

The Bloomin' News

July, 2021, Vol. X, 5

Alan Howland, Chairman

Thomas Perez, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Fellow Gardeners,

Hurricane season is upon us so let's use every opportunity to keep things organized around the farm. Please pick all loose items that may shift in the wind. Thank you to all who helped in the renovation of our enclosure. We now have the grill running and ready for use. The refrigerator pad has been poured and we will be finishing the floor in the next few weeks. Members have been busy planting parent plants on the north side of the farm and I must say they look good.

We are still working at setting out our first beehive in the north area. Currently we are in talks with a man interested in joining the club and starting a hive. I talked to him a few days ago and he is beginning a mentorship with another experienced beekeeper in the area. Therefore, we expect to have our first hive by the end of the year.

August is coming fast and you will start seeing a flurry of activity with the planting of vegetable seedlings. We hope to plant enough to sell to the public at the October sale. If you have any other ideas about planting seeds for the sale then please let us know. Regards, Alan

JULY IN THE GARDEN

June has brought some 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.

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. 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, spray/granules. Follow label instructions.

GRAPE 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. 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 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, PERI-WINKLE, 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.

TREE FARM NEWS –

Mist house has lots of propagated plants ready to up-pot then be placed in shaded area or proper corral. Great job and thanks to those who started cuttings.

PLANTS THAT REPEL MOSQUITOES

***Lemongrass:** Mosquitoes hate the lemony scent of this plant. With some patience, you can easily grow this in your garden. Lemongrass prefers good drainage and full sun. This tropical plant does not tolerate freezing temp.

***Marigold:** Besides mosquitoes, this plant can also repel aphids; companion plant for vegetable garden. Collect seeds for next year's planting. Never rub on your skin! (to be continued next month)

Community Calendar

Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meetings will start up again in September. For information on the planned monthly evening walks and field trips go to their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/searocketchapter/>

The ENCHANTED FOREST is on Hwy 405 in Titusville. For Info: 321-264-5185

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

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

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>

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9 am.

“At the Tree Farm” next to Stuart Park

1230 Thoreau St

Our next meeting is July 13th

The public is welcome to join us. Work at the Farm is conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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. For more information, please call Rose at 321-289-8388.

Joanie's Corner – Rain Lilies

Rain lilies are plants with dainty, funnel-shaped blooms that pop up overnight after a heavy rain. The flowers of this member of the amaryllis family come in subtle shades of white, yellow, pink, or red. The narrow, grass-like foliage of rain lilies blends in well in rock gardens and borders. In containers, they do best when crowded.

Rain lilies can be cultivated in the garden and will flower spring through fall if kept alternately wet and dry. They overwinter easily throughout the state. Rain lilies prefer full sun to part shade and do best in moist, well-drained soil.

You can transplant rain lilies, or you can purchase some of the small bulbs to plant. They're very low maintenance, and their delicate blooms will surprise you when they appear!



Titusville Men's Garden Club

The Bloomin' News

Thomas Perez, Editor;

Email: ntssservice@gmail.com

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

Tree Protection Ordinance by Kay St Onge

Current Titusville regulations allow developers to remove 90% of vegetation in proposed developments. 1400 acres are currently being developed, and 4800 are available for development. The Titusville Tree Team was formed in 2019 to urge Council to adopt a Tree Protection Ordinance to prevent clear cutting.

City Planners drafted an ordinance to require tree canopy preservation of 15% of a residential or commercial development, with planting to equal 25%. But, as the City-wide tree canopy is 37.5%, staff's recommendation would lead to a decrease in overall City canopy. Both the Titusville Environmental Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommend increasing staff's 15% tree preservation to 25%, with plantings to either 30% or 37%.

The advisory boards recommend that trees be preserved in Tree Preservation Areas owned by the HOA, not on homeowners' lots. This is important as regulations allow homeowners to remove any tree on their property post-development.

Other provisions being considered are that heritage trees could only be removed by developers with approval by the TEC. Planners define heritage trees as 46" dbh or larger, while TEC and P&Z recommend 32" dbh trees or larger be afforded this protection.

What can you do to help? Send public comment/ emails to city.agenda@titusville.com. Urge Council to adopt a Tree Protection Ordinance that will prevent clear cutting and preserve the maximum tree canopy possible for the benefit of residents, wildlife, the aquifer, and the Lagoon.

Attend the July 20, 5:30 Council Tree Protection Workshop and/or the August 10, 6:30 meeting.

August 10, Council will also review a draft Low Impact Development Ordinance to help preserve the Lagoon. We all know the Lagoon is in dire straits. Algae blooms have killed the seagrass, resulting in 300 manatees' starvation since January in Brevard. Low Impact Development is a stormwater management strategy that would limit bulldozing, recharge the aquifers and reduce discharge of pollutants into the Lagoon. The City has drafted a Low Impact Development ordinance, however it does not mandate the use of LID, which the advisory boards recommend.

After the recent 7.2 million gallon sewage spill which discharged an unknown quantity into the IRL, the Team urged the City to plant trees at Sand

Point Park to absorb nutrients from the spill. As a result, the City has allocated \$25,000 for 28 cedars and palms and citizens planted mangroves along the Lagoon. Thanks to the Tree Farm for growing these mangroves for the Marine Resource Council and to those members who helped plant them at the Park.

A strong Tree Protection Ordinance and a mandatory Low Impact Development ordinance can help preserve the natural resources of Titusville, making it a leader in green communities in our county. Thank you.

The Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm

Titusville Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville, FL 32780

Next Meeting: Second Tuesday of the Month, -- 10:00 a.m.
(@ "the Farm" Behind Stuart Park)

INVITATION TO JOIN THE TITUSVILLE GARDEN CLUB TREE FARM

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 10:00 a.m. at our Tree Farm near the Titusville Water Maintenance Facility, next to Stuart Park. 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.

For more information Phone Rose @ 321-289-8388.

Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm Application

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

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Street: _____ City _____ Zip _____