

# The Bloomin' News

May, 2002

Les Leckron, Chairman

Don Crocker, Editor

## **Chairman's Message**

By Les Leckron

Congratulations on a tremendous Spring Tree & Plant Sale! The 'Loading Crew' started out Friday facing lots of rain but with anticipated good weather for Saturday, we loaded our usual assortment of trees. We also had the help of the prisoners on Friday to load and unload, and truthfully, I'm not sure we could do it without them. Saturday yielded a great sales day and great turnout of customers. Many returning customers were on hand as well as lots of new customers, thanks to the ads, signs and the great article in the Star Advocate. Thanks to all that helped load, sell, and return plants to the farm. We didn't have nearly as much to take back to the farm as some sales, translating to a great sale. It wouldn't be possible to do these without year-round propagation, weeding, tree farm maintenance etc. The tree sales are our Big Events, but our work is continuous. Hopefully our hard work also means each of us is gaining more horticultural knowledge and experience. The tree farm and our knowledgeable members are our greatest assets. Some of us do more learning than anything, but that's what our Men's Club is all about.

A trip to our farm this weekend reminded me how quickly the plants grow, as do the weeds. It's growing time, so I'm sure the Tree Farm Managers will be reminding us of our need to keep up the farm. I did notice all the newly potted trees, thanks to Burl and his planting crews! As Burl says, we don't get any return on empty pots and ground-cloth. Stop by the Tree Farm when you can, it's surprising how much can be accomplished during short visits.

This month we need to get our dues paid for the upcoming year. Please be timely paying so we can get everyone listed in the yearbook. If you know anyone that is interested in joining, now is the time to get them signed up. I'm hoping to get more people listed on our roster this year than we did last year. Bring your dues to the meeting or send to George Mendez, Club Treasurer, 3558 Royal Oak Dr., Titusville, FL., 32780-5227

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)**

## **May Program:**

by Leland Chemerys

May meeting will be focused on reviewing the sale. I would just like to thank everyone for their hard work. We had a great sale, and, like always, really had a fun day. 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**

Sea Rocket's speaker for May 22 is Karen Andreas, former Brevard County Commissioner. She will also be leading us on a field trip to her home on May 25.

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.

## Dues Time

By George Mendez

PLEASE EVERYONE, it is time to pay your dues. It is the only way we can report how many members to the higher authority. For Active Members, the dues are \$25.00 and for Associate Members they are \$30.00. I will be accepting them at the meeting Monday evening, the 13<sup>th</sup> or you can send them to me, George Mendez, 3558 Royal Oak Dr., Titusville, FL., 32780-5227  
Thanks to you all.

## MAY IN THE GARDEN

By Gil Bertie

May is usually a dry month so regular watering may be necessary. Lawns should have about 1 inch of rain or irrigation each week, bedded plants and shrubs about 1/2 inch every 4 days, and CITRUS and other trees 1 inch a week. Renew mulches to conserve water and keep down weeds.

Continue to prune and trim your AZALEAS and CAMELLIAS for next year. Prune GARDENIAS after they finish blooming. If Mites, Thrips and/or Scale are present, spray with Cygon and/or Summer Oil. Feed monthly with an acid forming fertilizer. Small monthly feedings are better for most plants than fewer heavy feedings. Cut back perennials finishing their spring bloom. Continue to prune any dieback from winter damaged plants.

May or June is the time for a second application of lawn fertilizer. However, unless you are prepared to water heavily if May is dry, I recommend waiting to fertilize in June, normally a wetter month than May. Continue to seed, plug or sod to fill in bare areas in your lawn. Apply an iron only fertilizer to regreen yellow Bahia lawns. Fertilize shrubs and flowers lightly with 6-6-6 fertilizer every 4 or 5 weeks.

Mole Crickets will be active in Bahia lawns this month. May is one of the best months to combat them. They tend to nest under concrete walks, driveways and stepping stones. They come out at night to feed. Sprays or granules of Baygon, Diazinon or Dursban should control them. Mole Cricket Bait applied to a wet lawn in the evening is also effective. Check St. Augustine lawns for Chinch bugs. Treat infected areas about 10 feet beyond infestations when noticeable damage is occurring,

CRAPE MYRTLE, JASMINE, BOUGAINVILLEA, ALLAMANDA, GARDENIAS, QUEEN PALMS and other plants may show a yellowing of the leaves because of a manganese deficiency. Apply manganese sulfate to the soil at package

recommended rates and water well. Manganese sulphate will stain concrete.

Spider Mites can be a real pest during dry weather. While they seem to prefer JUNIPERS, MARIGOLDS and PYRACANTHAS, they can attack any plant. Look for them as a scorched area on leaves or fine webbing in crotches or leaf bases. You can blast them off with a hard stream of water or spray with a miticide. Kelthane has long been a standard control for Mites, but some seem to have become tolerant of it. Spraying with summer oil and Malathion should help to control Mites.

Take tip cuttings of shrubs and plants to root in perlite and/or vermic-ulite. Divide and repot Bromeliads, Orchids and other plants that have outgrown their containers.

Plant BLOOD LILY, CALADIUM, CANNA, RAIN LILY, DAY LILY, SPIDER LILY and CRINUM bulbs for summer color. Replace cool season plants with warm season plantings of BEGONIAS, BLUE DAZE, CELOSIA, COLEUS, GERBERA, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PENTAS, PERIWINKLES, SALVIA, TORENIA, VERBENA and ZINNIAS.

## DOWN ON THE TREE FARM

By Burl Ferguson

Glad to report that the seedling trees of Wax Myrtle adopted by Burl and John Ferguson and Red Maple adopted by Emerson Johnson are in pots and growing in the tree farm. Burl, son John, Emerson and Don Crocker got the Red Maple planted Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. By the time you read this the 84 Live Oak will also be potted. Bud Hand has adopted the Oaks and he is away for his trip up north so Don Hawthorne, Emerson, and Burl Ferguson had a planting party Thursday afternoon May 2. Bud, you owe us a big thank you.

(per a later email) You will be glad to know that all the seedling trees we ordered, Live Oak, Red Maple, and Wax Myrtle are planted and growing in the farm. I will not make the meeting this month or the work party next Saturday. Going to Texas May 10-18 to celebrate my granddaughters graduation (2 Masters Degrees). I'll check up on how many weeds you killed when I get back. To the powers that be, we need to stock in some more trees and shrubs. Black plastic and empty pots don't give us a return on our investment.

My son Joe harvested the Sago Palm pups from his Palms and Don Hawthorne, John Walters, and Burl Ferguson gave them a home at the farm. We need to harvest the rooted cuttings in the mist bed that need to be potted like Nelly Stevens Holly, Kalanchoe, Dwarf Shore Juniper, etc. so if this strikes an interesting cord, someone / anyone, have

at it. Bill, if you and Steve have excess rooted cuttings in your home mist bed we take all cast off babies. As we say EMPTY POTS DON'T GIVE US A RETURN ON OUR INVESTMENT. Also MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK. OK enough of my sermons.

Tony is doing a great job of monitoring our sprinkler and he could use an understudy to fill in when his schedule is full.

We would be in tough shape without George Mendez to keep our equipment in working order. There seems to always be something like a flat tire, etc. that needs repair.

Remember that the Saturday after our meeting is work day at the tree farm. Clear your schedule if you can and come on down and enjoy the fun.

### **Tree Farm News**

by Tony Koromilas

Thanks to all for helping get plants ready for sale. Suggested challenge for all of us; 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. We've got a good start already; the plants Burl and the crew he got together has a 20% start. It is doable.

It's never too early to start getting ready for the next sale. One way is to make a sign or three to have ready to put out this fall and all future sales. Please, it's up to each of us to make the effort to advertise the sale, and just getting out sign(s) is a good way. A good sign 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 care for your plants. It makes for quality plants.

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

No new questions this month.

### **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)

## **Programs at the Titusville Garden Center**

Sally Scalera will present the following programs:

Thursday, May 23, Xeriscaping

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.

### **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. thatch, thatching, vertical mowing, top dressing, soil testing, etc.

### **Saturday, May 18th: 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., 5/18 and join us at the Tree Farm

## **Fall Tree & Plant Sale**

October, 2002

The date still needs to be firmed up.

Put this 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.**