Garden established, Shade and Color Island reconstructed, planted and funded by the Friends.

From 2010, the Water Retention Wetland Garden has been designed, constructed and funded by the O'Keeffe Foundation, Bridge and Overlook redesigned as an Art in Public Places project funded by the O'Keeffe Foundation which was completed by local artist, Robert Fuller. The Native Plant design and installation was paid for by Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, surrounding the Clayton Hutcheson Complex; a Chiki Hut was constructed through a donation by the Palm Beach County Rare Fruit Council; and a Garden of Well Being designed, installed and paid for by the Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden.

The Mounts Botanical Garden has been an effort through the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service to educate the community on wise horticultural, research-based practices with the collaboration of the Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden and many members of the community and agricultural/horticultural industry.

#### References

Brzozowski, Carol, (Unknown Title). Palm Beach Post: 10 March 1985.

DeFord, Margaret, "Mounts Horticultural Learning Center". Palm Beach Times. 26 February 1979.

Hutcheson, C. E., "Development of the Mounts Botanical Garden". Electronic notes. July, 1990.  
Hutcheson, C. E., Garden Update. Vol. XIV, Issue 5. September-October 1999.

Palm Beach County, Florida. Palm Beach County Property and Real Estate Management (PREM CORE Access System). Archived Records. Palm Beach County Government. 2013.

Mounts, M. U., "Tropical Fruit on the Flatwoods". Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society, Volume 77. 1964. 363-365.

# Who was Marvin Umphrey "Red" Mounts?



Public servants help communities all across America, but few have had the impact on a community and an industry that Marvin "Red" Mounts ("Red") has had on Palm Beach County and its agricultural industry.

## The Early Years

An eager young man, armed with a degree from the University of Florida, College of Agriculture, a sense of adventure and a solid upbringing in the Oklahoma Territory, "Red" was hired as Palm Beach County's first Assistant Agricultural Extension Agent, alongside Mr. S. W. Hiatt in 1925.

Four years later, upon the retirement of Mr. Hiatt, he was promoted and became the singular Extension Agent to serve the largest county in Florida. His territory covered 1,261,000 acres. In his early days on the job, it took "Red" two days to travel from the Extension office in what is now known as 'the old courthouse' in West Palm Beach to the western sections of the county near Lake Okeechobee using barges and the newly constructed 'Connors Toll Highway', constructed the year prior to him accepting this Extension position in Palm Beach County. He served alone until 1946 when Mr. H. L. Speer was hired as his assistant.

In those first four years on the job, there were two hurricanes in 1926, the devastating hurricane in 1928 and the financial collapse and failure of the stock market of 1929. "Red", in a presentation to the Florida State Horticulture Society, said "People were hungry! Many undernourished!" This realization, along with a passion for helping people ignited his work for 40 years of his career.

## Accomplishments

In 1925, little was known about growing plants and trees on the hard pan sandy soils of the eastern sections of the county or the wet organic soils to the west. Food that was available was either locally produced or arrived by limited rail and ocean transport. At that time, there were a little more than 500 acres of commercial agriculture in production, although many families had gardens and livestock to feed their families. Due, in part, to the research and teaching of "Red", this acreage ultimately grew to nearly 500,000 acres by the time of his retirement in 1965. During his tenure as Palm Beach County's Agriculture Extension Agent the county's agricultural industry had grown from \$2 million to \$120 million annually.

"Red" encouraged farm families to expand their usual crops of green beans and tomatoes to a variety of tropical fruits and dozens of varieties of vegetables to improve their health as well as their finances. He introduced a grass (Bahia) for cattle grazing that held up on the wet (muck) soil, investigated the best fertilizers and pesticides and taught farmers about marketing..." He collected soil samples, conducted field variety trials and helped identify which nutrients were needed. "When not in the field, "Red" would compile farming statistics, lecture to garden clubs and preach the gospel of agriculture at school career days."

Many Palm Beach County farm families, still in business today, attribute their early successes to the influence and education provided by "Red".

"Red" conducted numerous studies on marketing and profitability as well as agronomic issues for many crops and wrote many educational publications sharing successful strategies for growers. In a publication on celery production during the 1937-1940 seasons, he tells how he gained the cooperation of celery growers and reported, "The Belle Glade area is fast becoming of economic importance in the production of celery in Florida, and more particularly in Palm Beach County....the total production in 1937-38 was less than 175,000 crates. The production increased to nearly 475,000 crates for the 1939-40 season, or two and one half times the production of three years earlier. The gross income to growers showed proportionately greater increase, amounting to approximately two thirds of a million dollars in 1939-40. There were only 54 cars shipped from approximately 100 acres planted in 1933-34, while during the 1939-40 season, there were 1,060 acres planted and from these, 856 cars were shipped, excluding boat and truck shipments." "There were cars of celery billed to approximately 147 cities in 33 states during the 1940 season, compared to 119 cities in 32 states a year earlier." Efforts such as these, over many years have helped to develop the Palm Beach County agricultural industry to the largest in Florida and one of the largest in the nation.

Many vitamins required for human nutrition were discovered during "Red's" tenure with the Cooperative Extension Service. Phytochemicals were yet to be discovered, yet he recognized the need for an ample food supply as well as a nourishing food supply. "Red" organized a research group to study how to properly raise tropical fruit trees in south Florida. Local nurserymen became a part of the group. Field trials were held to carry out more of the group's research ideas. "Red" is quoted as saying, "we knew that most homes were deficient in fruits, home gardens and the vitamins so important in our daily diet (Vitamins A, B2, B12, D and Folic Acid were determined to be necessary for optimal human health between 1925 and 1954)...we would bring bags of seeds from all sorts of fruit and give them away. I know of many odd little trees that got their start from seeds from one of those little paper bags in this early missionary work." Many of the older communities of our county still contain a rich array of tropical fruit trees from these early efforts.

"After a visit to the Redlands, Dade County's historic farm belt, "Red" told his family "we need to start something" said his son, Chief Circuit Judge Marvin U. Mounts, Jr. "A botanical garden so people will have the opportunity to come out there and get ideas on landscaping arrangements." "Red" was a classic County Agent", a guy who would actually make house calls to diagnose a sick tree or recommend a fertilizer for a puny citrus grove. He was a very well liked man in the community" Judge Mounts said. "People would tell me when I first ran for office, 'If you're anything like "Red", I'm voting for you.'" The earlier beginning can best be told by "Red" himself in talking about the new Extension Service office and grounds he related the following. "We approached our County Commission concerning the possibility of developing an Arboretum on the (Extension Office) grounds. The term Arboretum was too much; it indicated thoughts of extra labor and expensive upkeep. We gave up the Arboretum idea and began planting a few plants at a time. So we have at present sixty-nine plants that produce fruits, not all delicious, but all are possibilities." "Eleven varieties of mangoes exist on the property in 1964; also Mountain Soursop, coffee, strawberry guavas, Sapodillas, Barbados Cherries, Bignay, Sugar Apple, improved guavas, and Grumichamas. The rest of the plantings consisted of Pitomba, Surinam cherries, Longan, Star Apples, Lingaro, a Spanish lime, Pomegranate, Muntingia, Jaboticaba, an Imbe, Karanda, Persimmons, Macadamias, White Sapotes, Tamarind and a Red Ceylon peach." Several hurricanes have caused some of those early trees planted by "Red" to be lost, but many remain in the Mounts Botanical Garden to this very day.

"Some may say that "Red" was just doing his job. Doing your job in this case was shored up with that upbringing in the Oklahoma Territory where you went the extra mile just to survive and also to help your fellow man. If you ask those people still around that knew this County Agent they will tell you about him inviting a youngster to experience a trip to a farm to see a new agricultural practice, a trip to the University of Florida to encourage them to consider going on to get more education or just talking with them to encourage their progress in whatever the endeavor. Just doing his job..."

"Red" "began the first...4-H (Youth Development) club in Florida in 1930 with a charter signed by Secretary of Agriculture Arthur M. Hyde...The club was chartered as the Lake Worth Boy's 4-H Club. The club has eight members and they are planning to carry out 12 well planned projects. According to "Red", the projects will be in vegetable growing, grading and packing; beekeeping and poultry raising..."

As part of the new millennium celebration in 2000, "Red" was named by the Florida Historical Society as one of the initial Famous Floridians for his work with the University of Florida Extension Service in Palm Beach County. His hard work and commitment to teaching people to be good stewards of our natural resources still permeate this organization. His high standards also leave Mounts Botanical Garden with a great challenge to carry that legacy forward.

## Other Service to the Community

"Red" was a member and State and National Chairman of the Association of County Agricultural Agents, a member and state chairman of the Florida State Horticultural Society, a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board for many years and a lifelong Rotarian of the West Palm Beach Rotary Club, serving as its' president. He headed the county Heart Fund and in 1958, received the county Chamber of Commerce Good Government Award.

## References

"Beyond the Campus with Florida Agricultural Alumni". The Florida College Farmer. P 12. June 1936.

"Charter for Florida's First Standard 4-H Club Given Lake Worth Boys". The Florida College Farmer, p.11, 1930.

Lok, L.C.; Wilson, J.S. Florida 4H: A Century of Youth Success, Doning Company Publishers, 2008. Pp 147-149

Florida State Horticultural Society Proceedings. 1954.

"History of Mounts Botanical Garden", Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden newsletter, September/October, 1999, Vol.XIV, Issue 5.

Hutcheson, Clayton E., Mounts Botanical Garden Video Script. (Unknown date).

Hutcheson, Clayton E., Notes to the file. Circa 1979, Circa 1985.

Minutes of the Board of Director's meeting (Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden), August 4th, 1986.

"Mounts Botanical Garden", The Palm Beach Post. 21 July 2002.

Mounts, M. U., Howard, R.H., "A Study of Celery Farming on the Everglades Organic Soils, Palm Beach County, Florida, Seasons 1937-38 To 1939-40". University of Florida. 5/19/1941.

Mounts, M. U., "Tropical Fruit on the Flatwoods". Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society, Vol. 77. 1964. 363-365.

Palm Beach Daily News. 07 December 1947.

Palm Beach County History on Line. <http://www.pbchistoryonline.org/page/marvin-umphrey-red-mounts>.

Palm Beach County History on Line. <http://www.pbchistoryonline.org/Page/red-handed-helper/>

Palm Beach County History on Line. <http://www.pbchistoryonline.org/page/cattle-and-horses>.

Palm Beach County PREM CORE Access System. Archived Records. Palm Beach County Government. 2013.