

The Bloomin' News

August, 2012, Vol. VI, 61

Dena Chemerys, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message – Dena Chemerys

As you know, Leland and I missed the last 1 meeting, and those attending enjoyed a wonderful presentation on making rain barrels by Steve, our past chairman. Thank you to Kathryn for holding down the fort, Lisa for taking minutes, refreshment committee, and to all who attended the meeting. Also a special thanks to our Tuesday and Thursday faithful, who continue to brave the heat. Leland and I went to North Carolina and moved our daughter, who is in Law School. Then we surprised our son and new daughter-in-law, and went to a family gathering in Minnesota to celebrate their marriage March 31st, which we had attended in Maryland. We enjoyed the 4th there, then decided to go and see the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, Tetons National Park, Yellowstone, and then said, "lets see Glacier National Park" while we are here! The weather has been 105 in N.C. to 59 right after a brief shower in Yellowstone. I have taken nearly 2,000 pictures of birds, animals, flowers, trees, gardens, snow, glaciers, dams and many gardens, including the ones at the Billy Graham Library in N.C. It has been an amazing vacation. Crater Lake in Oregon was breath taking!

So as you tend your gardens, work at the farm, and consider how you will spend the rest of your summer, please remember our National Parks. For \$80.00 Leland and I can get into all of them during a year's time. We are amazed at the way trees we grow look so different in other parts of the country. The red beetle has destroyed thousands of trees in Yellowstone. We've seen rice fields, apricots, almonds, pecans, figs, pears, apples, walnuts, nectarines, and other crops. The pictures of wheat, alfalfa, and mustard are amazing. We've seen and photographed bee boxes, or supers everywhere, some called cutter bees used for pollinating one specific crop. I just had to stop and talk to one farmer who told me their bales of hay are 150 to 1,500 pounds each!! Drip irrigation, regular irrigation, canals, water rights, and a miner's inch makes our two days a week water restriction seem so easy. Today we saw the Salmon running.

Huckleberries are in season and a six ounce cup is \$5.00, in one area, and in another a gallon is \$90.00! Sassafras ice cream is different, as is June berries, and nectarine ice cream. In closing, remember our next meeting will be all about our Landscape Show in Orlando and our Fall Sale. Happy gardening! God Bless, Dena Chemerys, Chairman

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Central Florida Council – Troop 481

March 26, 2012

“Dear Mr. Koromilas,

Thank you, again, for supporting my Eagle Scout project by donating many plants from the Titusville Garden Club. The plants look great at their locations and are doing very well. I am checking on them every day to make sure they don't dry out by watering them on a daily basis.

My School Principal was very pleased, and asked that I provide him with photographs of the job sites containing the plants to submit to the Brevard School District.

Again, thank you very much,

Andres B.

Eagle Scout Candidate

BSA – Troop 481”

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

June 10, 2012

Dear Men's Garden Club of Titusville

“Wekiva Youth Camp will be having campers starting in one week for this coming summer. All the campers seemed to enjoy themselves last summer. This summer they will be nature detectives and obtain knowledge of the environment. Swimming in the pool at camp, crafts, biking and singing will be aspects of each camper's week. Many thanks for your kind donation of \$480.00 to the Wekiva Youth Camp to be used for camperships.

Florida has the only camp of its kind in the National Federation of Garden Clubs that promotes environmental education for youth. It is because of your support that we are able to operate such a quality camp. Perhaps you will be able to visit camp this summer.

Sincerely,

Janet R.

Wekiva Youth Camp Treasurer”

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 member's input/work, some plants are available to members at no cost. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. For more information, call: RoseMarie at 385-9051

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

July has been a hot month with a fair amount of rain. August will be as hot and hopefully bring as much or more rain.

Shrubs, flowerbeds and lawns need at least one inch of water per week to grow well during our hot weather. A good rain gauge can save much watering. If you do not get ½ inch of rain during each 3-4 day period, you should water to bring the total to ½ inch. Normally, plants in hanging baskets and pots will require daily rain or watering. Large hanging baskets and large potted plants in the sun may require two or more waterings a day.

You can make it easier on yourself if you prune most large shrubs. Groom trees and shrubs removing lanky, unsightly summer or storm damaged growth. Pruning will reduce the plant's water requirement, stimulate new growth, and make your shrubs and trees more compact and bushier. Prune declining CRAPE MYRTLE flower heads to reasonably large stems before seed pods form to encourage continuing bloom. Prune POINSETTIAS by the end of August for the best displays. Repot plants that are pot bound. Trim overgrown pots. Renew mulches to save water and help control weeds.

An August application of 6-6-6 with minor elements, or a similar fertilizer, will set shrubs, trees and annuals for September growth. Wait until next year to prune AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS and GARDENIAS. Pinch out the tips of CHRYSANTHEMUMS to produce compact plants and increase blooms. Feed weekly with 10-30-20 or similar fertilizer. Palms planted during our rainy season establish quickly.

Divide overgrown bulbous and tuberous type plants, such as AMARYLLIS, BIRD OF PARADISE, DAY LILIES and CRINUMS now or in September. GLADIOLAS planted at 10-day intervals will bloom in about 3 months.

Seed thin Bahia lawns. Plug or sod bare or weedy areas in St. Augustine lawns. Lawn insects are quite active now: Sod Webworms and Chinch Bugs usually in St. Augustine, and Mole Crickets usually in Bahia.

Seeds can be started in August for transplants for fall and winter flowers. Try CALENDULAS, COSMOS, DIANTHUS, PANSIES, PETUNIAS and SNAPDRAGONS.

Hot weather plants for summer color include BEGONIAS, BLUE DAZE, CALADIUMS, COLEUS, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PENTAS, SALVIA, PERIWINKLES, VERBENAS and ZINNIAS.

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - Will resume in the fall.

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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. <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/>



The key to preventing moldy berries...

Berries are delicious, but they're also kind of delicate. Raspberries in particular seem like they can mold before you even get them home from the market. There's nothing more tragic than paying \$4 for a pint of local raspberries, only to look in the fridge the next day and find that fuzzy mold growing on their insides.

Well, with fresh berries just starting to hit farmers markets, we can tell you that how to keep them fresh! Here's a tip I'm sharing on how to prevent them from getting there in the first place:

Wash them with vinegar.

When you get your berries home, prepare a mixture of one part vinegar (white or apple cider probably work best) and ten parts water. Dump the berries into the mixture and swirl around. Drain, rinse if you want (though the mixture is so diluted you can't taste the vinegar,) and pop in the fridge. The vinegar kills any mold spores and other bacteria that might be on the surface of the fruit, and voila! Raspberries will last a week or more, and strawberries go almost two weeks without getting moldy and soft. So go forth and stock up on those pricey little gems, knowing they'll stay fresh as long as it takes you to eat them. *You're so berry welcome!*

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, Lisa Dugowson 264-6389.

Name: _____

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

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