

# The Bloomin' News

APRIL, 2013, Vol. VI, 69

Dena Chemerys, Chairperson

Joanie Opperman, Editor



Member of **FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS**



## Chairman's Message

Hello fellow gardeners. Our March meeting was very productive as we made plans for our spring sale April 12th and 13th. We have 44 members and 22 were in attendance. It was nice to be back and get back to the business of the club. We have one meeting on Monday the 8th of April before the sale. I want to encourage all members to volunteer to help with the sale and perhaps bring a fellow member to the next meeting.

My time as your chairman is winding down as Les Leckron your newly elected Chairman has asked me to continue my position until after the sale. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your service to the club, and to those who have supported me as I served as your chairman. When my term is over I will serve on the board as past chairman but Leland and I will be traveling a lot since he is retired. I am very proud of this club and the impact it has had on our community and city. Our club and each of you will continue to be in my prayers, God Bless, Dena Chemerys

## 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, some plants are available to members at no cost. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. We meet at 7:00p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at the Garden Center on Sisson. For more information, call RoseMarie: 385-9051.

## APRIL IN THE GARDEN

April is a busy month in the garden. Most plants are growing well. By mid-month, day temperatures will be up in the 80's and most nights will be above 65 degrees.

Replenish mulches to conserve moisture and keep weeds down.



AZALEAS have about finished blooming. Now is the time to continue a care program to assure good blooms next year. Feed each AZALEA with a good, acid-forming fertilizer at the rate of ½ cup per plant per month. Prune and trim large AZALEAS, and pinch back branch ends until mid-June. AZALEAS, unlike most other plants, will branch wherever you cut them. If mites, insects or scale are a problem, spray now and in 30 days with Cygon and Summer Oil. Follow label instructions.

DAY LILIES are ready to start blooming. An application of a Bloomer fertilizer, such as 2-10-10 or 10-30-10 will assure better blooms.

ROSES are growing rapidly. ROSES are heavy feeders and require frequent watering. Regular fertilizing every 2 weeks in our sandy soils is not excessive.

Spraying weekly with Funginex or Daconil will control Black Spot and Mildew.



CRAPE MYRTLES already have extensive new growth. An application of a Bloomer fertilizer every 2 weeks will assure more and larger blooms. Mildew is a common problem on both leaves and blossoms, even in full sun.

LAWNS should be fertilized now if you did not fertilize in March. Use 16-4-8 with minor elements to stimulate rapid growth. Plug, sod or seed to fill in bare areas in your lawn or to start new lawns. Provide sufficient irrigation, within water restrictions, to give your lawn an inch of water in any week your lawn gets less than an inch of rain. Cut Bahia and St. Augustine grasses 3 to 4 inches high. If grass clippings are left on the lawn, the grass should be mowed more frequently than when clippings are removed.

Move ORCHIDS to shady outdoor locations and feed every 2 weeks. Move tropical plants outdoors. Feed all container-grown plants.

Bulbs for April planting include ACHIMINES, AMARYLLIS, AGAP ANTHUS, BLOOD LILIES, CANNAS, CALADIUMS, CRINUMS, DAHLIAS, GLADIOLI, GLORIOSA, GINGER and RAIN LILIES.

Warm season plants that will perk up flower beds include AGERTUM, ASTER, BEGONIA, BLUE DAZE, COLEUS, COSMOS, DAY LILIES, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PENTAS, PERIWINKLE, SALVIA, VERBENA and ZINNIA.

## Garden Club Web Sites

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>

## **THE PINEAPPLE – Steve Korpacz**

Have you ever tasted home grown PINEAPPLE? It is usually very sweet, much better than grocery store fruit. You can start by cutting the top off a PINEAPPLE, wait a day or two for it to harden off, then plant an inch or two deep in a rich, slightly acidic organic soil. You can leave some of the fruit on the edges of the top; the plant can use this for food until it becomes established. I like to start with a 6" x 6" pot, since the roots are not deep. I fertilize lightly and monthly with a liquid fertilizer like Miracle Grow or Peter's. Just pour onto plant and in crown too. Once the plant has become established, you can move it to a 3 gallon size pot, after 6-7 months.

In a 3-gallon size, you can fruit the plant once it has some size (18" – 24"). At 1 year old, I like to take a small piece of apple or banana and force it into the crown. As this decomposes, it emits ethylene gas and forces the plant to fruit. You can harvest your first PINEAPPLE a few months later. You will know it's ready when you can smell it from 2 – 3 feet away. Just twist the fruit and it will detach from the plant, then you can start all over again. The PINEAPPLE can be propagated several other ways: slips, suckers, rations and crowns (described above). Slips arise from just below the fruit, suckers from the axils of the leaves and rations which grow from the base. Slips and suckers are the preferred method of propagation.

A 5-gallon is all the plant will ever require as they don't have deep root systems. I like container growing mine; it's easier to weed and to protect from cold weather. The PINEAPPLE is not cold tolerant at all. They will need protection. Give growing PINEAPPLES a try. The flavor of a home-grown PINEAPPLE can't be beat. **Keep it Green.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **TREE FARM NEWS - Tony Koromilas & Ed Rahn**

Thanks again to all the folks who help weed and tend to plants and trees on Tues. and Thurs. Thanks to Janice for fixing street sign/ banner for our Spring Tree & Plant Sale in April.

We have been having fun re-potting and splitting the azaleas that were root bound; up-potting the agapantha, grasses, podocarpus, cannas, roses, long leafpines, crepe myrtle, maples, lilies, viburnum, holly, tomatoes and many others to take to Spring Sale.



We have also been propagating in the mist house, and request cuttings from your home plants that we should be planting vs. buying. Please check with Ed, who is mastering how to propagate crepe myrtle. He is searching for deep purple variety. Mulberries are almost ready to enjoy.



## **COMMUNITY CALENDAR – Ann Wicks**

**April 06th, 2013- Orange County Master Gardeners Plant & Garden Festival.** 9am-4pm. Free Admission, parking. Orange County Extension, 6021 S. Conway Rd, Orlando (407-254-9200)

## **UF Researchers Putting Scents Back Into Flowers – Ann Wicks**

(The original article appeared in the University of Florida News on February 13, 2003, David Clark, Source)

If you are among the millions who receive flowers on Valentine's Day, you likely will put your nose to a rose, only to find you can't catch a whiff of your favorite floral aroma.

Plant breeding has led to bigger, longer-lasting blooms, but in the process many flowers have lost their scents. "Scent is such an important characteristic of flowers," said David Clark, an associate professor of environmental horticulture in UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

"Just go to a florist and observe the customers. The first thing they do is attempt to smell the flowers. They're often frustrated when they discover they can't."

Seven years ago, Clark began genetic studies with petunias. This was done so the plants could produce longer-lasting flowers. What started as a quest for longer-lasting flowers turned into a search for scent. Each flower species has a unique scent due to its own combination of volatile compounds.

As breeders selected plants that made less of those chemical compounds in order to achieve long-lasting flowers, they also may have removed the plants' abilities to produce floral scent.

So far, Clark and his colleagues have cloned 4,000 petunia genes and are working to identify the ones responsible for making the chemicals that produce volatile compounds responsible for scent. These genes are placed in petunia plants to bring back scent. It is possible that petunia genes could be used to help return scents to other flowers.

For example, UF researchers have cloned rose scent genes from an unlikely source: tomatoes. "If a rose doesn't have scent, we have the ability to make it smell like a rose, or we could make it smell like a petunia or a lily or even a pine tree as long as we know what the components of the volatile mixture are," Clark said. "We manufacture the scent, then add it to the flower with a spray application."

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Get rid of grasshoppers! – Jeanie Huppert**

Use ordinary, all-purpose flour. When grasshoppers (or any other chewing insects such as blister beetles) feed on foliage that have been dusted with flour, their mouths get all gummed up, and the grasshopper cannot eat any more. Furthermore, when they swallow a whole lot of this flour, they get sick and stop eating all together. (cont on page 3)

## Get rid of Grasshoppers (cont)

(NOTE: You must be careful, though. To get rid of grasshoppers the eco-friendly way, use ONLY the old-fashion all-purpose type of flour because the self-rising flour has salts in it. These salts may ruin your plants, and salt is not good for the soil.)

You can buy a commercial garden duster to use this method, which will get rid of grasshoppers the eco-friendly way, but why not save money and make your own duster?

1. You can punch a dozen or so holes in the bottom and lower sides of a brown paper, lunch-size bag with an ice pick or a carving fork and use it to dust flour onto the foliage in your garden.

2. Other containers might be salt or pepper shakers, empty spice containers with perforated lids, grated cheese jars, or container with shaker top, or cover you can punch holes in with tiny nail and hammer.

You will need 3 cups of plain all-purpose flour, a garden duster or shaker, and a garden hose.

3. **The best time to use this method** is early in the morning when there is no wind and there is still dew on the plants; the flour will end up on your plants. The dew will help the flour stay on your plants and not be blown away. You could also use this method after a rain as long as there is no wind.

4. **Pour flour into container with shaker top** or the perforated paper bag. Use less for small garden.

5. Before dusting the flour on the plants in your garden, **give the foliage a shake** in order to get the grasshoppers to move off them.

6. **Dust the leaves AND the insects** with the flour.

7. **After 2 days, rinse off the flour** from your plants with **fine spray** so as not to damage your leaves. If the leaves are hairy (such as tomato leaves), you may need to rinse twice.

If you need to repeat this method to get rid of grasshoppers the eco-friendly, wait about a week before you dust your leaves again. As long as you don't leave the flour on the leaves for more than 2 days, the flour will not damage your plants.

**This method is the easiest and most economical way to get rid of grasshoppers the eco-friendly way.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Titusville Garden Club–Day Group From the Prez

April 3 - "All you need to know about what you are growing" - Sally Scalera, County Agent

April 3 - TGC and FFGC Dues are due

April 3 - Annual Reports due

April 17 - Joint Board Meeting

April 29 - U.S./National Arbor Day

April 29-30 - FFGC Convention, Ft. Myers

## 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 Enchanted Forest on S.R. 405 in Titusville. The public is welcome. For Info: 321-264-5185

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

## More Gardening Resources:

Florida Master Gardener

<http://mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu>

Gardening in a Minute

<http://gardeninginaminute.com>

Florida School Gardens

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/schoolgardens>

Florida-Friendly Landscaping

<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>

Solutions for your Life

<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>

EDIS

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

Univ. of Florida, IFAS Extension

<http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu>

## 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 April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 !!

**Annual Dues are due April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Single member \$25; couple is \$45.**

April 12 (10am-7pm) Spring Tree & Plant Sale  
(Searstown Mall Parking Lot)

April 13 (8am-2pm) Spring Tree & Plant Sale  
(Searstown Mall Parking Lot)

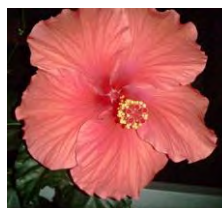
April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> – Brevard Botanical Garden – Spring  
Plant and Craft Sale (9am to 1pm)

**Cocoa Ag Center. For info: 633-1702**

April 20<sup>th</sup> – Florida Native Plant Society Sale at  
444 Columbia Blvd, Hwy 405. For Info: 321-264-5185

April 27<sup>th</sup> - Brevard Rare Fruit Council – Edible Fruit  
Tree Sale. (8am to 4pm) at Melbourne Auditorium

Please send your articles to Joanie at [freddiefla@yahoo.com](mailto:freddiefla@yahoo.com) to be included in next month's Bloomin' News.



**The Bloomin' News  
Titusville Men's Garden Club  
Joanie Opperman, Editor  
Email: [freddiefla@yahoo.com](mailto:freddiefla@yahoo.com)  
Cell: 321-480-8807**



# The Titusville Men's Garden Club

Next Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month, 2010 -- 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.

**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** \_\_\_\_\_