

The Bloomin' News

DECEMBER, 2010, Vol. VI, 41

Steven Korpacz, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message – by Steve Korpacz

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and got some of that holiday shopping started. I think some space devoted to write about cold protection is called for at this time of year. I usually determine which of my plants are going to be needing protection. I water first, it helps the plant withstand the cold better and raises the temps of the ground around the tree. I use blankets, sheets, and some of the frost cloth I purchased last season. I like to use some small bricks to hold the cloth down to the ground. I also use lights, strings of Christmas lights work real well, providing a little bit of heat around the trunk and branches of the tree. Just by adding a few lights and a cover over your plants can keep that fruit tree or flowering plant from suffering any damage or stress. I would not use any type of plastic, it seems to burn the leaves bad. If that is all you have, make sure the plastic is not touching the leaves or branches. Have a great holiday! Steve Korpacz, Chairman

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

Dec. 1 – Christmas Luncheon 11:00a.m.

Dec. 2 – Decorate Library for Christmas

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.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc>

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 RoseMarie: 385-9051.

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 after 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

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

Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville. FL

**Our next meeting will be
December 13th, 2010!!**

Work Day

Until further notice, we will not be meeting on Saturdays for Work Day. Perhaps after the holidays and when it gets warmer in the spring, we can talk about meeting once again on Saturdays.

**Thanks to all who sent in an article for this month's newsletter. Please keep it up into the new year!
Wishing all of our fellow gardeners, members and readers a Very Merry Christmas and a most Blessed, Healthy and Happy New Year!!Joanie**

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Titusville Men's Garden Club
Joanie Opperman, Editor
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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.

TREE FARM NEWS – Tony Koromilas

There has been some interest in Hydroponics gardening. Please contact me and let's start a project? Alex has started a "sustainability" garden using recycled plywood boxes. I hope we can demonstrate some home grown veggies at our next sale. Marian, Burl and I are growing about 500 PODOCARPUS seedlings. I have collected buckets of Oak seeds, which are planted on the racks. Let's all watch them because we need seedlings.

BURL'S CORNER - by Burl Ferguson

It is time for another "TO DO" List

1. Up-pot trees and shrubs from 1 gallon pots to 2-3 gallon pots, as necessary.
2. Pick up downed trees and shrubs (this is a continual item each week).
3. Move shrubs from shade trees on north area to their place in Tree Farm, as needed.
4. Clean weeds from pots of trees and shrubs.
5. Divide shrubs and grasses as needed.
6. Move trees and shrubs to their proper location.
7. Pot rooted cuttings in Mist House to appropriate size container.
8. Prune trees and shrubs to shape.
9. Inspect trees and shrubs, and fertilize as needed.

JOANIE'S GARDEN NEWS – Joanie Opperman

A few weeks ago, several members caravanned to Mims to purchase some Rain Barrels for our homes. Pat Kern has agreed to let all who are interested come to her place to have a Rain Barrel Workshop on a Saturday in 2011. Lisa stated she has a video and other pertinent info which will enable us to construct the necessary "plumbing" fixtures so our Rain Barrels will do what they are intended to do. We may wait for this Work Shop until after the holidays. Also, we will be looking for more Rain Barrels in case you did not get one this time.

Just a reminder, we would like to plan for future Members' Garden Tours in the spring. Our 1st Garden Tour was a huge success; several members have already volunteered to be part of the next one. We will let you know in future issues of the Bloomin' News.

FYI, don't forget to have sheets, burlap, boxes, paper bags, Christmas lights, etc. ready for possible freezing weather to cover tender plants. Also, it's not too late to put mulch around plants and trees.

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

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** _____