

I-Plants™

December 2010

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Holiday Fun
GreenChat Forum

Sing-a-long Songs
Upcoming Events



The On-line Magazine for Interior Plantscapers and Allied Associates

Published by Johnson Fediw Associates

Editor: Kathy Fediw, LEED AP, CLP, CLT



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January 19-21, 2011

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From the Editor:



[Kathy Fediw, LEED AP, CLP, CLT, President](#)

OK, I know we said the October issue would be the last one for 2010, but we had several requests and decided to give you a bonus issue for December. Hopefully you're all done with holiday decorating and poinsettia deliveries and ready to relax, enjoy and decorate your own homes for the holidays—or not! We've got fun articles on holiday mishaps, survival tips and a couple of original songs to brighten your holiday meeting and sing-a-longs.

If you haven't done so already be sure to register for TPIE coming up in January. I'll be teaching the GPGB Train-the-Trainer session Thursday; and doing a Short Course program on Reducing Replacements on Wednesday, as well as walking the trade show floor, so be sure to say hello and let me know what kind of articles you'd like to see in this e-magazine.

Starting in January we'll have McRae Anderson and Lynn Griffith joining us as columnists with articles on green walls and plant problems respectively—you won't want to miss a single issue! Remember to forward the magazine on to your coworkers and colleagues and sign up your employees to receive their own issue.

So sit back, read on, **click on** and enjoy this **special holiday issue!** We start back up again in January 2011 with our TPIE edition.

Kathy Fediw, LEED AP, CLP, CLT

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Christmas Songs for your Holiday Party



Jingle Bells

©Kathy Fediw, 2010

Jingle bells, Merit® smells,
The gnats are on their way
Oh what fun it is to drive
A broken-down Chevrolet-HEY!
Jingle bells, time will tell
Which plants will die or stay,
Oh what fun it is to work
Around the clock all day!

Dashing through the streets,
Racing to beat the light,
Oh my aching feet!
Not a parking space in sight!
Through the halls I run,
Water tank in tow,
Spreading Christmas joy and fun
Wherever I may go! OH.....

Jingle bells, Merit® smells,
The gnats are on their way
Oh what fun it is to drive
A broken-down Chevrolet-HEY!
Jingle bells, we've done quite well
But the gnats have come to stay,
Oh what fun it is to work
Around the clock all day!

The Twelve Days of Christmas

©Kathy Fediw, 2010

On the twelfth day of Christmas
My true love gave to me
12 checks a-bouncing,
11 trees a-leaning,
10 wreaths a-falling,
9 burned-out light strings,
8 poinsettias drooping,
7 clients cancelling,
6 pots a-leaking,

5 FEET OF SNOW!

4 computers crashing.
3 techs a-missing,
2 vans in a wreck
And a lizard in a Christmas tree!



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The 13th Day of Christmas

With Barb Helfman, CLP



You've all heard the song the 12 Days of Christmas right? The pipers playing, milkmaids milking, and all those golden rings. (Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Natalie Cole in the background, please). Well, most folks get to enjoy all the sights and sounds of the Holiday Season whether they celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Chinese New Year. Most, that is, except for those of us who are Interiorscapers.

Who knew after starting out as "plant people" that one day we'd be hanging miles of garland and testing lights? Who knew that it would start with selling "just a couple of poinsettias?"

Now, decades of glitter later, Holiday decorating is a fair amount of business for most 'scapers. Talk to any 'scaper and they will tell you some pretty strange, wonderful, and funny things can happen.

Now, my children, you know how I love stories, so, sit back, grab a cuppa cocoa and listen to my tale of the Ninety (90) 8 foot trees.

THE NINETY EIGHT FOOT TREES

Once upon a time, one of my clients, a Riverboat Casino property on the Ohio River, asked me to come up with a price for their Holiday Display. This included big trees inside and the lighting of their exterior trees that lined their very long driveway. "No problem" said I. It was, as I said, a very, very long driveway and I needed to make a count. So, in my car I drove along, counting trees and eyeballing their heights. It was fall and the



leaves had already dropped. One-Two-Three, I counted. Height? I estimated that to be Eight feet. Bid the

job, got it and ordered the light strands.

Four weeks later was Installation Day. My crews showed up at the site and went into a panic. The trees when actually measured reached between 10-12 feet! Ladders would not do; we needed a bucket truck rented and more light strands. We had already submitted a price, so in the end, we ate the extra costs and time. Think double the time. Think double the costs.

Still we had given our word. Finally, after all was done, we held a party for our company employees at the Casino the week before Christmas. It was a cold, wintry night. Driving up that very long driveway flanked on both sides by beautifully lit trees, we all agreed that it was a beautiful sight. One we were proud of.

Moral of the Story, dear Children? When measuring trees, GET OUT OF THE CAR!!

Barb Helfman, CLP, is a well-known icon of the interiorscape industry, the inventor of Topsiders planters and the sole distributor for Joey Pouches and Freedom Squares. She can be reached at www.Topsidersinc.com

>>>

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Surviving the Holidays

©Kathy Fediw, LEED AP, CLP, CLT



Once again, here is Kathy's fun guide for surviving the holidays—enjoy!

1. Get plenty of beauty sleep. Learn from children—take lots of naps (preferably not in front of customers or your boss.) Back hallways and warehouse aisles are good locations. Shopping mall benches are not.
2. Drink plenty of liquids. Techs and Installers should drink plenty of Coke, Pepsi, coffee and Red Bull. Managers and supervisors should drink plenty of beverages with an alcoholic content higher than jet fuel. Remember, don't drink and drive! Everybody's too busy to bail you out.
3. Get an early start for holiday preparations and prepare ahead of time. February is not too soon. Now is way too late. Better hire someone else to decorate your own home.
4. Buy presents throughout the year, then in December decide what you want to keep for yourself and what you want to give away. Re-gifting is permitted, but don't give back to the original gift-giver, as this is a serious social faux-pas.
5. Address your Christmas cards for next year right after this year's holiday while you know who sent you one this year and who you still like. Of course there is always the possibility that someone will move in the meantime so inform all your friends that this will result in a delay or possible cancellation of their card's arrival.
6. Give everyone a list of what you want them to buy for you so you won't be disappointed. Don't wait for them to ask, since many people are not as highly organized as you are. Catalog clippings and website printouts are especially helpful as this eliminates look-alikes and cheap knock-offs.
7. As far as entertaining goes—don't! Instead of throwing a party, invite yourself to somebody else's house for the holidays. Don't ask what you can bring, either. If forced, see Hint #2 and bring "jet fuel," always appreciated as a hostess gift.
8. Eat out—a lot. This is no time to learn how to cook. Your local firemen and EMT personnel are busy enough as it is. And don't even think about buying a turkey unless it's from Boston Market
9. Eat by candlelight. Do everything by candlelight. Remember, most folks look better in the dark.
10. Buy yourself something pretty. The more sequins the better. If you are a male, you may want to cut back on the sequins thing, but to each his own.
11. Wear knits—they don't need ironing. Avoid gold lame leggings. If it didn't look good the first time around, what on earth makes you think it will look good now?
12. Carry a really big purse with lots of snacks and the afore-mentioned jet fuel. You won't have time to make anything healthy, so go ahead and eat all the junk food you want. You can diet in January along with everybody else. Repeat after me—"Chocolate is a health food. Chocolate is a health food."

Finally, remember the reason for the season and enjoy the many blessings you have! Happy Holidays!
No driving if you're drinking jet fuel!

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Upcoming Events

JANUARY:

January 11, 2011: I-Plants magazine starts the new year with the TPIE edition—watch your email inbox!

January 19-21, 2011: TPIE (Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition): Fort Lauderdale, FL. Conference and trade show for winter-weary interiorscapers and garden center owners/managers. For more information click here or go to <http://www.fngla.org/TPIE>

January 20, 2011 at TPIE: Green Plants for Green Buildings Train-the-Trainer Session, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Learn how to provide a CEU course to your area's architects, interior designers, building managers and LEED AP's so they can earn their CEU's. Registration Deadline: January 20, 2010. To register email admin@gpgeb.org. Must be a GPGB supporter with minimum \$250 annual donation to participate.

January 22 & 23, 2010: Dallas Market Center Holiday Seminars & Tour, Dallas, TX. Guided tours and educational sessions sponsored by Plantscape Industry Alliance and Direct Export. To register go to <http://www.piagrows.org> or call 707-462-2276.

FEBRUARY:

February 10 & 11, 2011: Chesapeake Green 2011-A Horticulture Symposium, The Maritime Institute and Conference Center, Linthicum, MD. Educational sessions and trade show, sponsored by Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association. To register go to www.chesapeakegreen.org or call 410-823-8584.

APRIL:

April 14, 2011: OFA and PLANET Workshop for interior plantscapers, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. Educational sessions and networking. More details to follow.

JULY:

July 10-12, OFA Short Course, Columbus, OH. Sponsored by OFA. Visit www.ofa.org for details.



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We collaborated with Steve Foster and GreenChat forum and asked you for your funny stories and holiday survival stories. Seems like you don't really like poinsettias very much—big surprise! My favorite comment? The last one.

We deleted the names of the posters to protect the guilty (and cleaned up the language a bit.) Want to see who said what? Go to <http://interiorplantscaper.com/greentchat/> to find out! And post something while you're there!

-Kathy Fediw and Steve Foster

Merlot is good, but I want straight for the vodka tonics! Since my husband and I are the "holiday installation crew" we survived by quoting snippets of favorite South Park Episodes, changing them to fit the situation..."Oh no, you killed those lights. You *a&*%\$." "Pretty sure you're not supposed to swear before you say Christmas" from my favorite character Butters. Or from a very recent episode about cooking "Are you going to decorate that tree? Oh, yeah. I am gonna decorate the !*&^ outta that tree!" And making catty comments about all the fashionable people walking by. We celebrated the end with champagne!

OK, we are a little calmer than Patty. Our catch-phrase for this year is "that's the Scooby-Doo look". ..one of confusion, the "Huh?" statement, followed by "Ruh-roh!"

Doesn't say much for our maturity about now. We tend to get silly.

The funny thing is, is there really anything funny about !@*^? poinsettias?? And why is it that all of a sudden everybody wants to laugh? Am I laughing? Am I being funny? Am I a being a clown? NO! I'm just installing \$#@!^& poinsettias!

Our Crew installed a 12 or 14' (can't recall) artificial tree in a bank lobby last week and the bank manager decided that she wanted the tree "a few feet taller"

Being the "of course we can do that problem solver's" that we are, our Team Leader decided to raise the tree up by placing it into a large square fiberglass ASI that we had at the clients property for a Rhaps that we're installing after the Holidays. Great idea...yes? Not so sure! The stand was just a little too large to fit *into* the planter so our "problem solver's" decided that since it sat on top of the edge of the planter it would be fine to continue on and so they did. Completing a fantastic tree and pleasing our client to no end.

Only problem 🤔 🤔 🤔 🤔

Because the stand is in two pieces that "snap" together and it's not supported in the middle, the tree just refuses to stand up straight. Task for today? Figure out how to get a sheet of 3/4" plywood under the stand so that it's supported on a flat surface — without undecorating, disassembling, reassembling and redecorating the bootiful tree.

Wish us luck 🙏

I remember the time we played bowling with the extra poinsettias in the warehouse after the last ones were delivered. great way to unwind but don't tell. I wonder what the statute of limitations is on poinsettia murder?!

Don't worry...that was justifiable homicide in self-defense of your 'scaper sanity!

Statute of limitations on pointsettia murder? Oh... about 3 seconds....

GREEN PLANTS FOR GREEN BUILDINGS TRAIN-THE-TRAINER SESSION Thursday, January 20, 2011 During TPIE at the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center

GET IN FRONT OF YOUR CLIENTS—BECOME A GPGB REGISTERED TRAINER!

TO REGISTER, EMAIL: ADMIN@GPGB.ORG

Get your foot in the door, build your business and become “the expert” in the eyes of your clients! Here’s your chance to become a Green Plants for Green Buildings Registered Trainer. A Train-the-Trainer session will be held in conjunction with TPIE (Tropical Plant Industry Expo) in Fort Lauderdale, FL on Thursday, 20, 2011 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM in Room 207 at the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center. You must attend one of these sessions* in order to become a Registered Trainer!

Deadline to Register: Monday, January 10, 2011

Your investment: \$450 for the first person from a company to become registered.
 \$350 for each additional person from a company.

Your registration includes your training manual, CD with all the forms and PowerPoint programs, training session and practice session; plus the authority to provide this program to architects, interior designers, building managers and LEED AP’s for their continuing education credits. Registration after January 10, 2011 will require a \$25 surcharge to ship your manual and CD after the session. Attending this session will also earn you one CEU towards PLANET’s CLP-I and CLT-I recertification.

This session qualifies you to become a Registered Trainer under GPGB’s continuing education program for AIA, ASID, BOMI members and USGBC LEED AP’s. Please note: you must be a Green Plants for Green Buildings investor with a minimum investment of \$250 per year in order to participate in this opportunity!

*The Train the Trainer program is also available as a self-study program for the same fee, plus \$25 shipping and handling for materials. Annual renewal fee is \$95. If you would like to attend this upcoming training session or host a session at your facility, e-mail Mary at admin@greenplantsforgreenbuildings.org.

On-line registration and payment options are available at www.greenplantsforgreenbuildings.org.