

The Bloomin' News

April, 2022, Vol. XI, 4

Alan Howland, Chairman

Thomas Perez, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

Fellow Gardeners,

We had a very good spring sale in March despite having a somewhat rainy second day. Everyone showed up and worked hard. Now comes the fun part, the appreciation dinner will be held on April 22nd between 5 and 8pm. The dinner will be held at the Harbor Point Condominium clubhouse in downtown Titusville. Could everyone please think about bringing a side dish and we will put together a list at our next meeting. The main dish will be provided.

Our next meeting, it will be held on Tuesday April 12th at 11:00am. Please note the time change, one hour later than normal. After the meeting lunch will be available.

Thank you to Louis for pressure washing the mist house and all the other structures. He spent many hours doing this. Thank you to Arve for installing new mist sprinkler heads in the mist house. Please start bringing in cuttings to propagate.

Let's see if we can fill the mist house with new cuttings to get a jump on the fall sale. We have been trying to purchase some new baby plants from Liner Source but the winter frost has damaged a lot of their inventory. Again, we need plants and cuttings. Regards, Alan

APRIL IN THE GARDEN

April is a busy month in the garden. Most plants are growing well. By mid-month, day temperatures will be up in the 80's and most nights will be above 65 degrees.

Replenish mulches to conserve moisture and keep weeds down.



AZALEAS have about finished blooming. Now is the time to continue a care program to assure good blooms next year. Feed each AZALEA with a good, acid-forming fertilizer at the rate of ½ cup per plant per month. Prune and trim large

AZALEAS, and pinch back branch ends until mid-June. AZALEAS, unlike most other plants, will branch wherever you cut them.

DAY LILIES are ready to start blooming. ROSES are growing rapidly. ROSES are heavy feeders and require frequent watering. Regular fertilizing every 2 weeks in our sandy soils is not excessive.

CAPE MYRTLES already have extensive new growth. An application of a Bloomer fertilizer every 2 weeks will assure more and larger blooms. Mildew is a common problem on both leaves and blossoms, even in full sun.

LAWNS should be fertilized now if you did not fertilize in March. Plug sod or seed to fill in bare areas in your lawn or to start new lawns. Provide sufficient irrigation, within water restrictions, to give your lawn an inch of water in any week your lawn gets less than an inch of rain. Cut Bahia and St. Augustine grasses 3 to 4 inches high. If grass clippings are left on the lawn, the grass should be mowed more frequently than when clippings are removed.

Move ORCHIDS to shady outdoor locations and feed every 2 weeks. Move tropical plants outdoors. Feed all container-grown plants.

Bulbs for April planting include ACHIMINES, AMARYLLIS, AGAPANTHUS, BLOOD LILIES, CANNAS, CALADIUMS, CRINUMS, DAHLIAS, GLADIOLI, GLORIOSA, GINGER and RAIN LILIES.

Warm season plants that will perk up flowerbeds include AGERTUM, ASTER, BEGONIA, BLUE DAZE, COLEUS, COSMOS, DAY LILIES, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PENTAS, PERIWINKLE, SALVIA, VERBENA and ZINNIA.

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>

THE PINEAPPLE – Steve Korpacz

Have you ever tasted homegrown PINEAPPLE? It is usually very sweet, much better than grocery store fruit. You can start by cutting the top off a PINEAPPLE, wait a day or two for it to harden off, then plant an inch or two deep in a rich, slightly acidic organic soil. You can leave some of the fruit on the edges of the top; the plant can use this for food until it becomes established. I like to start with a 6" x 6" pot, since the roots are not deep. I fertilize lightly and monthly with a liquid fertilizer like Miracle Grow or Peter's. Just pour onto plant and in crown too. Once the plant has become established, you can move it to a 3-gallon size pot, after 6-7 months.

In a 3-gallon size, you can fruit the plant once it has some size (18" – 24"). At 1 year old, I like to take a small piece of apple or banana and force it into the crown. As

this decomposes, it emits ethylene gas and forces the plant to fruit. You can harvest your first PINEAPPLE a few months later. You will know it's ready when you can smell it from 2 – 3 feet away. Just twist the fruit and it will detach from the plant, then you can start all over again. The PINEAPPLE can be propagated several other ways: slips, suckers, rations and crowns (described above). Slips arise from just below the fruit, suckers from the axils of the leaves and rations, which grow from the base. Slips and suckers are the preferred method of propagation.

A 5-gallon is all the plant will ever require as they don't have deep root systems. I like container growing mine; it's easier to weed and to protect from cold weather. The PINEAPPLE is not cold tolerant at all. They will need protection. Give growing PINEAPPLES a try. The flavor of a homegrown PINEAPPLE can't be beat. **Keep it Green.**

Review of "The Mini-farming Guide To Composting" by Brett L. Markham

If you are trying to garden in Florida, you MUST understand the value of making and utilizing compost. Your soil can, and does, vary biologically immensely from one spot to the next in your backyard garden. This one fact alone dictates the value of raised beds where you as the gardener can mix your soil for maximum nutrients. By consistently adding organic matter, you will build the soil season after season, thus requiring less and less fertilizer, fungicides, and pesticides.

Nature is on your side. It's really hard to mess up compost so badly that you will get no compost at all. Nat
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or as a drench, we feel we have seen a significant improvement in our garden. The worm castings can also be spread in the beds for a wonderful organic fertilizer. By feeding the worms our kitchen compost materials, we also reduce the amount going to a landfill. For information on making your worm bin and raising earthworms, there are many videos on U-tube, or you can contact us and we will share the information we

have accumulated. We have a large number of ornamental and vegetable starts to trade or share. What do you have? We hope you will look forward to future articles about other aspects of our garden experiences such as Keyhole Gardening, Chokedamp, Living Walls, ideas for more sustainable living, and Hydroponics or Aquaponics.

TREE FARM NEWS -

Thanks again to all the folks who help weed and tend to plants trees and landscaping on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We have also been propagating in our new mist house, and request cuttings from your home; plants that we could be planting vs. buying. Mulberries from our tree are ready to enjoy! Try some!

"Looking Back" - Rosie

We have been given the opportunity to spend wonderful hours at the Tree Farm alongside friends who share the common interest of learning to grow and nurture plants. Everyone seems to put all social media behind them as they enjoy the fresh, plant-scented air, when the pollens aren't being a problem. The birds make the music and the cool breezes are so welcome to the sweat on our brows. I am very grateful for the fellowship I enjoy with each member as I get to know them. I don't think a price can be placed on this wonderful opportunity to get to know and appreciate our fellow gardeners and friends.

Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter

For information on The Sea Rocket Chapter's meeting contact the Enchanted Forest at 321-264-5185. The Enchanted forest is located at, 444 Columbia Blvd (Hwy 405). The public is welcome.

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



New Members! YOU are welcome!

We have opportunities for learning at our monthly meetings, at the Tree Farm and at special events. There are facilities to start plants from seed/clippings. We have a membership meeting at 10:00 am on the 2nd Tuesday each month at the Tree Farm, behind Stuart Park. For more information, call Rose at 321-289-8388.

**Just a Friendly Reminder!!!
Our yearly Membership Dues are
Due in April!
Please give to Treasurer
At the Tree Farm on Tues or Thurs or
At May's meeting!!**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Jennifer Haas
Rick Corbett
Lea Karpowich**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April “Spring Fever in the Garden”, Check their website for information <http://www.springfeveringarden.com/>

**April 29th - Brevard Tropical Fruit Club – Fruit Tree Sale. (8am to 4pm) at Melbourne Auditorium, South-East lawn
625 E. Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne**

**May Annual Orchid Sale - For information on this years contact (608-575-6005)
www.platinumcoastorchidsociety.org**

The Bloomin' News

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Tom Perez, Editor; 240-285-6189

Email: tntsservice@gmail.com

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

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

The Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 am.

“At the Tree Farm” next to Stuart Park
1230 Thoreau St

The public is welcome to join us.

Our next meeting will be

April 12th, 2022

(Exception to the rule the meeting this month will start at 11 am.

The Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm

Meetings are on the Second Tuesday of the Month at 10 am.

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

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 enjoy.

How We Operate: We presently sponsor a March 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 Garden Club Tree Farm, P. O. Box 1783, Titusville, FL 32780.

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

Name: _____

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

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