The Bloomin' News

March, 2022, Vol. XI, 2

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

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

Chairperson's Message

Fellow Gardeners,
Get ready for our annual spring sale on Friday and Saturday, March 11th and 12th. We need all the help we can get so come out and join us for this important event. We did try purchasing additional plants for the sale but the nurseries near Apopka were hit quite hard with a frost this year. Some of our plants at the farm including the banana trees and blue daze also took a hard hit. The sales floor at the farm looks really good this year and thank you to everyone who came out to make it happen.
After the spring sale we will begin to concentrate on making new cuttings. We have noticed that the mist house is watering too frequently. We need to fix this, so let us know if you have some thoughts on taming the water timer.
Thank you to Jen, who was able to sign up three new members Sunday. Welcome to new members Rick, Jennifer and Lea.
Members needing some greens for the kitchen please let us know. Collards, kale and mustard greens are available.
Get ready for the sale and please stop by a few days before and check in on things. Regards, Alan

MARCH IN THE GARDEN

This has been a pretty mild winter thus far with another month to go. Although unlikely, the long range forecast does predict the possibility of damaging cold weather up through mid March.

Pruning should be completed this month except avoid pruning spring-flowering trees, shrubs and vines until they finish blooming. Most of us in cold areas will have at least some cold damaged foliage to trim. Prune the limbs of cold damaged shrubs and trees into healthy wood.

Most shrubs and perennials in the ground more than two years should be pruned, thinned out, shaped and shortened. Perennials killed back to the ground should be identified with a stake and cut back.

When pruning woody shrubs, such as CREPE MYRTLE or HIBISCUS, remember—strong branches will not grow from weak ones. Prune CREPE MYRTLE stems back to points at least ½" in diameter.

Once you have pruned, clean the beds. Remove dead plants, weeds and debris. Apply fresh mulch such as compost, pine bark or cypress mulch. A good mulch will conserve water and keep the soil cool. A 3" to 4" mulch layer will also keep weeds down and soil from splashing on plants.

All beds, shrubs and trees should be fertilized this month if not already done. Use a good all-around fertilizer, with minor elements. Broadcast at the rates recommended on package. Most spring blooming plants will benefit from an application. CREPE MYRTLE, HIBISCUS and BIRD OF PARADISE can be fed every 2 weeks until they bloom.

Where needed, repair lawns with sod, plugs or seed. Rake out brown grass blades left by cool winter weather.

Lawns should be fertilized or given a Weed N Feed product in early March. The quality of the fertilizer will help determine the quality of your lawn.

New leaves on plants will bring out aphids and other insects, so be prepared to spray. Summer Oil will kill aphids and other insects. Be sure to read & follow label.

ROSES should be sprayed with fungicide weekly and fertilized monthly. As a general rule, the sooner you solve problems by spraying, the less you will need to spray.

BLOOD LILIES, CALADIUMS, CANNA, CRINUM, DAHLIAS, DAY LILIES, GLADIOLUS, SOCIETY GARLIC, SPIDER LILIES and RAIN LILIES can still be planted.

Garden shops will have a good stock of annuals. Plan for banks of color to enhance your yard. Plant 6 to 12 or more plants of the same kind and color for large splashes of color. Plants for spring planting include: AGERATUM, BALSAM, CELOSIA, COSMOS, GERANIUMS, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PETUNIAS, SALVIA, VERBENA and ZINNIAS.

New Members! YOU are welcome!

We have opportunities for learning at our monthly meetings, at the Tree Farm and at special events. There are facilities to start plants from seed/clippings. We have a membership meeting at 10:00 am on the 2nd Tuesday each month at the Tree Farm, behind Stuart Park. For more information, call Rose at 321-289-8388.

TGC site: http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tgc
TMGC site: http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc
National Garden Club: www.gardenclub.org
Florida Federation of GC: www.ffgc.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*Men's Garden Club Tree & Plant Sale

Friday, March 11th -- 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.
Saturday, March 12th -- 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

For information on local events this month see:
http://nbbd.com/events

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A SIMPLE PINEAPPLE – Pat Kern

I love pineapple juice! Also great when mixed with other juices, like orange. Pineapple is a member of the Bromeliad family. It is extremely rare that Bromeliads produce edible fruit. The pineapple is the only available edible Bromeliad today. It is a multiple fruit. One pineapple is actually made of up dozens of individual flowerets that grow together to form the entire fruit. Each scale on a pineapple is evidence of a separate flower. Pineapples stop ripening the minute they are picked. No special way of storing them will help ripen them further. Color is relatively unimportant in determining ripeness.

Choose your pineapple by smell. If it smells fresh, tropical and sweet, it will be a good fruit. The more scales on the pineapple, taste is sweeter and juicier

This delicious fruit is not only sweet and tropical, it also offers many benefits to our health. We find it enjoyable because of its lush, sweet and exotic flavor, but it may also be one of the most healthful foods available today. Pineapple is valuable for easing digestion, arthritis or sinusitis. The juice has as anthelmintic effect; it also helps get rid of intestinal worms.

Pineapple is high in Manganese, a mineral that is critical to development of strong bones and connective tissue. A cup of fresh pineapple will give you nearly 75% of recommended daily amount. It is particularly helpful to older adults whose bones tend to become brittle with age.

Bromelain, a proteolytic enzyme, is the key to pineapple's value. Proteolytic means "breaks down protein, which is why pineapple is known to be a digestive aid. It helps the body digest protein more efficiently. Bromelain is also considered an effective anti-inflammatory. Regular ingestion of at least ½ cup of fresh pineapple daily is purported to relieve painful joints common to osteoarthritis. It also produces mild pain relief.

In Germany, Bromelain is approved as a post-injury medication because it is thought to reduce inflammation and swelling.

Orange juice is a popular liquid for those suffering from a cold because it's high in Vitamin C. Fresh pineapple is not only high in this vitamin, but because of the Bromelain, it has the ability to reduce mucous in the throat. If you have a cold with a productive cough, add pineapple to your diet. It is commonly used in Europe as a post-operative measure to cut mucous after certain sinus and throat operations. Individuals who eat fresh pineapple daily report fewer sinus problems related to allergies. Pineapple has very low risk for allergies.

Pineapple is also known to discourage blood clot development. This makes it a valuable addition for frequent fliers and others at risk for blood clots.

An old folk remedy for morning sickness is fresh pineapple juice. It really works! Fresh juice and some nuts in the morning often makes a difference.

It's also good for a healthier mouth. The fresh juice discourages plaque growth.

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Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter

For information on The Sea Rocket Chapter's meeting contact the Enchanted Forest at 321-264-5185. The Enchanted forest is located at, 444 Columbia Blvd (Hwy 405). The public is welcome.
http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/

Just a Friendly Reminder!!!
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Our yearly Membership Dues are Due by April 2022.

See our Treasurer at the Tree Farm, at our next meeting or at our Spring Sale on March 11th & 12th.

Kirk's Coco Castile Soap – Emily Leithauser

Will help keep pests out of your garden. Use as an all-purpose fungicide and insecticide that won't harm the environment. This is a safe, effective way to get rid of fungi, aphids, mealy bugs, spider mites & more. *Kirk's (Original or Fragrance Free) $3.28

Place Kirk's soap in wrapper on concrete hard surface. Gently hammer the soap until it crumbles. Pour chunks in wide mouth gallon container & fill with hot water. Let it sit for 1 week. Run mixture thru blender & dissolve any lumps. Pour thick mixture back into gallon container for storage where it will thicken. Dissolve 1 cup of soap concentrate in 1 gallon of warm water. Fill garden sprayer & spray plants til they are dripping. This mixture will help you kill aphids, powdery mildew, suppress black spots and fungus. Kirk's garden spray is a non-burning spray so experiment with stronger & weaker solutions.

Courtesy St. Petersburg Times www.sptimes.com

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 am.
"At the Tree Farm" Behind Stuart Park
The public is welcome to join us.

Our next meeting will be

March 8, 2022!!

The Bloomin' News
Titusville Men's Garden Club
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The Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm

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

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

INVITATION TO JOIN THE TITUSVILLE GARDEN CLUB TREE FARM

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 enjoy.

How We Operate: We presently sponsor a March 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.

For more information, please phone Rose at 321-289-8388.

Name:_______________________________________

Email:____________________________ **Phone:**______________ **Cell:**____________

Street:_____________________________ **City**_____________________ **Zip** __________