

The Bloomin' News

MAY, 2009, Vol. VI, 23

Steven Korpacz, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message By Steven Korpacz

Hi, Fellow Gardeners. I apologize for not having a message this month, as April was an incredibly busy month for us. Our next meeting will be this coming Monday, May 11th, at 6:00p.m. at New Peking Chinese Buffet, 725 N. Washington Avenue (U.S. 1). Hope to see you all there. Steve

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 6th at 11:00a.m. We will be having the Installation Luncheon (pot luck). Anyone attending needs to call so we have enough seating and food.

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: <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc/index/html>

Gardening Info: HGTV.com

Become a New Member!! 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

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. If 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 than 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 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.

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.

CAT'S CORNER

I have some Men's Club videos on YouTube.com channel, the latest one is of the Spring Sale 2009, in which granddaughter, Brooke, collaborated with her "Grammy" for her first video ever!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ngx-QIT3vp8>

A lot of goodies are happening at the Farm these days. Susan Murphy has brought cuttings and pretty flowers and has been potting up like mad. Burl has been hot on the dwarf mondo grasses-dividing and repotting. There is a whole bin of schefflera in the mist house waiting for root ball, also Mexican sunflower and weeping fig tips. Firespike rooted quickly, about 3 weeks, and has been potted and placed out. (Thanks to Fred and Rose.) Copperleaf rooted in about 3 weeks, and is potted. Do we have another source for that?

Crape Myrtles have taken a hard hit recently. There apparently was no water on them for a few days and they look bad. Susan said that tip cuttings can be taken from them which have to be about a foot long.

The tall oaks have been stressed badly for reasons unknown. The leaves are all brown and dry, but under the bark is still green. I would suggest we leave them in the corral and let them be. All the Bald Cypress look terrible as well, and I have no solutions there either.

Does anyone have Hibiscus cuttings to bring in? That corral looks bare.

Thanks to Tony and Emerson who have been repairing things in the Mist House. Last but not least, we need a couple more bins in the Mist House for propagation.

"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.



AT THE TREE FARM by Tony Koromilas

Thanks to Buck, the "Racks" look great and plants are being added by Burl and other. A bunch of oaks died, and we are not sure why. The South corrals are looking great, thanks to all the members and some volunteers. Sue, RoseMarie, Kathy, Susan, Joanie, Buck, Ed, Larry, Fred, Burl, Rick, Cat and Emerson, to name a few, have been spending lots of Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Farm. The North side needs work, and we will try to remove the Tabebuia that died. We desperately need **Gardenia, Croton, Firecracker, Bottlebrush, Majestic Hawthorne, Viburnum, variegated Schefflera, dark blue Plumbago**, and any other plants that bloom in October and April.

Please adopt these plants, and up-pot 1-gallon bushes to 3-gallon pots. Just tell Burl your desire and he can order plants. I will be making a Supplies Order, thus, let me know your requirements.

We would like to extend a big Welcome to some of our newer members.

Ed Rahn and Larry McKenzie are not so new any more, and are a big asset at the Tree Farm. Bill Jackson and Carmen Stevens are pretty new. Kyle Tonkins is a youth being sponsored by an adult. Please make sure to say hi and help them feel welcome.

Joanie's Garden News

I have been blessed to go out to the Tree Farm in the past couple months and observe all the work being done out there. The new "Racks" built by Buck and his crew are a far cry from what was there. Now a nice place to put young plants in trays before up-potting.

As to the Hibiscus corral—almost every Hibiscus was killed during this past winter. Among the weeds and dead growth, we have uncovered a few "survivors". We could indeed use a new generation of Hibiscus as we will have to start over from scratch. However, this is a very hardy plant, and will thrive at the Tree Farm.

I could use some help in cleaning up this empty area to get ready for new Hibiscus. Thanks.

Also, Kathryn, Larry and myself have been tackling the "Holly" bushes and trees. There are a lot, so suggest we try to organize according to size, and definitely get some ready to take to our Fall Sale.

I have noticed one corral of Podocarpus, and then another one started. Can these be combined to one corral and also readied for sale?

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

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 11th, 2009!!
6:00 p.m. At
New Peking Chinese Buffet!
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 16th 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 _____