

The Bloomin' News

JUNE, 2009, Vol. VI, 24

Steven Korpacz, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Our trip to Leu Gardens on Saturday was a success, with 11 members showing up from the Day and Night Group. We left our clubhouse promptly at 9am and arrived just after 10am. We had two volunteer tour guides waiting for us when we arrived at the Reception House. Our guide, Jim, was friendly and knowledgeable. The garden is divided by types of plants: roses, palms/bamboos, butterfly/hummingbird plants, citrus, arid climate, vegetable and aquatic. It would have been easy to spend a few hours in each section, or a whole day. The roses were a world class collection of old heritage, hybrid, tea of every imaginable color, shape, fragrance and form, not to be missed. The bamboos and palms were well represented by a collection from all over the world. The butterfly garden was full of active insects and flowers, and very well maintained by the volunteer staff. Bromeliads, gingers, natives, and small flowering trees are distributed along the pathways throughout the gardens, at every turn a familiar or new plant. The camellias are scattered throughout the whole garden, large specimens, with some 10-12 feet tall. We should plan a return trip when they are in bloom in February.

We made a brief stop at Palmers nursery a few blocks away, just to see the place, but almost everyone came away with a plant or two. Everybody had a great time and talked about our next trip. Possible trip destinations could be: McKee Gardens in Vero Beach; Marie Selby Gardens in Sarasota; Sunken Gardens in St. Pete; Cracker House Tour in Titusville Kanapaha Gardens in Gainesville; Mounts Botanical in West Palm Beach; and Fairchild Gardens in Miami. I hope to get more members of both groups to enjoy our occasional outings, to get ideas about what else we can grow here in North Brevard and to enjoy the company of people with common interests.

Upcoming trips for the fall will be discussed at the next few meetings, as well as our plans for the Landscape Show, Oct 1-3, our fall plant sale and upcoming speakers. Steve Korpacz, Chairman

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

On Monday, June 8th at 10:00 a.m. we will be dedicating our new **BUTTERFLY GARDEN** in memory of **Lee Evans**. Please join us for a short ceremony, followed by refreshments inside.

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: <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc/index/html>

Gardening Info: HGTV.com

Become a New Member!! 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

JUNE IN THE GARDEN

*Although May was quite rainy, June should give us even 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, CRAPE 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 also 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.

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 8th, 2009!!
SEE YOU THERE!!**

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, June 13th 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.

Our next "FUN DAY" is the following Saturday, June 20th. Steve has invited all members for a Garden Tour at his place. He is also a member of Brevard Rare Fruit Council, and has many specimens of fruit trees growing. Please bring your own picnic lunch. We would like to start doing this on a regular basis; that is, visiting each other's gardens. We've talked about it a lot, so now let's do it!!

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Mole Cricket bait applied on a damp lawn in the evening is also effective. Mole Crickets are usually active on the surface after dark.

*Pinch back the tips of bushes and shrubs to develop more compact plants. Use the cuttings to root new plants for our plant sale. 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 Sulfate. Manganese Sulfate will also cure "frizzle top" on Palm Trees.

*Root tip cuttings of 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.

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

*Brighten your yard with warm season plantings of BEGONIA, BLUE DAZE, CALADIUM, CELOSIA, VINCA, COLEUS, IMPATIENS, MARI GOLD, PENTA, SALVIA, PORTULACA, PERIWINKLE, VERBENA and ZINNIA. June is also a good time to plant bulbs of DAY LILIES, RAIN LILIES. IRIS, CANNA, CRINUM and SOCIETY GARLIC.

From Sally Scalera's article in May, 04 Florida Today.

Herbs that do well: basil, chives, dill, marjoram, mint (cut a 5-gal bucket to 9-12 inches high, no bottom, bury to rim and fill with rich soil or use a half barrel to keep the mint contained), oregano, sage, rosemary and thyme.

Vegetables to plant: Malabar spinach, cherry tomatoes, okra, southern peas, Seminole pumpkin and beans. Fertilize monthly.

Prune blueberry shrubs to shape them, Trim black-berries to the ground. 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.

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Joanie's Garden News

Last week a group of us cleared an area and laid down new black cloth on which to start putting the Holly, Hibiscus, Snow on Mountain and India-Hawthorne. Some members have put their names on 1 or 2 corrals to care for. A lot of small plants are filling up the new racks recently built by Buck. One corral up front is being used for Stock Plants for propagation. Steve and Janice have done a great job of clearing the "pot" area. There is now room for all of us to work up under the shade of the big oak tree, which is a relief. However, there are still corrals high in weeds which need to be tackled by a team. We're working hard to salvage what we can, and ready plants for upcoming summer heat, then Fall Sale. Come out and join us in this effort. We appreciate your help a lot. Thanks in advance!

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

The Titusville Men's Garden Club

Next Meeting: 2009 -- 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, Steve Korpacz 269-3884.

Name: _____

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

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