

The Bloomin' News

MAY, 2013, Vol. VI, 70

Les Leckron, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message By Les Leckron

What a pleasure it is to be out in nature taking care of plants and learning how to cultivate, propagate, identify plants and maybe even harvest some edibles. It's been some years since I've been really active in this Club. I joined sometime in the early 1980's at the suggestion of Burl Ferguson, who was always looking for more hands to go with his saying "many hands make light work". I've seen many ups and downs of this Club, and I see it's on the Upswing! I'm so glad to see the Club members eager to learn about plants, willing to put in time and hard work for the organization, interested in helping our community, supporting our City, learning about each other and personally growing as we make our journey through life.

Just a brief bio of myself since some of you may not know me. I grew up in Waynesboro PA, the 4th of 5 children. Served in the U.S. Air Force as a Special Electronics Technician for AFTAC, spending a year on Ascension Island and then stationed at Patrick AFB. The last 33 years I've worked at KSC as a Test Engineer and then Test Engineering & Operations Manager for the Shuttle Program SRB electrical assembly and test. I was laid off on March 1st this year and looking forward to finding and returning to a job after taking a few months off. I've been involved in Boy Scouting since my sons started in Cub Scouts serving in many positions, and I'm presently on the Central Florida Council Executive Board as the Camping Committee Chairman. My wife, Nancy Leckron, has an Estate Liquidation business here in Titusville and many of you may know her from that. We have two sons who are adventuresome and independent. One son lives in Indiana with his wife and family on a small farm and is finishing up his Mechanical Engineering degree this December. Our other son lives and works in Denver, Colorado enjoying skiing, camping, mountain climbing, bicycling and anything in the great outdoors.

I'm looking forward to working with the other incoming club officers: Vice-Chairman, Kathryn Woidtke; Treasurer, Jim Ratliff; and Secretary, Emily Leithauser. I'm also looking forward to working with the Tree Farm Managers, the Committee Chairmen and each Club Member as we strengthen and bind our organization closer together.

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, plants are available to members at no cost. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings.

For more information, call RoseMarie: 543-8268.

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/tmqc>

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 CAMELLIAS for next year. Prune GARDENIAS after they finish blooming. If mites, thrips and/or scale are present, spray with 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.

*Azalea,
Camellia
& Gardenia*



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, MARIOLDS 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 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, MARIOLDS, PENTAS, PERIWINKLES, SALVIA, TORENIA, VERBENA and ZINNIAS.



Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

- May 1 – Installation of Officers
- May 1 – Annual Reports presented
- May 1-- Installation Luncheon

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 Rt. 405 in Titusville. The public is welcome. <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/Sea Rocket/>

For info: 321-264-5185

TREE FARM --Tony & Ed , Tree Farm Mgrs.

Thanks to all the weekday workers for having fun weeding, propagating, up-potting, separating the Azaleas, grass cutting, planting new varieties of many plants. We were super successful at our Spring Sale, and now we must replenish the Farm. We suggest that everyone identify their corral. Let's create a list of plants with their "Adoptee", with a backup person to help in case of emergencies. I am proposing a policy for taking plants when we work at the Tree Farm, which we should approve at our next meeting.

DRAFT POLICY

We will adopt Burl's idea that you can take what your labor deserves, after approval from a Farm Manager and the plant or corral adoptee who has been caring for the plant. We will very carefully control plants that were purchased with Club funds. More that one plant can be taken if you have propagated, grown from seed, used minimum resources and cared for the plants hoping to enhance your yard, etc.

No plants in front row can be taken because they are reserved for cuttings or propagating, etc. No plants can be taken if reserved for donation to the City or other non-profit environmental group. Obviously one can take plants where we have a huge excess or too hard to maintain, etc after we have advised and published a list or if they are in the disposed weed pile. Please send any comments or ideas before our May meeting.

KEEPING OUR POLLINATORS – Sharon Adams

One thing is very plain. If bees don't survive, we may not either. We need to care for our bees and do everything we can to protect them. Some bees live in ground.



You will see these on the DVD we can show when I speak to your group. Google Miner Bees and Green Bees. Keep in mind that poisoning your yard will also kill these desperately needed pollinators. One out of every three bites of food you take comes from bees. Once you get to know them, you will have fun watching them come and go.

There are humble, bumble homes, plans to make bee nests for Mason Bees, Honey Bees, and I just found a new easy one. Take an 8" clay pot, bury it upside down in a sheltered place with the hole on the top. Just before you "bury" it, put soft dry grass or moss in the bottom. I will take photos of ours to show at the meeting. If you



are successful, you will have made a Bumble Bee nest! Also, leave sheltered bare ground in a couple of places on your property for the Green and Miner Bees. This area can have a

few of their favorite plants. African Basil is always a winner.

Take some time to get on the web and see which flowers you like to attract bees. I have a whole edible yard, and will have almost no plums or nectarines this year due to no bees. When this happens in your yard, it really comes home that we need to protect them.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR – Ann Wicks

May 3-5 – Platinum Coast Orchid Society Show & Sale \$5.00, free parking. Kiwanis Island Park Gym, Kiwanis Island Park Rd, Merritt Island (525-7540)

May 9 - Grow your own Fruit-10am-11:30am \$10.00, UF-IFAS/Brevard County Extension - Palm Bay

May 9 - Tropical Veggies for Summertime Growing, 2:00--3:30pm \$10.00, UF/IFAS, Palm Bay

May 16 - Fragrance in the Landscape, 2:00--3:30pm \$10.00, UF/IFAS, Palm Bay

May 16 - Hise Farms--Open Saturdays 10am to 3pm 5465 Areca Pal St., Cocoa

May 17-19 - 2013 Wild Amelia Nature Festival, Amelia Island

May 18-19 Tropical Ranch Botanical Gardens, 1905 SW Ranch Trail, Stuart (772)283-5565 "Pinterest in the Gardens", free admission

May 19 Secret Garden Tour – Cocoa/Rockledge/ Merritt Island \$10 PH: 631-0501x203

Spring Sale By Dena Chemerys, Past Chairman

I would like to thank all of the members of our club for a successful sale! Thanks to Tony Koromilas, our Farm Manager, for all of your hard at the farm and sale, and for supplying



our give away trees to the children during both days of the sale. Thank you to Don Hawthorne for use of his motor home at the sale location. Thank you to Master Gardener Pat Kern for again staffing our Master Gardener Booth with information courtesy of Sally Scalera and the University of Florida. What a valuable service she has provided to our customers. Thank you to Janice Wagoner for making so many of our sale signs, and for renting our U Haul truck and driving it! Way to go Janice! Thank you to Dick and Ann Wicks for the donation of more than 100 plants for the sale. Thank you to Buck and Jayson for watering all of our plants during the sale. Thank you to Leland, Rose, Pat, Tony, Dick

and Ann who supplied the trucks/trailers so we didn't have to rent a second U Haul.

We want to also thank the following: LLOYD Lucas, who has loaned his yellow trailer to us for many years. We wish to thank the Management of Sears Town Mall for our Spring Sale location. Thank you to Pat Crannen from Titusville High School, who along with one teacher and four students, helped Leland and I load plants onto two trailers on Thursday before the sale. On behalf of the Club, our heartfelt thanks to them, the public, and the great City of Titusville for your support at our plant sales. Blessings Dena

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 13th, 2013

**April 27th Appreciation Dinner at Club House
Installing new officers**

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A BIG WARM WELCOME TO:

**Les Leckron, Chairman
Kathryn Woidtke, Vice Chairman
Emily Leithauser, Secretary
Jim Ratliff, Treasurer**

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**



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: RoseMarie @ 385-9051 or Joanie @ 480-8807

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Street: _____ City _____ Zip _____