

The Bloomin' News

DECEMBER, 2011, Vol. VI, 53

Dena Chemerys, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message – by Dena Chemerys

Thank you to all of our hardworking members who so graciously pulled their weight and more during my recovery period after surgery. I am 100% again, and so excited about 2012, our changes to the Bloomin' News, and our growing membership! We now have 49 members, and I want to take this opportunity to welcome our 4 newest members. They are Joni Elliott, John Fry, Diane Stephens and Donna Walter. We are happy you have decided to join us, and we promise many wonderful things in the coming year.

Our Landscape Show in Orlando was, as it is each year, beautiful, educational and lots of fun. We had over 20 members attend, several for the first time. Thanks to Susan Murphy for buying our plants and having several booths donated to us. She had her understudy, Pat Kern, learning the secrets of the trade, though they will never tell! Thanks to Susan's son, Chad, for organizing the Saturday loading of plants to take back to the Tree Farm. Chad did his Mom proud! Thanks to our newcomers, Ann and Dick Wicks, and Bryan Kyle, who were thrust into the middle of the chaos. We couldn't have done it without you. There are many others: Ed, Lisa, Amanda, Jackie, Steve, and of course, our main guy, Tony. The show wouldn't be the same without Tony, who works so hard behind the scenes, and is well known and liked by many of the vendors. A big THANK You to everyone mentioned, and those I don't have room to mention, but we know who you are.

Our Fall Tree and Plant Sale was a huge success, except for the Saturday downpour. We have a rain plan for next time, if there is ever a need for one. We sure missed RoseMarie and all the behind-the-scene things she does every year to make it run smoothly. Thank you to Jim Ratliff, who agreed to stay on as our Treasurer until after the sale, even though he has health concerns. Jim has turned the "reins" over to interim Treasurer, Amanda Marcle. Welcome aboard, Amanda, and we thank you for coming to our rescue. We wish Jim well and will keep him and Joanne in our prayers.

I am so excited I could go on and on, but let me say this in closing, 2012 promises to be a very busy year for our Club with guest speakers, annual trips to Bok Towers, the Wildflower Festival in Deland, our Spring & Fall Sales, a Garden Tour of 5 members' gardens, another Potluck Dinner, an Appreciation Dinner, Landscape Show in Orlando, and that's just for fun! My promise to you is this: "If at the end of 2012 you say you didn't have fun, then it must be because you stayed home and slept!! God bless, my friends.

Potential New Members, YOU Are Welcome

To prospective members, 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. There are facilities to start plants from seed/clippings. We meet at 7:00pm 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.

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APPRECIATION DINNER – On October 23, 34 Garden Club members and a family member met at Janice Wagoner's home for our Fall Appreciation Dinner. We feasted on Fried Chicken, plus an array of salads, vegetable dishes and desserts. Janice showed everyone around the different garden areas on her property.

OFFICERS

Chairman:	Dena Chemerys	749-1051
1 st Vice-Chairman	Steve Korpacz (unl. 407-832-8325)	
2 nd Vice-Chairman	Kathryn Woidtke	604-2366
Recording Sec'y:	Kathryn Woidtke	604-2366
Correspond Sec'y	Patti Meredith	269-8756
Treasurer:	Amanda Marcle	264-0976
Bloomin' News Ed.	Joanie Opperman	480-8807
Membership:	RoseMarie Peurrung	385-9051
Farm Managers:	Tony Koromilas	269-1931
	Ed Rahn	213-0422

NOTE:

It was voted on and approved for our Garden Club to attend Boktoberfest as a yearly event!

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. 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.

DENA'S CORNER - by Dena Chemerys

What will you do with your Poinsettias? Poinsettias can be used in landscapes as accent plants or informal flowering hedges, as container plants for patios and decks, and as cut flowers for interior decorations. They should be planted in areas where they receive full sun most of the day. However, it is essential that they receive no light at night during the bud-setting period. Poinsettias require a long, dark period before they will initiate flower buds. Normally, they set flower buds in early October when nights are becoming increasingly longer. If the dark period is interrupted with the light from a window, street light or any other light source, flowering will be markedly delayed or the plant may not flower at all. Just a short period of light during the dark period is enough to delay or prevent flowering. This should be kept in mind when Poinsettias are used in the landscape, and they should be planted in areas that will be completely dark during the night.

Poinsettias grow best in moist, well-drained, fertile soils. However, they will grow satisfactorily in a wide range of soils, including sand, muck, marl and clay. Soil pH should ideally range from 5.5 to 6.5, but it need not be adjusted if between 5.0 and 7.4. The soil must be well drained because Poinsettias will not grow well in wet areas. The Christmas Poinsettia can

be removed from its container and planted outdoors as soon as danger of frost is past. A general rule is to dig a hole 1 foot wider and 6 inches deeper than the root ball. Backfill the hole with enough soil so that the plant will sit in the hole at the same depth as it was growing in the container. Water thoroughly while planting to remove air pockets. Mulch around plant with organic materials to conserve moisture and help control weeds. Plants should be fertilized monthly, starting in March through October in central and south Florida with 2 pounds of 6-6-6, or equal amount of other complete fertilizer per 100 sq. ft. of planting area. The soil should be kept moderately moist at all times; dryness and/or lack of fertilizer will result in the loss of lower leaves. Prune in early Spring after blooming is over and danger of frost has passed. Cut back to within 12 to 18 inches of the ground, or in case of frostbite, to "live" wood. {Excerpt from: University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service publication "Poinsettias For Florida Landscapes."}

(This article was previously printed in *Bloomin' News* in January, 2002.)

***** COMMITTEES *****

Advertising (Spring/Fall Plant Sales) Tony Koromilas 269-1931

Advertising (Garden Club News) Kathryn Woidtke 604-2366

Education:.....Ann Wicks: 386-847-6452

Fall Plant Sale.....Leland & Dena Chemerys 749-1051

Garden Club Liason.....Susan Egger :269-7234
(For Master Gardeners, AG Center & University of FL)

Landscape Show.....Pat Kern.....268-4458

Mapping.....Lisa Dugowson.....254-8226

Mist House.....Susan Murphy.....225-4773

Plant Markers.....Leland Chemerys.....749-1051
.....Kathryn Woidtke.....604-2366

Procurement.....Tony Koromilas.....269-1931

Refreshments.....Jeanie Huppert.....383-3416

Spring Plant Sale.....Leland & Dena Chemerys....749-1051

..... **HONORARY MEMBERS**

BURL FERGUSON

SUSAN MURPHY

TONY KOROMILAS
.....

Sending well wishes, speedy recovery, lots of love and prayers to: Burl Ferguson, Jim Ratliff & RoseMarie Peurrung

VEGETABLE GARDEN AREA – Buck Cowen

Buck proposed starting a 12 inch raised vegetable garden. He suggests initially building three (3) 5 foot x 10 foot areas with 6 inch deckboards to raise vegetables for our Garden Club. This was voted on and approved. When it is completed, members will be invited to bring seeds, seedlings to start the vegetable garden. We will keep you updated!

Introducing QUESTION & ANSWER section. What's bugging you? Come on, don't be shy!

Question of the month: What can I prune in December???

Men's Garden Club of Titusville recently donated a Magnolia tree to Rowell's Heritage Farm in Mims. "It was planted in the front yard of their farmhouse, which will bring beauty and shade for years to come." We received this lovely "Thank You" from Robert & Delores Rowell.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are making plans to have a Christmas Party at the Garden Club on Saturday, **December 17th at 6:00p.m.** The Garden Club will provide spiral ham and turkey. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. Instead of a "gift exchange", we will have a "Plant Exchange", which can either be from your garden or store bought plant at \$7.00 value. **Please RSVP Jeanie Huppert at 383-3416**

MASTER GARDENERS

- Lisa Dugowson 243-8226
- Pat Kern 268-4458
- Susan Egger 269-7234
- Linda Krupp 269-0322
- Susan Murphy 225-4773
- RoseMarie P. 385-9051
- Jeannine Scianna 269-4007

*Joanie Opperman is starting classes in January, 2012 to become a Master Gardener.

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Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

- Dec. 1 – Decorate Library for Christmas 8:00a.m.
- Dec. 7 – Christmas Luncheon
- Dec. 30 – Un-decorate Library at 8:00a.m.

The Bloomin' News
Titusville Men's Garden Club
Joanie Opperman, Editor

Email: freddiefla@yahoo.com Phone: 480-8807

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 12th, 2011!!**

Men's Garden Club Calendar for 2011

- December 10th Christmas Party
- December 12th Business Meeting 7:00p.m.
- December 17th Saturday Work Day

Men's Garden Club Calendar for 2012

- January 9th First meeting New Year
- January 14th Saturday Work Day
- January 20th Florida Arbor Day
- January 28th Saturday Work Day
- March 16th & 17th Spring Tree & Plant Sale

Garden Club Web Sites

- 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

- Dec. 3 - ENCHANTED FOREST SANCTUARY**
Music in the Forest 5pm to 8pm. Musicians will perform Florida Folk music on screened porch. (You may bring picnic dinner to enjoy.) Free to public. Call: 264-5185
- Dec. 7 – OYSTER MAT MAKING** 9am to 11am. Help Brevard Zoo with their community project to restore oyster reefs in Mosquito Lagoon of North Brevard County. Contact Jody Palmar at 254-5493. Brevard County Parks & Recreation.
- Dec. 15th – Holiday Plant Care-Use, Reuse or Recycle** 6:00-7:30pm at Jessie Brock Community Center – 6021 S. Conway Road, Orlando, 32812. This is a FREE CLASS. Registration for seating, call (407) 254-9200

Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter -

- The Sea Rocket Chapter's meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month; 7pm to 9pm at the Enchanted Forest on Hwy. 405, Titusville. The public is welcome.
- Dec. 3 – Hike South Lake Conservation area 9am to 12 noon. Call: 264-5185
- Dec. 3 - Green Marketplace Holly-day Festival – 4880 Coconut Ave. – 10am to 4pm. Call: 536-1410

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.

For more information, please phone RoseMarie at 385-9051.

Name: _____

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

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