

# The Bloomin' News

March, 2010, Vol. VI, 33

Steven Korpacz, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



## Chairman's Message

Things are starting to green up in our gardens and the frost damage can finally be pruned back. I think we are safe now from another freeze. Our Spring Sale is a few weeks away on April 9 and 10. We can use all your help at the Tree Farm to be sure all the weeds are pulled, and plants and trees have been fertilized, trimmed and are ready for the sale. Annual dues are due on April 1 You can bring your check to the next meeting or mail directly to Jim Ratliff, our Treasurer. See you at our next meeting Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm - Garden Center on Sisson Road.

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

#### FANTASTIC SALE

Friday, March 12 -- (4:00pm to 7:00p.m.)

Saturday, March 13 -- (9:00am to 1:00p.m.)

*\*We welcome any donations of household articles, books, plants and baked goods.*

March 17 – TGC Board Meeting

March 22 – Afternoon at the movies (Amelia) 1:00pm

### 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/>

TMGC site: <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc/>

### 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,.

### MARCH IN THE GARDEN

This has been a pretty cold winter with at least four freezes which caused extensive plant damage. The long range forecast does not predict damaging cold weather after March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Pruning should be completed this month except avoid pruning spring-flowering trees, shrubs and vines until they finish blooming. Most of us in cold areas will have at least some cold damaged foliage to trim. Prune the limbs of cold damaged shrubs and trees into healthy wood.

Most shrubs and perennials in the ground more than two years should be pruned, thinned out, shaped and shortened. Perennials killed back to the ground should be identified with a stake and cut back.

When pruning woody shrubs, such as CREPE MYRTLE or HIBISCUS, remember—strong branches will not grow from weak ones. Prune CREPE MYRTLE stems back to points at least ½" in diameter.

Once you have pruned, clean the beds. Remove dead plants, weeds and debris. Apply fresh mulch such as compost, pine bark or cypress mulch. A good mulch will conserve water and keep the soil cool. A 3" to 4" mulch layer will also keep weeds down and soil from splashing on plants.

All beds, shrubs and trees should be fertilized this month if not already done. Use a good all-around fertilizer such as 6-6-6 or 8-8-8, with minor elements. Broadcast at the rates recommended on package. Most spring blooming plants will benefit from an application of superphosphate fertilizer such as Peter's 10-30-20 or Hyponex 15-30-15. CREPE MYRTLE, HIBISCUS and BIRD OF PARADISE can be fed every 2 weeks until they bloom.

Where needed, repair lawns with sod, plugs or seed. Rake out brown grass blades left by cool winter weather. Lawns should be fertilized or given a Weed N Feed product in early March. The quality of the fertilizer will help determine the quality of your lawn. A good 16-4-8

## **MARCH IN THE GARDEN (continued)**

that includes minor elements is best. If, in addition, it is sulfur coated and contains iron, your lawn will be greener for a longer period. A 50-pound bag of 6-6-6 will contain 3 lbs of nitrogen, 3 lbs of phosphorus and 3 lbs of potash. The other 41 lbs is carrier to distribute the fertilizer. A 50-pound bag of 16-4-8 will cover almost 3 times as much area as a similar bag of 6-6-6. One bag of 16-4-8 may be cheaper, and definitely will be less work than 3 bags of 6-6-6.

New leaves on plants will bring out aphids and other insects, so be prepared to spray. Summer oil will kill aphids and other insects. Be sure to read and follow the label.

ROSES should be sprayed with a fungicide weekly and fertilized monthly. As a general rule, the sooner you solve problems by spraying, the less you will need to spray.

BLOOD LILIES, CALADIUMS, CANNA, CRINUM, DAHLIAS, DAY LILIES, GLADIOLUS, SOCIETY GARLIC, SPIDER LILIES and RAIN LILIES can still be planted.

Garden shops will have a good stock of annuals. Plan for banks of color to enhance your yard. Plant 6 to 12 or more plants of the same kind and color for large splashes of color. Plants for spring planting include: AGERATUM, BALSAM, CELOSIA, COSMOS, GERANIUMS, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PETUNIAS, SALVIA, VERBENA and ZINNIAS.

**NOTE: Dues for the Titusville Garden Club and FFGC will need to be paid by April 1, 2010. Thank you in advance.**

### **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: Please send in your articles for the next issue of Bloomin' News by 25<sup>th</sup> of the month,**

**which allows time to have the newsletter ready for distribution by the 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Please send your articles to Joanie at [freddiefla@yahoo.com](mailto:freddiefla@yahoo.com)

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

**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 March 8th, 2010!!**

Instead of a speaker this meeting, we will spend our time talking and planning for our annual Spring Sale.

**Spring Tree & Plant Sale April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10th, 2010**  
**Brevard Rare Fruit Council April —, 2010**

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, March 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.**

The Bloomin' News  
Titusville Men's Garden Club  
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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**

**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**

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_