

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## May 2015

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

**Sat., May 2, 10am-3pm** – Rose Festival & Arts & Crafts Fair, Savannah Botanical Garden, 1388 Eisenhower Drive, Savannah. Rose information, garden tours, plant sale, crafts, food. Free admission and free parking.

**Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (Mondays, all at 10am): May 4, May 18, June 1** -- Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a plastic bag.

**Weds., May 6, 10-11am** – “Snakes”, Yulee Satellite Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd).

**Tues., May 12, 7pm**, Wild Amelia Wild Nites, “Green Anole and Jacksonville Zoo”, Peck Ctr. Auditorium, 516 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina.

**Thurs., May 14, 10-11am** – “Palm Trees”, Demonstration Garden, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee.

**Weds., May 20, 10-11:30am** – “Florida Friendly Landscaping”, Yulee Satellite Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd)

**Sat., May 30, 9am-noon**, Nassau Master Gardener Plant Sale, Demonstration Garden, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee.

**Thursday, June 4, 10-11am** – “Troubleshooting Lawn Problems”, Yulee Satellite Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd)

### **Announcements**

**Christmas in July** – Bring your items to any meeting and give them to Joan. Suggested items include: body wash, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, talcum powder, hand cream, face cream, deodorant, combs and brushes, nail polish/remover, cotton balls, tissues, either purse size or regular size, mouthwash, lip balm. This is a wonderful project that helps people in our own community.

### **Garden to-dos for May**

Fertilize palms. Plant celosia, marigolds, salvia, pentas, verbena, zinnias, coreopsis, crossandra, exacum, gaillardia, gazania, hollyhocks, nicotiana, eggplant, okra, Southern peas, herbs. Stake flowers as needed, keep them deadheaded and trimmed. Watch for pests, thrips on roses have been bad this year. Keep watching for late emerging plants like gingers and caladiums. Don't give up on them yet!

### **The Garden Maven's Advice to the “Floralorn”**

***Dear Garden Maven,***

A few of the shoots on my oak leaf hydrangea have wilted. Watering does not help. On some of my regular mophead hydrangeas, the edges of the leaves have turned black or brown, and one of my bushes has black and brown blotches on the leaves. What can I do to help my ailing shrubs?

***Am I doomed to Hydrangea Failure?***

***Dear No You're Not,***

First, the Case of the Wilting Shoots. It could be **Armillaria Root Rot**. Left untreated, the rest of the branches will wilt and the whole plant will die. The culprit is Poor Drainage. If less than half the plant is affected, dig it up, prune out the dead branches and dead roots, and move to another location or replant after adding plenty of soil conditioner (and maybe raising the area a bit.) If the area sits in a puddle after rain, don't waste your time replanting. Move the plant to higher ground. **Phytophthora Root Rot** is common with container grown oak leaf hydrangea. Symptoms are sudden wilting of foliage on some or all of the shoots, yellowing foliage, leaf shed, and stunting. A fungicide drench can help rid your plant of this. When leaves turn brown at the edges, it is from a fungus that thrives in wet rainy weather. The blotches on the leaves are from Anthracnose, another fungal foe. It can also attack blooms. Your plan of attack with all the funguses is two pronged... first, get a fungicide and apply it. Read the label to determine the best kind for your situation. Bayer products are usually the best ones you can get at a big box store. Second, clean up the plant and the area. Throw out fallen leaves and blooms, in the trash, not in the compost pile. To prevent fungus, don't plant too close. Allow air to flow around the plant. Watering the leaves promotes fungus, so drip irrigation may help avoid problems.

***The Maven***

**Plant Hero of the Month:** Jasmine and ligustrum are all over the place, making the whole town smell like spring!