

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

March 2015

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

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics—Mar. 2 and 16 (10am): (Monday), Yulee County Bldg., 86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee. Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Mar. 4, 10-11:30am— “Bluebirds”, fee \$20, Yulee Co. Bldg., 86026 Pages Dairy Rd. (if you preregistered) Call 904-530-6350.

March 7 (Sat.), Plant Clinic, 10am-2pm, Ace Hardware, Fernandina.

Mar. 10 (Tues.) Wild Amelia Wild Nite – “Eastern Indigo Snake”, Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina Beach.

Mar. 26-- “Wetlands and Birds”. Coastal Wildscapes—Ashantilly Center, Darien. Call 912-289-7736 for information.

Mar.28 (Sat.)—9am-noon. St. Marys River (and roadside)Cleanup. Meet at Gilman Park near the boat ramp. Bring bug spray and a rake or grabber if you have one. Lunch at White Oak after.

April 1, 10am – “Managing Nuisance Wildlife”, 86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee.

Fri. April 17, Sat. April 18, 10am-4pm --NOGS walking tour of 8 private Savannah Gardens-- \$40. Check out the Garden Club of Savannah website for gorgeous pictures and info. You can buy tickets the day of the event.

Announcements*****

Christmas in July – Keep collecting new personal care items to give to area senior care homes.

Keep saving aluminum can pop tops for the Ronald McDonald house.

Karen wants more trash! Yogurt cups or small plastic cups. Greeting cards (Xmas okay) with the backs torn off, plastic lids (3-4 inch), ribbon, clean aluminum foil.

Fairy House workshop – If you have any of that wiry moss that grows on the oak branches, please save for the fairy houses. Nuts, acorns, pods are also welcome.

Garden to-dos for February *****

Starting March 15 (official frost date), you can plant almost any flower, herb, or vegetable, including peppers and tomatoes. Group plants by water and light requirements, fertilize your perennials and vow to be better about deadheading this year. Start fertilizing citrus, loquats also get citrus fertilizer. Give tea olives acid loving fertilizer. Apply fungicide as needed. Prune, fertilize, and transplant azaleas after blooming. Prune and fertilize shrubs. Plant poinsettias outside and pinch new growth every 4 weeks till Sept. 10, fertilize every month starting in May.

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

Dear Garden Maven,

I am new to the area and am wondering where to find some local nurseries. Also, what are some no- fail plants for this area?

Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered

Dear Triple B,

Even a chimp could grow these plants: **For shade**, holly fern is tops. Gingers, shrimp plant, oak leaf hydrangeas, caladiums, and of course azaleas and camellias are well suited to our area and grow with little or no care. **For sun**, Mexican petunia and firecracker plant are somewhat invasive, but colorful and carefree. (The dwarf Mex. Petunia is not invasive.) Jasmine, plumbago, duranta, esperanza, lantana, amaryllis, and the cupheas do well here. And of course, the old faithful crinum lily, which needs to be dug up and put through a wood chipper twice to kill it.

Nurseries – If you go to Lowes, it is better to buy plants from the one in Yulee. Our local Lowes gets plants for all of Georgia, which is mostly zone 8. We need to get plants that survive both in zones 8 and 9. Yulee has these and doesn’t usually sell things that only grow through zone 8.

St Marys: Donini’s on Dilworth St. near the St. Marys Senior Care Center has been in business for 50 years. Good prices and good practical advice from the owners, and plants that are proven to grow here. Nothing fancy. Don’t plan on a quick trip.

Kingsland: State Line on Rte. 40 can order plants and has some of the newer varieties.

St. Simons: Ace Hardware Garden Center (on Demere Rd.) and **Flowers of Frederica** (lots of shade plants) on Frederica Rd. across from Sea Palms.

Fernandina Beach: Ace Hardware and **Reflections of Nature**, conveniently located next to each other on A1A soon after you go across the bridge. **Fernandina Farmers Market** (Saturday mornings, downtown Fernandina) usually has a vendor with lots of succulents and hanging baskets and another with large plants.

Folkston: Dixie Acres is about 12 miles north of Folkston on Rte. 1. Good prices, and I believe they deliver large orders.

Jacksonville: Gore’s is on Rte. 1 (take 95 South, then 295 West, get off at Rte. 1, turn right, it is a couple of miles down the road on the right. Good prices, (they have some nice camellias for around \$13) large variety. **Trad’s** (8178 San Jose Blvd.)and **Hall’s** (5645 Blanding Blvd.)are not too far from each other and are good nurseries with lots of great plants. Hall’s usually has a coupon in the Saturday Times Union. **The Maven**

Plant Hero of the Month: Here come the azaleas. Spring at last!