

The Bloomin' News

MARCH, 2008, Vol. VI, 4

Lisa Dugowson, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Lisa Dugowson

Our Spring Sale has been pushed back a week, and will be held on April 25 and 26. We need all the help we can get at the Tree Farm in the next few weeks to make sure all weeds are pulled, and plants and trees are ready for the sale.

Annual dues are due in April. You can bring your check to the next meeting, or mail directly to Jim Ratliff, Treas., at 4190 Hemlock Lane, Titusville, FL 32780.

There is a free composting 2-day train the trainer seminar in Orlando on March 13 & 14. I am planning to go; if you would like to come along, let me know. See you at our next meeting Monday, March 10th at 7:00p.m.

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez
The next meeting for the Women's Garden Club will be on **March 5th. Pattie Jessie Black** will be speaking about **"DESSERT ROSE and other SUCCULENTS"**.
Our **Annual "Fantastic Sale"** (gigantic yard sale) will be **March 7th from 4:00 to 7:00p.m., and Saturday, March 8th from 9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.**

We need donations of books, baked good & household items brought to TGC 5275 Sisson Road on Tues and Thurs 9am-12pm and 1pm to 4pm.

Please call Jackie Hope @ 267-9559 with donations.

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.

Garden Club Web Sites

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

National Garden Club: www.gardenclub.org

Florida Federation of GC: www.ffgc.org

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

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

Gardening Info: HGTV.com

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 or Lisa Dugowson: 264-6389.

MARCH IN THE GARDEN

This has been a good winter in my garden with no serious frost or freeze damage. The long range forecast does not predict damaging cold weather after March 1st.

Pruning should be completed this month except avoid pruning spring-flowering trees, shrubs and vines until they finish blooming. Most of us in cold areas will have at least some cold damaged foliage to trim. Prune the limbs of cold damaged shrubs and trees into healthy wood.

Most shrubs and perennials in the ground more than two years should be pruned, thinned out, shaped and shortened. Perennials killed back to the ground should be identified with a stake and cut back.

When pruning woody shrubs, such as CRAPE MYRTLE or HIBISCUS, remember—strong branches will not grow from weak ones. Prune CRAPE MYRTLE stems back to points at least ½" in diameter.

Once you have pruned, clean the beds. Remove dead plants, weeds and debris. Apply fresh mulch such as compost, pine bark or cypress mulch. A good mulch will conserve water and keep the soil cool. A 3" to 4" mulch layer will also keep weeds down and soil from splashing on plants.

All beds, shrubs and trees should be fertilized this month if not already done. Use a good all-around fertilizer such as 6-6-6 or 8-8-8, with minor elements. Broadcast at the rates recommended on package. Most spring blooming plants will benefit from an application of super-phosphate fertilizer such as Peter's 10-30-20 or Hyponex 15-30-15. CRAPE MYRTLE, HIBISCUS and BIRD OF PARADISE can be fed every 2 weeks until they bloom.

Where needed, repair lawns with sod, plugs or seed. Rake out brown grass blades left by cool winter weather. Lawns should be fertilized or given a Weed N Feed product in early March. The quality of the fertilizer will help determine the quality of your lawn. A good 16-4-8

MARCH IN THE GARDEN (cont)

that includes minor elements is best. If, in addition, it is sulfur coated and contains iron, your lawn will be greener for a longer period. A 50-pound bag of 6-6-6 will contain 3 lbs of nitrogen, 3 lbs of phosphorus and 3 lbs of potash. The other 41 lbs is carrier to distribute the fertilizer. A 50-pound bag of 16-4-8 will cover almost 3 times as much area as a similar bag of 6-6-6. One bag of 16-4-8 may be cheaper, and definitely will be less work than 3 bags of 6-6-6.

New leaves on plants will bring out aphids and other insects, so be prepared to spray. Summer oil will kill aphids and other insects. Be sure to read and follow the label.

ROSES should be sprayed with a fungicide weekly and fertilized monthly. As a general rule, the sooner you solve problems by spraying, the less you will need to spray.

BLOOD LILIES, CALADIUMS, CANNA, CRINUM, DAHLIAS, DAY LILIES, GLADIOLUS, SOCIETY GARLIC, SPIDER LILIES and RAIN LILIES can still be planted.

Garden shops will have a good stock of annuals. Plan for banks of color to enhance your yard. Plant 6 to 12 or more plants of the same kind and color for large splashes of color. Plants for spring planting include: AGERATUM, BALSAM, CELOSIA, COSMOS, GERANIUMS, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PETUNIAS, SALVIA, VERBENA and ZINNIAS.

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

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville. FL

Our next meeting is March 10th, 2008!!

Spring Tree & Plant Sale April 25th & 26th, 2008

Mark this date 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 usual location.

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.

Saturday, March 15th is our next Work Day! We will meet at the gate between 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. until about noon. Stay as long as you are able. Please come out and join us as we continue preparing plants for our next sale.

The Bloomin' News
Titusville Men's Garden Club
Joanie Opperman, Editor
Email: freddiefla@yahoo.com Phone: 480-8807

THE TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

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

INVITATION TO JOIN THE TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

Next Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month Begins at 7:00 p.m.

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 or Lisa Dugowson 264-6389**

Name: _____

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

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