

The Bloomin' News

February, 2009, Vol. VI, 20

Lisa Dugowson, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Lisa Dugowson

If your yard is like mine, there seems to be more dead than alive due to our recent record breaking cold front. The tree farm was hit hard as well, and there is plenty of clean-up needed. I was amazed at the organization of the rows on my recent visit to the farm. Thanks to all the folks who have spent hours weeding, cleaning and forming neat rows. The place really looks great. Resist the urge to cut back the cold damage until the end of this month. We can still have a frost during the month of February. Speaking of frost, another cold front is expected Wednesday morning of this week.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 9 at 7:00p.m. See you there. Lisa Ldugowson@cfl.rr.com

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

The next meeting for the Women's Garden Club will be **February 3rd** at 9:30 a.m.

We will be honoring our past presidents. Also reading the recommendations for by-laws and policies, which we will vote on at the March meeting. Anyone interested in voting should attend the meetings.

February 11th – Card Party

We have canceled our plant sale for March 7th.

March 20 & 21 – Annual Fantastic Sale

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/>

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, Lisa Dugowson: 264-6389.

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

This has been a good winter in our gardens. The cold snaps served to intensify Citrus color and harden most shrubs. We have had some frost and a few freezes so far. Some plants have been damaged by cold, but none beyond recovery. Remember, cold spells are common in Florida during February full moons, and have occurred during cold winters as late as the second week of March.

Judicious pruning of cold-damaged plants can be done. Grape and Kiwi vines and all deciduous fruit and shade trees should be pruned in February, if not already done. Begin routine apple, peach, fig and similar tree spraying. Till and enrich sandy soils with organic matter. Complete transplanting bare root trees and shrubs as soon as practical. Divide and replant large perennials.

You can thin and prune dormant shrubs. **CAPE MYRTLE** should be pruned. Remove all small, spindly stems from the base of the plant, and small shoots on the main stems. Thin to 3 to 7 main trunks to open up the plant. Prune stems up to about 1/2 inch in diameter. **CAPE MYRTLE** only blooms on new wood. Thin twigs will seldom produce big blooms.

ROSES can stand heavy pruning by mid-month. Cut vigorous bushes back by 1/3 to 1/2. Remove all twigs and any branches that are dead, diseased, injured or thin and spindly. Shorten main canes and remove small twigs and older canes that have become too hard. Miniature **ROSES** should be pruned as you would a bush **ROSE**, but lightly.

Vigorous varieties may need heavier pruning to keep them compact. Clean up as much of the cut foliage as practical. Add a new layer of mulch to cover old **ROSE** leaves and Black Spot spores.

Hedges can be pruned heavily and shaped. Keep the top of the hedge narrower than the bottom to allow sun to reach the lower branches.

February in the Garden (continued)

By the middle of the month, you can work your beds for annuals by removing old plants, checking soil for pH, and correcting, if necessary. Treat for pests, work in compost, mulch or other organic matter and, when needed, colloidal phosphate, other amenders and fertilizer.

By the end of the month, all except spring blooming trees, shrubs and vines can be pruned. Spring flowering plants should be pruned after they finish blooming. A good pruning now will shape the plants for much of the summer. Renew mulches to control weeds and conserve water.

By the end of February, you should fertilize all plants except your lawn. Use 6-6-6 with minor elements, or if you prefer one for a special plant, such as Citrus fertilizer. Citrus trees will need ½ pound per inch of circumference measured 6 inches above the ground. Shade trees will need 1 pound per inch when less than 6 inches in diameter, and 2 pounds for each inch above 6 inches. Feed container grown plants monthly.

Major lawn care and fertilizing should wait until March. Repair winter damage. Spraying for weeds can continue. If crabgrass has been a problem, remove brown but surviving crabgrass and apply a pre-emergence herbicide by mid-month. Mow lawns as needed at the normal cutting height. Water normal lawns once a week.

If you did not start seed in January, start the seed now. Seeds started in trays or flats will grow rapidly and be ready to set out in March or April.

Burl's Corner – by Burl Ferguson

In case you have not been to the Tree Farm, be prepared to see significant disaster. As expected, the trees and some shrubs survived nicely. I was surprised to see the roses had no damage. Crotons, White Society Garlic, Weeping Fig, Hibiscus, Plumeria, Jatropha and more tender plants got hurt badly. Time will tell whether they come back. We need to wait for new growth to appear before pruning dead branches. Remember that Tuesday and Thursday mornings we will be at the Farm, so please plan to join us. We promise to get you home by lunch

Tree Farm News – Tony Koromilas

The freeze hurt many plants but we think they will recover. Let's continue to grow cold resistant varieties and natives that will survive in cold weather. I was surprised that many tipped over plants survived the freeze. Our water problems are solved for now and the North section is finally getting its share of water. Thanks to Cat and others, the trees moved to that area are looking good. About half of mist house sprinklers were unclogged. We should clean them monthly and need a volunteer to accept the task

Did you know?

St John's Water Management 2009 Rules for Watering lawns. During Daylight Time - March to Nov, Wed/Sat for odd number addresses and Thurs/Sun for even address. No landscape irrigation between 10 am & 4pm. When Eastern Standard Time is in effect, limit watering to Saturday for odd numbers and Sunday of even number addresses.

NOTE: Dues for the Titusville Garden Club and FFGC will need to be paid by April 1, 2009.

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 February 9th, 2009!!

Speaker: Steve Korpacz is speaking this month. He is bringing propagation examples to show the club.

Upcoming Events:

Spring Tree & Plant Sale April 3rd & 4th, 2009
Brevard Rare Fruit Council April 23—25, 2009

Mark these dates on your calendar; it's never too early to get plants ready for the next sale!!! The parking lot east of Emma Parrish Playhouse is our usual location.

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 is the focus of our Saturday events.

Saturday, February 14th is our next Work Day! We will meet at the gate between 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. until about noon. Stay as long as you are able. Please come out and join us as we continue preparing plants for our next sale.

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

Next Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month Begins at 7:00 p.m.

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 or Lisa Dugowson 264-6389

Name: _____

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

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