

The Bloomin' News

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Les Leckron, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message - Les Leckron



Happy Holidays! As we end another growing year, it's good to reflect on our Club's accomplishments! So much work has gone into the Tree Farm and it looks better than ever. Burl Ferguson would say "Many Hands Make Work Light" and we have had many dedicated hands working at the farm. The change to have the Fall Sale at the Tree Farm was a big move, but seems a good thing and will benefit us in the long run. We have had many good speakers at our monthly meetings where we continue to be enlightened and learn together. Our membership has increased and we welcome our new members! We'll have a Holiday Social, so plan to come relax and chat with your fellow gardeners. A motion was made at our November meeting to increase our Tree Growing at the Tree Farm; we deferred the discussion and decision to the December meeting. This is a serious thing to consider and would take dedication of several years to again get trees to the selling stage. In the past, the tree farm was just that, mostly trees to help provide affordable trees to our community. The emphasis has changed and there are fewer trees now than ever. Something to consider – it's up to the Club Membership to set the direction, so bring your thoughts and vote accordingly. December will fly by, but don't forget some important dates! We have our December Meeting on Monday 12/10/14 and then our Pot Luck Holiday Social at Patti's house on Sunday 12/14/14. Please remember to take care of your plants during the Holiday Season and put your beautiful specimens on display! I noticed Christmas Cactus are getting ready to bloom and bromeliads are popping up their displays of colorful flowers. Just because we are heading into winter doesn't mean we won't have blooms! December gets so hectic, so make some time for yourselves and enjoy your gardens and plants – Keep it Growing! Les

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.

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 seed/clippings. We meet at 7:00pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Garden Center on Sisson. For more information, please call RoseMarie at 385-9051.



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** _____