

The Bloomin' News

MAY, 2015, Vol. VI, 94

Buck Cowen, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

Hi, Fellow gardeners! First, we as a club, thank our past officers for a job well done. Thank you all. Thank you for your confidence in the selections, for your new officers. I feel we will do our very best to keep moving in a positive direction. With the help of all our members it will be an easy task. We all pay our dues to different end !!! Some for a social outlet, others to learn more about gardening, and some to help for a good cause. Nonetheless, each in our own way contribute to the betterment of the club. Our Farm is looking the best it has in years ! We could easily call it a garden of weeding. Due to diligent work by members on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, it looks fantastic. As we keep working to keep it clean, it will be easier as time goes on.

The City fencing of the garden has greatly increased our opportunity's as a club! The ability to have our sales there has decreased our work load tremendously. And we should not become discouraged as to the success of our first two sales. We learn from each thing we do , be it growing plants or cooking dinner for our family's.

We've learned we must advertise earlier and better. Prepare better directions and so on. It will get better as we learn and execute !! *Just Me, till next time Buck*

Become a New Member!! 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 7:00pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Garden Center on Sisson. For more information, call Joanie @ 480-8807.

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/>

MAY IN THE GARDEN

May is usually a dry month, so regular watering may be necessary. Lawns should have about 1 inch of rain or irrigation each week; bedded plants and shrubs about ½ inch every 4 days; and CITRUS and other trees 1 inch a week. Renew mulches to conserve water and keep down weeds.

Continue to prune and trim your AZALEAS and CAMELLIEAS for next year. Prune GARDENIAS after they finish blooming. If mites, thrips



and/or scale are present, spray with Summer Oil. Feed monthly with an acid forming fertilizer. Small monthly feedings are better for most plants than fewer heavy feedings. Cut back perennials finishing their spring bloom. Continue to prune any dieback from

winter damaged plants.

If May is dry, I recommend waiting to fertilize in June, normally a wetter month than May. Continue to seed, plug or sod to fill in bare areas in your lawn.

Mole Crickets will be active in Bahia lawns this month. May is one of the best months to combat them. They tend to nest under concrete walks, driveways and stepping stones. They come out at night to feed. Mole Cricket Bait applied to a wet lawn in the evening is effective. Check St. Augustine lawns for Chinch Bugs. Treat infected areas about 10 feet beyond infestations when noticeable damage is occurring. CRAPE MYRTLE, JASMINE, BOUGAINVILLEA, ALLAMANDA, GARDENIAS, QUEEN PALMS and other plants may show a yellowing of leaves because of a Manganese deficiency. Apply Manganese Sulfate to the soil at package recommended rates and water well. NOTE: Manganese Sulfate will stain concrete. Spider Mites can be a real pest during dry weather. While they seem to prefer JUNIPERS, MARIGOLDS and PYRACANTHAS, they can attack any plant. Look for them as a scorched area

on leaves or fine webbing in crotches or leaf bases. You can blast them off with a hard stream of water.

Take tip cuttings of shrubs and plants to root in Perlite and Vermiculite. Divide and re-pot Bromeliads, Orchids and other plants that have outgrown their containers.

Plant BLOOD LILY, CALADIUM, CANNA, RAIN LILY, DAY LILY, SPIDER LILY and CRINUM bulbs for summer color. Replace cool season plants with warm season plantings of BEGONIAS, BLUE DAZE, CELOSIA, COLEUS, GERBERA, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PENTAS, PERIWINKLES, SALVIA, TORENIA, VERBENA and ZINNIAS.

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

May 6 – Spring Luncheon – Hostesses:

Amanda Hagan, Sarite Sachdev, Maureen Willett

Annual Reports presented

Annual Dues Deadline to FFGC

VEGETABLES – Sharon Adams

Iron Lady Tomato is in the Gardens Alive catalog, and is the newest, greatest tomato for here! Also, they have Miragreen Peas, the absolute finest for here. This would be for next December for folks to have time to order and grow if they want. The tomato is resistant to “Septoria leaf spot”, early and late blight, our main problems here. The garden club might want to grow them, but they are NOT listed as nematode resistant, so members would order Pacific Mustard seeds from Johnny’s and plant them now and later. You grow them, the bees like them and just before they go to make seeds you mow them and till them under. They are like the old VAPAM and kill nematodes in the soil.

Two plantings now and in summer. They grow well and at any time would make a nematode-free garden bed. Along with Green Cure from Johnnys for powdery mildew on squash, cucumbers etc.

Also a “might be” remedy for spider mites; i.e., a cup of dark molasses per gallon sprayed on leaf undersides. They hate sulfur. You cannot spray sulfur in the summer. But the molasses contains sulfur so will contain peach brown rot and will not burn the plants

TREE FARM

Thanks to all the weekday workers for having fun weeding, propagating, up-potting, & planting new varieties of many



plants. We were super successful at our Spring Sale, and now we must replenish the Tree Farm for future sales and donations. A special “Thank You” to Buck for cutting the grass, disposing of recycled pots, etc and in general organizing our work area. THANKS, BUCK!!

Here are some suggestions we might consider:

***Everyone identify their corral. *Let’s create a list of plants with their “Adoptee”, with a backup person to help in case of emergencies. *We should propose a policy for taking plants when we work at the Tree Farm. We can discuss and put some kind of plan into action at our next meeting.**

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 Rt. 405 in Titusville. The public is welcome. <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/> For info: 321-264-5185

COMMUNITY CALENDAR –

May 2 & 3 - (9-5) Platinum Coast Orchid Society Show & Sale, Admission \$5, Kiwanis Island Park Gym, 951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd, Merritt Island (525-7540)

May 9 - (8-2) Spring into Gardening Festival – St Lucie County Extension. Plant vendors, horticulture merchants, a plant fashion show, “Taste of the Tropics” & garden tours. (772-462-1660) Ft. Pierce

May 9 - 50th Anniversary Annual Flower Show Orlando Garden Club –

Info - centralfloridadaylilies.org

May 15 – starts at 6pm – Central Florida Daylily Society, Ice Cream Social, Deltona Community Center. Daylily Auction. centralfloridadaylilies.org

May 21 – Grow your own Herbs – Harry P. Leu Gardens - \$14 for non-members, \$8 for members. (407-246-2620) or leugardens.org

May 16 – Save the Date for **“Art in the Lobby”** at Brevard County UF/IFAS Extension Office, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, showcasing the work of local artists, and hosted by the **Brevard Botanical Gardens**. An opportunity to mingle with artists who specialize in garden art, purchase items, enjoy beverages and snacks.....and have fun with other garden enthusiasts. \$10 admission, 6:00-8:00pm

www.brevardbotanicalgardens.org

(Call Joanie at 480-8807)

Joanie's Corner

I have just watched a beautiful documentary on the Monarch butterfly. In October, they fly from Canada by the thousands on a 2,000 mile journey across the desert and the mountains to their final destination in Mexico. There they hang from branches so close together it boggles the mind, only leaving to eat and drink water. They hang suspended for 5 months. At a certain time only known to them, they fly to Texas, where they mate, lay 300 to 400 eggs, then die. Those eggs will hatch, and they will fly to Canada, where the cycle will continue. Our State butterfly is the Zebra Longwing. The delicate adults may live for several months. Females deposit small, yellow eggs on young leaves and tendrils of Purple Passionflower. There are 2800 native plants and more than 180 species of butterflies. Cater to their life cycle needs by including nectar plants for adult butterflies and host plants for their larvae. Butterflies have 4 life stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis) and adult. By planting host plants, you provide food for caterpillars and can enjoy watching them grow and transform into adult butterflies.

P.S. I have heard that Monarch butterflies like Dill. So just planted some Dill seed; will wait and see.

KEEPING OUR POLLINATORS: Sharon Adams



One thing is very plain. If bees don't survive, we may not either. We need to care for our bees and do everything we can to protect them. Some bees live in ground. You will see these on the DVD we can

show when I speak to your group. Google Miner Bees and Green Bees. Keep in mind that poisoning your yard will also kill these desperately needed pollinators. One out of every three bites of food you take comes from bees. Once you get to know them, you will have fun watching them come and go.

There are humble, bumble homes, plans to make bee nests for Mason Bees, Honey Bees, and I just found a new easy one. Take an 8" clay pot, bury it upside down in a sheltered place with the hole on put soft dry grass or moss in the bottom. I will take photos of ours to show at the meeting. If you are the top. Just before you "bury" it, successful, you will have made a Bumble Bee nest! Also, leave sheltered bare ground in a couple of places on your property for the Green and Miner Bees. This area can have a few of their favorite plants. African Basil

is always a winner. Take some time to get on the web and see which flowers like to attract bees.

Titusville Men's Garden Club
Meets 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Rd
Titusville, FL
Next meeting is May 11th, 2015



Please send your articles to Joanie at freddiefla@yahoo.com for next month's Bloomin' News. 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

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

