

The Bloomin' News

September, 2015, Vol. VI, 98

Duane "Buck" Cowen, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

Hi fellow gardeners.

I'm back to remind you that another Month has passed. The speed in which this happens is incredible! It seems as if we just finished weeding or cutting grass, and a week has passed, and we are at it again. It sure is nice as retirees... we don't care what day it is !! If we do or you do, you should not. We have earned the right to take life as it comes. Except for days that we want to be part of a gathering, or an appointment, we should not care if it's Friday, Monday or Wednesday. The second Monday of each month is one of those gathering days. It is our meeting night and we always like to see a good crowd !!

Our October sale is nearing, and we all should be working in that direction !! The discussions we had at the last meeting are being looked after. We have visited the sign company and have received a design ! With a few changes it will work just fine. It will be ready in plenty of time. it's time to spiffy up all our signs and make sure we have everything we need to have a good sale.

Since last month, I've observed two more "whirlwind" weeding machines !! They are in the forms of Bob and Eric. THANKS, GUYS, for what you do in the garden of weeding. Yes, we have others, and we thank everyone, as the farm looks great! As hobby gardeners, we leave our frustrations in the dirt, all working toward a common goal.

SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

September will be as hot and humid as August, and will bring about as much rain as last month. Changes that will affect our plants: night time temperatures will begin to drop and shorter daylight hours will induce some plants to set buds.

Because plants in Florida grow continuously, regular pruning is a must. Fall pruning and fertilizing should be done early to allow new growth to harden. Late pruning and fertilizing will stimulate new growth that could be damaged by cold in December or January. Prune declining fronds and flower stems from PALMS. Renew mulches to save water and reduce weeds.

Do not prune AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS or GARDENIAS as their buds are already set. CAMELLIAS often set two buds side by side. If you would like larger but few blooms, pinch one of them off. Make sure you can distinguish between leaf and flower buds

Give POINSETTIAS a final pruning before September 15. Watch for mildew, white flies and tomato worms. Spray and prune ROSES, removing old flowers, hips and dead, damaged or spindly growth. Fertilize to encourage fall blooming.

. Where needed, complete seeding of Bahia turf as early as practical in September. Always follow label instructions. Operate sprinkler systems manually to

conserve water. Water lawns when grass shows signs of stress.

Pinch CHRYSANTHEMUMS and spray for aphids mites, mildew and blackspot. Feed until color shows in the buds. Feed hanging baskets and ORCHIDS every two weeks. Feed shrubs, perennials and container plants for Fall.

CHRISTMAS CACTUS should receive their last feeding this month. Move them into partial sun- shine and reduce watering until buds appear.

Till and re-plant flower beds. If you did not start annual flowers from seeds, local nurseries or garden shops will have a selection of plants that will provide color in your yard this Fall and Winter to include ALYSSUM, CALENDULA, CLEOME, CORNFLOWER, DIANTHUS, GAILLARDIA, HOLLYHOCK, PERIWINKLE, PHLOX, SALVIA, SNAPDRAGON & VERBENA. Wait another month to plant PANSIES and PETUNIAS.

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FALL VEGETABLE GARDEN - RoseMarie

Fall is my favorite time of year to plant the vegetable garden, and now is the time to be preparing. Tomato seeds should have been started mid-August for transplanting into soil or large pots for the fall crop. If you haven't done that, Better Boy and Brandywine heirloom are good choices which you can buy at the garden



stores. If you plant into the ground, be enriching the soil with compost. Keep the weeds down so as to not deplete the soil of nutrients. It is fairly important to give the tomatoes an early start as the weather can sometimes turn cold quite early. Once the night time temp drops below 50 degrees, blossoms become infertile, and a frost or freeze ends the season quite abruptly.

Cold weather crops thrive in the autumn temperatures and some crops even taste better in fall than in spring. Except for tomatoes and green beans, most all fall vegetables will tolerate the frost and freezes we get in this area of Brevard County. When the cooler days of mid-September arrive, plant green beans, Swiss chard, beets, carrots, Fennel, Arugula, Kohlrabi, turnips, spinach. It might be a bit too warm yet for lettuce and radishes, and I usually plant them every two weeks starting in late September. Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, parsley and Scallions should be transplanted as well in late September. These will most definitely love frosts and cool weather. Don't forget about onion sets or plants and Garlic. They are best planted in October or early November for harvesting the following late spring.

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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, 444 Columbia Blvd (Hwy 405) The public is welcome. For information: 264-5185
<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/>

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB HISTORY – Billy Rhodes

In the spring of 1972 a group of men who had retired to Florida from "up north" took a Master Gardener class. At the end of the class these men wanted to continue to learn about gardening in Florida as opposed to gardening "up north." They approached the Titusville Garden Club (some of their wives were members) and asked to join. The ladies would not have it. Since, at that time, the Titusville Garden Club was made up of "circles", some neighborhood based, such as Sherwood and Hickory Hill, and others community wide, such as the Poinsettia Circle, which was made up mostly of ladies from the old Titusville families. The ladies suggested that the men form a circle of their own,

In the summer of 1972, a meeting was held at the home of Nate Klein in Hickory Hills to form the Men's Club Circle of the Titusville Garden Club. As near as I can recall Billy Rhodes, Nate Klein, Gil Bertie, Tom Kennedy, Bill Yeungling and Jerry Ashcroft attended that meeting. (I thought there was a plaque on one of the bookcases in the meeting room with the names on it.) There was another name but I don't recall it because he dropped out after a few meetings. I (Billy Rhodes) was not part of the group that took the Master Gardener class, and was much younger than the rest. I was invited to join because some of the ladies in the Titusville Garden Club knew of my interest in gardening. I was the first secretary.

In the beginning years, we had our sales at a Christmas Bazaar at the Miracle City Mall. We grew our plants in empty dog food cans with punched holes in bottom for drainage. We eventually started using pots and had sales in front of Titusville High School and other places. The Men's Club Circle was a member of FFGC, and the only men's garden club

Burl Ferguson was tree farm manager for many years, and would bring in supplies and purchase small stock to grow. The main function I saw was ordering new plant material and potting soil. Tony Koromilas also was very involved in the Tree Farm, and did a lot to promote the Club with the City. I would guess that as Burl got less able to function, Tony assumed more responsibility. He was involved with beautification committees and wanted the Tree Farm trees for that purpose. In addition to supplying plants for our semi-annual tree sales, the Tree Farm donated to the City and local groups, such as churches. (At one time the City had a tree farm at the same location. They used some City employees for labor, but I think it was mostly jail crews.)

The purpose of the Men's Club Circle of the Titusville Garden Club was educational and we tried to have knowledgeable speakers at every meeting. I remember the director of Leu Gardens speaking, and, of course, Sally Scalera, our Ag agent. But, we would also have people from various special interest groups such as a Hibiscus Society, Gardenia Society, etc. Frequently these folks came from Orlando and we would pay mileage and a small stipend.

When Burl Ferguson joined, he was very active in the North Brevard Beautification Commission, and he negotiated with the City for us to have a tree farm on

City property. Our first Tree Farm site was on the right side of Sisson Road across from the manufactured home subdivision. (I think there is a city pumping station still on the site.) We were later moved to the sewer plant, but the first location was closer to the front of the property. Later, as the sewer plant expanded, we moved to the present location. (Truman Scarborough Jr., local attorney and elected official was a member for a while and may have helped with getting us public space.) For many years the City also maintained a tree farm next to ours with a small staff. I think one reason for the move was to get effluent water from the plant for the trees. This usually worked OK but was tough on pipes and on one occasion burned many of the trees.

Prior to the Garden Club Center, the Clubs met in homes, churches, library, etc. without overhead. Just as the entire culture of garden clubbing was changing (most younger women were working and not involved any more), the older women of the Titusville Garden Club pushed through the Garden Club Center.

I stopped attending meetings in the mid 1990's partly because my job changed, partly because I began attending Bonsai events in south Brevard, and partly because I felt the focus of our Club had changed from an educational/training purpose to a fund raising purpose, and supporting the garden club building.

TREE FARM REPORT –



The plants and trees continue thriving, thanks to the terrific Tuesday and Thursday crews and the rest of members preparing them for our sale October 9th & 10th.

Many propagated plants in the Mist House are ready for up-potting. Our Oaks are getting too big so we will try to plant them along Titusville's roadways and parks. Thanks to all who have planted and cared for all of our plants at the Tree Farm.

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez *Welcome back from summer vacation, Members! Our first meeting is on September 2nd at 9:30a.m. *coffee & donuts* 10am begins our 82nd year. We will have a power point presentation by Holly Chichester, horticulturist, at Florida Tech Botanical Garden*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

6th Annual Orlando Full Home & Garden Show

Orange County Convention Center –
Sept. 11 – 13. See Florida Gardening Magazine and gardening expert, Tom MacCubbin! Show times are noon to 7pm on Friday; 10am to 7pm on Saturday, and 11am to 5pm on Sunday
showtechnology.com/event/Orlando-fall-home-garden-show

Incredible Edible Garden Fest –
Sept 19th 9:00am to 2:00pm

Brevard Botanical Garden – 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa (633-1702) Brevard Humane Society is bringing pets for adoption. Free admission & classes. www.brevardbotanicalgarden.org

Annual Orchid Auction – Sept 26th (9am to 3pm)

Mainland Civic Center – 641 Maitland Ave.
407-647-2111 or 407-333-0998
www.cflorchidsociety.org

Men's Garden Club of Titusville

Meets 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road,
Titusville. FL**

**Our next meeting is
September 14th, 2015!!**

**We will be discussing plans & prices
for our FALL TREE & PLANT SALE
on Oct. 9th & 10th**

Upcoming Events for Members:

**September 24th, 25th and 26th
Florida Nurseryman Allied Trade Show
Now known as Landscape Show!**

The Bloomin' News
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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 on April 1st.

For information , please call: Joanie @ 480-8807

Name: _____

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

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