

The Bloomin' News

February, 2013, Vol. VI, 67

Dena Chemerys, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the unusual warm weather and that you are taking this time to prepare your gardens and yards for spring planting. We have several things going on as we prepare for our elections in February for Chairman, First Vice Chairman, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Just a reminder that if you have not yet placed your name on the ballot, or you would like to nominate someone, it is not too late to do so. By now each of you should have been contacted by the nominating committee. If you have not heard from someone, please call the committee members. I want to thank our committee and encourage each of you to attend the February meeting to cast your vote. I have been told the ballot will be available one week prior to the elections and any member not able to attend will be sent a ballot. Since we have more than one person wishing to run for Chairman, a ballot will be necessary. I am requesting a ballot by "email" since Leland and I will be on vacation in Hawaii the night of elections and unable to cast our votes in person. We will see you for the following meeting. God Bless, Dena Chemerys Chairman

The following comes from the Nominating Committee:

The Titusville Garden Club Member's Handbook, as well as more than a decade of Club behavior, indicates that the Club has never permitted any member to vote by proxy, email, early or absentee ballot in its history. Simply stated the handbook reads, "A majority vote of those present at the Annual Meeting shall elect".

A Club that has both by-laws and a handbook in place will follow those guidelines, in lieu of any disagreements or club division....until such time that an official change to those by-laws & handbook have officially been voted upon and changed; therefore, you must be present at the meeting for your vote to be counted (emails do not apply).

We recognize that there have been several conflicting messages circulating on this topic, and apologize for any confusion that this has likely caused.

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. We meet at 7:00p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Garden Center on Sisson; drop by to visit and possibly join us. For more information call RoseMarie at 385-9051.

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

This has been a good winter in our gardens. The cold snaps served to intensify Citrus color and harden most shrubs. Some plants have been damaged by cold, but none beyond recovery. Remember, cold spells are common in Florida during February full moons, and have occurred during cold winters as late as the second week of March.

Judicious pruning of cold-damaged plants can be done. Grape and Kiwi vines and all deciduous fruit and shade trees should be pruned in February, if not already done. Begin routine apple, peach, fig and similar tree



spraying. Till and enrich sandy soils with organic matter. Complete transplanting bare root trees and shrubs as soon as practical. Divide and replant large perennials.

You can thin and prune dormant shrubs. **CRAPE MYRTLE** should be pruned. Remove all small, spindly stems from the base of the plant, and small shoots on the main stems. Thin to 3 to 7 main trunks to open up the plant. Prune stems up to about 1/2 inch in diameter.

CRAPE MYRTLE only blooms on new wood. Thin twigs will seldom produce big blooms.

ROSES can stand heavy pruning by mid-month. Cut vigorous bushes back by 1/3 to 1/2. Remove all twigs and any branches that are dead, diseased, injured or thin and spindly.



Shorten main canes and remove small twigs and older canes that have become too hard. Miniature **ROSES** should be pruned as you would a bush **ROSE**, but lightly. Vigorous varieties may need heavier pruning to keep them compact. Clean up as much of the cut foliage as practical. Add a new layer of mulch to cover old **ROSE** leaves and Black Spot spores.

Hedges can be pruned heavily and shaped. Keep the top of the hedge narrower than the bottom to allow sun

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OUR TRIBUTE TO BURL FERGUSON, with appreciation from Men's Garden Club



Burl Ferguson was born in Butterfield, Missouri on September 7, 1920, and spent 20 years of his life growing up on a farm. He moved to Cleveland, OH, then Syracuse, NY and finally settled in Titusville, FL. His wife, Jane was one of the original "Friends" of the Enchanted Forest.

Burl recalls the Men's Garden Club was started in the 1960's, and he was one of the early members, along with Billy Rhodes. The men wanted to join the Garden Club, but had a different agenda than the women. So they started out planting seeds and cuttings in tin cans, and the Men's Garden Club has evolved from there.

Burl was an active member from the beginning. He took the Master Gardener course, and held office as President/Chairman of MGC, as well as office of Secretary. He acted as Tree Farm Manager for many years, along with Susan Murphy and Tony Koromilas. They were a team of "overseers" for all the trees and plants, as well as all the other members who come out to the Tree Farm to propagate plant, fertilize, weed and learn, as well as have fun.

Burl was instrumental in organizing the beautification of medians on U.S. 1. He is also very adept in identifying plants and trees, often from just a leaf. Burl is an Honorary Member of the Titusville Men's Garden Club.

Burl states "gardening is one of my favorite hobbies". He also said "that gardening is one of the top hobbies in the U.S." At one time, Burl was called "Johnny Appleseed".

His favorite tree is the OAK;
favorite flower/shrub: HIBISCUS



OUR TRIBUTE TO SUSAN MURPHY, with appreciation from Men's Garden Club

Susan Murphy was born in Huntsville, AL on April 25, 1929. She eventually moved to Titusville, FL. She was a nurse for 50 years, working with Dr. Cerrato and Dr. Swan, Parrish Hospital, and finally retired from the State of Florida Health Dept. She and husband, Walter, were married for 10 years and traveled all over the U.S. At one time, Susan had a nursery, **"A-Plant Co."**, working with sons, Chad and Coker, along with partners Dr. Swan and Dr. Dunn.



Susan has a life-long love of gardening. In approximately 1984, she became one of the first women members of the Men's Garden Club, and is an Honorary Member.

Some of her personal projects were: a mini-park on the corner of Knox McRae & Rosehill. She landscaped this area and actually ran a hose from her home to this site to water plants so they would thrive. It is not there now because the City said it was too close to the road. One Christmas, Susan wrapped & tied bows on 100 Kalanchoes for residents of Titusville Towers.



Every year she re-planted 17 hanging baskets, and refreshed butterfly gardens and other landscaping at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church and Parish Hall. She planted perennials at the Chamber of Commerce on her way to work one day, in her nurse's uniform. Susan is an expert in propagating Roses from cuttings, as well as other plants and starting them in the Mist House. Susan's favorite tree: MAGNOLIA, and favorite flower: DAY LILY and GAZZINIA (cross between Gerber Daisy and Zinnia)

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to reach the lower branches. By the middle of the month, you can work your beds for annuals by removing old plants, checking soil for pH, and correcting, if necessary. Treat for pests, work in compost, mulch or other organic matter and, when needed, colloidal phosphate, other amenders and fertilizer.

By the end of the month, all except spring blooming trees, shrubs and vines can be pruned. Spring flowering plants should be pruned after they finish blooming. A good pruning now will shape the plants for much of the summer. Renew mulches to control weeds and conserve water.

By the end of February, you should fertilize all plants except your lawn. Use 6-6-6 with minor elements, or if you prefer one for a special plant, such as Citrus fertilizer. Citrus trees will need ½ pound per inch of circumference measured 6 inches above the ground. Shade trees will need 1 pound per inch when less than 6 inches in diameter, and 2 pounds for each inch above 6 inches. Feed container grown plants monthly.

Major lawn care and fertilizing should wait until March. Repair winter damage. Spraying for weeds can continue. If crabgrass has been a problem, remove brown but surviving crabgrass and apply a pre-emergence herbicide by mid-month. Mow lawns as needed at the normal cutting height. Water normal lawns once a week.

If you did not start seed in January, start the seed now. Seeds started in trays or flats will grow rapidly and be ready to set out in March or April.

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 Enchanted Forest on Rt. 405. The public is welcome.
<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/>

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.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc>

COMMUNITY CALENDAR – Ann Wicks

February 4, 2012, Osprey 9:00am - 4:00pm
SCRUB-JAY FESTIVAL--Oscar Scherer Park will host a Florida Scrub-Jay Festival 2/5/13 2pm - 2/14/13 4pm UF IFAS/ Brevard County Extension. [Create Your Own Piece of Paradise - a gardening series](#)
2/16/13 8:30am-12:30pm UF IFAS/ Brevard County Extension. [Florida-Friendly Landscaping Seminar](#)
February 16, 2013, Christmas
ORLANDO WETLANDS PARK FESTIVAL--The Wetlands is a 1,650 acre world renowned example of Wetlands Engineering providing an oasis for flora,

fauna, and feathered friends. The festival originates at Ft. Christmas Park in Christmas, Florida.
2/19/13 6pm-2/26/13 8pm UF IFAS/ Brevard County Extension. [Recycle & Grow Your Own Veggies!](#)
February 23, 2013, Cape Coral-10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
S.W. FLORIDA 11th ANNUAL BURROWING OWL FESTIVAL- • Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral FL 33914

TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

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

Our next meeting is February 11th, 2013!
ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS!!

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB SALES:

Women's Garden Club Plant Sale – Feb 15 & 16
At Garden Club on Sisson Road
Men's Garden Club Tree/Plant Sale – Apr 12 & 13
Searstown parking lot on U.S. 1, Titusville

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez
The next meeting for the Women's Garden Club will be
February 6th – Honoring Past Presidents
February 15th & 16th - Plant Sale
February 27th - Card Party
(Start collecting items for Fantastic Sale in March)

TREE FARM NEWS – Tony Koromilas

Again, thanks to all who help at the Tree Farm-it continues to look great!

Ace Hardware donated over 100 Gladiola and other bulbs that were sick, but we will plant them and try to donate to schools, etc. Our Oak seeds have survived the surge of squirrel thefts. thanks to Ed and family. We will be buying liner plants this week for eventual sale and beautification of our City

It is time for all of us to propagate, using cuttings and hoping that the weather cooperates. Just bring your favorite cuttings to the mist house. Trays are crying for adoption--just put your name on them. We need variegated Schefflera, Red Maple seeds, Gardenias, Fig, Mulberry, Pomegranate and many others. Please recall that the front row plants are reserved to take cuttings--just have fun trimming, cutting, dipping in Root-tone, and placing in the vermiculite and perlite trays. Voila!! roots will erupt if you are patient.

The 13th annual Orlando Wetlands Festival at Fort Christmas Historical Park--Feb 16, 9 am to 3 pm.
Great for kids and nature lovers. Backyard Tree Giveaway. Must get there early before they run out.

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: RoseMarie @ 385-9051

Name: _____

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

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