

The Bloomin' News

January, 2016, Vol. VI, 102

Duane "Buck" Cowen, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message – Duane "Buck" Cowen

Hi, Fellow Gardeners....

The time has arrived! I must gather my thoughts and try to create some enthusiasm amongst us. We have successfully completed another year, and it was a good year at the Garden Club!! We had successful sales and great participation although I'd like to see more people at meetings. Because of this our Tree Farm is a picturesque nursery. We will have to keep up the good work in order to match this in the forthcoming year. I know we can do it with all members working toward a common goal. As long as we remember that all members have a place, and are members because we like gardening, the only way is up!! The mist house has been repaired. The Tree Farm Managers are doing a fantastic job! The tree area is beginning to take shape and, hopefully, we get into a growing pattern that produces trees for each sale. Sooo with that, I'm saying I hope everyone had a great Christmas and Happy New Year. See you at the Tree Farm or our next meeting on January 11th. Just Me, Buck

JANUARY IN THE GARDEN

We have had a mild December, with very little rain. We may still be hit by cold or freezing weather as winter progresses. 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 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, DAY 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.

FLORIDA ARBOR DAY, January 16, 2016

Plant a tree on Arbor Day is observed Nationally. The 1st Arbor Day was celebrated in the state of Nebraska in 1872 to urge settlers to plant trees that would provide shade, shelter, fruit, fuel and beauty to residents of the largely treeless plains. On that day, more than 1 million trees were planted. Eventually, it spread throughout the United States and to many other nations.

In Florida, Arbor Day is celebrated on the 3rd Friday in January, our best tree-planting time. If you are looking for a tree to plant, try a Cabbage Palmetto; it is our State Tree. (reprinted from Jan., 2002 issue)

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, 444 Columbia Blvd (Hwy 405)
The public is welcome. For info: 264-5185
<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

January 16 – Camellia Show (407-440-8384)

Mead Botanical Gardens, Winter Park

January 20 – 25 -- 19th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival- Eastern Florida State College Titusville Campus

This event features a variety of birding and wildlife field trips, world-class photographers and speakers, exhibitors and so much more. The opening receptions will be held Jan 20 from 4:30 – 6 p.m. at the Gymnasium. Targets for offshore birding and wildlife adventures include jellyfish, dolphins, and possibly sea turtles and North Atlantic right whales along with avian friends. This year, \$5 of the registration fee will be donated to the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida. For more information, go to www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org.

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group

Jan. 6th – Landscape Design Workshop, by Lois M Harris, owner of Master Garden Design.

Jan. 16th – Florida Arbor Day

Jan. 20th – Board Meeting @ 10:00a.m.

GROWING ALLIUMS – RoseMarie Peurrung

The warm flavors and aromas of garlic, onions, shallots, chives and leeks are indispensable in the kitchen. I can't imagine not having them to flavor my dishes. They are all members of the Allium family, a relative of the Lily. Besides their rich, flavor-enhancing qualities, they have been proven to lower cholesterol and combat bad microbes.

This is an excellent time of year to grow Alliums. Most will do well in pots on your patio in full sun, or planted in rich, humus-type soil that is ph neutral in the ground or in raised beds. It is best to keep the soil damp, but not wet to avoid rot.

For onion and garlic chives, it is best to purchase a small plant from a garden center. They are both perennial plants, which spread slowly. Garlic leaves are flat, while onion leaves are round and hollow in the center. Both have a mild flavor which are best to use in salads or foods eaten raw.

Green onions can be started from seed or you can purchase a bunch of green onions at the market. Plant the bulb or white part of the plant just deep enough to cover the white bulb. Use the other leaves as needed. Eventually, they will flower and seed, and you will have many more plants.

Scallions are regular onion sets planted too deeply for an onion bulb to form. (6 inches)

Regular onions are planted from sets or tiny plants purchased at garden center 1-2 inches deep (Probably best in soil or raised beds.) Use the green leaves from outside as an herb. These take months to mature depending on time of year.

Garlic is planted here in Florida in the Fall or early Spring. Separate the cloves and plant approximately 1 inch deep. It also takes months to mature, but I use the outside leaves as herbs.

Shallots are rather expensive to purchase, but can be grown. They prefer a more acidic soil (5.0 – 7.0), and are planted close to the surface. Like onions and garlic, they have a very long growing period.

Leeks are slow to grow, prefer cooler weather and probably best to purchase.

Onions, garlic and shallots are ready to harvest when the leaves turn brown and fall over. That is if you have allowed most of the leaves to remain on the plant and not used them as herbs. Always leave enough leaves on the plant to support growth of bulb and roots.

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 January 11th, 2016!!

Special Speaker: Amanda Marcle will do a demonstration on sprouting!

Men's Garden Club Calendar for 2016

January 11th 1st Bus. Meeting of New Year

January 16th Florida Arbor Day



Our newest member: JOE LOMSARDO

3550 S. Park Avenue, Tville 32780

407-432-6094

The Bloomin' News

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.

For more information, please call Joanie @ 480-8807

Name: _____

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

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