

The Bloomin' News

August, 2008, Vol. VI, 14

Lisa Dugowson, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Lisa Dugowson

Last month's program was an informative presentation by Kathleen Burson, a local landscape architect. She had wonderful suggestions for planting natives in your landscape. She also recommended some good trees to use, many of which are growing at the Tree Farm, including Dahoon Holly, Florida Elm, Geiger Tree and Loblolly Bay. Be sure to work in your garden in the cooler parts of the day now that the heat and humidity are upon us. Don't forget to drink plenty of water. Please join us on August 11th for another wonderful program. Our speaker will be Elizabeth Melvin, Community Outreach Specialist for Brevard County, who will be discussing Rain Barrels.

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.

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. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. Back page of newsletter has additional information. Drop by to visit and to possibly join us. For more information, call Tony Koromilas: 269-1931 or Lisa Dugowson: 264-6389.

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. Feed weekly with 10-30-20 or similar fertilizer. 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.

“Weed-Blocking Flowers” – by Elaine Schoch

When planting groundcovers to suppress weeds, the strategy of “the more, the merrier” holds true. Some plants that give weeds no room to move in are MOSS PHLOX, THYME and SPEARMINT. But, there’s also taller helpers that grow to 2 feet tall. GOLDEN FLEECE is a dwarf GOLDENROD that is exceptionally stress tolerant. It has dark green foliage and bright yellow flowers throughout the summer into early fall. Native to North America, dwarf GOLDENROD brings even more color to your garden because it attracts butterflies.

For full soil coverage, set plants in the ground 9 to 12 inches apart. Some light weeding may be needed at the start until their foliage fills out. CREEPING THYME, OREGANO and SPEARMINT are vigorous spreaders, forming a compact mat at ground level which thickens again in early fall after flowering. Noted particularly for its pleasant fragrance. CREEPING THYME is also a good choice for dry conditions. All are fast spreaders, and they have dense leaf cover which prevents sunlight from reaching germinating weed seeds. The perennials tolerate weather extremes that would stress most plants: drenching rains and our current soggy soil, as well as periods of drought. To keep weeds from getting established in your flowerbeds, plant one of these top performers.

TREE FARM – by Tony Koromilas

Congrats to Ed for setting up educational speakers for next few meetings.

Our water pump system is on again, thanks to Burl and Don. That young pressure switch was sparking. I think we have a bigger problem, but will wait until we can positively check the system. I have fixed numerous breaks on the north and central sections. Fred and I are fixing the Mist House since I had purchased the 4 x 4’s, etc. some time ago. I have concerns about a \$5,000+ for new Mist House, as we are tenants without a positive contract for use.

Weeds have taken over, thus we need volunteers and corral adoptees to eliminate them. Prison crew availability is rare. We should discuss at our next meeting. Thanks to Burl, Mary Lou, Sue, Susan, Ed, Dan and others, plants are growing. I think we need to inventory for sale.

Speakers for upcoming speakers: Ed Wardingley

AUGUST: Elizabeth Melvin – She will discuss Rain Barrels, and is also offering a Work Shop at the Tree Farm on October 16.

SEPTEMBER: Xaviar de Sequin Des Hons – Xaviar is the Land Manager at the Enchanted Forest, and will speak about the Brevard Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL).

OCTOBER: Tentative speaker: Sally Scalera. Discussion on Butterfly Gardening in Brevard.

Please send your articles to:

Joanie at freddiefla@yahoo.com to be included in next month’s Bloomin’ News.

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 11th, 2008!!
Speaker, Elizabeth Melvin will discuss Rain
Barrels at this meeting!

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:

August 16th @ 8:30a.m. to noon

Elizabeth Melvin will put on a Work Shop at
our Tree Farm, which will take about 1 hour.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING **2008 EVENTS**

- Oct. 4 Florida Nurseryman Allied**
Trade Show
- Oct 10-11 Fall Tree & Plant Sale –**
Downtown
- Oct 12 Garden Club's 75th**
Anniversary

The Bloomin' News
Titusville Men's Garden Club
Joanie Opperman, Editor
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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** _____