

The Bloomin' News

May, 2020, Vol. VI, 148

Alan Howland, Chairman

Thomas Perez, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

Hello members,

Thank you to the members who continue to check on the tree farm during this time of duress. Since we are considered a farm we are considered an essential service. The volunteers that do come out are practicing strict social distancing. Although things are a little slow at the moment I will say we did receive an order of 280 small plants from Liner Source during the month of April. These plants included Corty Line Red Sensation, Crotons both Mammy and Petra, Pineapple Guava and Podocarpus. Thank you all members who painstakingly up potted these plants. Also during the month Tom, George and myself salvaged some metal siding that easily was worth over \$700. We are going to use some of this material to build an extension on our shed.

Reminder, member dues are due May 1st, however, considering circumstances we will extend that date to May 15th. Dues are \$30 for an individual and \$50 for a couple per year. The monthly meeting scheduled for May is still not definitely going to happen. We are in a wait and see mode.

I have noticed plants at the farm being eaten by the small black grasshoppers that come out each year. If you find plants that are being munched on then I have come up with a concentrated garlic spray to deter them.

As you know we are very fortunate to changed this years spring sale to March, before the Corona virus assault. We had an amazing spring sale. Once things calm down we can plan on an appreciation dinner. Please let us know if you have any ideas. That's all for now. Alan

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. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. We meet at 9:30a.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Tree Farm behind Stuart Park. For information, call Rose at 321-289-8388.



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 dieback from winter damage. 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. 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.

VEGETABLES – by Sharon Adams

Iron Lady Tomato is in the Gardens Alive catalog, and is the newest, greatest tomato for this area! They also have Miragreen Peas. This would be for next December, for folks to have time to order and plant. The tomato is resistant to “Septoria leaf spot”, early and late blight. 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 Johnny’s 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. The molasses contains sulfur, it 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, and in general organizing our work area. THANKS, BUCK!

Tree Farm Announcement: We need members to get their work out of the mist enclosure area so that it can be refurbished. In the future, to keep track of what goes into the mist area, we would like to have pots labeled with the plantings ID, the date, and name of member.



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

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: 264-5185 <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/>

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May – Merritt Island, Kiwanis Island Park, 55th Annual Orchid Sale – is cancelled this year. (321-626-0686) www.platinumcoastorchidsociety.org

For more information on local events this month see: <http://nbbd.com/events/>

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.



Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am.
“At the Tree Farm” next to Stuart Park
1230 Thoreau St

The public is welcome to join us.

**Our next meeting may still
occur with social distancing on
May 12th, 2019**

The Bloomin' News

Titusville Men's Garden Club

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**Please send your articles to
be included in next month's Bloomin' News.**

The Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meetings are on the Second Tuesday of the Month at 9:30 a.m.

Location: "At the Tree Farm" next to Stuart Park, 1230 Thoreau St

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 Tuesday of each month at 9:30 p.m. at "the Tree Farm" next to Stuart Park, 1230 Thoreau St. near the Titusville Water Maintenance Facility. The Tree Farm is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, our workdays.

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. Members adopt trees and plants to grow and have fun. Member dues are \$30 for individuals and \$50 for a couple per year, and are due in April.

Send application below to Titusville Men's Garden Club, P. O. Box 1783, Titusville, FL 32780.

For more information phone Rose at 321-289-8388.

Name: _____

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

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