

The Bloomin' News

February, 2016, Vol. VI, 103

Duane "Buck" Cowen, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message – Buck Cowen

Hi, Fellow Gardeners.

Well, here I am back in your newsletter. It is amazing how good the Tree Farm looks. We are all doing such a good job, it makes it easy to keep up. I remember a time when the weeds were taking over. At this point in time, we have taken over! It shows in the overall look of the Tree Farm.

In preparing for the Spring Sale we must make our product look as good as we can. If you are at a box store check the plants and bring ideas back to the club. Some of the pots have three plants in them to look fuller. We should follow suit. Trimming should start as soon as we are sure there is no freeze in sight. In getting the reservation for the banner we were told that someone had already reserved the date. Sooo, I made an executive decision!! The Spring Sale will now be April 8th and 9th, instead of April 1 & 2. The sign will go up April 4th. In the overall scheme of things it shouldn't make a big difference.

It has been put on the floor of the club to move the meetings to the day light hours. We need input from everyone on this decision! If you can't make it to the next meeting, please let your ideas be known.

Every club member should be very proud of your club. We do have the best gardens in Titusville! We sure could use some more members, so ask your neighbor. You can never tell... they may be looking for a reason to get outside. Hope everyone has a successful day gardening. Just Me, Buck

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

This has been a good winter in our gardens. The cold snaps served to intensify Citrus color and harden most shrubs. Some plants have been damaged by cold, but none beyond recovery. Remember, cold spells are common in Florida during February full moons, and have occurred during cold winters as late as the second week of March.

Judicious pruning of cold-damaged plants can be done. Grape and Kiwi vines and all deciduous fruit and shade trees should be pruned in February, if not already done. Begin routine apple, peach, fig and similar tree spraying. Till and enrich sandy soils with organic matter. Complete transplanting bare root trees and shrubs as soon as practical. Divide and replant large perennials.

You can thin and prune dormant shrubs. **GRAPE MYRTLE** should be pruned. Remove all small, spindly stems from the base of the plant, and small shoots on the main stems. Thin to 3 to 7 main trunks to open up the plant. Prune stems up to about 1/2 inch in diameter.

GRAPE MYRTLE only blooms on new wood. Thin twigs will seldom produce big blooms.

ROSES can stand heavy pruning by mid-month. Cut vigorous



bushes back by 1/3 to 1/2. Remove all twigs and any branches that are dead, diseased, injured or thin and spindly. Shorten main canes and remove small twigs and older canes that have become too hard. Miniature **ROSES** should be pruned as you would a bush **ROSE**, but lightly. Vigorous varieties may need heavier pruning to keep them compact. Clean up as much of the cut foliage as practical. Add a new layer of mulch to cover old **ROSE** leaves and Black Spot spores.

Hedges can be pruned heavily and shaped. Keep the top of the hedge narrower than the bottom to allow sun to reach the lower branches. By the middle of the month, you can work your beds for annuals by removing old plants, checking soil for pH, and correcting, if necessary. Treat for pests, work in compost, mulch or other organic matter and, when needed, colloidal phosphate, other amenders and fertilizer.

By the end of the month, all except spring blooming trees, shrubs and vines can be pruned. Spring flowering plants should be pruned after they finish blooming. A good pruning now will shape the plants for much of the summer. Renew mulches to control weeds and conserve water.

By the end of February, you should fertilize all plants except your lawn. Citrus trees will need 1/2 pound per inch of circumference measured 6 inches above the ground. Shade trees will need 1 pound per inch when less than 6 inches in diameter, and 2 pounds for each

inch above 6 inches. Feed container grown plants monthly.

Major lawn care and fertilizing should wait until March. Repair winter damage. Spraying for weeds can continue. If crabgrass has been a problem, remove brown but surviving crabgrass and apply a pre-emergence herbicide by mid-month. Mow lawns as needed at the normal cutting height. Water normal lawns once a week.

If you did not start seed in January, start the seed now. Seeds started in trays or flats will grow rapidly and be ready to set out in March or April.

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, 444 Columbia Blvd (Hwy 405). The public is welcome. For info, please call: 264-5185

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

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

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. There are facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. We meet at 7:00p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Garden Center on Sisson. Drop by to visit and possibly join us. For more information call Joanie at 480-8807.

Planting & Care of Azaleas & Camellias - RoseMarie

This is a very good time of year to think about planting azaleas and camellias if you need to add to your landscape. Both of these plants are being offered in bloom at the local garden stores and garden club sales. It is easy to lump these two plants together because they require many of the same or similar cultivation practices. Azaleas, (genus Rhododendron), and Camellias (native to Asia) are both cold hardy and grow well here in Central Florida in the inland areas. Both require a low soil ph. 4.5-6.0. When the ph. is too high, the plant has trouble absorbing the micronutrients it needs. All azaleas require varying amounts of sunlight from filtered to fairly

bright depending on the variety. The Sasanqua

Camellia tolerates a fair amount of sun, while the Japonica prefers bright filtered shade. Total shade results in sparse foliage and



fewer blooms for both azaleas and camellias.

Azaleas have a very shallow root system and require consistent moisture but will not tolerate poor drainage. Because of this shallow root system, they can be transplanted more easily than camellias if sufficient care is taken and it is done at this cool time of year. Camellias do not require as much water after they are established and do not tolerate poor drainage either. They require water during times of drought.

Both require a specialized fertilizer containing sulfates designed for acid-loving plants. Azaleas prefer light and more frequent fertilizations during the warm months. Camellias do not need the frequent fertilization; perhaps twice a year and also lightly. Do not over fertilize, especially when first planted.

Azaleas often require pruning after blooming and pruning can be repeated up until the 4th of July. After that date, pruning will greatly lessen the amount of blooms. Camellias only need minimal pruning. Both require minimal care and do not have very many pests. Tea scale, aphids and spider mites are the main pests.

Popular cultivars of azaleas are: (large, vigorous, dense) Formosa-Magenta/ fuchsia, George Taber-pale pink with red blotches, Mrs. G.G.Gerbing-white, Southern Charm-pink . (Small) Fashion-salmon pink, Red Ruffles- bluish red

PENNY PINES PROGRAM--Joanie Opperman

It has been suggested to promote the correct information about Penny Pines. I apologize for not relating the exact info at our last meeting. Below are the true facts; thanks for supporting this very worthwhile cause:.

The Penny Pines Program was established in 1941 under the sponsorship of the San Francisco Sportswomen's Association to help restore forest areas devastated by forest fires.

It is called Penny Pines because in 1941 a seeding tree could be purchased for about one (1) cent. The program has grown into a nationwide project. Over the past 75 years over one million dollars have been donated by Garden Clubs, Women's Clubs, Men's Service organizations and youth clubs like the Boy and Girl Scouts and schools.

Today \$68.00 buys a one-acre Penny Pines Plantation of over 300 tree seedlings. The National Council of Garden Clubs has partnered with the USDA Forest Service in sustaining our national and urban forest through this reforestation and forest education program. This is an ongoing project and garden clubs throughout the United States contribute to the Penny Pines.

Planting sites are selected by the Supervisor of each National Forest. These Plantations provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, and shade for recreation.

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez
The next meeting for the Women's Garden Club is:
February 3rd – Honoring Past Presidents & Name that Plant – Cathy Spencer
February 12th & 13th - Plant Sale
(Start collecting items for Fantastic Sale.)

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB SALES:

Women's Garden Club Plant Sale – Feb 14 & 15
At Garden Club on Sisson Road
Men's Garden Club Tree/Plant Sale – April 8 & 9
Tree Farm, Titusville
Brevard Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale
3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa (633-1702) –April 9th (9-2)
Brevard Tropical Fruit Club– April __ (8am-4pm)
Field next to Melb. Auditorium on Hibiscus
www.brevardtropicalfruitclub.org

TREE FARM NEWS –

Thanks to all who help at the Tree Farm--it continues to look great!

We will be buying liner plants soon for eventual sale and beautification of our City

It is time for all of us to propagate, using cuttings and hoping that the weather cooperates. Just bring your favorite cuttings to the mist house. Trays are crying for adoption--just put your name on them. We need variegated Schefflera, Red Maple seeds, Gardenias, Fig, Mulberry, Pomegranate and many others. Please remember that the front row plants of Tree Farm are reserved to take cuttings--just have fun trimming, cutting, dipping in Root-tone, and placing in the vermiculite and perlite trays. Voila!! roots will erupt if you are patient.

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Winter Red Wheat Berries - RoseMarie

The winter red wheat berries that we tasted at the luncheon served at the club house after Tony's funeral were delicious. It was explained to us that the wheat (in Greek culture) is symbolic of rebirth or life after death. The wheat plant lives, bears the seeds and dies, but the seeds can sprout and there is new life.

The wheat kernels are pleasantly nutty and chewy and are a wonderfully nutritious snack or topping for salads. They can be used in soups and stews as one would use barley etc. The wheat can be purchased at the health food store on Washington Avenue here in Titusville for approx. \$2.00 per pound.

Joanie Opperman, Editor
Men's Garden Club of Titusville
Bloomin' News
freddiefla@yahoo.com 321-480-8807

To prepare them, you can soak them overnight as you do for beans to shorten the cooking time. Cover them in water and cook as you would rice or barley etc. (Approx. 45 min.) but keep checking for desired doneness. Season with a pinch of salt and a little olive oil while still warm. I also add small amount of balsamic vinegar. Can be refrigerated for a week.

TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

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

Our next meeting is February 8th, 2016!
Come join us!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR –

Feb 17 – Leu Gardens Seed Swap (9am-noon)
Trade or donate extra seeds for free admission
1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando (407-246-3622)

Winter Yard Work – Joanie

*Check vegetable garden for any diseased, infested or old & non-producing plants and remove them. Add organic matter like compost or aged manure to enrich the soil for new plantings.

*Add new mulch to landscape areas where the mulch is less than 2 inches deep. Be sure to keep the mulch away from the stems or trunks of the plants.

*Mid-month is good time to prune Rose bushes. Choose 4-5 main canes to form new shrub & prune off the others. Cut main canes back a third of the way.

*Prune Poinsettias back to about 2 feet from the ground. Apply 1 to 2 tsp of Epsom salts to supply Magnesium.

*Flowers to plant: Alyssum, Dianthus, Pansy, Petunia Nasturtium, Phlox, flowering Kale & Snapdragons

*Herbs to plant: Basil, Comfrey, Chives, Dill, Fennel Parsley, sweet Marjoram, Mint, Sage and Thyme.

We welcome our newest member:

David Gilpatric
915 Lois Lane
Titusville, FL 32780
Ph: 714-219-3497

David_gilpatric@comcast.net

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: RoseMarie @ 385-9051

Name: _____

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

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