

The Bloomin' News

January, 2004, Vol. V, 30

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. If you were at the Christmas Party December 8th, you know what a great success it was. If you missed it, you missed a great night of excellent food, really enjoyable live music, fun games and rubbing elbows with super people. To those of you that missed it, better luck next year. **To all of you who worked so hard to make the Christmas Party the great success it was, THANK YOU!!!**

And to ALL of us - HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!)

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 **normally** 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. **However the January 2004 meeting will be on the 14th - the second Wednesday - at the Extension Center.**

From the TGC Pres.

By Mary Demmond

The Christmas Party was a first class event! Thank Y'all!!!! Wonderful concept and hope it becomes a tradition.

Thank you, too, for all your support during the last year. Looking forward to working even more closely with each other on mutual programs.

Some of you saw the beautiful gardening book, Best Garden Color for Florida by Pamela Crawford, that I had at the Christmas Party. Well, I have 5 (five) left at \$27 each. The pictures are fantastic and it is primarily for USDA Zones 9 through 11 (that's us!). If you want one, let me know a.s.a.p. First come, etc.

The first major fund-raiser for the New Year is the Red Hat Luncheon and Fashion Show on Friday, January 16th at the Garden Center. Pre-purchased tickets through Sarita Sachdev (267-7688) are \$18 each. Wives of our men members, you're welcome!!!

Heads Up: Our Annual TGC Fantastic Sale in March. Start your New Year by clearing out your clutter. SAVE that stuff, ---we'll need it! March 5-6, 2004.

Next meeting of the DAY Group: Monday, January 12, 2004, 10 a.m., Garden Center.

email Mary Demmond: <jackwdem@infionline.net>

Jerry Ashcroft Resigns

By Don Crocker

I got a note from Jerry Ashcroft December 12, 2003. He requested to be removed from our Newsletter distribution list. Margaret, his wife, is in need of care she can better get in Charleston, South Carolina. They intend to move on up the latter part of this February.

I emailed my Garden Club list the day I received Jerry's letter and got a lot of wheels turning. MANY replied on how they will miss Jerry and wanted to do something special. Those who have known Jerry and Margaret since they first joined the Garden Club suggest a memory album be created for them to have in their new home. There seems to be many things to put into it: his being responsible for the bookcase in The Garden Center (meeting room? I'm writing w/o the info. needed to do this justice.), his being an Honorary Member of the TGC, his closeness to many of you.

Mary Lou, our present TGC President, has accepted collecting articles, pictures, comments, etc. that would be fitting for the album. Please send them to her and then we will get together to put it together. Please, all of you with the desire, start getting things together.

Mary Lou would prefer snail mail: Mary Demmond, 4231 Longbow Dr., Titusville, FL 32796-1063

She said she will accept the info. via email:
<jackwdem@infionline.net>

JANUARY IN THE GARDEN

the best of Gil Bertie

So far our winter weather has been almost ideal. It has been cool early some mornings. I have not had any frost in my yard (as of December 15) and, of course, no freezing weather. We will still be hit by some colder weather. 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 or twice 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, DA Y 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.

Keep holiday plants attractive into the new year by keeping them in bright light. Water when the soil begins to feel dry. Feed them monthly.

This is the month to thumb through those new garden catalogs. Plan your next garden. Decide the varieties of new plants or your favorite plant for planting. Local nurseries will have lots of annuals available in the spring, but most will be the old proven standbys. The catalogs will have seeds of the old proven varieties and many new hybrids developed to give us genetically stronger, hardier plants, with larger and more vivid flowers. Get your seeds started in January for setting out in March.

Update from Emerson

By Emerson Johnson

Well, it turned out to be a great year at the tree farm, and December was a really fun time at the Garden Center.

The Christmas party was a huge success. Thanks to Becky, all of the food and drink was great. I especially enjoyed the roast beef and the fruit. (Ed. note: the barbecued meatballs didn't take a back seat to any of the rest of the good stuff either.) Financially, we spent about \$880, and took in about \$500. The Night Meeting Group (is that the correct name for what is/was The Men's Garden Club?) gained a lot of positive recognition. There are seven or eight persons in my park who are interested in the club and want to become members. The presentation of the club by Tony and Leland was low-key but impressive. We have volumes of pictures. Hopefully some of these could be used in the paper for additional exposure. Don Hawthorne has promised interesting speakers at meetings. This will increase interest even further and increase our meeting attendance. Arbor Day will be a real plumb for us this year thanks to Tony. He is getting the schools involved to help plant for The Tree City Initiative. We have the trees this year to really make a difference in this city.

Some paid help at the farm has been a big help for us to keep up with all the things needed to keep plants growing hardily - fertilizing, weeding, up-potting, etc. Cat has reorganized the shade cloth area, the hibiscus, and the worktable. The worktable no longer looks like it's kept by a bunch of pack rats. She is now working on the slash pine, and she has started an inventory of all of the plants at the farm, so we will know what we have and what we need. She has a lot of good ideas and a lot of energy. We are hoping for and are anxiously waiting for her to become a member in April.

Now that the holidays are over we can start working to get ready for April. We will need more seedlings to replace our dwindling stock. (Tony's - and thus our - involvement with the Tree City Initiative is adding to the extremely beneficial use of the trees we are growing.)

George is back and will be active at the farm again. Burl is also back. Both are warmly welcomed. I think we need a to review our mission statement in order to plan for, and grow, what sells and what doesn't. Tony has proposed that we include typical nursery stock that is usually used by landscapers. We have a building boom in this area and should get in on the wave.

TREE FARM NEWS

by Tony Koromilas

Hello previous volunteers and folks newly interested in the Men's Garden Club.

As you may know or learned Monday night at the Titusville Garden Club Christmas Meeting, we have a goal of planting 2000 trees per year as part of our Titusville Tree City Initiative.

ARBOR DAY TREE INITIATIVE

Arbor day this year is on the third Friday of January, January 16th. Most plantings will occur on Saturday the 17th. Present plans for the Arbor Day planting are to plant trees along Harrison Street. Volunteers will meet at the YMCA parking lot at 9:00 a.m., with shovels, to pick up trees for distribution.

Apollo Elementary School, Riverview, Jackson, Pine View, and Titusville High have volunteered to accept approximately 500 trees for planting prior to Arbor Day. Burl Ferguson, Emerson Johnson, George Mendez, Jim Ratliff and other members have offered to help distribute trees to the schools.

The Enchanted Forest has volunteered to accept 50 trees and place them in an area for visitors to take home to plant.

The Environmental Commission members and the Marine Resources Council will be helping in this endeavor. The Sharpes crew will help plant the large Sweet Gum trees.

I hope that you will contact your neighborhood association and set up planting near the open spaces etc. Action is also progressing to include Keep Brevard Beautiful, the Parks and Recs, and other groups.

If you can help us at our tree farm, please send me a message and I will send instructions on how/when we can get together. Our task is to up-pot small one gallon trees to 3 gallon and prepare older trees for delivery.

If you have any suggestions please contact me:
Tony Koromilas - Member Titusville Men's Garden Club and the Titusville Environmental Commission.
Phone 321-269-1931

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 (Complete for now – 12/30/02)*
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>

Saturday, Jan. 17th 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., 1/17 and join us at the Tree Farm

**Spring Tree & Plant Sale
Saturday**

April 9, 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, January 12, 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 _____