



August 2015 Newsletter

The sometimes? Always? Who knows?

Chip did put the July newsletter on our wonderful site, but I don't think enough of you found it to appreciate my hard work on allopathy and water, so this one is back to hard copy. Think

equality park garden club wilton manners.com

Think first, darker letters above and get: Epgcwm.com and you will find future newsletters and other things YOU need to read. Again it was great that Chip Jones had the expertise to develop this web site for us. Now some other things to think about.

Ramble south, November 7th

You might think this plan is early but it is not. We have to pay for the bus weeks ahead of the trip. We will leave at 8 am from the Cardinal Gibbons student parking lot off Bayview Drive. The Pride Center doesn't have room for our cars that day due to the monthly flea market. We will return by 5 pm. As usual you need to bring a brown bagged lunch. The cost will be \$30 per seat. Please pay early, and you can suggest places to shop. My tentative plan for stops is: Carib plants for great orchids, Stelmar Gardens and Palm Hammock for great varieties of smaller shade loving plants. Chip has a new bromeliad place in mind as well as a stop for yard landscaping plants. Please pay early to reserve your seat and register your preference for stops.

Slug your slugs and snails

Finally we are getting some rain, and the slimy plant eaters are out and hungry. You could pour salt on them which is messy and hard on plants, or you could go out at night with a plastic bag and flash light, or you could go out with a flash light and a spray bottle with rubbing alcohol to spray on the snails or slugs. They will die, and the plant won't be harmed. You can also spray the slimy monsters with Neem. If you are plagued by too many snails in an aquarium or water lily tub, get a gold fish. They eat aquatic snails.

The buzz on native bees

There are more wild bee species than there are birds and fish put together. Of the 50,000 kinds 4,000 are native to the United States and several kinds pollinate crops many times better than honey bees. All bees are declining due to habitat change, pesticide use, disease, internal parasites, and possibly from pure annoyance with telemarketing calls. (Just checking to see whether you are still reading.)

Native bees have some neat habits, one in Utah digs a 9 foot tunnel for egg laying, and some use harmful caterpillar larva as hosts for eggs. Most don't or can't sting which adds to our reasons to provide for them. How? Drill some nesting holes in your wooden fence posts, avoid using pesticides in your yard and provide some sources of nectar from native plants.

Maybe good lawn news

The lawns that I know about have ugly patches left from the long dry spell, chinch bugs, or 'brown patch fungus'. This fungus affects Saint Augustine and Zoysia grasses. The good news is it only kill the top of the grass and the live roots will grow new blades of grass to cover the spots. Pull some grass at the margin of the brown area. If you find chinch bugs, it is pesticide time. (There is no back page, please go to the web site epgcwm.com to read more)