

# The Bloomin' News

October, 2008, Vol. VI, 16

Lisa Dugowson, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



## Chairman's Message

By Lisa Dugowson

This past weekend, members of our Club went to the Landscape Show, formerly FNATS. We saw a lot of interesting things and learned about new products. We enjoyed seeing all the different vendors and getting samples

Our semiannual Tree and Plant Sale will be Friday and Saturday (Oct. 10 and 11). We need all the help we can get at the Farm for the next week to prepare. We have beautiful plants and trees that will be offered. Be sure to let your neighbors and friends know this is going to be a great sale!

Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, the Titusville Garden Club will be celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There will be a big event at the Garden Club on Sisson Road. Plan to attend.

SEE YOU AT THE FARM! Lisa

## Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

**Oct 1 :** Hydroponics - Joshua Lehmann

**Oct 12: Titusville Garden Club's  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!**

We all look forward to meeting new friends and greeting old friends. See you on the 12<sup>th</sup>!

**Oct 13:** Butterfly Gardening – Sally Scalera

**Oct 14: FFGC District VI Fall Meeting – Daytona**

Cost: \$21.00 Mail check to: Amy Nowell, Registrar

646 N. Riverside Dr., New Smyrna Beach, 32168

Phone: 386.428.5874 or 386.679.9041

Deadline to register: Oct. 7, 2008

Program: "Digging into your community"

Speaker: James Zacharias, Senior Curator

## Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.gardenclub.org)

Florida Federation of GC: [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org)

TGC site: <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tgc/>

Gardening Info: [HGTV.com](http://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.

## OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

Nights are slowly turning cooler, and days are shorter and slightly cooler – a relief to us and to our plants.

October normally brings less rain than September, so you will need to watch your lawn, shrubs, annuals and potted plants and water them when needed.

This is the last month to fertilize your lawn, palms and shrubs. Use a good 16-4-8 plus Iron fertilizer on your lawn so it will be green all winter (barring frost). Apply weed control products if needed. If not already done, give shrubs and hedges a final fall pruning. Remove suckers, low limbs and trim or remove storm-damaged growth. Any pruning done after mid-October will stimulate new growth that could suffer cold damage this winter. Delay all pruning of vines and fruit trees until mid-winter. Lawn insects will still be active. Operate sprinkler system manually to conserve water. Water lawns when grass shows signs of stress.

Renew mulches as needed to conserve moisture during the dryer fall and winter months. To assure holiday blooms, relocate POINSETTIAS, CHRISTMAS CACTUS and KALANCHOES so no artificial light will fall on them. If you expect to plant winter and spring bulbs Such as TULIPS, CROCUS, DAFFODILS and HYACINTH, this is the time to begin the 12 weeks of refrigeration required by the bulbs in our climate.

If you like to pick your own strawberries, now is the time to start a bed with a bundle of 25 fresh, healthy plants from a nursery or garden center. Varieties that have given good yields in central Florida gardens include FLORIDA 90, TIOGA, DOVER, FLORIDA BELLE and DOUGLAS. They will also do well in full sun in a large wooden barrel, a pyramid, or in hanging baskets using a good potting mix. Three plants in a 10-inch, or 4 in a 12-inch basket will flourish in full sunshine if given adequate water and fertilizer.

If not already done, give CITRUS and GRAPES a final feeding before October 15, using 6-6-6 with minor elements or a special Citrus fertilizer. Feed cool-season annual plants monthly for winter blooms.

Replant flowerbeds and hanging baskets with cool-season plants such as ALYSSUM, CALENDULA, CLEOME, CHRYSANTHEMUMS, CORNFLOWER, DIANTHUS, GAILLARDIA, GERANIUM, PANSY, PERIWINKLE, PETUNIA, PHLOX, SNQAOPDRAGON and VERBENA.

### **SQUARE FOOT GARDENING by Elaine Schoch**

Gardening should be fun! Why do the planting instructions on packages of seeds direct the gardener to put out an entire packet along a row, only to have you later go back and tear out 95% of the plants once they have sprouted? Why use up an entire \$1.79 packet of seeds for every row you plant? Isn't that rather wasteful? Do I really want or need a whole row of squash or eggplant? There must be a better way to stagger the harvest, and the obvious solution is to stagger the time of planting whenever possible and to plant less. Shorten the rows to 12 inches and 12 inches wide – a square foot planting area! Depending on the mature size of each plant, space seeds or transplants 1, 4, 9 or 16 per sq. ft.

Start with a 4x4 foot layout. To improve the soil, dig out 6 inches of existing soil and mix in 2 inches of peat moss, 2 inches of vermiculite and 2 inches of compost. Mixing the ingredients together with the soil that you remove, you now have 12 inches or 8 cu. ft of 50% improved soil. I advocate laying out a 12x12 inch grid for the garden. Use string or any firm, rigid and visual grid material laid across your box. If your seed package suggests thinning plants to 12 inches apart, plant 1 per sq. ft. If plants should be thinned to 6 inches apart, plant 4 per sq. ft. If plants are thinned to 3 inches apart, you can grow 16 in that same sq. ft. Doesn't it all make sense and seem easy enough?

If you plant just a few seeds—a pinch—in each hole and 2 or 3 seedlings come up, you just take a pair of scissors and snip off all but the strongest one. Store the rest of your unused packet of seeds in the refrigerator in a glass jar for up to 5 years. I think Square Foot Gardening's best feature is it now makes gardening available to just about anyone. Regardless of income, age, location, ability or disability—anyone, anywhere can garden using this method. For details, visit: [www.squarefootgardening.com](http://www.squarefootgardening.com).

Please send your articles to:

Joanie at [freddiefla@yahoo.com](mailto:freddiefla@yahoo.com) to be included in next month's Bloomin' News.

## **Men's Garden Club of Titusville**

**Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville. FL**

**Our next meeting is October 4th, 2008!!**

### **Work Day**

Our "Work Day" this month will be part of our annual Fall Tree and Plant Sale on Oct 10 & 11. Hope to see every soon!!

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING** **2008 EVENTS**

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|------------------|--|
| <b>Oct 10-11</b> | <b>Fall Tree &amp; Plant Sale<br/>Downtown</b>       |
| <b>Oct 12</b>    | <b>Garden Club's 75<sup>th</sup><br/>Anniversary</b> |

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Titusville Men's Garden Club

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