

BACK ACRE NEWS

Volume #56, Number 12

December 14, 2011

The Men's and Women's Garden Club of Findlay

Organized 1954

→ Christmas Party Remembrance ←

Topic: See Above

Refreshments: Sit-down Dinner



Greetings,

I am sending just a short note to wish everyone a very joyful Christmas and a happy New Year. I want thank everyone for all the help and support that you gave me as the club president. We are so blessed to have so many loyal members. Thanks and take care.

Cathy

Gee, what did I miss? The year closed with a great celebration of Christmas at the Arcadia Lions' Club Park, an excellent venue for our group. Kathy's Korner catered a buffet dinner featuring a salad bar, beef, chicken, and their world-famous pies. So you missed good food, good fellowship, and good spirits (non-alcoholic); all of the fine ingredients for a holiday get-together.

Next Event: Meeting, January 26, 2012; Popcorn, with *Dick Schweitzer*

Year-end Recognition and Awards were given out by Awards Committee chair *Anita Lanning*. (Photos by *Bill Lanning*)

The award for **Civic Beautification** was earned by Imperial Marathon. The **Non-member Beautification** award was bestowed on Wayne and Emily Mertz, for their floral landscaping and gardens.



Accepting for his work at Imperial Marathon (he does it himself) is Wayne Bishop .



Accepting their award for their home beautification are Wayne and Emily Mertz.

The award for **Member Beautification** was won by *Myra Sustae* (not present). The **Spark Plug** award, for a recent member who has stepped up and contributed significantly to Club activities was given to *Cindy Pierce* (not present).



Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to (from left to right) *Jerry Bibler*, *Bill Jones*, *Marilynn Beltz*, *Jeanette Miller*, and *Cindy Pierce* (not shown) for their contributions to the Club activities, with special reference to the Triangle Garden effort.

Accepting awards for Meritorious Service were *John & Pauline Andrews* and *Cathy Grossman*



The award for Gardener of the Year was presented by *Anita Lanning* to *Bill Jones*.

Randy Greeno, as outgoing Past President, swore in the 2012 Club officers. From left to right are Directors *Pauline and John Andrews, Larry Schock, Sharon DeCooman, John Grossman, and Marilyn Beltz*, followed by Secretary *Connie Schultz*, Treasurer *Bill Jones*, 1st Vice-President *Anita Lanning*, and President *John Platt*. Not shown is 2nd Vice-President *Cindy Pierce*.



Entertainment for the evening was delivered by Jammin' Jay & Johnny Red, a local duo with a tie to our Club. (Photo by John Platt)

The evening's festivities wound up with our usual White Elephant gift exchange, during which some unkind soul flipped Marilyn Beltz the bird:



December Flower of the Month-Amaryllis

By Bill Jones



Hippeastrum is a genus of about 90 species and 600+ hybrids and cultivars of bulbous plants in the family Amaryllidaceae and are native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas from Argentina north to Mexico and the Caribbean. These plants are popularly but erroneously known as *Amaryllis*, an African genus in the same family.

The first commercial breeders of *Hippeastrum* were Dutch growers who imported several species from Mexico and South America and began developing cultivars and hybrids from them in the 18th century; the first of these reached North America early in the 19th century. In 1946 two Dutch growers moved to the Union of South Africa and began cultivation there. Although most cultivars of *Hippeastrum* come from the Dutch and South African sources, bulbs are now being developed in the United States, Japan, Israel, India, Brazil and Australia. The double flowers from Japan are particularly beautiful.

In general only a large bulb will put up more than one flower scape or spike but this depends on the cultivar itself; some smaller bulbs have two while some larger bulbs make only one. A bulb must produce at least four large, healthy leaves in the summer growing season before it can send up a scape the following year. Dutch bulbs usually produce flowers first, then, after it has finished blooming, the plant will begin growing leaves. Bulbs from the South African growers usually put up a scape and leaves at the same time.

There are five types: 1) single flower; 2) double flower; 3) miniature; 4) cybister; and 5) trumpet. Cybisters have extremely thin petals and are often described as spider-like. Trumpets, as the name suggests, have flared, tube-shaped flowers. Single, double, and miniature bulbs are the ones typically sold by nurseries and other stores for the holidays in December and for Valentine's Day and Easter.

In preparation for planting, place the base and roots of the bulb in lukewarm water for a few hours. Plant the bulb up to its neck in potting soil, being careful not to damage the roots. Plant in a well-drained, pH 6 to 6.5, sterilized potting medium. Do not use a medium that contains pine bark! An equal mixture of peat and perlite is excellent. Press the soil down firmly to set the bulb securely in place after planting. Place the potted bulb in a warm place with direct light since heat is necessary for the development of the stems but avoid intense light such as from a south facing window. Water once and not again until the bulb begins to grow or the soil becomes very dry. Over-watering a dormant bulb will cause it to rot. Watering can be increased to weekly once the plant is about 8 inches high. The ideal growing temperature is 68 to 70 degrees F. After the plant begins to grow, fertilization is essential. Use either a complete nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium (NPK) slow-release fertilizer that lasts several months or a liquid (NPK) fertilizer, 2 to 4 times per month. Bulbs will flower in 7-10 weeks as a general rule.

After the amaryllis has stopped flowering, it can be made to flower again. Cut the old flowers from the stem after flowering, and when the stem starts to sag, cut it back to the top of the bulb. Continue to water and fertilize as normal all summer, or for at least 5-6 months, allowing the leaves to fully develop and grow. The bulb may be placed in a sunny place in the garden during this time. When the leaves begin to yellow, which normally occurs in the early fall, cut the leaves back to about 2 inches from the top of the bulb and remove the bulb from the soil. Clean the bulb and place it in a cool (40-50 deg. F), dark place such as the crisper of your refrigerator for a minimum of 6 weeks. *Caution:* Do not store amaryllis bulbs in a refrigerator that contains apples as this will sterilize the bulbs. Store the bulbs for a minimum of 6 weeks. After 6 weeks you may remove the bulbs whenever you would like to plant them.

Men's and Women's Garden Club of Findlay, Inc.

Minutes of the November Meeting See January BAN.

November Financial Report See January BAN

Club Officers, 2011

President	Cathy Grossman	Directors, 3 years	Sharon DeCooman
1 st Vice President	John Platt		Larry Schock
2 nd Vice President	Anita Lanning	Directors, 2 years	Marilynn Beltz
Secretary	Connie Schultz		John Grossman
Treasurer	Bill Jones	Directors, 1 year	Darlene Brown
			Lester Brown
Past President	Randy Greeno		
BAN Editor	John Platt	National Director	Anita Lanning



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