

# The Bloomin' News

June, 2002

Les Leckron, Chairman

Don Crocker, Editor

## Chairman's Message

By Les Leckron

I think a saying from "Farm Time", a National Public Radio program I heard on the way to the May 13 meeting, fits us at the Tree Farm. "Farm Time" described an old style family farm attitude as "If it doesn't get done today - it will get done tomorrow, maybe". Not because we want to put off what we intended to get accomplished, but something always seems to come up that gets us off course. By and large, all things eventually get taken care of. It's just that those 'more important things' come first, e.g. when someone discovers we aren't getting water, a timer isn't working properly, wind blew over lots of trees or finding weeds where we thought they were taken care of. We just have to deal with what is most important at the time. Being flexible, dealing with immediate issues and putting off those good intentions just have to wait 'til later. (Caution: don't try this at home, you may experience different results). We should all tip our hats to the Tree Farm Regulars that keep the equipment operating and monitor the overall functions and production. They work on Farm Time, never knowing what they find, but dealing with things as needed. THANKS REGULARS!!!

Welcome to **Leo Greer** and **Dick Clark** who attended the May Meeting. I've heard both of them have already been to the Tree Farm to enhance their growing experiences. Good to have you with us!

At the May 13 meeting, I announced a Botanical Garden Meeting to be held the following evening. I attended the meeting and learned quite a bit about this ambitious endeavor and accomplishments of the Steering Committee. The proposed Botanical Garden would be supported by the Brevard County Commission and Truman Scarborough. They are looking for 40-70 acres, expecting to find an old citrus grove on Merritt Island. The Garden is viewed as a horticultural as well as a tourist draw to Brevard County and would be on par with other well known Botanical Gardens. I'll pass along more information at the June meeting.

**Annual Dues were collected this month (\$25.00). May 31st was the deadline to get your name into the Yearbook as an Active Member, but now is the time to stay active to get all of the benefits of the club. After the June Bloomin' News, inactive members will only get the newsletter via. E-mail - IF we have your e-mail address. Send your dues to: George Mendez, Club Treasurer, 3558 Royal Oak Dr., Titusville, FL., 32780-5227 and phone him at 264-1278 to let him know, "My check's in the mail."**

Put this date on your calendar - Saturday October 26, 2002. This will be the day of a TGC Horticulture Show. All members of TGC are encouraged to grow specimens for this event and to show them as container grown or cut. There won't be any fee to participate, and entries will be judged by qualified flower show judges. You are allowed multiple entries. This is an opportunity for Men's Garden Club members to let the community see what you can grow and take so much pride in. We have all summer to grow and groom, so take this opportunity / challenge to get your plants ready to show.

### Important Dates:

September 19-21 - FNATS in Orlando  
October 12, 2002 - FALL Tree and Plant Sale  
October 26, 2002 - TGC Horticulture Show

See you at the meeting, Les  
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)**

### June Program:

by Leland Chemerys

As of the printing of your Newsletter, the June Program is still being planned – a video(?). We have a ton of new pots that were generously donated. Also many new trees have arrived and need nurturing to get them ready for future sale.

See everyone at the meeting. I'll make sure to bring the root beer.

## **Florida Native Plant Society**

### **Sea Rocket Chapter**

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of the month; this month it meets June 26th at 7 PM at the Brevard County Agriculture and Extension Center, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa.

### **JUNE IN THE GARDEN**

By Gil Bertie

Although May has been somewhat dry, June should give us more rain. In a normal year, we get about 7 inches, mainly as afternoon and evening showers. An unobstructed rain gauge can save guess work and sometimes a good deal of watering. Our flower beds and lawn need a minimum of one inch of water a week in our hot weather. If you do not get about one-half inch of rain during each three or four day period you should water until about one-half inch of rain and irrigation has been applied.

Applying and/or renewing mulches and weeding will reduce water needs and help control summer weeds.

The increased rain and higher humidity will increase Black Spot on ROSES and Powdery Mildew on ROSES, CRAPE MYRTLE, ZINNIAS and other similar plants. Start a weekly fungicide spray program using different fungicides on alternate sprayings. Including Cygon or Kelthane, as needed, in your weekly sprayings will help control Spider Mites.

If you did not fertilize your lawn and Citrus in May, June is a good month to fertilize. Fertilize shrubs and flowers lightly with a 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 fertilizer every 3 to 4 weeks. If you have Bahia lawn, June is an excellent time to seed bare and thin spots in a Bahia lawn. After sowing the seed, apply a thin layer of soil. Water well and frequently when it does not rain.

June is one of the most active months for Mole Crickets - the scourge of Bahia lawns. Follow label instructions when you begin spraying or putting out bait. Spray or granules of Baygon, Dursban or Diazinon are effective. Water well after application. Mole Cricket bait applied on a damp lawn in the evening is also effective. Mole Crickets are usually active on the surface after dark.

Pinch back the tips of bushes and shrubs to develop more compact plants. Use the cuttings to root new plants for our plant sale or plant drawings. Do not prune or pinch AZALEAS or GARDENIAS after the end of June, or you will sacrifice some of next year's blooms. If plants are not a deep rich green, feed with Chelated Iron, Iron Sulphate and or Manganese Sulfate. Manganese Sulphate will also cure "frizzle top" on Palm trees.

Root tip cuttings of CHRYSANTHEMUMS and POINSETTIAS - use 4 to 6 inch long cuttings with all the leaves left on the MUMS. Remove all but the tip leaves on the POINSETTIAS. When taking the POINSETTIA cuttings, trim back each stem of the mother plant to 4 to 6 inches to keep the plants compact.

Fruit drop from Citrus and some other fruit trees can be expected this month. The trees shed the fruit they cannot support. To reduce drop, follow an established watering and fertilizer program. Feed bananas monthly.

Brighten your yard with warm season plantings of BEGONIA, BLUE DAZE, CALADIUM, CELOSIA, COLEUS, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLD, PENTA, PERIWINKLE, SALVIA, VERBENA and ZINNIA. June is also a good time to plant DAY LILIES and RAIN LILIES.

### **DOWN ON THE TREE FARM**

By Burl Ferguson

I have waited until the 11th hour to write this to report on the seedlings to be potted. We only have the Crepe Myrtle and one tray of Live Oak to pot. The fertilizer is coming in Monday or Tuesday so that needs to be applied. We will schedule that for the regular workday after our June meeting.

Thanks to all of you. As we say, MANY HANDS MADE LIGHT WORK. Now if we can just get ahead of the weeds we'll have it made.

### **Tree Farm News**

by Tony Koromilas

Thanks to the Saturday crew including newcomer Dick Clark for the many, many weeds that were decimated (Leland Chemery cleared 4 corrals!) Still trying to dedicate corrals to specific plants. Please keep moving the misplaced plants to their home.

Water problems in mist house were solved with new solenoid. Also thanks to Don Crocker, Emerson Johnson, and George Mendez, a lot of lilies, and other plants are growing in the mist beds. I think we have a mold problem there and need expert to advise. There is still room for everyone to propagate.

Purchased about 1000 liner plants. Thanks to Don Hawthorn for picking up most of them with his truck. Also we bought 100 Daylilies from a nursery in Christmas. Thanks Emerson for helping me fetch them. Also many thanks should go to Burl, George, Emerson, Don Hawthorn, Don Crocker, and others for potting. This is a good start to fill up our empty pots and area. Les Leckron also provided a good bunch of small Podocarpus that have been potted by me.

George Mendez asks for all of us: Please clear the table area after you finish so as to give the next guy a clear work station. Also, please take the plants you've been working on to their staging area. Thanks to all who comply.

Prisoners came last Friday, and they weeded and cleared the areas. I hope you can see a difference. They are scheduled to come next Friday.

Don't forget to weed and care for your plants. It makes for quality plants.

### **Billy on the Florida Space Coast**

By Billy Rhodes

FNATS is scheduled for September 19 - 21, 2002. I expect to go over as usual on the Friday of the show which is September 20. Last fall we had a great group go over for the day. Is the group interested again? I can purchase tickets for all and be paid back by those who go. Please let me know by the August meeting, which I will try to attend. (I am teaching on Monday through mid June.) The cost last year was \$10 plus parking of \$7 per car. (I think.)

## Questions! Answers Anyone?

Tony asks: How do we eliminate mold etc. from mist house?

### From Your Newsletter Editor

Please send me your questions for the "QUESTIONS and ANSWERS" column.

Wife Joan and I went to Sally Scalera's presentation on Xeriscaping. Xeriscape is defined as landscaping that conserves water and protects the environment. With 18,000 people moving to Florida each **MONTH** and the average household using 50% of its fresh water on outside water irrigation, Florida's need to curtail water use is critical. The 7 Principles of Xeriscape are:

1. Get soil analyses: Sally recommends 15 +/- samples / area and averaging them to get about a quart size sample – turf/shrub areas take at 4-6" deep, trees take about 10-15" deep. (How would a piece of 1 1/4" metal conduit driven down to core out a slice of turf work? Use the bottom few inches and shake out the rest.)
2. Plan and design your landscape: pick plants for sun, shade, size of mature plant and soil. Skimp on turf area.
3. Chose proper plants: pick plants to fit the design.
4. Use grass wisely: grass is water hungry; use in play / heavy traffic areas; use water thrifty plants / ground cover in the balance of areas.
5. Irrigate efficiently: zone your sprinkler system and arrange plants according to water requirements; turf needs about 3/4" per week and trees at least 1"/wk. Sally said that ideas are starting to develop about limiting seaside residences to salt water irrigation.
6. Use mulches: several inches are recommended; keep about 6" from woody stalks/trunks. Sally said they DO recommend using mulch under citrus trees now.
7. Maintain your yard: mow, weed, prune, and irrigate as needed. A good Xeriscape reduces the requirements for fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides.

This web site <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> offers interesting info.

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)

### Programs at the Titusville Garden Center

Thursday, August 15, Vegetable Gardening

Tuesday, September 17, All About Trees

The programs will be from 10 AM to 12 Noon at the Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road. Call **264-4266** to sign up at least **3** days before the scheduled program.

## Nematodes

by William T. Crow and Robert A. Dunn

Nematodes are unsegmented roundworms, different from earthworms and other familiar worms that are segmented (annelids) or in some cases flattened and slimy. Nematodes living in soil are very small and most can only be seen (only by) using a microscope. Many kinds of nematodes are found in the soil of any landscape. Most are beneficial, feeding on bacteria, fungi, or other microscopic organisms and some may be used as biological control organisms to help manage important insect pests. Unfortunately, there are also a group of nematodes that feed on plants, these are called plant-parasitic nematodes.

All plant-parasitic nematodes have a stylet or mouth-spear that is similar in structure and function to a hypodermic needle. The nematode uses its stylet to puncture plant cells and then inject digestive juices and ingest plant fluids through it. Most of the plant-parasitic nematodes that are important on ornamental plants in Florida feed on roots. Some plant-parasitic nematodes remain in the soil and feed by inserting only their stylet into the root; these are called ectoparasitic nematodes.. Some endoparasites continually burrow around inside the root; these are called migratory endoparasites. Other endoparasites, called sedentary endoparasites, establish permanent feeding sites inside the root. Once a feeding site is established the nematode no longer moves. The sedentary endoparasites' body changes shape and are usually swollen.

Please visit the EDIS Web site for more info at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

From Nematode Management for Landscape Ornamentals by William T. Crow and Robert A. Dunn

### **Saturday, June 15th: Work Day**

Please remember that the Saturday after our Monthly Meeting is a day for Concerted Effort at the Tree Farm.

Many hours are put in by individuals during the week at their convenience and this is very necessary for continued success.

We also have some tasks that need Teamwork to accomplish. This type work is the focus of our Saturday events.

Plan on coming out Sat., 6/15 and join us at the Tree Farm

## **Fall Tree & Plant Sale**

October 12, 2002

Put this date on your calendar; it's never too early to start getting plants ready for sale!!!

**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, June 10, 2002 – 7:00 PM**  
**Program Information Inside**

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