

# The Bloomin' News

MAY, 2017, Vol. VI, 117

Buck Cowen, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



## Chairman's Message by Buck Cowen

Hello, Fellow Gardeners !

I bet you all thought you finally got rid of me! Well, due to a lot of under-the-table, back- room politics, my arm was twisted into doing this thing again . Thank you for your confidence; I'll try to do the best I can! Down to business, with the help of a lot of great members we had a very good sale. It seems the biggest complaint is "we are hard to find". Sooo, we will have to work diligently and try to resolve this ongoing problem. Any suggestions will be discussed and looked at very carefully. Somehow we will get the job done. Even with that setback, we are becoming more successful. We knew it would take a few years to build after moving from Sears Town and downtown locations. Except for a hurricane year or a freeze, we have matched previous sales. So, we will keep on weeding, keep on cleaning, keep on fixing, and keep on learning. All this means the Titusville Men's Garden Club will keep moving up. I will see you at the Tree Farm or a meeting.

Just Me, Buck

### 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. 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.

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## **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.

## **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 will meet at 7:00pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month for Daylight Savings Time at the Garden Club, 5275 Sisson. For more information, call Joanie @ 480-8807.

## **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: <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc>

## **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!



## **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 Rt. 405 in Titusville. The public is welcome. <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/Sea Rocket/>

For info: 321-264-5185

## **Titusville Garden Club—Day Group** from the prez

May 3 – Morning meeting - Spring Luncheon

TGC & FFGC Annual dues due

Annual Reports presented

June 1 – Annual Dues Deadline to FFGC

## **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Thursdays, Melbourne –** Brevard County Farmers’ Market – Wickham Park Equestrian Ctr.  
Open 3:00 to 6:00pm. Call 633-1702 ext. 238

**May 5, 6, & 7** Platinum Coast Orchid Society Sale, Admission \$5, Kiwanis Island Park Gym, 951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd, Merritt Island (626-0686)

**May 6 & 7 –** Tropical Ranch Botanical Gardens, 1905 SW Ranch Trail, Stuart (772-283-5565)  
[www.trbg.us](http://www.trbg.us)

**May 13 -** Central Florida Daylily Society Show & Sale, Free – Orlando Garden Club, 710 E. Robbins St (407-922-1435) [centralfloridadaylilies.org](http://centralfloridadaylilies.org)

**May 14 –** Free admission all day for Moms – Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave, Orlando (407-246-2620)

**May 20 –** Spring Festival, Free adm & parking, Seminole Springs Antique Rose & Herb Farm, 34935 W. Huff Rd, Eustis (352-357-2643)  
[www.roseandherbs.com](http://www.roseandherbs.com)

**May 16 (9am to 4pm) –** Keep Brevard Beautiful Secret Garden Tour, Brevard County (321-631-0501)

## **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.

## Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00pm

**Titusville Garden Club**

**5275 Sisson Road**

**Titusville, FL**

**Our next meeting is May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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**We will be having our "After the Spring Sale"  
Appreciation Potluck Dinner on May 8!**

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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)**

**Phone: 480-8807**

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.

### 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 the top. Just before you "bury" it, put soft dry grass or moss in the bottom. I will take photos of ours to show at the meeting. If you are 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 you like to attract bees.



# 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 Joanie @ 480-8807

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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