

The Bloomin' News

DECEMBER, 2008, Vol. VI, 18

Lisa Dugowson, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Lisa Dugowson

As we say goodbye to 2008 and welcome a new year, I'd like to thank all the club members who have made this year successful for the Men's Garden Club. We had a good sale even in these uncertain economic times. We also celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Titusville Garden Club. It was wonderful to look through the scrapbooks and learn about the history of the club. We helped decorate the hall with a landscape design by Kathleen Burson, a local landscape architect. Some of our community service projects this year included working with the Park Avenue Christian Academy junior gardeners, speaking at other garden club meetings and donating plants to Coquina Elementary School to help beautify the campus. Let's continue working throughout our community to make a difference in the upcoming year. Have a Merry Christmas! Lisa Ldugowson@cfl.rr.com

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

Dec. 3 –Christmas Luncheon @ 11:00a.m. at
LaCita County Club. Cost \$18.00 (RSVP
Eula or Karen and prepay before Nov. 30)

Dec. 4 – Decorate Library at 8:00a.m.

Dec. 30 – Un-decorate Library at 8:00a.m.

Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Brevard County Agriculture and Extension Center, 369 Lake Drive, Cocoa. The public is welcome.

Garden Club Web Sites

The Titusville Garden Club web site has link to the Titusville Men's Garden Club web site:

National Garden Club: www.gardenclub.org

Florida Federation of GC: www.ffgc.org

TGC site: <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tgc/>

TMGC site: <http://www.tmgc.djb.net/>

Gardening Info: HGTV.com

Potential New Members, YOU Are Welcome

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. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. Back page of newsletter has additional information. Drop by to visit and to possibly join us. For more information, call Tony Koromilas: 269-1931 or Lisa Dugowson: 264-6389.

DECEMBER IN THE GARDEN

December is normally a dry month with about 2 inches of rain. While we may have heavy dew, lawns will still require about ½ inch of rain or irrigation each week. AZALEAS and CAMELLIAS can suffer bud drop later if not watered as needed. Temperatures during December should have average lows in the low 50's and highs in the 60's and 70's. Night low temperatures may occasionally be in the 40's or even 30's with the possibility of frost or, although infrequent, even a freeze when a cold front moves through. Make sure the ground is moist before a frost or a freeze. Be prepared to move ORCHIDS and other cold sensitive plants indoors or provide protection when cold temperatures are predicted.

If not already done, December is the time to cover greenhouses, lath and shade houses with plastic for the winter. Clear 4 to 6 mil polyethylene film provides an inexpensive cover. Check heaters or plan for heating if you expect to protect plants during infrequent freeze periods. Check those plants you bring inside for mites, mealy bugs and other pests.

This is a good month to add or transplant trees, shrubs and other plants and to divide perennials. Because of the cool weather, water loss through foliage will be low and above ground new growth minimal. Start flower and PAPAYA transplants.

Continue fertilizing hardy annuals and container grown plants monthly. Discontinue fertilizing other outdoor plants except vegetables. Delay any major pruning until winter. Renew mulch where needed.

Clean, oil and repair garden equipment. Drain gas tanks, change oil, clean and lubricate idle garden equipment and engines. Sharpen and paint tools for next year's use. A bucket of dry sand mixed with a quart of used motor oil makes an excellent long-lasting cleaning device for shovels, trowels and other similar tools. Just push the tool into the sand several times after each use.

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Hardy annuals that will provide color in your yard and survive our normal winter cold include ALYSSUM, CALENDULA, CLEOME, DIANTHUS, PANSY, PETUNIA, PHLOX, SALVIA, SNAPDRAGON and VERBENA. Remove faded blooms to extend flowering.

Extend the life of holiday plants by putting them in a cool, bright location. Water them when the soil surface begins to dry.

Cat's Observations at the Farm

Well, Sundays and Mondays for the past month, Rick and I have been working about 3.5 hours per day cleaning and weeding on the tree side of the center aisle.

As this is dormant season for weeds and other green living things, we are making a serious effort on cleaning and sorting trees and shrubs to get a close estimate of what we do have. We have counted about 400 live oaks.

Podocarpus are cleaned and sorted by pot size, with some taller ones awaiting Tony's loving touch. Burl and his potting partner, Ed, are diligently repotting and pruning the live oaks. There are about 100 Bald cypress in the northern most section that are looking fabulous.

The shrubs (Leyland Cypress) and others like them are looking poorly. They will be weeded and placed in the evergreen aisle, but we need some help in assessing what is happening with those so we can correct it.

A lot of orphans and strays have been hiding among the trees. They are being cleaned of weeds and placed into the center aisle. Can whomever has adopted them, or knows where they belong, help with putting them in their places?

Wildlife and critters are still active. There are a lot of tree frogs, lizards and honey bees. The fire ants still abound and are particularly vicious right now.

Everyone's efforts have been noticed and appreciated.

Cat Lambe-McEntire

Please send your articles to Joanie at freddiefla@yahoo.com to be included in next month's Bloomin' News.

Meets 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville. FL

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Members, Please Note.....

Due to family commitments, stress of the holidays, illness, etc., we have agreed to cancel our December meeting. Have a wonderful Holiday Season with your loved ones!. We look forward to seeing you at.....

**Our next meeting will be
January 12th, 2009!!**

Work Day

Please remember that the **Saturday** after our Monthly Meeting is a day of concerted effort at the Tree Farm. Individuals put in many hours 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 work is the focus of our Saturday events.

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Titusville Men's Garden Club
Joanie Opperman, Editor
Email: freddiefla@yahoo.com Phone: 480-8807

The Titusville Men's Garden Club

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

INVITATION TO JOIN THE TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

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 Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road (south of SR 50 / north of SR 405). We also meet at our Tree Farm near the Titusville Water Maintenance Facility. Members adopt trees and plants to grow and have fun.

How We Operate: We presently sponsor an April 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.

Phone Tony Koromilas 269-1931, Lisa Dugowson 264-6389.

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Cell:** _____

Street: _____ **City** _____ **Zip** _____