

The Bloomin' News

MAY, 2008, Vol. VI, 4

Lisa Dugowson, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message By Lisa Dugowson

We had another wonderful sale due to our preparations. Our great crew worked Thursday at the farm pulling plants and loading trailers, in the evening they returned to load more, and even start unloading downtown. This made for an easier and more organized start to our sale on Friday. Many of our customers look forward to the sale each year; it was wonderful to see them and get updates on what they have been growing.

To help us spread the word about water conservation, Maureen Phillips, Community Program Coordinator, City of Titusville Water Resources Conservation Program, was on hand to educate our customers and share some goodies.

We need to pay our membership dues this month, so please give your check to Jim Ratcliff at our next meeting or mail it to him. Our next meeting will be at Monday, May 12, 6:30, at Whistle Junction. Lisa Dugowson, Ldugowson@cfl.rr.com.

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

TGC hosted the District VI Spring Meeting on April 24; ninety-two garden clubbers attended. Paul Secor, Vice-Mayor greeted everyone. Sally Sclera was our guest speaker and she spoke on Water Conservation Through Plants. She was a delight. Make It --Take It Meals supplied the lunch, which was very good.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 7th. Our program will be the Desert Rose and Other Succulents. We will also be thanking Matthew Haymes, who completed Eagle Scout requirements by building an arbor, 6 additional benches and 4 bat boxes for our Wedding Garden. You should all come and see the area.

We will be having a Board Meeting on May 28th. Would love to have someone from the Men's Club attend. We will be planning our calendar for the next year. In October we plan on having an Open House to celebrate our 75th Anniversary. We would like all members to participate. Jackie Hope, TGC President.

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.

MAY IN THE GARDEN

May is usually a dry month, so regular watering may be necessary. Lawns should have about 1 inch of rain or irrigation each week; bedded plants and shrubs about ½ inch every 4 days; and CITRUS and other trees 1 inch a week. Renew mulches to conserve water and keep down weeds.

Continue to prune and trim your AZALEAS and CAMELLIEAS for next year. Prune GARDENIAS after they finish blooming. It Mites, Thrips and/or Scale are present, spray with Cygon and/or Summer Oil. Feed monthly with an acid forming fertilizer. Small monthly feedings are better for most plants that fewer heavy feedings. Cut back perennials finishing their spring bloom. Continue to prune any dieback from winter damaged plants.

May or June is the time for a second application of lawn fertilizer. However, unless you are prepared to water heavily, if May is dry, I recommend waiting to fertilize in June, normally a wetter month than May.

Continue to seed, plug or sod to fill in bare areas in your lawn. Apply an iron-only fertilizer to re-green yellow Bahia lawns. Fertilize shrubs and flowers lightly with 6-6-6 fertilizer every 4 or 5 weeks.

Mole Crickets will be active in Bahia lawns this month. May is one of the best months to combat them. They tend to nest under concrete walks, driveways and stepping stones. They come out at night to feed. Mole Cricket Bait applied to a wet lawn in the evening is

MAY IN THE GARDEN (continued)

effective. Check St. Augustine lawns for Chinch Bugs. Treat infected areas about 10 feet beyond infestations when noticeable damage is occurring.

CRAPE MYRTLE, JASMINE, BOUGAINVILLEA, ALLAMANDA, GARDENIAS, QUEEN PALMS and other plants may show a yellowing of leaves because of a Manganese deficiency. Apply Manganese Sulfate to the soil at package recommended rates and water well.

NOTE: Manganese Sulfate will stain concrete.

Spider Mites can be a real pest during dry weather. While they seem to prefer JUNIPERS, MARIGOLDS and PYRACANTHAS, they can attack any plant. Look for them as a scorched area on leaves or fine webbing in crotches or leaf bases. You can blast them off with a hard stream of water or spray with a Miticide.

Take tip cuttings of shrubs and plants to root in Perlite and/or Vermiculite. Divide and re-pot Bromeliads, Orchids and other plants that have outgrown their containers.

Plant BLOOD LILY, CALADIUM, CANNA, RAIN LILY, DAY LILY, SPIDER LILY and CRINUM bulbs for summer color. Replace cool season plants with warm season plantings of BEGONIAS, BLUE DAZE, CELOSIA, COLEUS, GERBERA, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PENTAS, PERIWINKLES, SALVIA, TORENIA, VERBENA and ZINNIAS.

BURL'S CORNER

Now that we have had a successful spring 2008 sale, it is time that we begin to prepare for the fall 2008 sale. We have many, many plants in gallon pots that need immediate advancement to 3-5 gallon pots. At our sale there were quite a number of plants we sold for \$4.00 that were worth \$7.00 had we advanced to a 3-5 gallon pot. For example we have gallon pots of Oaks, Red Maple, Tabebuia, Ginkgo Loba, Bald Cypress, Magnolia, Podocarpus, Croton, Crape myrtle that are best sold in 3-5 gallon pots.

We need some "baby" King Sago Palms, cuttings of Plumeria (Frangipani), cuts of Gardenia, cuts of variegated Schfflera,

We sold all the Aquatic plants (Papyrus, Horsetail Rush, Dwarf Papyrus) that we took to the sale. Let me know if you would like to help me propagate the Aquatic plants.

Plants that are best sold in gallon pots are: Shillings Holly, Boxwood, Firecracker, Flax, Blue Daze, Confederate Jasmine, Coral Honeysuckle, Mondo Grass, Society Garlic, Day Lilies, Iris, aquatic plants.

Some plants that get root bound in gallon pots can be divided into at least 4 pieces and planted in gallon pots; e.g., Society Garlic, Giant Liriope, Mondo Grass, Cast Iron Plant and Aztec grass,

Lisa has provided us with quite a quantity of pencil cactus that needs to be advanced along from 2 inch pots to 4inch pots to gallon pots.

Other plants need the same progression schedule; i.e., Ferns (Foxtail, Leather Leaf, Springerii), Shillings Holly, Surinam Cherry, Cherry Laurel and Agapanthus.

"KNOCK OUT ROSES" by Elaine Schoch

The most commonly asked question that I have had this year about roses is "How do I care for my Knock Out roses?" It could not be easier. Coming from a non-rose person, I can say with complete honesty "Anyone can grow this tidy shrub rose in your landscape." Plant them with cow manure in full sun and keep them watered. When the leaves turn pale green fertilize with Turf & Garden Pro. Yes, it really is that simple. Knock Outs are disease resistant, but if you start to see black spot, cut them back or just tear off the effected leaf and throw it in the trash can. The single petal roses have a medium size flower that blooms all year round in this part of the country making it hard to decide when to trim. On a pretty day in Spring, prune this vigorous grower back to a big basketball size and fertilize with rose food to stimulate new growth. Now we're celebrating the arrival of the Double Knock Out rose. This absolutely carefree landscape rose has all of the same wonderful characteristics of its sister seedling, with twice as many petals per flower. Fluorescent double, cherry red blossoms attract attention all spring, summer and fall. Knock Outs produce 1 to 5 flowers per cluster and up to 25 blooms per flowering branch. You don't have to waste time removing old flowers from this blooming machine. The Knock Out rose truly takes the maintenance out of roses.

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



AT THE TREE FARM by Tony Koromilas

At the regional meeting, we won the total Florida Region Garden competition tree award. Thanks for all their help.

We finally fixed the water system by installing a new meter, diaphragm, pins and a lot of troubleshooting. Please keep observing sprinklers, etc. to validate all is OK.

Joanie's Garden News

I suppose for me the hottest topic is the success of our last Spring Plant & Tree Sale!!! It was once again held downtown in parking lot across from our playhouse, so there was plenty of room. Without a doubt, it was the most organized sale I have ever been part of. From the new, green aprons which identified who we are, to the stakes in plants/trees stating in layman's terms the specimen and price.....right down to pads & pens to figure customers' purchase amount. I am not aware of even one incident where a customer left unhappy. Good work done ("atta' boy") to all our members who helped!!

Once again, Maureen Phillips, Water Dept., was with us both days, teaching everyone to conserve our water. She always has some goodies to give out, as well as valuable information. She is one of us, and we are very happy with this partnership/friendship. Thanks, Maureen

We have been without rain for almost a month now, except for small showers.

Does anyone have info on how to get APHIDS off my Hibiscus? Would appreciate your suggestions. Thanks!

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

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 May 12th, 2008!!
6:30 p.m. At
WHISTLE JUNCTION!
SEE YOU THERE!!**

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, May 17th 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 Titusville Men's Garden Club

Next Meeting: 2008 -- 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.

Name: _____

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

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