

The Bloomin' News

September, 2011, Vol. VI, 50

Dena Chemerys, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message By Dena Chemerys

Last month our speakers were Bob and Laura Braun from Rest Haven Farms in Geneva. They grow Beefsteak tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers and herbs hydroponically. They shared how they started their business on a small scale, their struggles and successes to the point where they sell 1,000 lbs of tomatoes a week. They produce excellent tomatoes and other veggies and have a huge following. I, for one, can't wait to taste one of their Beefsteaks! Yum.

FNATS, now being called the Landscape Show, is September 29, 30 & Oct 1 this year. If you are planning to go, make sure Dena has your name on the list as tickets must be purchased very soon. At our Business Meeting on September 12th, we will be discussing FNATS and our Fall Tree and Plant Sale, which is October 7th and 8th. Please come to this meeting as we need your input. Don't forget—Elections in February.

Robert Bowden, Dir. Of Leu Gardens, is our speaker on Sept 12th. Topic: "Groceries from the Garden".

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez
Welcome back from summer vacation, Members.

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 Enchanted Forest on Hwy 405. The public is welcome.

Garden Club Web Sites

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>

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. As a return for members' input/work, many plants are available to members at no cost. For more information, call Tony at 269-1931 or Kathryn at 604-2366

The Bloomin' News
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SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

September will be as hot and humid as August, and will bring about as much rain as last month. Changes that will affect our plants: night time temperatures will begin to drop and shorter daylight hours will induce some plants to set buds.

Because plants in Florida grow continuously, regular pruning is a must. Fall pruning and fertilizing should be done early to allow new growth to harden. Late pruning and fertilizing will stimulate new growth that could be damaged by cold in December or January. Prune declining fronds and flower stems from PALMS. Renew mulches to save water and reduce weeds.

Do not prune AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS or GARDENIAS – their buds are already set. CAMELLIAS often set two buds side by side. If you would like larger but few blooms, pinch one of them off. Make sure you can distinguish between leaf and flower buds

Give POINSETTIAS a final pruning before September 15. Watch for mildew, white flies and tomato worms. Spray and prune ROSES, removing old flowers, hips and dead, damaged or spindly growth. Fertilize to encourage fall blooming.

Fertilize lawns now or in October with a good 16-4-8 plus Iron so your lawn will be green all winter—barring frost. Where needed, complete seeding of Bahia turf as early as practical in September. Lawn insects will be at their peak this month. Sprays or granules of Diazinon, Dursban or Baygon will control chinch bugs, sod-web worms and mole crickets. Always follow label instructions. Operate sprinkler systems manually to conserve water. Water lawns when grass shows signs of stress.

Pinch CHRYSANTHEMUMS and spray for aphids mites, mildew and blackspot. Feed with 10-30-20 or

high phosphate fertilizer until color shows in the buds. Feed hanging baskets and ORCHIDS every two weeks. Feed shrubs, perennials and container plants for Fall.

CHRISTMAS CACTUS should receive their last feeding this month. Move them into partial sun- shine and reduce watering until buds appear.

Till and re-plant flower beds. If you did not start annual flowers from seeds, local nurseries or garden shops will have a selection of plants that will provide color in your yard this Fall and Winter to include ALYSSUM, CALENDULA, CLEOME, CORNFLOWER, DIANTHUS, GAILLARDIA, HOLLYHOCK, PERIWINKLE, PHLOX, SALVIA, SNAPDRAGON & VERBENA. Wait another month to plant PANSIES and PETUNIAS.

Fall Vegetable Gardening – RoseMarie P.

Fall is my favorite time of year to plant the vegetable garden, and now is the time to be preparing. Tomatoe seeds should have been started mid–August for transplanting into soil or large pots for the fall crop. If you haven't done that, I have Better Boy (indeterminant hybrid) and Brandywine heirloom plants at the farm, or you can buy them at the garden stores. If you plant into the ground, be enriching the soil with compost. Keep the weeds down so as to not deplete the soil of nutrients. It is fairly important to give the tomatoes an early start as the weather can sometimes turn cold quite early. Once the night time temp drops below 50 degrees, blossoms become infertile, and a frost or freeze ends the season quite abruptly.

Cold weather crops thrive in the autumn temperatures and some crops even taste better in fall than in spring. Except for tomatoes and green beans, most all fall vegetables will tolerate the frost and freezes we get in this area of Brevard County. When the cooler days of mid-September arrive, plant green beans, Swiss chard beets, carrots, Fennel, Arugula, Kohlrabi, turnips, spinach Mustard and Mesclun. It might be a bit too warm yet for lettuce and radishes, and I usually plant them every two weeks starting in late September. Broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, parsley and Scallions should be transplanted as well in late September. These will most definitely love frosts and cool weather. Don't forget about onion sets or plants and Garlic. They are best planted in October or early November for harvesting the following late spring.

Special thanks to Ed and Marko for laying down ground cloth, and for all their hard work!

Just a note! Ann & Dick are new members of our garden club, and this was their 1st visit to the Tree Farm.

Visiting the Tree Farm – Ann Wicks

Saturday was our first day at the Garden Club's Tree Farm, and boy, did we have a good time. We started off with breakfast sandwiches and juice. There was an introduction of everyone and a tour of the grounds.

We learned of the Mist House and the shaded area for those tender bromeliads and fellow shade lovers. While

touring, we learned how the gardening rows were adopted by club members, and there was always something that could use the attention of weeding or repotting.

We worked side by side with fellow gardening hobbyists. We pulled weeds, sorted good pots from broken pots, dug in the dirt, fertilized, split plants and repotted. We watched the rows of plants become defined again, weeds disappeared only to be found on the compost pile, and boy, did it look good! It all happened as we learned of each other's strengths/knowledge, and worked together as a team.

As the morning progressed, some people appeared to be wet enough that they looked like they had stood out in a rain. Others, such as myself, just continued to complete the tasks at hand. Given the fact that we all had worked hard, and yet we still managed to share a few laughs, spoke of our spirit as gardeners.

As lunchtime drew nearer, I think we all knew we could go on no longer. I thought about the accomplishments that had been attained after our tour, as I was cleaning up for lunch. Individually it would have taken much longer than the 4 hours we spent today. I listened to the conversations taking place around the group and I thought, "Gee, where else could an adult go to play in the dirt and the weeds for 4 hours, and have fun while making wonderful friends who also have fun playing in the dirt? Why, at the Tree Farm, of course. Thank you all for sharing your Saturday morning with me. See you next month.....Ann

Men's Garden Club of Titusville

Meets 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville. FL

Our next meeting is September 12th, 2011!!

We are pleased to have Robert Bowden, Dir. of Leu Gardens, speaking on "Groceries from the Garden.

At this Business Meeting, we will be going over final plans to attend (FNATS) Landscape Show on September 29, 30 & October 1.

Also, we will be discussing plans & prices for our FALL TREE & PLANT SALE on October 7th & 8th

Upcoming Events for Members:

September 29, 30, Oct 1	Florida Nurseryman Allied Trade Show
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Oct 7 and 8	Fall Tree & Plant Sale Sears Parking Lot
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**A Big Welcome to our newest members:
Ann & Dick Wicks, Tom Freund, Sandi Russo**

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,

Name: _____

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

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