

The Bloomin' News

JULY, 2008, Vol. VI, 13

Lisa Dugowson, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Lisa Dugowson

Our Chairman had no message for this month. We will look forward to her message next month.

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

We had our last meeting in May. However, we are in the planning stages for our 75th Anniversary Open House.

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. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. Back page of newsletter has additional information. Drop by to visit and to possibly join us. For more information, call Tony Koromilas: 269-1931 or Lisa Dugowson: 264-6389.

Burl's Corner – by Burl Ferguson

Remember our Tuesday and Thursday morning work at the Tree Farm. There is more to do than just pulling weeds, although that is necessary. Here is a "To Do" list for you to select from:

1. Pick up trees and shrubs that have fallen over. This is a must, as they will die quickly if not in upright position.
 2. Up-pot trees and shrubs from 1 gallon to larger pots; i.e., 2 to 5 gallon depending on growth of tree or shrub.
 3. Put an identification stake in each type of tree or shrub with name written in permanent ink.
 4. Pot rooted shrubs, ground cover and aquatic plants from Mist House into 1 gallon pots.
 5. Adopt a plant propagation tray in the Mist House for your use. You may team with others if you don't need a full tray.
 6. Some plants may need to be put in shaded area for 1 to 2 weeks before transferring to the main field.
 7. Fix cover of the Shade House.
 8. Monitor sprinklers and repair as necessary. Tony can educate you on this.
 9. Monitor sprinklers in the Mist House and repair as necessary. See Tony for this also.
 10. Adopt a corral in the Tree Farm to do all those things necessary to grow plants to salable size.
- So you see, there is much to be done in addition to pulling weeds.

JULY IN THE GARDEN

June has brought much needed rain, and July is also expected to be a wet month with 7 to 10 inches of rain in north 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 the system manually as needed.

If you did not fertilize your lawn in May or June, it is still not too late to apply a good 16-4-8 fertilizer. If Bahia lawns still show yellowing, additional iron should be applied. Sod-web worms could arrive in July. They feed heavily on St. Augustine, but will attack other lawns. Watch for grass that is chewed close to the ground, as if cattle had grazed. Diazinon, Dursban or Thuricide are effective controls. Chinch bugs may also be active in July. Mole Crickets are active in Bahia and Bermuda lawns and should be treated now. Use Mole Cricket Bait, Diazinon or Dursban spray/granules. Follow label instructions.

GRAPE MYRTLES have been blooming beautifully, but this can be 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 high, 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, CAMELLIAS and GARDENIAS to assure thick, compact plants. Use the cuttings to root new plants. Prune POINSETTIAS to develop compact plants. Divide and repot ORCHIDS and BROMELIADS. Fertilize shrubs and flowers lightly with a 6-6-6 or similar fertilizer every 3 to 4 weeks. Feed outdoor container plants every 2 to 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 Mites with Malathion, Cygon, Diazinon or Kelthane. A summer oil home citrus spray will help control mites, scale and whitefly. Again, 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 thin mulch layer to flower beds to conserve moisture and control weeds.

NOTE:

Above mentioned chemicals may no longer be on the market. Replace with Natural or Organic sprays.



“BUG OFF” – by Elaine Schoch

The best way to control pests in your garden is to encourage birds, toads and beneficial insects to prey on them. But when an infestation gets out of control, skip the poison and try these environmentally safe, home-made solutions to help your garden survive.

***All-Purpose Spray** works on a multitude of pests, including slugs and Japanese beetles. Use 1 of each garlic bulb, onion, teaspoon cayenne pepper, quart of water and tablespoon of liquid soap. Chop the garlic and onion in a blender. Add the cayenne pepper and water. Strain through a dish cloth. Add liquid soap, such as Murphy's Oil so the spray sticks to plant leaves. Mix well. Spray this mixture on both sides of the leaves before 9am or after 6pm. Store remaining spray in a labeled jar in the fridge.

***Hot Pepper Spray** repels insects, along with cats and dogs (squirrels), when they eat the treated plant. Puree 1/2 cup hot peppers, adding 2 cups of water. Strain the liquid and pour into a spray bottle. Apply every 5 to 7 days until pests are gone.

***Tomato-Leaf Spray** has alkaloids found in tomato leaves that are toxic to soft-bodied pests such as aphids. Bonus: This spray will also attract the beneficial Trichogramma wasp, which preys on aphids and their eggs. Gather 2 cups of tomato leaves from the bottom of the plant. Mash or chop the leaves and add 4 cups of water. Let this sit overnight. Next day, strain out the leaves and toss. Dilute the liquid with 2 more cups of water. Spray on affected leaves, especially the undersides of lower leaves where aphids like to congregate. To lure Trichogramma wasps, spray the entire plant. Have fun! Be sure to stand “Up Wind”, especially when spraying with hot pepper.

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

Don Hawthorne, member of our club, came across this article to be shared with fellow gardeners:

THE EDIBLE PLANT PROJECT

The Edible Plant Project is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based group working to promote edible landscaping and local food abundance in North Central Florida.

Imagine a Gainesville in which every month of the year is marked by different trees ripening fruit, each in its season, in yards, street corners and parks. Imagine a local abundance of vegetables in yards and farmers markets, vegetables which yield abundantly with out intensive chemical fertilizer or pesticides because they are locally adapted varieties, ideally suited to our conditions, grown from seed carefully saved from year to year and shared from neighbor to neighbor.

The goal of the EPP is to bring about this vision, to create positive alternatives to the unsustainable food system in this country.

A special focus of EPP is tree crops; fruit & trees. These wonders of nature need to be planted only once, and they yield abundantly for decades, often with little or no care. Anyone who has ever stood under a tree loaded with fruit, gorging themselves on the crop, can appreciate the freely given abundance. Right now, there are mulberry, fig, loquat, pear, pecan and persimmon trees around Gainesville that make heavy crops of delicious fruit and nuts every year. We need more of them!

For many of these tree crops, it is a simple matter to start new plants from cuttings or seeds. At the EPP, we maintain a nursery for starting and growing new fruit and nut trees for distribution to the community. Prices are set just high enough to cover our expenses.

We have regular work parties at the nursery, at which we start new plants, weed, and otherwise tend the existing ones. **People can volunteer with us:** helping out at the nursery, in the process both producing lots of fruit trees for distribution, and also learning about how to start and grow fruit and trees.

Another foundation of local abundance is vegetables. We are working on creating a seed bank of locally-adapted, non-hybrid vegetable varieties so that we can save our own seed from year to year, every year improving the crop by selecting seed from the plants which do the best. By sharing and distributing seed, this will make us largely independent from the seed companies and their nationally-marketed hybrid varieties that often require chemical fertilizers and pesticides for good production.

Beyond spreading the germplasm of plant varieties, we also want to spread information, recipes and processing techniques can make sure the bounty is well utilized (for example, dehydrated mulberries taste like mulberry- flavored raisins).

Instead of consuming highly processed, un-nutritious food, which contributes to rampant health problems, people could be eating fresh, wholesome fruits, nuts and vegetables harvested at the peak of ripeness. Rather than food produced with massive fossil fuel usage in

agriculture and transport with large scale erosion, fertilizer and pesticide run-off, people could be eating food grown locally in yards and landscapes, with little environment impact or fossil fuel consumption.

Rather than food being a packaged, processed commodity trucked in and purchased at the store, food would once again be something that connects people with nature, with the seasonal cycles of life. Once people realize how easy it is to grow food, there will be many opportunities for giving and sharing the abundance.

Please help us in our work. Plant fruit trees, and grow and harvest local food to help make Gainesville a more beautiful, sustainable place.

For more information, or if you like to participate in the Edible Plant Project, please contact us at:

<http://www.edibleplantproject.org>

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 July 14th, 2008!!

You are welcome to join us!

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 Work Date:

July 19th @ 8:30a.m. to noon

The Bloomin' News

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Joanie Opperman, Editor

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

Joanie's Garden News This month, Susan Murphy and I went to Valek's homestead before Edith Valek's home is put up for sale. Her daughter, Susan, thoughtfully got in touch with our Garden Club and offered plants, cuttings and books to our club in memory of her mother. Edith was quite a gardener here on earth, loved her plants, knew each by name and where she got it. I also found out that Edith was the first women member of the Men's Garden Club. She is quite an example and her memory lives on.

The Titusville Men's Garden Club

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** _____