

The Bloomin' News

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Les Leckron , Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairperson's Message – Les Leckron

We've had the ups and downs of a Florida Winter and now spring is just around the corner! One of the biggest indicators of Spring arriving is that we have our Club's Spring Tree & Plant Sale! Thanks to the many hands that have been working diligently to get plants ready for the sale, getting the Tree Farm ready for the sale, working on publicity and making a purchase run to Nurseries to get flowering plants for the sale. It takes all of us pulling together to have another successful sale – come on out and enjoy the sale! Make sure you let your friends and neighbors know about the sale and liberally use your social media to spread the word.

My time as Chairman is quickly coming to an end and I congratulate Buck Cowen who was elected as the next Chairman! I'm sure Buck will take us to new levels of involvement and organization. Congratulations also to Teri Quam for taking over as Treasurer! Kathryn Woidtke will remain the Vice Chairman and Emily Leithauser will remain the Secretary. Emily plans to be traveling a lot more this summer, so she needs someone to step up and fill the Secretary role when she is out on adventures. Thanks for the support of my fellow officers during the past two years as Chairman. We have a really great group of people in our Club who make us an asset to the Greater Titusville Community! See you at the Tree and Plant Sale! Keep it Growing! Les

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, with minor elements. Broadcast at the rates recommended on package. Most spring blooming plants will benefit from an application. 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.

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, MARIGOLDS, 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. We meet at 7:00p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Garden Center on Sisson. For 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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR –

March 7-8 Florida Azalea Festival in historic downtown Palatka & Memorial Park
www.flazaleafest.com

March –May, 2015 Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival. Disney World, Lake Buena Vista
www.disneyworld.disney.go.com

March 3-28 Spring Plant Sale, Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando (407-246-3622)
Free, www.leugardens.org

March 28 - "Spring is in the Air", Free
Tropical Ranch Botanical Gardens, 1905 SW Ranch Trail, Stuart (772-283-5565) www.trbg.us

March 28 - Florida Wildflower & Garden Festival, W Indiana Avenue, DeLand (386-738-0649)
www.floridawildflowerfestival.com

March 28-29 - EGAD in Bloom, Eau Gallie Art District Flower & Garden Festival, Free.
Highland Ave & EauGallie Civic Center, Melbourne (321-574-2737) info@eaugalliearts.com

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### **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 an anthelmintic 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.

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### **Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter**

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meeting are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month; 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the Enchanted Forest, 444 Columbia Blvd (Hwy 405). The public is welcome. For info: 264-5185

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

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Titusville Men's Garden Club

# PLANT SALE

MARCH 6th & 7th

Friday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
Saturday 8:00AM to 2:00 PM

Azalea, Camellia, Lantana & more  
from a Florida Grower  
Plus a large variety of plants grown by members,  
numerous perennials, bulbs, bushes and trees -  
too many to list  
Come early for best selection!

**Follow signs to  
Knox McRae to Hood to  
1230 Thoreau St.  
Next to Stuart Park**

**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 RoseMarie @ 385-9051**

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**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name :** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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