

The Bloomin' News

JUNE, 2008, Vol. VI, 4

Lisa Dugowson, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Lisa Dugowson

Welcome to rainy season. It is officially hurricane season and a little rain would be wonderful. Hopefully most of our big jobs are finished in our gardens and we can enjoy the rain. If I seem a little obsessed you are probably right. I miss the rain!!! Thank you to everyone who has been braving the heat and doing wonderful work at the farm. If you haven't adopted a row yet, check with Burl to see which are available.

District VI Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, which we are a part of, is hosting the FFGC convention April 15 -17, 2009 in Daytona Beach and I hope we can all get involved. Our next meeting is Monday, June 9 at the Garden Center on Sisson Road. Please try to attend since we will be discussing the future direction of our club. See you there. Lisa Ldugowson@cfl.rr.com

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

We had our last meeting in May. However, we are in the planning stages for our 75th Anniversary Open House, to be held on Sunday, October 12th, in the afternoon. We will have more information in upcoming months.

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 Brevard County Agriculture and Extension Center, 369 Lake Drive, Cocoa. The public is welcome.

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.tmgc.djb.net/>

Gardening Info: HGTV.com

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. As a return for members' input/work, many plants are available to members at no cost. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. For more information, call Tony Koromilas: 269-1931 or Lisa Dugowson: 264-6389.

JUNE IN THE GARDEN

*Although May has been somewhat dry, June should give us more rain. In a normal year, we get about 7 inches, mainly as afternoon and evening showers. An unobstructed rain gauge can save guess work, and sometimes a good deal of watering. Our flowerbeds and lawn need a minimum of 1 inch of water a week in our hot weather. If you do not get about ½ inch of rain during each 3 to 4 day period, you should water until about ½ inch of rain and irrigation has been applied.

*Applying and/or renewing mulches and weeding will reduce water needs and help control summer weeds.

*The increased rain and higher humidity will increase Black Spot and Powdery Mildew on ROSES, CREPE MYRTLE, ZINNIAS and other similar plants. Start a weekly fungicide spray program. This will also help control Spider Mites.

*If you did not fertilize your lawn and Citrus in May, June is a good month to fertilize. Fertilize shrubs and flowers lightly with a 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 fertilizer every 3 to 4 weeks. If you have Bahia lawn, June is an excellent time to seed bare and thin spots. After sowing seed, apply a thin layer of soil. Water well and frequently when it does not rain.

*June is one of the most active months for Mole Crickets—the scourge of Bahia lawns. Follow label instructions when you begin spraying or putting out bait. Spray or granules of Baygon, Dursban or Diazinon are effective. Water well after application. Mole Cricket bait applied on a damp lawn in the evening is also effective. Mole; they are usually active on the surface after dark.

*Prune blueberry shrubs to shape them. Fertilize Bananas monthly. Harvest the stalk when the first row of bananas begins to yellow. Hang the stalk of Bananas in a shady spot to ripen.

*Pinch back the tips of bushes and shrubs to develop more compact plants. Use the cuttings to root new plants for our plant sale or plant drawings. Do not prune or pinch AZALEAS or GARDENIAS after the end of June, or you will sacrifice some of next year's blooms. If plants are not a deep, rich green, feed with Chelated Iron, Iron Sulphate and/or Manganese Sulphate. Manganese Sulphate will also cure "frizzle top" on Palm Trees.

*Root tip cuttings or CHRYSANTHEMUMS and POINSETTIAS – use 4 to 6 inch long cuttings with all the leaves left on the MUMS. Remove all but the tip leaves on the POINSETTIAS. When taking POINSETTIA cuttings, trim back each stem of the mother plant to 4 to 6 inches to keep plant compact.

*Fruit drop from Citrus and some other fruit trees can be expected this month. The trees shed the fruit they cannot support. To reduce drop, follow an established watering and fertilizer program.

*Brighten your yard with warm seasonal plantings of BEGONIA, BLUE DAZE, CALADIUM, CELOSIA, COLEUWS, IMPATIENS, MARI GOLD, PERIWINKLE, PENTA, PORTULACA, SALVIA, VERBENA, VINCA and ZINNIA. June is also a good month to plant DAY LILIES and RAIN LILIES.

Please send your articles to Joanie at freddiefla@yahoo.com to be included in next month's Bloomin' News.

"OLEANDER" NERIUM – by Elaine Schoch

I have great respect for Oleander because not only is it tolerant of salt spray, but also drought. Native to the eastern Mediterranean, they grow in Central Florida's full sun along the roadways with no care and little watering. They flourish in very dry conditions amidst exhaust fumes and heat radiating from the pavement. Oleanders make a great boundary along the property line if planted a few feet apart. White Oleander grow the fastest and highest. Pink, red and orange Oleanders are the hardiest to freezing temperatures as low as 15 degrees. This fast-growing evergreen shrub blooms between May and October, reaching up to 20 feet tall. It forms a rounded mound to about 10" wide. The dark green spear-shaped leaves range from 4" to 10" long, and new cultivars are variegated.

It is a tough, durable shrub, inexpensive and easy to grow. However, the toxicity rating is high. **All of its parts contain either the toxin Oleandrin or Nerioside, and are poisonous if ingested.** For example, 1 leaf, fresh, wilted or dried is enough to cause death in small animals and children. The characteristic poisoning symptoms are: nausea, vomiting, accelerated or retarded heartbeat and cardiac arrest. If your pets or children are in the

habit of chewing foliage, it might be wise to keep the Oleanders apart for your peace of mind.

One other hazard is during pruning because these plants put off a lot of sap containing a toxin called Cardenoid Glycoside. The sap is clear to slightly milky colored and sticky. To avoid possible poisoning when working with Oleanders, wash hands and arms thoroughly when finished.

All in all, yes, it's pretty. But should we have it at the Farm? What about the frequent visits we've had from youngsters at the Farm this year? Often our club members bring pets or grandchildren. This week we had a customer come to the Farm with her 3 and 5 year olds to purchase butterfly plants. The little girl had pollen under her nose and eyes from sniffing the Hibiscus bloom. For now, we probably shouldn't leave kids or pets unattended at the Farm in the Oleander area. The question is open to debate.

At the end of our last sale, I loaded up a customer's truck with Oleander. We gave her a really good deal on the green leaf, pink blooming type. She bought Oleander from us back in 2005, and knows the plants are poisonous. But this kind of customer is rare. Usually when I tell customers Oleander are poisonous, they pass on the purchase. "Oh, well, maybe I'd better not." Oh, by the way, the Oleanders need trimming. Any volunteers?

BURL'S CORNER

We got 91 Shumard Oak liners from the Liner Farm. I called Dave and explained that they were terribly root bound, with no leader on most of them (only side branches). Dave said he didn't see the shipment, but would give us credit for the shipment. So we have free Shumard Oaks, and hopefully can salvage some of them.

We also received 120 Dwarf Pomegranite that look great, and they have all been planted in gallon pots.

Our gang is doing a great job of weeding, thanks to Tony and his long table we use at the Tree Farm. We have a long way to go, but our system is working as long as it is not too hot.

Joanie's Garden News

APHIDS: I just wanted to report that Ivory liquid soap diluted with water in a spray bottle worked in getting rid of aphids on Hibiscus. Leave on about 5 minutes, then rinse with clear water. Apply in morning or late afternoon. Treat for couple weeks.

Also wanted to share some recent emails I've received that might be worth a try. I'm going to.

RED ANTS?? Try pouring 2 cups of CLUB SODA directly in center of fire ant mound. It suffocates the queen and other ants. The whole colony will be dead in 2 days.

MOSQUITOS?? Another inexpensive antidote. Put Listerine in 4 oz spray bottle and spray any area you see mosquitoes: around food table, seats, kids' swing area, standing water, etc.

BEE/HORNET STING?? Next time you get stung, put a penny on the bite and hold or tape in place for 15 minutes. The penny takes the sting out right away. The copper in the penny counteracts the bite.



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 June 9th, 2008!!

This will be a very important meeting. Please do all you can to join us at 7:00 p.m. Thanks.....Joanie

Work Day

Please remember that the **Saturday** after our Monthly Meeting is a day of concerted effort at the Tree Farm. Individuals put in many hours during the week at their convenience, and this is very necessary for continued success. We also have some tasks that need teamwork to accomplish. This work is the focus of our Saturday events.

Saturday Work Date:
June 14th @ 8:30a.m. to

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Titusville Men's Garden Club
Joanie Opperman, Editor
Email: freddiefla@yahoo.com Phone: 480-8807

The Titusville Men's Garden Club

Next Meeting: 2008 -- 7:00 p.m.

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** _____