

The Bloomin' News

July, 2007, Vol. VI, 1

Lisa Dugowson, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Lisa Dugowson

Hello, and welcome back, readers. The Bloomin' News is back in production thanks to Joanie Opperman, our new Editor. Let's support her efforts by giving her articles and news worthy of print. We have a new column that gives our members a chance to share information about products they have tried and would like to recommend. This month Elaine Schoch recommends TurfPro. Read on to find out why. The summer heat is upon us and there is plenty of work to do at the farm. Our crew has been busy weeding, fertilizing and getting plants ready for our Fall plant sale which will be Friday and Saturday, October 12 and 13. Try to work outside early morning or evening and avoid the hot mid day sun. Be sure to cover up and use sunscreen, and don't forget to drink plenty of fluids.

Potential New Members, YOU Are Welcome

We are always looking for new members and have great opportunities for learning at our monthly meetings, at the Tree Farm and at special events. As a return for members' input/work, many plants are available to members at no cost. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. For more information call Tony Koromilas: 269-1931, Lisa Dugowson: 264-6389, Joanie Opperman: 480-8807.

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group

From the Prez

The next meeting for the Women's Garden Club will be the 1st Wednesday of September at 9:30a.m. Their speaker will have a demonstration of Ikebana, Japanese floral arranging. Their District Meeting will be in October, and will meet at Cocoa/Rockledge Garden Center, with a speaker and luncheon. All meetings are at the Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, unless otherwise noted.

Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Brevard County Agriculture and Extension Center, 369 Lake Drive, Cocoa. The public is welcome.

July in the Garden - notes from Gil Bertie

June has brought much needed rain, and July is also expected to be a wet month with 7-10 inches of rain in Brevard County. July will be very hot, making it one of our most uncomfortable months for gardening. Despite the heat, routine garden maintenance should continue. Work early or late in the day, apply sunscreen and wear a head cover. Save water by turning off your automatic sprinkler system and operating manually as needed.

Crape Myrtles have been blooming beautifully, but this is only the beginning. Prune back each cluster to

reasonably large stems before seed pods form. Remember, strong branches can only grow from branches larger than themselves. Feed with a super-phosphate fertilizer every 2 weeks. If mildew occurs, spray with a good fungicide. In 4 to 8 weeks you should have a second flush of blooms.

Continue to pinch new growth, except **Azaleas**, **Camillias** and **Gardenias** to assure thick compact plants. Use cuttings to root new plants. Prune **Poinsettias** to develop compact plants. Divide and repot **Orchids & Bromeliads**. Fertilize shrubs and flowers lightly with a 6-6-6 or similar fertilizer every 3-4 weeks. Feed outdoor container plants every 2-3 weeks. Transplant **Palms** and **Sagos** during our rainy season. Remove weak or diseased tree limbs that could be damaged by storms. Make a weekly trip through your garden to check for insects, diseases or other problems. Watch for yellowing or scorching - a sign of Spider Mites. Blast them off with a hard stream of water or spray with summer oil home citrus spray, which will help control mites, scale and whitely. Follow label instructions.

Hot weather plants that add color to the landscape include **Begonias**, **Blue Daze**, **Caladiums**, **Coleus**, **Impatiens**, **Marigolds**, **Pentas**, **Periwinkle**, **Salvia** and **Verbena**. Add an additional layer of mulch (3 inches recommended) to flower beds to conserve moisture and control weeds.

Garden Club Web Sites

The Titusville Garden Club web site has link to the Titusville Men's Garden Club web site:

TGC site: <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tgc/>

TMGC site: <http://www.tmgc.djb.net/>

National Garden Club: www.gardenclub.org

Florida Federation of GC: www.ffgc.org

Turf Pro by Elaine Schoch

You take pride in your lawn and garden, with outward appearance being everything. TurfPro takes it a step further by going beneath the surface. The science behind this natural phenomenon is Histosol, which helps plants absorb more nutrients more efficiently. Look for your mature plants to green up within the week and maintain that rich, deep color. I've had success with even the most anemic, ignored palms at our farm. Turf Pro contains 73 trace elements creating an unsurpassed "element cocktail". But, that's not all. TurfPro contains the ultimate food source for any plant and soil's micro-organism, carbon. Natural carbon helps plants resist environmental stress and disease. This makes it a perfect product for roses and other fussy plants. The Lignin contained in TurfPro is high-level for good fungi in your soil. It strengthens plant cell walls and waterbinding ability. This is so needed on our lawns and transplants during a period of drought in Florida. Lawns and shrubs need the increased help to put out a deeper root system and retain water until our rainy season starts.

It comes in a one quart bottle for \$10.99 at Ace Hardware in Titusville. Apply 6-8 ounces of product per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn and garden. Spray it on everything except sidewalks or driveways...**it stains concrete!** We spray it on all of our fruit trees, including apples, cherries and citrus. Apply 4 ounces per 1000 sq. ft. for smaller plants and flowers. Use this on your vegetable garden! Fred's tomato plants, from the winter garden, grew to 5 ft. tall. They were still pumping out tomatoes as fast as we could eat them. This product has been a real joy to me because I stopped buying all the other fertilizers for azaleas and fruit trees. I just buy this and put it on everything. We transplanted a snow-on-the-mountain shrub to a south spot of the garden last month—wrong time of year! Of course, we were getting no rain and intense heat. Every 2-3 days I watered the transplant with TurfPro, and it came out of the wilted stage and is now thriving. A friend of mind who is a more advanced gardener than me was shocked. I'm bringing down some of my transplants to the Tree Farm next week. I'm going to transport them in a bucket of water (which is what Susan does), and then pot them up. I'm going to spread a tarp under the big oak and set all the new babies on it. Then I'm going to water everything with TurfPro. Let's see what happens by the time of our next Plant Sale. Love this stuff!!

Do you have a product you would like to recommend to others in our Club? Each month we will highlight a product some member has found and used successfully. Send your articles to Joanie at freddiefla@yahoo.com

Tree Farm News by Tony Koromilas

Our Farm behind the Water Treatment Plant continues to grow many varieties of plants, thanks to the Tuesday and Thursday crew: Burl, Susan, Fred, Elaine, Tony, Judy, Emerson, Cat and others who have been getting plants ready for our next sale. Major fertilizer, ground cloth and miscellaneous products have been bought. A new pressure switch installation solved the water problem. Fred's help fixing the mist house is appreciated. We must continue to repair the roof and brace the structure. We must also fix the shade area. We can use help to lay some pipe to minimize problems with watering the small plants on the racks. We will be purchasing seedlings to be planted, and need volunteers to propagate cuttings this month and next. Thanks to the City of Titusville for turning the mulch pile.

Emerson's Input by Emerson Johnson

A practice that used to be common among Garden Club members was for them to take home plants, repot them, fertilize them and care for them. Then, at Plant Sale time, they would return the professional/saleable plants. Some of the present members do this with great success. It is recommended because you can work at home at your leisure in a comfortable setting and give the plants expert care. Remember that an inch of rain leaches down fertilizer an inch, so replace accordingly.

From Lisa Dugowson, Chairman/Master Gardener

Questions anyone? Please send me your questions for the "Questions and Answers" column. Any input is welcome. Please send via email or phone to me at:

Email: Ldugowson@cfl.rr.com or Phone: 264-6389

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets at the Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville.

Meets 2nd Monday of the month July 9th at 7 p.m.

Don Hawthorne, speaker coordinator, has scheduled Maureen Phillips, Director of Water Resources this month. Her topic is landscaping and water-wise gardens.

FNATS	October 4th thru 6th, 2007
Fall Tree & Plant Sale	October 12th & 13th, 2007
Spring Tree & Plant Sale	April 18th & 19th, 2008

Mark these dates on your calendar; it's never too early to get plants ready for the next sale!!! The parking lot east of Emma Parrish Playhouse is our location this fall.

Work Day

Please remember that the Saturday after our Monthly Meeting is a day of concerted effort at the Tree Farm. Individuals put in many hours during the week at their convenience, and this is very necessary for continued success. We also have some tasks that need teamwork to accomplish. This work is the focus of our Saturday events. **Please plan on coming out to join us at the Tree Farm on Saturday, July 14th.....Thanks!!!**

The Bloomin' News

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Email: freddiefla@yahoo.com Phone: 480-8807

Joanie's Notes

Titusville Men's Garden Club Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 14, 2007

Meeting held at Garden Club's Center on Sisson Road

Meeting began promptly at 7 PM.

Attendees:

Lisa Dugowson	Emerson Johnson
Jim Ratliff	Susan Murphy
Tony Koromilas	Fred Wehrum
Don Hawthorne	*RoseMarie Peurring
Burl Ferguson	*Scott Geiser

*New Members

1. Lisa gave everyone a seedling, *Jatropha Multifida*, which prefers sun to semi-shade. She brought a video on 50-gallon Rain Barrels, how to construct and set up.
2. Discussed recent activities at the Tree Farm, lots of potting, weeding and plant care.
3. Received Treasurer's Report - Jim Ratliff, Treasurer.
4. Don Hawthorne has been lining up programs and speakers for the year.
5. Noted that Elaine Schoch has been working Tuesday mornings at the Farm and is a great asset to Club.
6. Old Business: Don Hawthorne mentioned about 1-1/2 years ago the discussion of putting up a new Mist House. The existing one is beyond repair. He suggested a Field Trip for some volunteers to go with him to Lake Apopka where these structures are constructed. He stated approximate cost of \$1000, and he would bring specs and price list to next meeting. Burl suggested they also check into structure(s) for Shade House as well.
7. Sharpes Crew is good help when they are available, and are always reliable help to support semi-annual tree and plant sale.
8. FNATS: There was discussion of attending again this year, but to keep cost to minimum of \$500. Of course, we will accept donations. Lisa will check on dates to attend.
9. Fall Tree & Plant Sale dates are October 12 & 13. The Tree Farm has approx. 150 young plumbagos, which may be ready for this sale. There was a request for frangiapani, hibiscus, etc.
10. Burl suggested an increase in price of plants:
1 gallon @ \$4.00, 3-5 gallon @ \$7.00 Trees to remain the same at \$10.00.

We need lots of help at Tree Farm on Tuesday & Thursday.

11. Instead of June 11th meeting, it was agreed that we would have our Appreciation Dinner at Whistle Junction at 6:30 p.m.

12. Our next meeting will be July 9th at 7:00 p.m.

This information provided from my notes taken during the meeting. Please submit corrections and additions for inclusion. Respectfully submitted, Joanie Opperman

Burl's Corner by Burl Ferguson

This article may sound like a broken record that repeats and repeats, etc. I write about what I like to do, "playing" (you may call it work) at our Tree Farm. This is about the best therapy I can recommend. Many months ago Emerson suggested that we set aside Tuesday and Thursday mornings to come to the Farm. (As I always say)...."after breakfast" The main gate is open at 7a.m., and that is the coolest part of the day. All the things you do in your own landscape needs doing at the Farm, except that our trees and plants are in containers. If a particular tree or shrub has your interest, we invite you to "adopt" it to grow from birth to sale. It takes pruning, weeding, up-potting as necessary, fertilizing, watering (hopefully our sprinkler system will do this for you), insect and disease control, etc.

You will probably see Susan, Elaine, Joanie, Emerson, Cat, Fred, Me, RoseMarie, Tony, et. Al. on Tuesday's or Thursdays, or both. Who knows, you might learn something about gardening you haven't heard before.

Ornamental grasses: There are several choices that do quite well in our area and are fairly easy to care for. A fairly common ornamental grass called **Pampas Grass** is excellent choice for an island with grass in the center and shorter flowering shrubs/annuals surround - ing the grass. This grass also looks great when planted along a corner of a structure with possibly a row of caladiums or choice of flower along front of grass clump. The appearance of the grass is that of a graceful arching fountain. It does best in a sunny location in an area that has damp ground. It needs to be watered regularly or it will start to dry out.

Another great choice is **Redhead Fountain Grass**. Although smaller in size than **Pampas Grass**, it produces an equally graceful fountain effect. The plumes of **Redhead Grass** are soft to the touch. This is quite a contrast to the sharp edges of the **Pampas Grass**. The plumes produce color all year long. You can use fountain grass in containers, along borders, in rock gardens and along foundations. The colorful plumes can be cut and placed in a vase indoors. As with most ornamental grasses, they are not adversely affected by most insects or diseases. (notes from Joe Zelenak's Garden Nook).
Joanie, Editor

The Titusville Men's Garden Club

Next Meeting: Monday, July 9th, 2007 -- 7:00 p.m.

Titusville Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville, FL 32780

INVITATION TO JOIN THE TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

Who We Are: A non-profit club that enjoys gardening and contributing to our City's beautification and our environment.

What we Are: As a part of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, we are a partner of the Titusville Garden Club.

What We Do: We educate and help each other to enjoy gardening, teach and learn to enjoy plants. We assist others to propagate, grow and distribute trees and plants to non-profit organizations. We participate in voluntary efforts to help Titusville's "Tree City" initiative to plant 2,000 trees per year.

Where We Meet: We meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road (south of SR 50 / north of SR 405). We also meet at our Tree Farm near the Titusville Water Maintenance Facility. Members adopt trees and plants to grow and have fun.

How We Operate: We presently sponsor an April and an October Tree and Plant Sale. The sales receipts are used to support the Club, purchase materials, and donate plants to the City and other worthy non-profit causes. Some members grow plants to landscape their own homes (all are welcome to do so). With permission from a plant's adoptee, members may take plants for personal use. Dues are \$25.00 annually, due in April.

Send application below to Titusville Men's Garden Club, P. O. Box 1783, Titusville, FL 32780. Phone Tony Koromilas 269-1931, Lisa Dugowson 264-6389, Joanie Opperman 480-8807.

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Cell:** _____

Street: _____ **City** _____ **Zip** _____