The Bloomin' News

August, 2019, Vol. VI, 141

Alan Howland, Chairman **Thomas H Perez, Editor**

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

Chairperson's Message - Alan Howland

Hello everyone,
Just a reminder, now that it is August, start planting your tomato plants for the fall. Tomatoes like somewhat acidic soil so feel free to feed them with your used coffee grounds. The grounds can also be added to your azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, blueberries and hydrangeas. Coffee grounds are a great source of nitrogen and earthworms love them.

We finished the new shade house addition and thank you for everyone who helped with that project. Our new project is refurbishing the old trailer from out back. John is removing tires and rims and Buck has found replacements. Kat & Rick continue trimming and weeding trees and they look great. Seventy five new tree stock roots are coming in December and they include black walnut, loblolly bay, and southern magnolia. One of our customers bought a mulberry tree from our sale last spring and it has already grown four feet taller. Just a reminder our spring sale has been pushed up a month earlier to the second weekend in March. Also the trip to Leu Gardens in Orlando is still scheduled for the middle of September. That is all for now, please make an effort to stop the tree farm and say hello.
Warm Regards, Alan

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

July has been a hot month with quite a bit of rain so far. August will be as hot and, hopefully, will bring some much needed rain as well.

Shrubs, flowerbeds and lawns need at least one inch of water per week to grow well during our hot weather. A good rain gauge can save much watering. If you do not get ½ inch of rain during each 3-4 day period, you should water to bring the total to ½ inch. Normally, plants in hanging baskets and pots will require daily rain or watering. Large hanging baskets and large potted plants in the sun may require two or more waterings a day.

You can make it easier on yourself if you prune most large shrubs. Groom trees and shrubs removing lanky, unsightly summer or storm damaged growth. Pruning will reduce the plant's water requirement, stimulate new growth, and make your shrubs and trees more compact and bushier. Prune declining CRAPE MYRTLE flower heads to reasonably large stems before seed pods form to encourage continuing bloom. Prune POINSETTIAS by the end of August for the best displays. Repot plants that are pot bound. Renew mulches to save water and help control weeds. Wait until next year to prune AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS AND GARDENIAS. Pinch out the tips of CHRYSANTHEMUMS to produce compact plants and increase blooms. Palms planted during our rainy season establish quickly.

Divide overgrown bulbous and tuberous type plants, such as AMARYLLIS, BIRD OF PARADISE, DAY LILIES and CRINUMS now or in September. GLADIOLAS planted at 10-day intervals will bloom in about 3 months.

Seed thin Bahia lawns. Plug or sod bare or weedy areas in St. Augustine lawns. Lawn insects are quite active now: Sod Webworms and Chinch Bugs usually in St. Augustine, and Mole Crickets usually in Bahia.

Seeds can be started in August for transplants for fall and winter flowers. Try CALENDULAS, COSMOS, DIANTHUS, PANSIES, PETUNIAS and SNAPDRAGONS.

Hot weather plants for summer color include BEGONIAS, BLUE DAZE, CALADIUMS, COLEUS, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PENTAS, SALVIA, PERIWINKLES, VERBENAS and ZINNIAS.

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More Plants that Repel Mosquitoes (see July)

Catnip – is considered about 10 times more effective than DEET for repelling mosquitoes. May be invasive.
Rosemary – can easily repel mosquitoes, and keep your garden safe. Also delicious and used in cooking!
Mint – excellent for repelling mosquitoes. Keep a couple pots filled with these aromatic and hardy plants.
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Marine Resources Council – We are fostering Mangrove Seedlings in our mist house for the Marine Resources Council, and hope to grow these seedlings up so they can eventually be placed in the Indian River Lagoon. For more information call 321-978-8862 or email sharkeyMRC@gmail.com

AZOMITE – Steve Korpacz

You can apply Azomite volcanic trace minerals any time; it has no Nitrogen or Phosphorous; just organic micronutrients. It will help with yellowing, heat stress and cold resistance.



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Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter

The Sea Rocket Chapter's next meeting will be September 25, 2019. Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month; gather at 6:30 for socializing, and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for program at the ENCHANTED FOREST, 444 Columbia Blvd, Hwy. 405. The public is welcome. Call (321)264-5185 http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Kanapaha Botanical Garden offers a guided tour of the gardens the first Saturday of every month, starting at 10 a.m. Regular admission price for non-members, and members are admitted free of charge. Info: **kanapaha.org.**

Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, 2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd. Donation of $5 is requested, or $4 for members. For more information visit **pslbotanicalgardens.org** or call 772-337-1959.

Thursdays - Melbourne

Brevard County Farmers' Market
Wickham Park Equestrian Center
Rain or shine, this market is open from 3-6 p.m. and features locally grown and produced vegetables, fruits and craft items. Look for free-range eggs, pickles, cheeses, and much more. SNAP EBT and Florida Organic Growers Fresh Access Bucks are accepted. For more information visit **brevardcountyfarmersmarket.com** or call 321-633-1702 ext. 238.

Sundays - Mount Dora

Mount Dora Village Market
Elizabeth Evans Park - Shop for fresh produce, herbs, crafts and a growing range of products. Ample parking. For information: **mountdoramarket.com.**

Saturdays - Fernandina Beach

Market Place Farmers' Market
North Seventh Street Historic Downtown
This market takes place rain or shine! Join family and friends at this market where farmers, growers, and producers sell locally grown and homemade goods. Runs from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For info: **fernandinabeachmarketplace.com.**

Saturdays - Ft. Pierce

Downtown Ft. Pierce Farmers' Market
Marina Square - This Saturday morning tradition started in 1997 and takes place from 8 a.m.-noon, rain or shine. Live music serenades shoppers and pets are welcome. Fresh foods, organics, ready to eat munchies and drinks, plants are in one part of the market while a second area showcases crafters and artists. Info: **www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com.**

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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 and clippings.

For more information, call Joanie @ 480-8807.

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The key to preventing moldy berries...

Berries are delicious, but they're also kind of delicate. Raspberries in particular seem like they can mold before you even get them home from the market. There's nothing more tragic than paying $4 for a pint of local raspberries, only to look in the fridge the next day and find that fuzzy mold growing on their insides.

Wash them with vinegar.

When you get your berries home, prepare a mixture of one part vinegar (white or apple cider probably work best) and ten parts water. Dump the berries into the mixture and swirl around. Drain, rinse if you want (though the mixture is so diluted you can't taste the vinegar) and pop in the fridge. The vinegar kills any mold spores and other bacteria that might be on the surface of the fruit, and voila! Raspberries will last a week or more, and strawberries go almost two weeks without getting moldy and soft. So go forth and stock up on those pricey little gems, knowing they'll stay fresh as long as it takes you to eat them. *You're so berry velcome!*



Where Have All The Birds Gone? – Robert Smith

It has been reported that the population numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds is down over 60% in the last six years. Where have all the birds gone? It appears that the combination of loss of habitat and the increased use of pesticide is the most likely cause. August 14,2013 NBC News reported a sampling of garden store plants by "Friends of the Earth" and coauthored by the "Pesticide Research Center" discovered 7 of 13 plants purchased in various nursery and "Big Box" stores were contaminated with Neonicotinoid pesticides.

These potent systemic pesticides can persist in the soil and be absorbed by subsequent crops. Studies have linked these potent insecticides to Bee Colony Collapse Disorder and reduced bird populations due to the decreased food supply. Fewer bugs means less food for our feathered friends.

So, what is a gardener to do? By using Horticultural oils, pepper spray, Neem oil, Pyrethrins and better house cleaning in our gardens, we can certainly reduce our use of these potent, systemic pesticides. It would appear we may have to live with a few more pests in order to save the bees and the birds.

For more information, check out Mother Earth News, Chemistry World, Mother Jones, and the Center for Food Safety. Double check the labels on the brands carried by your favorite garden shop and ask their opinion on safer alternatives.

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month.
Our next meeting is Aug. 13, at
"The Farm"
Behind Stuart Park
Meeting starts at 10 am.

Titusville Men's Garden Club
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The Titusville Men's Garden Club

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

Next Meeting: Second Tuesday of the Month, -- 10:00 a.m.
(@ "the Farm" Behind Stuart Park)

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 Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at our Tree Farm near the Titusville Water Maintenance Facility, next to Stuart Park. 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.

For more information Phone Rose @ 321-289-8388.

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Titusville Men's Garden Club Application

Send application below to Titusville Men's Garden Club, P. O. Box 1783, Titusville, FL 32780.

Name: ____

Email: _____________________________ Phone: ______________ Cell: ______________

Street: _____________________________ City _____________________ Zip ___________