

The Bloomin' News

August, 2013, Vol. VI, 73

Les Leckron, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairperson's Message – Les Leckron

These “growing” months of summer just fly by! Hope you are having fun taking care of your plants and propagating them to get more! I have had tremendous success with Crotons in the mist house at the Tree Farm. Now I have to get the little rooted guys into pots so they can continue to grow! If you haven't tried propagating in our mist house – it's a real treat! Susan Murphy can give you great tips on how to successfully start plants in the mist house. Thanks to Ed Rahn for agreeing to be the Chairman of the Fall Tree and Plant sale! Of course, Ed will need and get lots of help from all of us to make this a “tree”-mendously successful sale. My expectation is that the planning will be done outside our regular meetings and Ed will be able to report on who has agreed to do specific tasks for the sale – that way we won't need to spend so much time at our regular meetings on details of the sale. Thanks to Kathryn Woidtke and RoseMarie Peurrung for speaking on Herbs at our July meeting! Very informative and we had some Herb Based snacks they provided! We are planning to have a speaker again for the August meeting so hope you can attend! If you have suggestions or know people who would be good speakers, please let Kathryn know so she can get them scheduled. Have fun growing and learning and I'll see you at the August Meeting! Les

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

July has been a hot month with a fair amount of rain. August will be as hot and hopefully bring as much or more rain.

Shrubs, flowerbeds and lawns need at least one inch of water per week to grow well during our hot weather. A good rain gauge can save much watering. If you do not get ½ inch of rain during each 3-4 day period, you should water to bring the total to ½ inch. Normally, plants in hanging baskets and pots will require daily rain or watering. Large hanging baskets and large potted plants in the sun may require two or more waterings a day.

You can make it easier on yourself if you prune most large shrubs. Groom trees and shrubs removing lanky, unsightly summer or storm damaged growth. Pruning will reduce the plant's water requirement, stimulate new growth, and make your shrubs and trees more compact and bushier. Prune declining CRAPE MYRTLE flower heads to reasonably large stems before seed pods form to encourage continuing bloom. Prune POINSETTIAS by the end of August for the best displays. Repot plants that are pot bound. Trim overgrown pots. Renew mulches to save water and help control weeds. An August application of 6-6-6 with minor elements, or a similar fertilizer, will set shrubs, trees and annuals for September growth. Wait until next

year to prune AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS and GARDENIAS. Pinch out the tips of CHRYSANTHEMUMS to produce compact plants and increase blooms. Palms planted during our rainy season establish quickly.

Divide overgrown bulbous and tuberous type plants, such as AMARYLLIS, BIRD OF PARADISE, DAY LILIES and CRINUMS now or in September. GLADIOLAS planted at 10-day intervals will bloom in about 3 months.

Seed thin Bahia lawns. Plug or sod bare or weedy areas in St. Augustine lawns. Lawn insects are quite active now: Sod Webworms and Chinch Bugs usually in St. Augustine, and Mole Crickets usually in Bahia.

Seeds can be started in August for transplants for fall and winter flowers. Try CALENDULAS, COSMOS, DIANTHUS, PANSIES, PETUNIAS and SNAPDRAGONS.

Hot weather plants for summer color include BEGONIAS, BLUE DAZE, CALADIUMS, COLEUS, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PENTAS, SALVIA, PERIWINKLES, VERBENAS and ZINNIAS.

* * * * *

**Titusville Garden Club – Day Group -
Will resume in the fall.**

* * * * *

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 Phone for info: 321-264-5185. <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/>

Palms – Angel Rivera

Phoenix roebellenii- Pigmy Date Palm. This is probably the most commonly used landscape Phoenix by homeowners, though it is also used extensively in commercial landscaping. This Asian palm originates from Laos, Vietnam and South China- very tropical climates for such a versatile hardy species. The wild form of this plant is a suckering, thinly crowned plant, sometimes referred to as *Phoenix roebellenii Reasoner* in cultivation. However, the most commonly encountered forms of this species in cultivation is as a solitary, more thick-stemmed plant with a thick, luxurious crown of soft, bright-light green leaves. It is interesting that though most cultivated plants are solitary, they are often planted in clusters of individuals giving one the impression that they are indeed clustering palms; however, the clusters of individual palms are still less intensely clustered than the true forms get. The native forms sucker very profusely and eventually form massive thickets of shrubbery, full of twisted, gnarled stems. It is a less than ornamental palm in its original form. The cultivated *Phoenix roebellenii* grows to about 10' or more in height and has a fiber-coated to naked trunk about 6" in diameter. Leaflets are distinctly soft and droopy though the leaf bases still retain some viciously spiny modified leaves, so care needs to be taken when pruning.



I copied this article from a website called Daves's Garden here is the Link

<http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/529/>



The key to preventing moldy berries...

Berries are delicious, but they're also kind of delicate. Raspberries in particular seem like they can mold before you even get them home from the market. There's nothing more tragic than paying \$4 for a pint of local raspberries, only to look in the fridge the next day and find that fuzzy mold growing on their insides.



Well, with fresh berries just starting to hit farmers markets, we can tell you how to keep them fresh! Here's a tip on how to prevent them from getting there in the first place:

Wash them with vinegar.

When you get your berries home, prepare a mixture of one part vinegar (white or apple cider probably work best) and ten parts water. Dump the berries into the mixture and swirl around. Drain, rinse if you want (though the mixture is so diluted you can't taste the vinegar,) and pop in the fridge. The vinegar kills any mold spores and other bacteria that might be on the surface of the fruit, and voila! Raspberries will last a week or more, and strawberries go almost two weeks without getting moldy and soft. So go forth and stock up on those pricey little gems, knowing they'll stay fresh as long as it takes you to eat them. *You're so berry welcome!*

TREE FARM NEWS- Tony Koromilas & Ed Rahn

We are moving plants to proper corral; Rose & Joanie are making a Location Inventory to identify plants, and to go to sale on Sept. 27 and 28 at Sears Mall. We may be taking surplus plants not in good shape for giveaway if club agrees .

We are trying to find a substitute toilet (camper or environmentally friendly type) to eliminate our \$800 fee for rental etc. Email ideas are welcomed.

An area with excess plants has been set up in the North area for members to take home. See ED or me. Be aware that farm is now open on Fridays because Titusville has stopped their furlough days. Thus, City workers will keep gate open (I hope).

Ed and I suggest that we up-pot lots of seedlings in mist house on Tuesdays and Thursdays to get them ready to sell. Thanks to all who have propagated all those plants in there crying to get out in the sun.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 10-11 (ORLANDO, FL)

Eco-Friendly Prepper Expo (emergency preparedness & earth-friendly products & services including tower gardens, heirloom seeds, rain barrels, classes on organic & sustainable gardening, more). Admission \$7 International Palms Resort, 6515 International Dr.

(407-536-6322) www.omproinc.com

August 17 (STUART, FL)

9-3 Open Gardens & Plant Sale. Free admission. Tropical Ranch Botanical Gardens, 1905 SW Ranch Tr. 772-283-5565 www.trbg.us

August 24 (Orlando, FL)

9-noon. Seed Swap. Bring your extra seeds to swap for new ones for fall planting. Put them in small packets with botanical and/or common name. Free. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave. 407-246-2620 www.leugardens.org

* * * * *

GROWING SWEET POTATO VINE

The ornamental Sweet Potato vine (ipomoea batatas) is attractive and easy to grow. It comes in a variety of colors from black to yellow green and is the same species as the table sweet potato. Leaves range from heart shaped to deeply lobed. It requires full sun and moderate water. Depending on the climate zone, it can be grown in the ground as a ground cover or in pots as patio plants. Though the tubers of these plants are not poisonous, they usually are not eaten because they are very fibrous. If the tubers are taken very small and young, they are less fibrous. Now is a good time to plant the table sweet potato vine. You may buy a sweet potato in the store and place it in a pot of soil. Most of the potato should be buried. Keep the soil damp and soon sprouts will be shooting up around the tuber. When these sprouts are about 4 inches high, carefully transplant them to their permanent growing spot. They should have a good root system by then. **RoseMarie P.**

WAX MYRTLE – RoseMarie Peurrung

The Wax Myrtle (Myrica cerifera) is an aromatic, evergreen, multi-trunked small tree that grows primarily in the eastern-southern part of the US. The waxy, bluish green berries, borne only on female plants, were used for candle making and soap making in Colonial times. It's deep green soft and shiny leaves contain a fragrant oil and can be used in place of bay leaves in cooking. As a tree it may get 20 ft. high. However it does not take well to shearing as a low hedge. It is often used for a soft and natural looking screening. The wood is soft and breaks easily.

Several birds depend on myrtle berries for fat and fiber in winter. They are the swallows, thrashers, wild turkeys, bluebirds, bob whites, quail, warblers, catbirds, and great blue herons. Myrtle thickets make good cover for wildlife like rabbits. These wildlife forms also spread the seeds.

Wax Myrtle is not fussy about growing conditions. Here in Florida it tolerates freezes very well. It grows in dry or wet conditions and clay, sandy or loamy soils. When grown in the landscape, they have an irresistible beauty.

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 August 12th, 2013!!

(You are welcome to come join us anytime.)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING 2013 EVENTS

Sept 21 – Edible Garden Festival & Sale
(Ag Center – Cocoa -- 9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m)

<http://ediblegardenfestivalsale.eventbrite.com/>

Sept. 19, 20, 21 - (FNATS) FNGLA
(Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Assoc)
(Orlando Convention Center)

Sept 27 & 28 - MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
Fall Tree & Plant Sale
(Searstown parking lot)



The Bloomin' News

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Email: freddiefla@yahoo.com Phone: 480-8807

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 Tony Koromilas 269-1931, Lisa Dugowson 264-6389.

Name: _____

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

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