

The Bloomin' News

September, 2007, Vol. VI, 3

Lisa Dugowson, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Lisa Dugowson

Thank you to everyone who has been working so hard at the Tree Farm. We had an interesting meeting in August with Steve Korpacz, and now we all know a lot more about rare fruit. The Brevard Rare fruit Council meets the 4th Wednesday of the month down in Melbourne. I attended the meeting with Joanie, Don and Steve this month; it was informative and tasty. Our next meeting is September 10th, and we will discuss plans for our October sale.

Did you know you can make your own compost using kitchen scraps? A large landscape tub (30 gallon) can be used after you poke holes through the sides. Save used coffee grounds, egg shells, fruit and vegetable scraps and peelings. Do not add meat or dairy. I don't put cooked foods into my compost since I have dogs and I prefer not to tempt them. Layering the kitchen scraps with leaves or grass clippings will keep the fruit fly population lower. Turn the mixture with a pitch fork or shovel. Compost can be used in 2 to 6 months depending on rate of breakdown.

Don't forget FNATS is October 4th thru 6th. Please join our team at the Tree Farm as we continue to get ready for our upcoming sale.

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 or Joanie Opperman: 480-8807.



Susan Murphy and her *Asystasia gangetica*. Check out the roots!

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. The program will be about **bonsai gardening** with **Ron Miller**. 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.

Tree Farm Report – Tony Koromilas

Our Farm is overrun with weeds, but we hope that more folks will help. We are working to prepare for the next sale. Thanks to all the folks who come to the Farm in the mornings who help and enjoy the exercise, etc. If you know someone who wishes to volunteer services on Tues. and Thurs. between 8 to 12 noon, please call me. Water system appears OK for now. Mist house still needs cloth, which Burl and I are trying to procure.

Burl's Corner - Burl Ferguson

September is the beginning of our garden calendar year. The weather should begin to be more bearable. With our October 2007 Fall Tree and Plant Sale fast approaching, it is time for an extra effort at the Farm to get trees and plants ready for sale.

We are increasing the price of plants in gallon containers from \$3.00 to \$4.00, and plants in 3-5 gallon containers from \$6.00 to \$7.00. When selecting plants for the sale, if you think they are not worth \$4.00 or \$7.00, don't put them on the truck. Trees will be priced at \$10.00 as in past sales. Some of the trees at the Farm are worth more than \$10.00, but our customers know they are getting a bargain, and that keeps them coming back year after year.

I need some help getting plants ready for the \$.50, \$1.00 and \$2.00 tables. If this strikes a cord and you can come Tues or Thurs mornings, I will work with you on this.

September in the Garden – by Lisa Dugowson

Fall arrives this month, and while the days are still hot, this is the start of some cooler nights. Hire a certified arborist to prune trees that are near your home or power lines before hurricane season peaks this month. Contact the County Extension for a list of arborists in your area. Fall pruning and fertilizing should be done early to allow new growth to harden.

Make sure your irrigation system is working before the start of the dry season. (Is this really the rainy season?) Add fresh mulch to save water and reduce weeds.

Papayas can be grown from seed now. Keep seedlings in a sunny location and protect them from freezing. Plant them in the ground around mid March. As soon as fruit appears, put an old stocking over each and prevent the papaya fruit fly from laying eggs in the fruit.

Caterpillars are usually present at this time of year. If they are a problem, control with a natural spray, *Bacillus thuringiensis*. They will chew up your garden, but you will have beautiful butterflies when they morph.

Do not prune AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS or GARDENIAS; their buds are already set. CAMELLIAS often set 2 buds side-by-side. If you would like larger but fewer blooms, pinch one of them off. Make sure you can distinguish between leaf and flower buds. Give POINSETTIAS a final pruning before Sept. 15th. Watch for mildew, white flies and tomato worms. Spray and prune ROSES, removing old flowers, hips and dead, damaged or spindly growth. Fertilize to encourage Fall blooming.

Pinch CHRYSANTHEMUMS and spray for aphids, mites, mildew and blackspot. Feed with 10-30-20 or similar high phosphate fertilizer until color shows in the buds. Feed hanging baskets and orchids every 2 weeks. Feed shrubs, perennials and container plants for Fall. CHRISTMAS CACTUS should receive their last feeding this month. Move them into partial sunshine and reduce watering until buds appear. Till and replant flower beds. If you did not start annual flowers from seeds, local nurseries or garden shops will have a selection of plants in 4-packs. Annuals that will provide color in your yard this fall and winter include ALYSSUM, CALENDULA, CLEOME, CORNFLOWER, DIANTHUS, GAILLARDIA, HOLLYHOCK, PERIWINKLE, PHLOX, SALVIA, SNAP-DRAGON & VERBENA. Wait another month to plant the first PANSIES and PETUNIAS.

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

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

An upcoming opportunity!!

Join Sally Sclera on September 6th, 2007 at the Titusville Library from 10 a.m. to noon for a seminar on Environmentally Friendly Landscaping. Topics will include watering efficiently, proper fertilization and attracting wildlife. There is a \$5.00 fee.

Winning the War on Weeds - by Elaine Schoch

Think mulch first! Keep adding peat moss, woodchips, compost or other mulch materials to smother weeds. Weeds grow from seed or reproduce from roots. As weed roots grow outward from the parent plant, new plants sprout up. Remember that any weeds around the base of a valuable plant compete for water and nutrients. You can use weed-controlling fabrics on beds and borders, and around trees and shrubs. However, with our summer drought this year, fabric may limit the amount of water getting to your plants.

Even with mulches and fabrics, weeds have a way of gaining on us. Make a pledge to yourself. Pick and pull weeds each week early in the gardening season. It makes sense because weeds are easier to remove then; they haven't set roots too deeply or taken over part of your garden.

There are 2 types of chemical weed controls: pre-emergent and postemergent. Basically, preemergent prevents weed seeds from germinating. In the post-emergent category, we use "Quik-Pro" powered by "Roundup" at the Farm. "Quik-Pro" is a non-selective herbicide. It will kill any plant through contact with the green growing parts. We use this professional dry concentrate at 1.5 oz. to 1 gallon of water. Occasionally when the weeds are especially tough, we add 1 Tbsp. of "Murphy Oil Soap" to help the herbicide stick better. We apply using a 1 to 2 gallon pump hose sprayer.

When "Quik-Pro" is sprayed on the plant leaves, it is absorbed and then moves throughout the plant's tissues. Once inside the plant, Glyphosate inhibits the production of an enzyme. This, in turn, prevents the plant from making certain amino acids essential for plant growth and life. Its effect may not be visible for about 4 days in annual plants, and up to 7 days in perennial plants. After application, the plant wilts and turns yellow, then turns brown. At the same time, Glyphosate decomposes the plant's underground root system—roots and rhizomes. Ultimately, the entire plant dies, is incapable of regenerating and enriches the soil as it decomposes. Diquat is added to "Quik-Pro" for a quick kill without lingering in the soil for more than a few weeks. Tests show that "Quik-Pro" binds tightly to most soil particles until it degrades. This means that the likelihood of it harming groundwater is extremely low.

Try to apply before 9:00 a.m. on a bright, sunshiny Florida day. It needs about 2 sunny hours to set in and start working. Never spray on windy days, and be sure to spray downwind of your desirable plants. You can construct a cardboard shield and place it around only plants you want to kill. Naturally, carefully read the package directions before using, and wash hands well after every use.

Please send your articles to Joanie at freddiefla@yahoo.com to be included in next month's Bloomin' News.

Titusville Men's Garden Club Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 13, 2007

Meeting began promptly at 7 PM.

Attendees:	Steve Korpacz, speaker
Lisa Dugowson	Susan Murphy
Leland & Dena	Elaine & Tim Schoch
Jim Ratliff	Tony Koromilas
Burl Ferguson	Fred Wehrum
Don Hawthorne	RoseMarie Peurring
Joanie Opperman	

Steve Korpacz, an 11-year member of the Brevard Rare Fruit Council, in Melbourne, shared some of his wealth of information with us. A lot of fruit trees and plants have to be below 50 degree temp. so many days in the winter. Trim blueberries to shape. Prune peaches and grapes to 1/3. Lychees should be planted on south side of house, be protected from wind and needs watering. They grow from 20 to 25 feet and can yield 150 to 200 pounds of Lychees per tree. There are over 300 varieties of bananas, which need to be fertilized every month and watered everyday. In each cluster let there be 1 high, 1 medium and 1 low. Let cut 1 sit for a day, then plant. Once flowered, cut stalk to ground. Some varieties are "ice cream, gold finger, bulletproof and praying hands". Pineapple needs lot of fertilizer and water. Cut top off, let it dry, plant in organic soil. If you put a piece of banana or apple in center of pineapple, it will grow a pineapple. Steve mentioned that we are in "Zone 8". He said spring is the best time to plant. Muntinja strawberry tree grows 15 to 20 feet. One of the best guavas is Monstera Deliciosa. Surinam and Barbados cherries are loaded with Vitamin C. There is also Rio Grande cherry. Steve grows black pepper, cinnamon, allspice, bay leaf and vanilla (orchid). His Club's Tree Sale is in April about 25th to 27th (date to be set). Honestly, Steve shared so much information, and answered so many questions that it was hard for me to catch it all. He is very interesting. Steve has agreed to come back for our September 10th meeting and will share more with us about growing fruit trees, bananas, plants and grapes.

NOTE: On August 22, Steve transported Don, Lisa and myself into a whole new world of gardeners. We were welcomed and each given 1 ticket. There were 3 long tables of trees and plants which were given to ones who had winning tickets. It costs \$10 to become a single member, and \$15 for a couple to join BRFC. The month before, Don had won a Persimmon tree. There were some small fruit trees for sale. At least 100 people were present. In another room there were 2 long tables laden with bowls or plates of every imaginable fruit, such as mangos, grapes, guava cookies, star fruit, jack fruit, pomegranate, longans, sapote, jambu, and much more. Their guest speaker, Asit Ghosh did a presentation on "Edible Palms", which was quite fascinating. In Malaysia and India, they use monkeys to pick coconuts. Also, 100% of cashews are grown between India and Brazil. It is a very worthwhile trip. Perhaps you'll go next time?

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

The Three Sisters

According to Iroquois legend, corn, beans and squash are inseparable sisters who only grow and thrive together. The Three Sisters is an example of companion planting. The corn, tall and firm, grows in the center of a circular bed and serves as a support for climbing pole beans. The beans fix nitrogen in the soil, important for nitrogen-loving corn. The squash surrounds the corn and beans and covers the ground, serving to hold moisture in the soil, and the prickles on squash stems act as repellent to pests such as hungry raccoons.

Corn, beans and squash also compliment each other nutritionally. Corn provides carbohydrates, beans are rich in protein and squash are full of vitamins.

Grow your own Three Sisters Garden

*Choose a site in full sun. Amend the soil with plenty of compost or aged manure.

*In each row, make your corn/bean/squash mounds. The center of each mound should be 5 feet apart from the center of the next. Each mound should be 18 inches across with flattened tops. The mounds should be staggered in adjacent rows.

*Plant 4 corn seeds in each mound in a 6 inch square.

*When the corn is 4 inches tall, plant the beans. First, weed the entire patch. Then plant 4 bean seeds in each corn mound. They should be 3 inches apart from the corn plants, completing the square.

*As the beans begin to grow up the corn, plant your squash. When the squash seedlings emerge, thin them to 2 plants per mound.

*Apply a layer of mulch. Water when the soil begins to dry

*Train the beans to climb the corn stalks and the squash to grow under the corn and beans. Feed monthly.

Questions Anyone??

Dear Garden Bug: The Sycamore tree in my yard has leaves that look faded and have little black spots on the undersides. What is eating my tree, and how can I prevent it? Titusville gardener

Dear Titusville gardener: Lacebugs have caused the damage, but nothing needs to be done. The tree will lose its leaves and get new ones in the Spring. Garden Bug

Dear Garden Bug: I was thinking about replacing my old mulch with the recycled rubber mulch that I see in the garden centers. What are the ecological benefits of using this recycled product? Tired of replacing mulch

Dear Tired: Ground up rubber tires have been tested as soil amendments and surface mulches, and discovered to kill ornamental plants due to its zinc content, to be a fire hazard, dangerous to place near buildings, and to smell bad. Garden Bug

Send your questions to the Garden Bug

Email: Ldugowson@clf.44.com or phone 264-6389

Questions Anyone:

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets at the Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville. FL 32780

Meets 2nd Monday of the month-Sept. 10th at 7 p.m.

We are in for another real treat this month! **Steven Korpacz, of Brevard Rare Fruit Council**, has agreed to be our guest speaker once again for Sept. 10th meeting. He will be speaking of all the fruits which can be grown right here in Titusville. You are welcome to join us for this very interesting and informative meeting. Need directions? Call Don at 268-9199 or Jim 267-.7259

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, Sept. 15th.....Thanks!!!

The Bloomin' News

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Joanie Opperman, Editor

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

The Titusville Men's Garden Club

Next Meeting: Monday, August 13, 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 _____