

The Bloomin' News

January, 2009, Vol. VI, 19

Lisa Dugowson, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Lisa Dugowson

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of our Garden Club members, friends, their families and loved ones. Hope you all had a wonderful **Christmas** holiday this year. A big **"THANK YOU"** to all the folks who have worked out at the Tree Farm this past year. . You are truly appreciated and your labor of love does not go unnoticed. Honestly, the Tree Farm looks better than we have seen it in a long, long time. After the holidays, I am hoping we can pick up where we left off and complete this big project. But, of course, the next project will be planting the tree seedlings; we will need all your hands. We are working towards our next Spring Tree and Plant Sale in April. Don't forget our next meeting on **January 12 at 7:00p.m.**

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

The next meeting for the Women's Garden Club will be **January 7 at 9:30a.m. "Table Designs" by Sally Flanagan.**

Please bring bird and butterfly magazines to donate to our Youth Gardeners Group

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/>

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. As a return for members' input/work, many plants are available to members at no cost. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. For more information call Tony Koromilas: 269-1931, Lisa Dugowson: 264-6389 .

JANUARY IN THE GARDEN

So far our winter weather has been almost ideal. It has been cool early some mornings. I have not had any frost in my yard as of December 15th. We will still be hit by some colder weather. Freezing weather or heavy frost has occurred in Central Florida as late as the March full moon. So some chores must be put off until, at least, the end of February.

Do not prune undamaged Non-Deciduous Plants.

Pruning now will stimulate new growth that will be more susceptible to cold damage. If frost or a freeze has killed the leaves or tips of non-deciduous plants; dead parts if unsightly can be removed but do not prune back to green wood until warm weather returns.

Do Not Fertilize During January..... don't fertilize lawns, trees or shrubs.

Replace declining trees and shrubs. You can transplant dormant trees and shrubs, and spray trees and shrubs for Scale and Mites. Use a dormant oil spray. Follow label instructions. Add a fruit tree to your yard. Prune deciduous fruit trees, shrubs and vines. Apply dormant spray before apple, peach, pear and similar trees bloom. Divide perennials and renew mulches. Maintain a 3 to 4 inch mulch layer in shrub and perennial areas. Continue to mow lawns to control weeds. Reduce watering lawns to once or twice a week

Flower seeds of MARIGOLDS, IMPATIENS, GERANIUMS, PETUNIA and FIBEROUS BEGONIA are best planted between now and February 15th.

Bulbs for Florida planting in January include AFRICAN IRIS, AMARYLLIS, BLOOD LILIES, CRINUM, DA Y LILIES, SOCIETY GARLIC, ZEPHYRANTHES (RAIN LILIES), and refrigerated DUTCH IRIS, TULIPS and DAFFODILS.

Flowers that bloom this month in spite of the cold include ALYSSUM, BEGONIA, CALENDULA, DIANTHUS, PANSY, PETUNIA, PHLOX, SNAPDRAGON and VERBENA. The blooming period can be extended by removing old blooms as they mature so seed pods cannot develop. Fertilize container grown plants monthly.

Keep holiday plants attractive into the New Year by keeping them in bright light. Water when the soil begins to feel dry. Feed them monthly.

This is the month to thumb through those new garden catalogs. Plan your next garden. Decide the varieties of new plants or your favorite plant for planting. Local

nurseries will have lots of annuals available in the spring, but most will be the old proven standbys. The catalogs will have seeds of the old proven varieties and many new hybrids developed to give us genetically stronger, hardier plants, with larger and more vivid flowers. Get your seeds started in January for setting out in March.

BURL'S CORNER – by Burl Ferguson

Our latest addition to the farm is a free gift of 1500 slash pine seedlings. We have been potting them, but have a few to go. They look good. Let's hope the freezing weather doesn't come our way. We need to cover the Plumeria, Croton and any other tender plants if a freeze is forecast. We have quite a number of "eager beavers" who are whipping the farm into shape. At the risk of missing someone, "thank you" to Cat and Rick, Ed is up-potting the oaks, Buck with his mower and equipment repair expertise, Susan, Suzanne, RoseMarie, who keeps us supplied with oranges and grapefruits, Tony with his vegetable garden, Emerson can always be counted on to pot slash pine and other rooted cuttings from the mist bed, Steve and his corral of fruiting plants, Elaine and her corral of Sago Palms, Bottle Brush, etc., Joanie and hibiscus, Jim can be counted on for Plumeria (Frangipani) cuttings. Sorry to whoever I missed.

CAT'S WORDS on the TREE FARM

Howdy all, and most Blessed of the Season to you! Rick and I are still working out at the farm on Sunday and Monday. I have been there on the tree side mostly Wednesday and Friday. Finally some sense is being made. We have a few organized rows of trees that are just beautiful! Slowly by surely things are coming together.

We have a donation of Staghorn Ferns on "Tony's Table"; I counted 16. We are in dire need of some wire baskets. I am going to (for the time being) put them into a tray of soil and peat mix, and weigh them down with fist-size stones so we don't lose them. Could maybe 16 people each adopt one, purchase a wire basket or a large orchid basket, and nurture them until they are large enough for sale? I will try to prep them as soon as possible. Burl and I both know how to work with those and what they like to "eat". I would take them all home, but we live in a mobile and have no more room to hang stuff up. Lots and lots of pine seedlings are being potted up for Arbor Day...I'm impressed! Good job to the Tuesday and Thursday people; your work is so appreciated. Cat Lambe-McEntire

Grow Strawberries in Central Florida – Elaine Schoch

Growing strawberries means fresh berries and strawberry shortcake topped with whipped cream. Discover different ways to grow strawberries and find what is best for you. With these basics in growing strawberries, you can delight in one of the most popular homegrown fruits. "Fragaria x ananassa" is a herbaceous perennial member of the rose family. Temp between 50F and 80F and day lengths 14 hours or less are required for the development of flowers and fruit. These conditions occur in fall, winter and early spring in central

Florida. Select healthy, disease-free plants from a reliable nursery. Flowering and fruit production generally begins in November and continues into April or May. Fruit production occurs in 2 or 3 cycles, and can be interrupted by freezing weather. Three varieties are currently recommended: "Chandler", "Sweet Charlie" and "Oso Grande". All varieties produce berries great for eating fresh, freezing or jam making. Choose a sunny spot with morning and early afternoon sun. The soil should be Florida loam, well drained and slightly acidic (pH 5.5-6.5). In a 2 to 3 inch deep hole, bury your plant just below the crown. Mulch with pine needles to keep ripe fruit off the ground. Pine needles keeps the soil pH in check and prevents fruit rot. Fertilize 10-10-10 and micronutrients (including boron). Strawberries like water. Water your patch in early mornings so the sun and breeze can dry the leaves before nightfall. From the charming appeal of white blossoms in fall to the heady aroma of sun-warmed berries, growing strawberries brings countless pleasures. For a list of plant nurseries, go to: <http://strawberry.ifas.uft.edu>, click 'links' and go to nursery listing. Thirty plants will keep a family of 4 supplied with delicious fruit through the growing season!

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

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville. FL

Our next meeting is January 12th, 2009!!

Speaker: Ed Wardingley will speak to us regarding pervious concrete and work done in Titusville. Also, storm water run-off and aquifer recharge to the Florida Storm water Association.

Upcoming Events:

Spring Tree & Plant Sale April 3rd & 4th, 2009

Brevard Rare Fruit Council April 23—25, 2009

Mark these dates on your calendar; it's never too early to get plants ready for the next sale!!! The parking lot east of Emma Parrish Playhouse is our usual location.

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 is the focus of our Saturday events.

Saturday, January 17th is our next Work Day! We will meet at the gate between 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. until about noon. Stay as long as you are able. Please come out and join us as we continue preparing plants for our next sale.

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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

Next Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month Begins at 7:00 p.m.

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 or Lisa Dugowson 264-6389**

Name: _____

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

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