

# The Bloomin' News

April, 2002

Les Leckron, Chairman

Don Crocker, Editor

## Chairman's Message

By Les Leckron

Let's get ready to Rumble - down to the Tree Farm, haul plants and have our Spring Tree and Plant Sale! The time is here again to hold our semi-annual sale and things seem to be in place for another great success. Thanks to Leland Chemerys for being our Fearless Leader once again. Early this month is the time to do some personal advertising, tell your neighbors, co-workers, church members, choir members, bowling buddies, fantasy football partners, whatever you are into. Let the community know we are having the sale and it's their opportunity to get some new plants and sage advice.

The March club meeting was fairly well attended, having 11 club members and one guest present. We welcomed Bud Hand as a guest and hope to have him join us again. Bud was most interested in xeriscaping his lawn area and got many suggestions and leads on further information and plants. Most of the evening discussion pertained to the soon approaching Tree and Plant Sale. The detailed Sale Task List was reviewed and seems to be a good guide so we don't forget important details. Thanks to Tony K. and Burl for getting this information together after the last sale, it seems to be a good thing.

The Titusville Garden Club is holding an event the Friday night before our Tree Sale titled "Chocolate Devine Dessert Wines". This will be April 12th from 7 until 9 PM at the Garden Center on Sisson. There is a \$10.00 donation/fee for the event, which includes fancy foods, wines and a silent auction. I'm planning to attend with my wife Nancy and encourage you to participate also. If you want a ticket, let me know, I've got plenty and I have to turn them in Monday April 8th.

I've received some unexpected compliments on our Bloomin' News newsletter! I attended the Garden Club Rummage Sale last month and several women told me they really enjoy reading the electronic version that is e-mailed out. I think maybe our newsletter is forwarded around and has quite a distribution. If you receive the newsletter but aren't on Don Crocker's original e-mail list, let us know, we'd be interested in finding out how far and wide our distribution really is. (and Don says he'll be glad to add you to his list for direct e-mailing.) We are proud of our consistent content from articles written by Gil Bertie, Burl Ferguson, Tony Koromilas, Billy Rhodes and other occasional authors.

Hope to see all our Club members at the Monthly Meeting,

Les Leckron email: [leckronl@cfl.rr.com](mailto:leckronl@cfl.rr.com)

## Potential New Members, YOU Are Welcome

To prospective members, 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. As a return for members input/work, many plants are available to members at no cost. There are facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. We meet at 7:00 P.M. on the second Monday of each month at the Garden Center on Sisson; drop by to visit and to possibly join us. For more information call Tony Koromilas, 269-1931, Leland Chernerys, 269-0667, or me – **Les Leckron, 267-2435, [leckronl@cfl.rr.com](mailto:leckronl@cfl.rr.com)**

## April Program:

by Leland Chemerys

April meeting will be focused on organizing the April 13<sup>th</sup> sale. This is always a big job, and help is required by all to get plants ready and all the support items lined up to make the sale a success.

## Sea Rocket Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of the month; this month it meets Apr. 24th at 7 PM at the Brevard County Agriculture and Extension Center, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa.

## APRIL IN THE GARDEN

By Gil Bertie

April is a busy month in my garden. Most plants are growing well. By mid-month, day temperatures will be in the 80s, and most nights will be above 65 degrees. Replenish mulches to conserve moisture and keep down weeds.

AZALEAS have about finished blooming. Now is the time to continue a care program to assure good blooms next year. Feed each AZALEA with a good acid forming fertilizer at the rate of 1/2 cup per plant per month. Prune and trim large AZALEAS and pinch back branch ends until mid June. AZALEAS, unlike most other plants, will

branch wherever you cut them. If Mites, insects or scale are a problem, spray now and in 30 days with Cygon or Cygon and Summer Oil. Follow label instructions.

DAY LILIES are ready to start blooming. An application of a Bloomer fertilizer, such as 2-10-10 or 10-30-10 will assure better blooms.

CRAPE MYRTLES already have extensive new growth. An application of a Bloomer fertilizer every two weeks will assure more and larger blooms. Mildew is a common problem on both leaves and blossoms even in full sun. Daconil or Funginex are usually effective controls.

ROSES are growing rapidly. ROSES are heavy feeders and require frequent watering. Regular fertilizing every two weeks in our sandy soils is not excessive. Spraying weekly with Funginex or Daconil will control Black Spot and Mildew. Add Orthene or Malathion when insects are causing problems.

LAWNS should be fertilized now if you did not fertilize in March. Use 16-4-8 with minor elements to stimulate rapid growth. Plug, sod or seed to fill in bare areas in your lawn or to start new lawns. Provide sufficient irrigation, within water restrictions, to give your lawn an inch of water in any week your lawn gets less than an inch of rain. Cut Bahia and St. Augustine grasses 3 to 4 inches high. If grass clippings are left on the lawn, the grass should be mowed more frequently than when clippings are removed.

Move ORCHIDS to shady outdoor locations and feed every two weeks. Move tropical plants outdoors. Feed all container grown plants.

Bulbs for April planting include ACHIMINES, AMARYLLIS, AGAP ANTHUS, BLOOD LILIES, CANNAS, CALADIUMS, CRINUMS, DAHLIAS, GLADIOLI, GLORIOSA, GINGER and RAIN LILIES.

Warm season plants that will perk up flower beds include AGERATUM, ASTER, BEGONIA, BLUE DAZE, COLEUS, COSMOS, DAY LILIES, IMPATIENS, MARGOLDS, PENTAS, PERIWINKLE, SALVIA, VERBENA and ZINNIA.

### **DOWN ON THE TREE FARM--Field Trip**

By Burl Ferguson and Billy on the Florida Space Coast

About 7 AM on Good Friday, March 29, Billy Rhodes and I went to BWI in Apopka to pick up supplies for Billy's Bonsai Hobby.

BWI is the supply house for a lot of our gardening products. BWI and VJ have merged and have a large, new facility located really north of the community of Plymouth, FL on the West side of 441. I think it was pretty smart of us to realize they had moved when we got to their (former) facility and found it empty. We didn't do the really macho thing though; we asked directions.

The goal of the trip was for Billy to pickup some supplies. Billy makes this trip every year or so to load up on Osmocote and Metro Mix 500 especially. This year he is trying to make his own Bonsai mix using Turface MVP, Pine Bark Soil Conditioner and small gravel or turkey grit. He was able to get all the ingredients except the grit

or gravel. He placed his order and we went outside to wait for the shipping clerk to meet our truck. We waited and waited and waited until it was obvious that four other orders placed after ours were being filled. Also, Billy had asked for a catalog, but so far hadn't received it either. Finally Billy became frustrated enough to check it out. Guess what! The nice lady at the desk took the order and then lost it.

Now the order clerk could not do enough for us. She picked up a bag of bone meal from the discounted stock by our truck and gave to Billy. Now he was on a roll, "A catalog would be nice" and she returned with a catalog. Since I was just a bystander I suggested that I would buy that bag of Metro Mix 500 in the damaged pile. She told the shipping clerk to put it on the truck at no charge.

After all that, Billy and I laughed. Maybe our wait was worth it. Thanks Billy for a fun trip.

### **Tree Farm News**

by Tony Koromilas

Thanks to all for helping get plants ready for sale on Saturday morning. Also thanks to George Mendez for fixing table supports for sale. The city's water system broke and was fixed within a few days. Some housekeeping and the jailer's help in laying the cloth have made the place look like a tree farm.

Suggested challenge: for all of us to purchase, pot, and tend to at least 1000 trees for future sales and donations to the City of Titusville. Looking for volunteer to accept the challenge?? We're also looking for a mentor or mentors to help propagate all varieties of plants.

Please make the effort to advertise the sale. A good way is make a good sign that can be used sale after sale. My suggestion, with 4" letters on both sides:

**PLANTS & TREES SALE**

**SATURDAY 8 AM TO 2 PM**

**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB**

**5274 SISSON ROAD**

Don't forget to weed and get your plants ready for sale and move to area for pickup.

### **Questions! Answers Anyone?**

From Don Crocker:

In Saturday's Florida Today, Alan Gouldthorp wrote that selective herbicides have a residual effect on soil and may continue to kill plants for a year. An example of one of these is "Triox" brand. I have aisle ways around planting areas in my flower / shrub / tree garden. Joan and I have put down ground cover cloth with one to one and one-half inches of cypress mulch covering these walk ways. No doubt root systems of good plants have grown under the ground cover cloth. When I fertilize, I fertilize out onto these areas.

The mulch and the ground cover cloth allow weeds to grow as if they, mulch and cloth, weren't even there, except if we weed soon enough, the ground cover cloth does slow the passing of the weed roots into the soil below making weeding easy. I use Round Up for a weed control which is time consuming and expensive. If I

would use Triox on the aisles, would it hurt the plants to the sides of the aisles???

### **From Your Newsletter Editor**

I'm sure I'm not the only one with questions in the club. Please send me your questions for the "QUESTIONS and ANSWERS" column.

Any input and/or comments, pro or con, are welcome. Send them via any of the following: snail mail, email or short phone messages: Don Crocker, 5175 Kirkwood Trail, Titusville, FL 32780-6719; 'phone 264-0947; Email – [donandjoanc@wmconnect.com](mailto:donandjoanc@wmconnect.com)

### **Plants in Protective Custody**

by Don Crocker

Bill Connell sold 3 Azaleas (I think "Fasion") and 3 Camellias (2 Rubra and 1 ?not sure.) and Don Crocker bought 6 Blue Plumbagos, 1 Camillia (Mrs. Charles Cobb) and 1 Azalea (Lavender Formosa).

Still available:

Pink Oleander	4
Chinese Fan Palm	3
Blue Plumbago	2
Camellias:	
Don Mac	1
Blue Danube	8
Mathotiana (Rubra)	4
Laura Walker	1
Lady VanSittart	1
Mrs.Charles Cobb	4
Julia France	5 (or6)
Roses:	
Lamarque CL (1830)	1
Pink Pet	0
Blush Noisette	0
Mrs. B.R. Cant	0
Cecile Brunner CL (1894)	2
Yellow Lady Banks CL (1807)	5
Azaleas:	
Fashion	14
Lavender Formosa	2
Gerbing	4

### **Renovation of Turf Areas**

by L. B. McCarty

This web site <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/scripts/LH032> Has an extensive article - **Renovation of Turf Areas** Following is the lead paragraph of a four page article with links to a number of tables and side articles, i.e. thatching, thatching, vertical mowing, top dressing, soil testing, etc.

Renovation is the improvement of a turfgrass stand without complete reestablishment. Reestablishment refers to complete destruction of the old stand, thorough site preparation, and replanting. The decision on whether to renovate or reestablish is usually based on the turfgrass species and how much desirable turf cover is present. If there is less than 60% desirable cover, reestablishment should be considered.

Factors which can cause deterioration of a turfgrass include one or more of the following:

- Poor management by improper cultural practices which result in thin and weakened turf. Among these practices are using unadapted species or cultivars; using improper cutting height or frequency; and not following IFAS recommendations for proper fertilization, irrigation, and pest controls.
- Excessive thatch accumulation.
- Predominance of unadapted or undesirable species.
- Undesirable physical soil conditions like compaction, rock layers, buried foreign matter, the presence of a severe layering problem, or poor drainage.
- Chemical soil conditions such as acidity, alkalinity, or salinity.
- Excessive shade plus tree or shrub root invasion.
- Severe damage by diseases, insects, nematodes, or the toxic effect of chemicals.

It goes on about sectioning out a 4"x8"x6" min. deep sod sample to examine soil, thatch, roots –white, healthy, yellow/tan, sick or insect infested-soil, etc.. You'll probably find the web site interesting.

### **Friday and Saturday: Work Days**

#### **HELP IS NEEDED!!!**

Friday, 4/12 is get ready day and Saturday, 4/13 is SPRING SALE DAY and CLEAN – UP AFTERNOON. A Concerted Effort will be needed at the Tree Farm AND at the Garden Center on Sisson these days.

Many hours are put in by individuals during the weeks. This is the weekend all of that work pays off with club pride and keeps the club going financially

Teamwork is the order of business this weekend.

Don't forget, Friday, 4/12 is moving and sale prep day. Sat., 4/13 is sale day and move back / clean – up day.

### **Fall Tree & Plant Sale**

April 13, 2002

LAST CALL!!!

Saturday is IT!!!!

One and all: finalize your plants to be their best.

Get out your signs to let ALL know about the sale.

Please get out and HELP!!!!!!  
**Leland Chemerys, 269-0667, is the fearless leader for this sale.**

The Bloomin' News  
Titusville Men's Garden Club  
Don Crocker, Editor  
5175 Kirkwood Trail  
Titusville, FL 32780-6719

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## **The Titusville Men's Garden Club**

### **Next meeting**

**Monday, April 8, 2002 – 7:00 PM**  
**Program Information Inside**

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