

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## August 2016

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

**Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am): August 1 and August 15** (Mondays), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

**Weds., August 3, 10-11:30am** – “Vegetables”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd, Yulee)

**Weds., August 17, 10-11am,** “Invasives and Alternatives”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

**Tuesday, August 23, 10 am – 4 pm** -- Fairy House Workshop (see below for details)

### **Announcements**

The **Earth Angels** are looking for classroom helpers on an occasional basis.

**Plant Sale** – Keep getting your plants ready and growing for the October sale.

**Fairy House Workshop** –10am-4pm. Come for an hour or bring a lunch and stay all day. There will be cake. Bring glue guns, clippers or scissors, pods, seeds, lichens, acorns, that stiff moss that grows on twigs and branches. Last time we made 39 houses in one day, which brought in about \$120 to the club.

### **Garden to-dos for August**

Plant coleus, blue daze, salvia, asters, begonias, melampodium, moon vine, pentas, porterweed, tithonia, verbena, black eyed susan vine, cat’s whiskers. Bulbs like agapanthus, amaryllis, cannas, crinum, gladiolus, society garlic, and rain lilies can be divided and planted. Plant herbs like Mexican tarragon, mint, parsley, oregano, rosemary, and thyme. Plant tomatoes, beans, summer squash and other warm season crops early in the month so they will have time to mature. Later in the month plant cool season vegetables like broccoli, collards, bunching onions, turnips. Fertilize heavy blooming flowers. Save seeds from flowers. Let pods dry on the plant, harvest when pods begin to open. Dry inside for a few days, then put in a plastic bag or jar and store in the vegetable section of the refrigerator. Fertilize fig trees after harvesting. Prune dead branches on trees. Get out and do a rain dance, we really need it!

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

***Dear Garden Maven,***

My marigolds have been blooming okay, but their leaves are embarrassing. The new leaves are green, but the lower leaves look kind of bleached out. I have some cypress vine with leaves that are also doing this. I have been watering them, so I don’t think they have sunburn. How can I help them look better?

***Disillusioned in St. Marys***

***Dear Disillusioned,***

It is probably a nutrient deficiency, particularly since much of the soil here tends to be sandy and on the alkaline side. Once the pH gets around 6.5, some nutrients like iron become more difficult to absorb. Get your pH tested and try to acidify the soil if it is too alkaline. Yellowing leaves are a sign that the plant is not getting something it needs. If the young leaves are affected first, it could be a deficiency in calcium (rare), sulfur, boron, iron, or manganese. If older leaves are the first to show yellowing (like yours), it could be nitrogen, phosphorus, magnesium, molybdenum (usually in acid soil), or zinc. I would give them a balanced fertilizer, watering it in well, then follow with a dose of Dynamite (or other micronutrient fertilizer), particularly if the leaves are twisted, cupped, scorched looking around the edges, gray looking, have dead spots on them, have developed a purple or reddish color, or if the plant has a tendency to wilt easily. I have to keep reminding myself, the dirt here needs constant attention to keep it fertile.

***The Maven***

**Plant Hero of the Month:** This month’s hero is the plucky Plumbago. In the face of the wilting heat, lack of rain, and unrelenting sunshine, the plumbagos in my yard and at the pavilion have been covering themselves with beautiful blue blooms.