

The Bloomin' News

MAY, 2014, Vol. VI, 82

Les Leckron, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message By Les Leckron

The Spring Tree and Plant Sale was once again a whopping success! Thanks to all who pitched in and made it happen! We had a good discussion at the April Monthly Meeting and noted several things to improve upon for the next sale. By the way – we are looking to identify the Leadership Team for the Fall 2014 Tree and Plant Sale! Please let me know if you are interested in Leading the sale – or give me recommendations of who would be our best candidates.

If you haven't noticed, changes at the Tree Farm took place over the last month! There is a new way to get into the farm (info sent out by email earlier) and we are fenced off from the Titusville City work areas. That's not a bad thing! Sometimes change is good! As discussed at our April meeting, now we have our own access and can organize evening and Saturday work days at the Farm! Might need some Mosquito Repellent toward dusk, but it would be cooler in the summertime! Enjoy some time at the Tree Farm – it's not a JOB and we aren't in this to make money, it's a labor of love, a time of fellowship and an opportunity to learn from each other. Please be considerate of each other and the plants each are cultivating. As discussed at meetings, when you want plants, coordinate with Ed, Rose Marie etc. at the farm since they know who is working on which plants and know what is available for personal use.

Thanks to each and every member for their contributions to the club. Not all of us get to spend time at the Tree Farm, but we certainly learn from each other and the world is a better place for what we do! Keep it Growing! Les

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. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. We meet at 7:00pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Garden Center on Sisson. For more information, call RoseMarie:385-9051.

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>

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 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.

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.

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 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.

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

May 7 – Spring Luncheon – Susie Carter

**Annual Reports presented
Annual Dues Deadline to FFGC**

VEGETABLES – Sharon Adams

Iron Lady Tomato is in the Gardens Alive catalog, and is the newest, greatest tomato for here! Also, they have Miragreen Peas, the absolute finest for here. This would be for next December for folks to have time to order and grow if they want. The tomato is resistant to “Septoria leaf spot”, early and late blight, our main problems here.

The garden club might want to grow them, but they are NOT listed as nematode resistant, so members would order Pacific Mustard seeds from Johnny’s and plant them now and later. You grow them, the bees like them and just before they go to make seeds you mow them and till them under. They are like the old VAPAM and kill nematodes in the soil. Two plantings now and in summer. They grow well and at any time would make a nematode-free garden bed. Along with Green Cure from Johnnys for powdery mildew on squash, cucumbers etc.

Also a “might be” remedy for spider mites; i.e., a cup of dark molasses per gallon sprayed on leaf undersides. They hate sulfur. You cannot spray sulfur in the summer But the molasses contains sulfur so will contain peach brown rot and will not burn the plants

TREE FARM

Thanks to all the weekday workers for having fun weeding, propagating, up-potting, & planting new varieties of many plants. We were super successful at our Spring Sale, and now we must replenish the Tree Farm for future sales and donations. A special “Thank You” to Buck for cutting the grass, disposing of recycled pots, etc and in general organizing our work area. THANKS, BUCK!



Here are some suggestions we might consider:

***Everyone identify their corral. *Let’s create a list of plants with their “Adoptee”, with a backup person to help in case of emergencies. *We should propose a policy for taking plants when we work at the Tree Farm. We can discuss and put some kind of plan into action at our next meeting.**

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR –

May 2-4 Platinum Coast Orchid Society Show & Sale, Admission \$5, Kiwanis Island Park Gym, 951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd, Merritt Island (525-7540)

May 3 - Central Florida Daylily Society Show & Sale, Free – Orlando Garden Club, 710 E. Robbins St (407-922-1435) centralfloridadaylilies.org

May 3-4 – Lake County Landscape & Garden Fair, Free, Discovery Gardens, 1951 Woodlea Rd., Tavares (352-343-4101)

May 9-11 Bromeliad Society of Central Florida, Orlando Fashion Square Mall (407-348-2139)

May 11 Free admission all day for Moms – Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave, Orlando (407-246-2620)

May 17 – Spring Festival, Free adm & parking, Seminole Springs Antique Rose & Herb Farm, 34935 W. Huff Rd, Eustis (352-357-2643) www.roseandherbs.com

May 17-18 – Tropical Ranch Botanical Gardens, 1905 SW Ranch Trail, Stuart (772-283-5565) www.trbg.us

May 18 – Keep Brevard Beautiful Secret Garden Tour, Brevard County (321-917-2625)

June 21 – Save the Date for **“Art in the Lobby”** at Brevard County UF/IFAS Extension Office, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, showcasing the work of local artists, and hosted by the **Brevard Botanical Gardens**. An opportunity to mingle with artists who specialize in garden art, purchase items, enjoy beverages and snacks.....and have fun with other garden enthusiasts. \$10 admission, 6:00-8:00pm www.brevardbotanicalgardens.org
Call Joanie at 480-8807

Joanie's Corner

I have just watched a beautiful documentary on the Monarch butterfly. In October, they fly from Canada by the thousands on a 2,000 mile journey across the desert and the mountains to their final destination in Mexico. There they hang from branches so close together it boggles the mind, only leaving to eat and drink water. They hang suspended for 5 months. At a certain time only known to them, they fly to Texas, where they mate, lay 300 to 400 eggs, then die. Those eggs will hatch, and they will fly to Canada, where the cycle will continue.

Our State butterfly is the Zebra Longwing. The delicate adults may live for several months. Females deposit small, yellow eggs on young leaves and tendrils of Purple Passionflower. There are 2800 native plants and more than 180 species of butterflies. Cater to their life cycle needs by including nectar plants for adult butterflies and host plants for their larvae. Butterflies have 4 life stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis) and adult. By planting host plants, you provide food for caterpillars and can enjoy watching them grow and transform into adult butterflies.

P.S. I have heard that Monarch butterflies like Dill. So just planted some Dill seed; will wait and see.



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 12th, 2014

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Speaker:

The speaker for the May meeting is a UK University Trained Arboriste with 15 years experience in UK, France and the U.S.

Simon Stratford will give a short presentation and a "hands on" demonstration on thinning, pruning and reshaping our trees and shrubs. Shaping and pruning has a big effect on how our plants will grow. So, let's make our gardens look really fabulous!! Make sure to get to this meeting and bring a friend or neighbor.

* * * * *

A BIG WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!!

- * Teri Quam * Roberta Tyner ***
- * Larry McKenzie ***

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

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.

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

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Street: _____ City _____ Zip _____