

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

July 2014

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am): July 7 and July 21 (Mondays), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)
Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Weds., July 2, 10-11am – “Raised Bed Gardening”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd, Yulee)

Thurs., July 17, 1 pm, Christ Episcopal – Leaf Casting workshop for plant sale. Free if you make one for the sale, small charge if you take it home. Bring a leaf to cast, no larger than your hand.

Farther Away

Tues., July 15, 11:30-1:30, “All About Owls”, Coastal GA Botanical Garden, 2 Canebrake Rd, Savannah. \$20, includes lunch. Registration information on Coastal Wildscapes website. Preregistration and prepayment required.

Announcements

The **Earth Angels** don't need any more recyclables, but are looking for classroom helpers.

Don't forget the President's Summer Luncheon is **Tuesday, July 8**. Carpooling encouraged. Bring a dish to share.

The theme for the fun and friendly flower arranging competition (participation is optional) is “Celebrating 15 Years”.

Garden to-dos for July

Keep flowers watered, deadheaded, and clipped back or pinched back when they need it. If you can reach them, clip off the seed heads on your crape myrtles to encourage bloom through September. Make sure your plants are mulched to keep the soil temperature cooler.

Plant annuals such as celosia, coleus, crossandra, impatiens, kalanchoe, nicotiana, ornamental peppers, portulaca, torenia, salvia. Also plant lima beans, eggplant, okra, Southern peas, peppers, and watermelon.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

It seems like every time I repot my outdoor container plants I discover a nest of those big bull ants. How can I keep them out of my pots? This is like a horror movie. The screaming, the running.....

Dismayed gardener

Dear Dismayed,

It is an awful experience, those ants come running out of that pot like a bunch of bloodthirsty Vikings, and they are almost as scary. Raid is good for the ones that swarm out of the pot, just sweep them up about an hour later when they are dead. Dump the dirt with the rest of them and sprinkle ant killing powder on it. Repot in new dirt.

You can also submerge the entire pot in water with a little Dawn dish soap in it. Don't do this in sunlight. After the ants are dead, rinse with clear water.

Diatomaceous earth --Sprinkle a little on the surface of the pot, and around the bottom.

Cinnamon sprinkled on top of the soil is another recommendation.

Other people mix *pyrethrum powder* with water and water the plants with it sometimes.

Fish emulsion was another suggestion.

Another method was to wrap the pot in plastic and fill it with water, topped off with a little shampoo (probably baby shampoo). Wait two hours and remove the plastic, and the ants will be dead.

The most ingenious solution was to line the bottom of the pot with *landscape fabric* to prevent the ants from entering through the drain hole. I'm going to try this when I plant next season, and maybe sprinkle some of that diatomaceous earth on the top of the pot.

Plant Hero of the Month: Just about all of them! But the plumbago is really exuberant this year. Check out the plantings at the pavilion, the plumbago is looking wonderful.