

The Bloomin' News

JULY, 2012, Vol. VI, 60

Dena Chemerys, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone,

First, I want to report that my health issue with TMJ is much better. It has limited my talking, and I am still not able to chew, but I am on the mend. Thank you to Kathryn Woidtke for conducting the meeting in my absence, and to Lisa Dugowson who had to fill in as secretary for Kathryn. I received a lovely get well card from our members, Thank You!!

We are all getting some much needed rain, but along with that comes the weeds!!! I went down to the farm one afternoon last week and the Mist House is still a work in progress. Hopefully now that the rain is over the shade cloth can go up next week. The nut grass is trying to take over our dirt/soil mixture and our mulch from Mocking Bird. I've been told that has always been a Florida problem.

Everyone has been so busy up-potting and weeding, but we still need to focus on cleaning up. The area under the big shade tree where we keep our plastic pots needs a makeover. Maybe one of the men could weedeat at the ends of the rows in the nursery. I see the city has done a great job of mowing and it looks great. They always come through for us.

We are still kicking around ideas of how to make new boxes for the Mist House. Unless one of our guys gets creative, we will always have small roots coming through the screen on the bottom, or roots sitting in water in bins. Any ideas?

Steve is still working on getting Tom MacCubbin as our speaker in July or August, but has a rain barrel presentation as backup if he can't get him. Welcome to our newest members. Thanks to our refreshment committee, and to our guest speaker on Growing Apples in Florida.

At our August meeting be prepared to discuss our attendance at the Landscape Show. Leland and I have the "TO DO" list which we use each year so volunteers can sign up for the task of their preference. We will also hand out sign up sheets for our fall plant sale, regarding who is attending, and what job they will be available to do. We had a huge success in the Spring and hope for a repeat at the Fall sale. Thank you to Joanie, our Editor who keeps everyone in the loop!! Happy fourth of July, and happy gardening, Dena Chemerys, Chairman

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.

CRAPPE 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 a summer oil home citrus spray which will help control mites, scale and whitefly. Use Natural or Organic sprays.

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

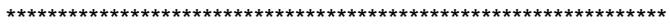
mulch layer to flower beds to conserve moisture and control weeds.



Accentuate With Annual Flowers



Annual flowers are the candy of the gardening world. They kick things up a notch in the garden and are an easy way to add a burst of color if you're on a budget. One of the best uses for annual flowers is to brighten up high-traffic areas like mailboxes, sidewalks, and front doors. Whether in containers or in the ground, annual flowers provide a way to add something new without breaking the bank. And, because annuals generally grow for just one season, they're a great way to try new color schemes and combinations without fully committing.



FEEDING WITH COMFREY - Jeanie Huppert

Comfrey is a plant that is grown to make a green manure. It really is the true gardeners secret ingredient and that is why it is worthy of mention here. Comfrey is very easy to grow. It is a deep-rooted plant that produces lots of lush top growth. The seeds are easily obtained from garden centers or on line. It has been proved that comfrey contains high levels of the basic NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium) nutrients, drawn up from the deep by its extensive root system. This NPK mix makes it an ideal fertilizer for many vegetables but especially so for tomatoes.

Comfrey is the true gardeners secret ingredient . Grow it yourself and turn it into a fantastic fertilizer. Tomatoes grown in the ground will benefit from a mulch of wilted comfrey, and this will then provide a slow release of NPK into the soil as the plants get away. The same can be done with your greenhouse tomatoes in that wilted comfrey leaves can be placed onto the compost under your plants.

You can make your own comfrey fertilizer by growing the comfrey yourself. Once the plant has established it can be cut back to within a few inches of the ground. It will grow again quickly, which means that you can re-cut it up to 5 times per year. Once the leaves are harvested all you have to do is simply place them in a bucket with a lid and weight them down with a couple of bricks. Place the lid on the bucket and leave the leaves to rot down. After a couple of weeks you will be left with a thick black liquid (it can be a bit smelly but it will be properly organic!) that can be watered down 15:1 to produce your own organic liquid feed. The benefit is naturally a long term one that will give you a constant supply of free plant food throughout the growing season at minimal cost. (Excerpt from "How to Grow Tasty Tomatoes" by Oliver Ramsey)

TREE FARM NEWS – Tony Koromilas

Congratulations to all the folks loading up the Mist House with all those propagating plants.

The new carts and wheelbarrows look great!! John made a stencil to paint our name on them. Tables were made for some of the working areas, which is awesome!

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group -

(Resumes in the fall)

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 ENCHANTED FOREST on Hwy. 405. The public is welcome.

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

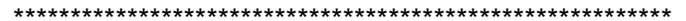
Garden Club Web Sites

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>



COMMUNITY CALENDAR – Ann Wicks

Ella P. Wood Award:

Deadline for Nominations is September 30 each year for the Ella P. Wood Award. It recognizes a person, Group, or Garden Club whose workers have improved, enhanced, and added beauty and visual quality to Florida's Interstates, U.S. and State Highways while emphasizing the beneficial use of native shrubs, trees, and wildflowers. Contact Lana Arnold at 850-509-7758 for information.

Master Gardening Event

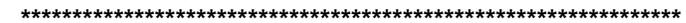
Friday, July 27, 2012 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Description: Master gardeners answer questions about plants, pests, diseases, etc, in this open house held each Friday from 10:00am-1:00pm.

Location: Cocoa Beach Library, 550 North Brevard Ave., Cocoa Beach Room: Captain's Room

Contact:

For more details contact Marion Anderson: 784-1874



July 14 – Open Gardens & Sizzling Summer 9-3

Free – Tropical Ranch Botanical Gardens

1905 S.W. Ranch Trail, Stuart (772)283-5565

July 14 – Mango Festival & Tasting

Valkaria Gardens, 8205 Babcock St

[Grant-Valkaria \(321\)733-1333](http://www.valkaria.com)

July 28 – Plant Sale & Tour

Floridana Tropicals – 6630 Floridana Ave.

Melbourne Beach (321)403-0481

Shrubs, trees, palms, natives, more

The Titusville Men's Garden Club

Next Meeting: 2nd Monday of Month, 2012 -- 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 RoseMarie: 385-9051

Name: _____

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

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