**St Marys Garden Club Newsletter**

**January 2014**

**Dates and Events** (events are free unless noted)

Tues, Jan. 14 – “Beneficial Bats” (Wild Amelia) 7pm, Peck Center Auditorium, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina.

Weds, Jan. 22 – “Cold Hardy Citrus”, 10-11 am, Yulee Satellite Office, 86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee.

Mon, Feb. 3 – Plant Clinic, 10 am – 2 pm, Demo. Garden, Nassau Co. Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Pl., Yulee.

**Farther away**

World Wide Sea Shell exhibit, Jan 21-26, 10am-3pm, Botanical Gdn. Farmhouse, 1388 Eisenhower Drive, Savannah.

Day of Gardening – Sat, Feb. 22, 8:30am-2:30pm, Duval Co. Extension, $15. Preregistration required

**Work Day –** 1st Presbyterian garden, Weds, Jan. 15, 1 pm. Bring weeders, clippers.

**Announcements**

Barbara C., Karen, and Angel are asking us to save the following for their project with the schools: yogurt cups, toilet paper and paper towel rolls, bread sleeves, magazines, yarn leftovers, milk carton caps.

**Garden to-dos for January**

Water plants 24-48 hours before a hard freeze. Cover cold sensitive plants or mulch heavily. Dormant trees can be pruned, but don’t prune any spring- blooming plants such as dogwood, redbud, spirea. Prune roses starting in late January.

Plant vegetables: beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, mustard, bunching onions, peas, potatoes, radishes, and turnips. Plant annuals such as carnations, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, delphiniums, larkspur, dianthus, foxglove, and periwinkle.

**The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”**

***Dear Garden Maven,*** My lantana was hit hard during the recent killing frost. What can I do to improve its chances for survival, and to prevent another killback next winter?

***“Chillin’ and Cryin’ in Camden”***

***Dear “Chillin”,***

Condolences on your lantana, and on any other plants that got fried by the cold. For starters, resist the temptation to cut back the dead branches. Those dead leaves and branches will help protect the roots so the plant will come back to life in the spring. If we go for more than a week without rain, water the plant a day or two in advance of a predicted frost. Then cover with a sheet or garden blanket (available at Lowes) and weigh down the edges so the wind doesn’t get underneath. Do this every time they predict frost and your plant’s chances will improve. If the branch shows green when you scratch the bark, there is still life in the plant. After our frost date (March 15 at the latest) you can cut back the plant severely and fertilize.

**Plant Hero of the Month:** My little Peach Drift rose has been blooming bravely through the frost and wind and cold. The roses are the only uncovered flowering plants that are still blooming. Who knew roses were so tough?

***The newsletter is planned to come out around the first of each month. Send your announcements of work days, garden parties, events of interest, or questions for the Garden Maven to Judy M. (You can also find homes for plants you are evicting or extra plants.)***