

The Bloomin' News

March, 2013, Vol. VI, 68

Dena Chemerys, Chairperson

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairperson's Message

It doesn't seem like that long ago we were celebrating Christmas and the New Year, now we are about to enter March. My how time flies! First my sincere appreciation to Kathryn Woidtke for filling in for me and conducting the meetings for January and February while Leland and I were vacationing in Hawaii. I can't wait to share the pictures of all of the beautiful flowers, especially Plumeria. At the Botanical Gardens on Kauai we saw a Surinam Cherry tree loaded with cherries as tall as a house! We toured the coffee plantation and learned so much about their planting, growing, and cultivating process. Sugar cane fields are plentiful and their cane takes two years to mature. I have other stories to share at one of our meetings

Our elections were held in February and a big congratulations to all of the nominees, and elected officers. A thank you to Joanie Opperman who chaired the election committee, and to all who served with her on this committee. Thanks also to everyone who attended the meeting and voted. I am pleased to announce that Les Leckron has been elected as our new Chairman. Les and I will be working on the transition, and details of our Spring Plant Sale. We congratulate Les and wish him well as he leads our club. Joanie will list each of the newly elected officers in this issue of the Bloomin News.

I would like to personally thank the officers who have served with me for the past almost two years. They are: Kathryn Woidtke, Secretary; Amanda Marcle, Treasurer; Steve Korpacz, past President serving on our board, and in charge of our guest speakers; Joanie Opperman, Bloomin' News Editor, and to the appointed Chairman of all standing committees, and our farm managers. We accomplished a lot for our club and community. As we transition with new leadership, I ask each outgoing officer to provide as much information and materials to the incoming officers as is possible. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting the second Monday night in March. God Bless, Dena Chemerys, Chairman

MARCH IN THE GARDEN

This has been a pretty mild winter with a couple freezes which caused some plant damage. The long range forecast does not predict damaging cold weather after March 1st.

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 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 & follow label.

ROSES should be sprayed with 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, MARIOLDS, PETUNIAS, SALVIA, VERBENA and ZINNIAS.

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. In return for members' input/work, some plants are available at no cost. We meet at 7:00p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Garden Center on Sisson. For more information call RoseMarie: 385-9051.

TGC site: <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tgc>

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

National Garden Club: www.gardenclub.org

Florida Federation of GC: www.ffgc.org

A SIMPLE PINEAPPLE – Pat Kern

I love pineapple juice! Also great when mixed with other juices, like orange. Pineapple is a member of the Bromeliad family. It is extremely rare that Bromeliads produce edible fruit. The pineapple is the only available edible Bromeliad today. It is a multiple fruit. One pineapple is actually made of up dozens of individual flowerets that grow together to form the entire fruit. Each scale on a pineapple is evidence of a separate flower. Pineapples stop ripening the minute they are picked. No special way of storing them will help ripen them further. Color is relatively unimportant in determining ripeness. Choose your pineapple by smell. If it smells fresh, tropical and sweet, it will be a good fruit. The more scales on the pineapple, taste is sweeter and juicier

This delicious fruit is not only sweet and tropical, it also offers many benefits to our health. We find it



enjoyable because of its lush, sweet and exotic flavor, but it may also be one of the most healthful foods available today. Pineapple is valuable for easing digestion, arthritis or sinusitis. The juice has

as anhelmtic effect; it also helps get rid of intestinal worms.

Pineapple is high in Manganese, a mineral that is critical to development of strong bones and connective tissue. A cup of fresh pineapple will give you nearly 75% of



recommended daily amount. It is particularly helpful to older adults whose bones tend to become brittle with age.

Bromelain, a proteolytic enzyme, is the key to pineapple's value. Proteolytic means "breaks down protein, which is why pineapple is known to be a digestive aid. It helps the body digest protein more efficiently. Bromelain is also considered an effective anti-inflammatory. Regular ingestion of at least ½ cup of fresh pineapple daily is purported to relieve painful joints common to osteoarthritis. It also produces mild pain relief.

In Germany, Bromelain is approved as a post-injury medication because it is thought to reduce inflammation and swelling.

Orange juice is a popular liquid for those suffering from a cold because it's high in Vitamin C. Fresh pineapple is not only high in this vitamin, but because of the Bromelain, it has the ability to reduce mucous in the throat. If you have a cold with a productive cough, add pineapple to your diet. It is commonly used in Europe as a post-operative measure to cut mucous after certain sinus and throat operations. Individuals who eat fresh pineapple daily report fewer sinus problems related to allergies. Pineapple has very low risk for allergies.

Pineapple is also known to discourage blood clot development. This makes it a valuable addition for frequent fliers and others at risk for blood clots.

An old folk remedy for morning sickness is fresh pineapple juice. It really works! Fresh juice and some nuts in the morning often makes a difference. It's also good for a healthier mouth. The fresh juice discourages plaque growth.

Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meeting are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month; 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the Enchanted Forest on Rt. 405. The public is welcome.

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

NEW HONORARY MEMBER – Tony Koromilas

The members of the Men's Garden Club of Titusville wish to honor longtime member, Tony Koromilas, as an Honorary Member of the Garden Club of Titusville. Tony has been a member for over 15 years. He has been a volunteer participant in all activities of the club.

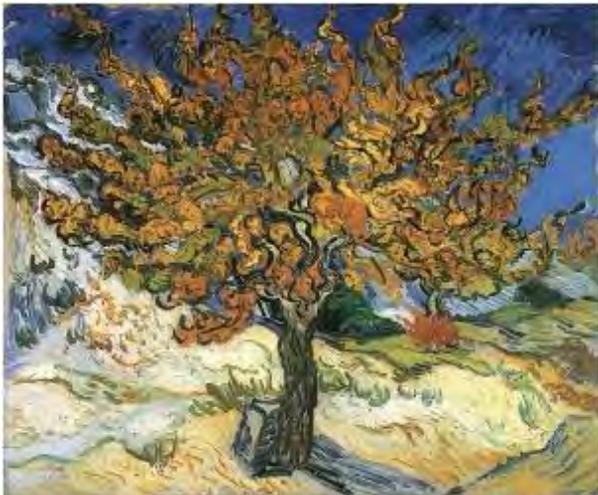
He assists in the organization of the spring and fall sales. He encourages children to garden with plants provided for them at the sales. He oversees many projects at the club's nursery.

Tony works closely with the City, the schools and area churches, donating trees and plants. Tony has worked with many of Titusville's organizations, including the Enchanted Forest and Habitat for Humanity. Worked with many of Titusville's organizations, including the Enchanted Forest and Habitat for Humanity.

Tony is a valued member of our organization and he is deserving of this honor.

TREE FARM NEWS – Tony Koromilas

Our mulberry tree is about to offer hundreds of berries and we are trying to propagate many small



seedlings for next year. The Tree Farm continues to look terrific thanks to Buck, Ed, Marko, Pattie, Jackie, Lisa, Amanda, Pat, Susan, Emily, Rose, Alex, Kathryn, RoseMarie, Cheryl and others having fun and getting our hands full of dirt.

Our Maple and Oak seeds are growing, and the special Pines need up-potting. The yellow-orange cannas need splitting because they are bulging outside their pots.

Ed purchased Azaleas, Camelias, and many other plants for the sale in April. We are reserving and caring for them under the shade tree. Material to replace the ground cloth along the center has arrived. We are trying to receive another free load of mulch from the County

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group- from the Prez

The next meeting for the Women's Garden Club will be:

March 6 – “The Amazing World of Amaryllis”

March 15 & 16 – Fantastic Sale

2013 Newly Elected Officers

Les Leckron, Chairman

Kathryn Woidtke, Vice Chairman

Emily Leithauser, Secretary

Jim Ratliff, Treasurer

**** Congratulations ****

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 March 11th, 2013!!

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



Spring Tree & Plant Sale

Friday, April 12th -- 10:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.

Saturday, April 13 -- 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

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

First Name: _____ **Last Name :** _____

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

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