The Bloomin' News

February, 2017, Vol. VI, 114

Duane "Buck" Cowen, Chairman **Joanie Opperman, Editor**

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

Chairman's Message

Hi, fellow gardeners! Well, well, here I am again! I'm getting to the end of my reign as Commander and Chief of the" best weed pullers" in the area! And a good group of people who like to garden! We have experimented with working together as a group , and it's working! We are getting to know each other and getting a lot done. As always, the garden looks good as we start getting ready for spring. It is difficult to determine what plants to have a lot of, and which ones to discontinue, as demand changes from year to year. As always, we'll keep trucking along doing the best we can; trying to satisfy as many people as possible. Sadly, I must inform you that we lost a good Tree Farm Manager in December. Bob Smith was a very good man , and a nice fellow to be around. We will miss him!!! Till I see you at a meeting or at the Tree Farm…..Just me, Buck

---

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

This has been a good winter in our gardens. The cold snaps served to intensify Citrus color and harden most shrubs. Some plants have been damaged by cold, but none beyond recovery. Remember, cold spells are common in Florida during February full moons, and have occurred during cold winters as late as the second week of March.

Judicious pruning of cold-damaged plants can be done. Grape and Kiwi vines and all deciduous fruit and shade trees should be pruned in February, if not already done. Begin routine apple, peach, fig and similar tree spraying. Till and enrich sandy soils with organic matter. Complete transplanting bare root trees and shrubs as soon as practical. Divide and replant large perennials.

You can thin and prune dormant shrubs. **CRAPE MYRTLE** should be pruned. Remove all small, spindly stems from the base of the plant, and small shoots on the main stems. Thin to 3 to 7 main trunks to open up the plant. Prune stems up to about ½ inch in diameter. **CRAPE MYRTLE** only blooms on new wood. Thin twigs will seldom produce big blooms.



ROSES can stand heavy pruning by mid-month. Cut vigorous bushes back by 1/3 to ½ . Remove all twigs and any branches that are dead, diseased, injured or thin and spindly. Shorten main canes and remove small twigs and older canes that have become too hard. Miniature **ROSES** should be pruned as you would a bush **ROSE**, but lightly. Vigorous varieties may need heavier pruning to keep them compact. Clean up as much of the cut foliage as practical. Add a new layer of mulch to cover old **ROSE** leaves and Black Spot spores.

Hedges can be pruned heavily and shaped. Keep the top of the hedge narrower than the bottom to allow sun to reach the lower branches. By the middle of the month, you can work your beds for annuals by removing old plants, checking soil for pH, and correcting, if necessary. Treat for pests, work in compost, mulch or other organic matter and, when needed, colloidal phosphate, other amenders and fertilizer.

By the end of the month, all except spring blooming trees, shrubs and vines can be pruned. Spring flowering plants should be pruned after they finish blooming. A good pruning now will shape the plants for much of the summer. Renew mulches to control weeds and conserve water.

By the end of February, you should fertilize all plants except your lawn. Use 6-6-6 with minor elements, or if you prefer one for a special plant, such as Citrus fertilizer. Citrus trees will need ½ pound per inch of circumference measured 6 inches above the ground. Shade trees will need 1 pound per inch when less than 6 inches in diameter, and 2 pounds for each inch above 6 inches. Feed container grown plants monthly.

Major lawn care and fertilizing should wait until March. Repair winter damage. Spraying for weeds can continue. If crabgrass has been a problem, remove brown but surviving crabgrass and apply a pre-emergence herbicide by mid-month. Mow lawns as needed at the normal cutting height. Water normal lawns once a week.

If you did not start seed in January, start the seed now. Seeds started in trays or flats will grow rapidly and be ready to set out in March or April.

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 info, please call: 264-5185
http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/

Garden Club Web Sites

The Titusville Garden Club web site has link to the Titusville Men's Garden Club web site:
National Garden Club: www.gardenclub.org
Florida Federation of GC: www.ffgc.org
TGC site: http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tgc
TMGC site: http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc

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. There are 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; drop by to visit and possibly join us. For more information call Joanie at 480-8807.

Planting & Care of Azaleas & Camellias - RoseMarie

This is a very good time of year to think about planting azaleas and camellias if you need to add to your landscape. Both of these plants are being offered in bloom at the local garden stores and garden club sales. It is easy to lump these two plants together because they require many of the same or similar cultivation practices. Azaleas, (genus Rhododendron), and Camellias (native to Asia) are both cold hardy and grow well here in Central Florida in the inland areas. Both require a low soil ph. 4.5-6.0. When the ph. is too high, the plant has trouble absorbing the micronutrients it needs. All azaleas require varying amounts of sunlight from filtered to fairly bright depending on the variety. The Sasanqua Camellia tolerates a fair amount of sun, while the Japonica prefers bright filtered shade. Total shade results in sparse foliage and fewer blooms for both azaleas and camellias.



Azaleas have a very shallow root system and require consistent moisture but will not tolerate poor drainage. Because of this shallow root system, they can be transplanted more easily than camellias if sufficient care is taken and it is done at this cool time of year. Camellias do not require as much water after they are established and do not tolerate poor drainage either. They require water during times of drought.

Both require a specialized fertilizer containing sulfates designed for acid-loving plants. Azaleas prefer light and more frequent fertilizations during the warm months. Camellias do not need the frequent fertilization; perhaps twice a year and also lightly. Do not over fertilize, especially when first planted.

Azaleas often require pruning after blooming and pruning can be repeated up until the 4th of July. After that date, pruning will greatly lessen the amount of blooms. Camellias only need minimal pruning. Both require minimal care and do not have very many pests. Tea scale, aphids and spider mites are the main pests.

Popular cultivars of azaleas are: Formosa-Magenta (fuchsia); George Taber (pale pink w/ red blotches) Mrs. G.G.Gerbing (white); Southern Charm (pink);. Fashion (salmon pink); Red Ruffles (bluish red)

Winter Red Wheat Berries - RoseMarie

The winter red wheat berries that we tasted at the luncheon served at the club house after Tony's funeral were delicious. It was explained to us that the wheat (in Greek culture) is symbolic of rebirth or life after death. The wheat plant lives, bears the seeds and dies, but the seeds can sprout and there is new life.

The wheat kernels are pleasantly nutty and chewy and are a wonderfully nutritious snack or topping for salads. They can be used in soups and stews as one would use barley etc. The wheat can be purchased at the health food store on Washington Avenue here in Titusville for approx. $2.00 per pound.

To prepare them, you can soak them overnight as you do for beans to shorten the cooking time. Cover them in water and cook as you would rice or barley etc. (Approx. 45 min.) but keep checking for desired doneness. Season with a pinch of salt and a little olive oil while still warm. I also add small amount of balsamic vinegar. Can be refrigerated for a week.

****

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group -

February 1st – Morning meeting w/speaker Sam Fried "Fascinated with Humming Birds?"
****Honoring Past Presidents****
February 10th & 11th - Spring Plant Sale
Contact: kheide@cfl.rr.com
(Start collecting items for Fantastic Sale ;)



Titusville Garden Club

Annual

PLANT SALE

5275 Sisson Road

February 10th & 11th

Friday 9:00 M to 5:00 PM
Saturday 8:00AM to 2:00 PM

Azalea, Camellia, Lantana & more
from a Florida Grower
Plus a variety of plants grown by members
Come early for best selection!

And plan to visit our
Wedding Garden!
(available for your special event)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

Day Group Garden Club Plant Sale –
February 10 (9 to 5) & February 11 (8 to 2pm)
Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville kheide@cfl.rr.com (321-543-3696)

***

Brevard Botanical Garden "Edible Garden Plant Sale
3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa – *Saturday, February 25 9am-2pm* – Vegetables, Herbs, Tropical Fruit Plants
Free admission, free classes. 321-633-1702x0
info@brevardbotanicalgarden.org

***

Men's Garden Club Tree/Plant Sale – *April 7 & 8*
Friday 10:00am to 6:00pm---Saturday 8am to 2pm
Tree Farm – N of intersection Stuart & Thoreau Sts
Info: freddiefla@yahoo.com (call 321-480-8807)

***

Brevard Tropical Fruit Tree Sale– *April 22*
Brevard Rare Fruit Council *(8:00am-4:00pm)*
Melbourne Auditorium, South-East Lawn)
625 E. Hibiscus Boulevard, Melbourne
www.brevardrarefruitclub.org

***

Platinum Coast Orchid Society 54th Orchid Show
(321-626-0686) www.platinumcoastorchidsociety.org
May 5 & 6 - Saturday, 9am to 5pm and
***May 7, Sunday, 9am to 4pm* (Admission $5.00)**
Kiwanis Island Park Gymnasium and Annex,
951 Kiwanis Island Park Road, Merritt Island.

***

16th Annual Gardenfest! Riverside Park
***February 4 & 5,* Vero Beach (free admission)**
This popular annual festival is hosted by the Garden Club of Indian River County and includes 85 vendors who have been invited to bring together an incredible selection of quality items for your garden. There will be a wide variety of planters, pottery, fountains, furniture, lighting, statuary, and other garden accessories. Plants for sale include palms, ferns, orchids, bromeliads, Florida natives, herbs, succulents, bamboo, and roses. Bring garden questions to the "Ask the Experts" booth. *9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.* .For more information, visitwww.gardenclubofirc.org/Gardenfest.html.

TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:30a.m.
At Tree Farm - Titusville, FL

Our next meeting is February 14th, 2017!
Come join us at the TREE FARM!!
(North of intersection Stuart & Thoreau)

TREE FARM NEWS –

Thanks to all who help at the Tree Farm--it continues to look great!

It is time for all of us to propagate, using cuttings and seeds, and hoping that the weather cooperates. Just bring your favorite cuttings to the mist house. Trays are crying for adoption--just i.d. tray with your name, name of plant & date, We need variegated Schefflera, Red Maple seeds, Gardenias, Fig, Mulberry, Pomegranate and many others. Just have fun trimming, cutting, dipping in Root-tone, and placing in the vermiculite and perlite trays. Voila!! roots will erupt if you are patient.

***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****

Winter Yard Work – Joanie

*Check vegetable garden for any diseased, infested or old & non-producing plants and remove them. Add organic matter like compost or aged manure to enrich the soil for new plantings.

*Add new mulch to landscape areas where the mulch is less than 2 inches deep. Be sure to keep the mulch away from the stems or trunks of the plants.

*Mid-month is good time to prune Rose bushes. Choose 4-5 main canes to form new shrub & prune off the others. Cut main canes back a third of the way.

*Prune Poinsettias back to about 2 feet from the ground . Apply 1 to 2 tsp of Epsom salts to supply Magnesium.

*Flowers to plant: Alyssum, Dianthus, Pansy, Petunia Nasturtium, Phlox, flowering Kale & Snapdragons

*Herbs to plant: Basil, Comfrey, Chives, Dill, Fennel Parsley, sweet Marjoram, Mint, Sage and Thyme.

Joanie Opperman, Editor
Men's Garden Club of Titusville
Bloomin' News
freddiefla@yahoo.com 321-480-8807

THE TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

Titusville Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville, FL 32780

INVITATION TO JOIN THE TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

Next Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month Begins at 7:00 p.m.

(*NOTE: During winter months, we will meet at the Tree Farm on 2nd Tuesday at 9:30a.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: Joanie @ 321-480-8807

Name:____

Email:______________________________**Phone:**_______________**Cell:**_____________

Street:_______________________________**City**______________________**Zip** ___________