

# The Bloomin' News

March, 2012, Vol. VI, 56

Dena Chemerys, Chairperson

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



## Chairperson's Message

Spring has arrived early and I am happy to report the farm looks fantastic! Fifteen yards of potting mixture has been delivered, most of the plants and trees have been labeled, and Buck reports the mist house will be ready for shade cloth in two to three weeks. Thank you to everyone who has been working so hard at the farm weeding, up-potting, fertilizing, and labeling plants in preparation for our Men's Garden Club **Spring Sale March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>**.

As you prepare your own gardens for springtime planting, I would like everyone to be mindful of God's creatures. To attract butterflies to your gardens butterflies need host plants to lay their larvae. Their favorite larval plants are: Hercules 'Club for Giant Swallowtail, Passion Flower for Zebra Long Wing and Gulf Fritillary butterflies, Swamp Milkweed for Monarch and Queen Butterflies, Sennas for Cloudless Sulphur, Water Dropwort for Black Swallowtail, and Sweet Bay for Tiger Swallowtail butterflies.

Nectar plants for butterflies include Black-eyed Susan, Milkweeds, Thistles, Butterfly Bush, Asters, Coneflowers, Daisies and Zinnias. Three of their favorite nectar plants are Pentas, Lantana, and Plumbago.

Food plants for birds include Mimosa, Silver Saw Palmetto, Prickly Pear Cactus, Sea Grape, Long Leaf Pine, Tough Bumelia and Dwarf Blueberry. Planting any of the plants mentioned above will not only make your yard beautiful but it will encourage butterflies, birds, and wildlife to visit your gardens. God Bless, Dena Chemerys, Chairman

## 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. In return for members' input/work, some plants are available at no cost. We meet at 7:00p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at the Garden Center on Sisson. For more information call RoseMarie: 385-9051.

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## Garden Club Web Sites

National Garden Club: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

Florida Federation of GC: [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org)

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

TMGC site: <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc>

## MARCH IN THE GARDEN

This has been a pretty mild winter with a couple freezes which caused some plant damage. The long range forecast does not predict damaging cold weather after March 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 CREPE MYRTLE or HIBISCUS, remember—strong branches will not grow from weak ones. Prune CREPE MYRTLE stems back to points at least 1/2" 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 superphosphate fertilizer such as Peter's 10-30-20 or Hyponex 15-30-15. CREPE 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 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 & follow label.

ROSES should be sprayed with 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, MARGOLDS, PETUNIAS, SALVIA, VERBENA and ZINNIAS.

### **W A N T E D-----HISTORIAN FOR OUR CLUB**

***ATTENTION MEMBERS: Please gather old pictures, newspaper clippings, articles or any other info regarding Men's Garden Club of Titusville, and bring to our next meeting. We are compiling this valuable information into archival format. Join us in this exciting endeavor! Questions: Joanie @ 480-8807***

### **Non-Insecticidal Control – Jeanie Huppert**

Insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils are available that are formulated for controlling insects and related pests. An effective, environmentally safe, general purpose spray against insects or mites attacking landscape plants is a soap plus oil mixture. These are commercially available, or can be homemade by mixing **2 TBSP vegetable cooking oil (corn, soybean, peanut or sunflower oil)** and **2 TBSP liquid dishwashing detergent per gallon of water**. Thorough coverage of the undersides of leaves is very important because the insects must be contacted directly by the soap and oil. Monitor plants and re-apply when needed.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in109>

### **TREE FARM NEWS – Tony Koromilas**

Thanks to Pat, Kathryn, Cathy Spencer, Patty, Ed, Marko, RoseMarie, Susan and Amanda and Others. We potted over 200 Bald Cypress Trees. Some trees will be donated to Titusville Blue Heron Sewer Plant Birding Area, and to school kids at Our Arbor Day that we have been doing for many Years. The rest will be sold at terrific profit. Awesome Team Work, thanks gardeners!!

### **Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter**

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meeting are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month; 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the Enchanted Forest on Rt. 405. The public is welcome.

<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/>

### **More Gardening Resources:**

**Florida Master Gardener**

<http://mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu>

**Gardening in a Minute**

<http://gardeninginaminute.com>

**Florida School Gardens**

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/schoolgardens>

**Florida-Friendly Landscaping**

<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>

**Solutions for your Life**

<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>

**EDIS**

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

**Univ. of Florida, IFAS Extension**

<http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu>

### **Titusville Garden Club – Day Group – from the Prez**

**The next meeting for the Women's Garden Club is:**

**March 7 – “Everything is Coming up Green”**

**Foliage designs from your yard.**

**March 14 – TGC Board Meeting**

**March 16 & 17 – Fantastic Sale**

### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR – Ann Wicks**

March 1 (Wednesday) Native Plant Society-Sea Rocket Chapter--Florida Trail Association Hike, Harmony Trail;

March 9th (Friday): 6:00pm. **\*\*Bat Chat!\*\*** The Green Marketplace; Cost is \$10 per person, \$15 per couple, or \$20 per family 321-890-6154

Titusville March 16th (Friday) March 17th (Saturday): Men's Garden Club Plant Sale

March 24th (Saturday): 9am-3pm. 6th Annual Florida Wildflower and Garden Festival, Deland

March 24th ( Saturday 9am-5pm) March 25th (Sunday 10am-4pm): Deland Outdoor Art Festival, Deland



**Titusville Men's Garden Club**

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

**Our next meeting is March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012!!**  
Instead of a speaker this meeting, we will spend our time talking and planning for our annual Spring Sale.

**Spring Tree & Plant Sale**  
Friday, March 16 -- 10:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.  
Saturday, March 17 -- 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

**GRAND OPENING --TWIGS 'N BERRIES NURSERY**

**300 Cheney Highway, Titusville, FL 32780**

**Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00a.m.**

**The Mayor of Titusville will be there for**

**"Ribbon Cutting Ceremony"**

**We all wish Steve Korpacz and his family**

**great success for many years In their new location!**



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**BERRIES – Jeanie Huppert**

It's pretty disappointing to come home with fresh, scrumptious berries only to find them rotting and covered in mold just a few days later. Cook's Illustrated says a little vinegar solution can keep that fuzzy mold off your delicate berries and extend their life. The vinegar and water solution destroys bacteria and mold spores, helping the berries last longer. Here are the instructions for the best way to wash, dry, and store berries:

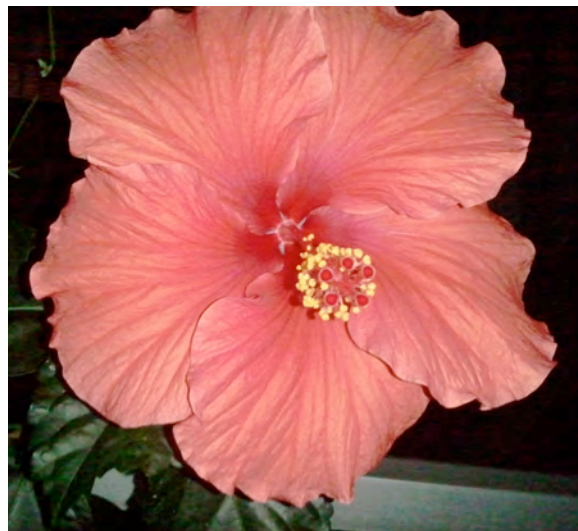
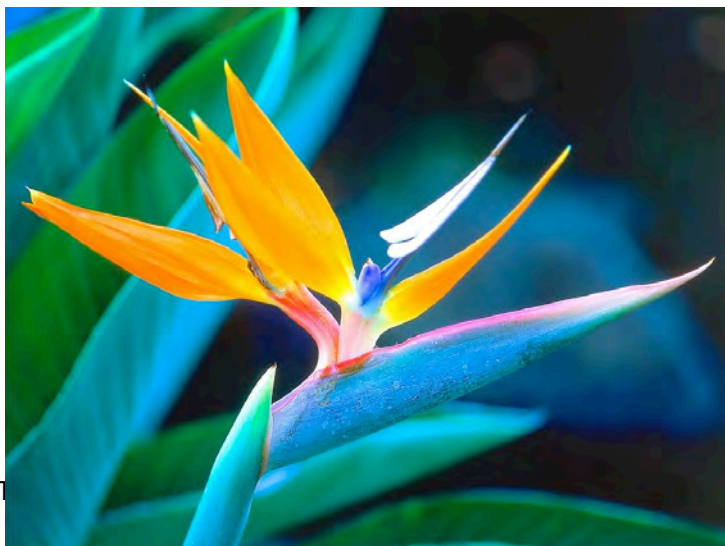
1. Wash berries in bowl with 3 cups water mixed with 1 cup white vinegar. Drain in colander and rinse under running water.
2. Place berries in salad spinner lined with 3 layers of paper towels. Spin for 15 seconds or until berries are completely dry.
3. Store berries in paper towel-lined sealable container, keeping lid slightly open to allow excess moisture to escape.

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**Joanie Opperman, Editor**

**Email: [freddiefla@yahoo.com](mailto:freddiefla@yahoo.com) Phone: 480-8807**



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**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**

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**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_