

The Bloomin' News

January, 2014, Vol. VI, 78

Les Leckron, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message – Les Leckron



Happy New Year! As we end one year and begin another, it's always a time of reflection on what we've done and what we might do in the coming year(s). 2013 was another good year for the Titusville Men's Garden Club! We had many successes; i.e., (Tree & Plant Sales, Tree Farm Improvements, Overall Tree Farm maintenance, Monthly Newsletters, Increased Membership, New Friendships, Horticultural Learning, Monthly Meetings) and with continued member involvement, we will have an even greater 2014. Thanks to all members for being a part of our organization – it takes us all to be successful!

Thanks to Elisa Artusa for opening her home to us and hosting the Club's Holiday Potluck Dinner! We had a great time of fellowship and had plenty to eat! Thanks to everyone for bringing wonderful food to share!

One thing that will be different with our Club in 2014 is the void left by Tony Koromilas' passing; he will really be missed. I'm not sure when I first met Tony, but I know he was always doing, fixing, bringing things, instigating projects and involving others. He was our liaison to the Titusville City Environmental Commission and worked on many issues over the years between our Club and City Hall. Tony wasn't always a Tuesday & Thursday morning worker at the Tree Farm. No....Tony would be there multiple times on Tuesday & Thursday and any other time the spirit moved him, or he wanted to work on a project with someone. Let's Celebrate Tony's life, what he did for our Club and our friendships with him! Tony will really be missed!

Please remember to put our Monthly Meetings on your new 2014 Calendars – 2nd Monday of Each Month! See you on January 13th for the January Meeting! Keep it Growing! Les

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.

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.

OFFICERS

Chairman:	Les Leckron	267-2435
Vice-Chairman	Kathryn Woidtke	604-2366
Secretary	Emily Leithauser	225-4636
Treasurer:	Jim Ratliff	267-7259

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.. There are 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 information, call RoseMarie at 385-9051.

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 13th, 2014!!

Men's Garden Club Calendar for 2014

**January 13th 1st Bus. Meeting of New Year
January 17th Florida Arbor Day**

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>



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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 RoseMarie @ 385-9051

Name: _____

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

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