

The Bloomin' News

February, 2004, Vol. V, 31

Leland Chemerys, Chairman

Don Crocker, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Leland Chemerys

Hello Folks,

(Note from Ed.: Leland didn't get his message in this month at time of publication.)

Leland email: tchr4@bellsouth.net (Terri/Leland Chemerys)

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. 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 Leland Chemerys, 269-0667.

Florida Native Plant Society

Sea Rocket Chapter

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month; 7 PM to 9 PM at the Brevard County Agriculture and Extension Center, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa.

My Wife Jane

Thanks Burl

JANE FERGUSON, "The Battle is Over", she's home and at peace with God.

TITUSVILLE Jane (Teddy) Jolley Ferguson, 82, passed away Monday, January 19, 2004, at Royal Oak Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Born in Monett, Mo., Jane and her family came to Brevard County in 1963 from Fayetteville, N.Y. Jane worked as a Mathematics teacher at Parkway Junior High School and Titusville High School. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Titusville Environmental Commission, Alpha Delta Kappa Educational Society and Friends of the Enchanted Forest. Jane is survived by her husband, Burl Ferguson, to whom she was married for over 58 years. She is also survived by her sons, Jim Ferguson, Joe Ferguson, Jay Ferguson and John Ferguson; 12 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. Services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 24th, at the First Presbyterian Church, 1235 So. Park Avenue, Titusville, Florida. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Brevard Alzheimers Foundation, 4676 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne, FL 32935.

Memorial and Flag Pole In Front of Police Station Gets Facelift!

Via John Walters and the Titusville Men's Garden Club.

Suzanne Canada, Secretary, Standards & Training, Titusville Police Dept. emailed the following:

From: Canada, Suzanne E.

Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2004 1:21 PM

To: Police Dept, All

Subject: MEMORIAL GETS NEW LIFE!

The memorial and flag pole area in front of our building has been given new life - literally!

Thanks to the efforts of our own **John Walters**, In-house Volunteer, the planting bed looks absolutely

beautiful! John had noticed the dismal appearance of this central area in front of our building and volunteered to do something about it. **As a member of the Titusville Men's Garden Club**, he is very familiar with plant types and how to lay them out in an eye-catching way. The Garden Club most generously donated the sun-hardy plants he had in mind, and John went to work this morning. With trustee Pedro Militrano under his guidance (thanks, Pedro!), the flower bed memorial was transformed into a showpiece for our main entrance. John is personally bringing in mulch and will lay it in himself in the next few days.

Please take a moment to take a look at his handiwork, and to thank him yourself.

Please see attached "before" & "after" photos! (Ed. note: the photo showed a really great arrangement, but I'm not too good at getting pictures into the newsletter.)

Suzanne

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

the best of Gil Bertie

This has been a good winter in my garden. The cold snaps served to intensify Citrus color and harden most shrubs. I have had some frost but no freezes in my yard so far (1-30). Some plants have been damaged by cold but none beyond recovery. Remember cold spells are common in Florida during February full moons (Feb. 6th) and have occurred during cold winters as late as the second week of March, March full moon - the 6th also.

Judicious pruning of cold damaged plants can be done. Grape and Kiwi vines and all deciduous fruit and shade trees should be pruned in February if not already done. Begin routine apple, peach, fig and similar tree spraying. Till and enrich sandy soils with organic matter. Complete transplanting bare root trees and shrubs as soon as practical. Divide and replant large perennials.

You can thin and prune dormant shrubs. CRAPE MYRTLE should be pruned. Remove all small spindly stems from the base of the plant and small shoots on the main stems. Thin to three to seven main trunks to open up the plant. Prune stems up to about one-half inch in diameter. CRAPE MYRTLE only blooms on new wood. Thin twigs will seldom produce big blooms.

ROSES can stand heavy pruning by mid-month. Cut vigorous bushes back by a third to a half. Remove all twigs and any branches that are dead, diseased, injured or thin and spindly. Shorten main canes and remove small twigs and older canes that have become too hard. Miniature ROSES should be pruned as you would a bush ROSE, but lightly.

Vigorous varieties may need heavier pruning to keep them compact. Clean up as much of the cut foliage as practical. Add a new layer of mulch to cover old rose leaves and Black Spot spores.

Hedges can be pruned heavily and shaped. Keep the top of the hedge narrower than the bottom to allow sun to reach the lower branches.

By the middle of the month you can work your beds for annuals by removing old plants, checking soil for pH and correcting if necessary. Treat for pests, work in compost, mulch or other organic matter and, when needed colloidal phosphate, other amenders and fertilizer.

By the end of the month all except spring blooming trees, shrubs and vines can be pruned. Spring flowering plants should be pruned after they finish blooming. A good pruning now will shape the plants for much of the summer. Renew mulches to control weeds and conserve water.

By the end of February you should fertilize all plants except your lawn. Use 6-6-6 with minor elements or if you prefer one for a special plant, such as Citrus fertilizer. Citrus trees will need one half pound per inch of circumference measured 6 inches above the ground. Shade trees will need one pound per inch when less than 6 inches in diameter and 2 pounds for each inch above 6 inches. Feed container grown plants monthly.

Major lawn care and fertilizing should wait until March. Repair winter damage. Spraying for weeds can continue. If crabgrass has been a problem, remove brown but surviving crabgrass and apply a pre-emergence herbicide by mid-month. Mow lawns as needed at the normal cutting height. Water normal lawns once a week.

If you did not start seed in January, start the seed now. Seeds started in trays or flats will grow rapidly and be ready to set out in March or April.

Update from Emerson

By Emerson Johnson

Slow time at the farm, some were absent because of the holidays and some had pressing reasons to be absent. Now that spring is just around the corner it's time for the faithful to start coming again to get ready for the big spring sale. Burl is back and we look forward to his leadership, and Tony is back, but at 86%, thus we hope he's back to 100% soon! Cat has been doing her usual great work, and continues to label and categorize plants.

A big question for the February meeting is what will sell in April, and how best to acquire these best selling plants.

I hope that the 500 tree Arbor Day bash will encourage people to purchase trees from the "Source."

TREE FARM NEWS

by Tony Koromilas

Tree City Initiative Planting -Arbor Day Celebration

Thanks to John, Becky, George, Emerson, Leland, Frank, the Sharpes crew, and other volunteers, 135 trees were planted on Harrison Street, from Royal Oak Dr. to Knox McRae, on Arbor Day weekend. We planted oaks, bald cypress, pine, sweet gum, and maples that have been growing at the farm in the past few years. Some were seedlings donated by the

St. Johns Water District and nurtured over the years by members of the Men's Garden Club.

The Titusville Environmental Commission has allocated funds to replenish over 890 trees that were contributed for the Arbor Day planting. We donated young trees to Titusville High, Jackson Middle, Apollo, Mims, Pinewood, Riverview, Oak Park, Madison, and The Enchanted Forest.

Many thanks to George Mendez, Don Hawthorne, "Cat", Emerson Johnson, Jim Ratliff, and others, for loading and delivering the trees to the schools. Thanks to Chris Ryba, a teacher at Jackson Middle, for coordinating the tree donations, communications, etc. with the various schools.

Donations: Mr. Dlugoposky donated about 20 large clumps of loriopy plants which have been separated and potted with the help of Emerson, Burl, Don Croford, "Cat", Jim, and others. Nancy donated about 100 red, white, and pink Amaryllis bulbs after reading the Arbor Day newspaper article. Many thanks to her. We will need someone to adopt and care for them.

Thanks to Burl Ferguson for the use of his trailer after ours had a flat tire.

P.S. from Burl: TREE FARM TO DO LIST

1. Clean empty trays in mist house with chlorine
2. Spread mulch in aisles of mist house.
3. Uppot trees and shrubs to larger size containers as needed
4. Propagate your favorite plants by cuttings in mist bed
5. Remove weeds from pots and treat with Ronstar
6. Prepare plants needing winter protection so the snow blanket can cover as needed
7. Pot rooted cuttings from mist bed.
8. Prune trees and shrubs as needed
9. Spray Round Up on weeds in farm being careful to not get spray on leaves of trees and shrubs.
10. Move plants from shade canopy that do not require a shade environment.
11. Apply follow-up fertilizer on trees and shrubs as needed.
12. Anything you see that needs to be done like making the farm tidy, etc.

Garden Club Web Sites

By Les Leckron

The Titusville Garden Club web site, which has a link to the Titusville Men's Garden Club web site, and Titusville Men's Garden Club web site addresses are:

TGC site <<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tgc/>>

TMGC site <<http://www.tmgc.cjb.net/>>

Questions Anyone?

From Your Newsletter Editor

Please send me your questions for the "QUESTIONS and ANSWERS" column.

This web site <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> offers interesting info.

Any input and/or comments, pro or con, are welcome. Send them via: snail mail, email or phone to Don Crocker, 5175 Kirkwood Trail, Titusville, FL 32780-6719; 264-0947; <dcrocker@painloss.com>

Dine and Design, a Bloomin' Affair

Ormond Beach Garden Club is having a demonstration of "Arranging flowers for any occasion" at Casements, Riverside Dr. and Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach, March 31st, from noon to 2:00 PM. Tickets: \$20.00 includes three course luncheon, three choices, 3 raffle chances for 1 of 9 floral arrangements for each chance. Call 386.441.7878 for any additional information.

Saturday, Feb. 14th Will Be a Work Day

Please remember that the Saturday after our Monthly Meeting is a day for concerted effort at the Tree Farm.

Individuals put in many hours during the week at their convenience and this is very necessary for continued success.

We also have some tasks that need teamwork to accomplish. This type work is the focus of our Saturday events.

Plan on coming out Sat., 2/14 and join us at the Tree Farm

Spring Tree & Plant Sale Saturday

April 17, 2004 (tentative)

Put this date on your calendar; it's never too early to get plants ready for sale!!!

Leland Chemerys, 269-0667, is the fearless leader for this sale.

The Bloomin' News
Titusville Men's Garden Club
Don Crocker, Editor
5175 Kirkwood Trail
Titusville , FL 32780-6719

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The Titusville Men's Garden Club

Next meeting: Monday, February, 10, 2004– 7:00 PM

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 about 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 2000 trees per year.

Where We Meet: We meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM 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,

Or phone Tony Koromilas 269-1931, Les Leckron 267-2435 or 321-264-4266, or Leland Chemerys at 269-0067

-----Tear here and mail or bring to the next meeting-----

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB APPLICATION

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____
Street: _____ City _____ Zip Code _____