

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

February 2016

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am-2pm): Feb. 1, Feb. 8 (Monday), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)
Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Weds., Feb. 3, 10am-11:30 – *“Roses”*, Demonstration Garden, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee. (note different address.)

Tues. Feb. 9, 7 pm, Wild Amelia Wild Nite — *“Coastal Fishes”*, Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina Beach.

Sat. Feb. 13, Feb. 20 – 8 am - 12 – *“Crash Course in Florida Gardening”*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee). **Registration deadline Feb. 5.** \$50/person, \$75/couple. Phone 904-530-6350 ask for Rebecca Jordi.

More information is on Nassau County extension website.

Weds. Feb. 17, 10am-11am– *“Pruning Trees”*, Demonstration Garden, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee.

Sat. Feb. 27, 9:30am-2:30pm – *A Day of Gardening*, Duval County Extension, 1010 McDuff Ave., Jacksonville. Mostly vegetable and fruit gardening, lots of topics, \$20. Call 904-255-7450 for information or register online on Duval County Extension website(“February events” or “A New Leaf” newsletter both have info and links to register).

Weds. March 2, 10am-11am, *“Shade Gardens”*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)

Garden to-dos for February

Prune roses by Feb. 14. Fertilize after pruning. Apply organic fertilizer around each plant – 1 cup Black Kow, 1 cup fish meal (or use some fish emulsion instead) and ½ cup Epsom salts. Don't cut back dead perennials until March 15. The dead foliage will help protect them from cold damage. Cut ornamental grass back to 6-12 inches and fertilize. Clean out dead annuals. Prune out water sprouts, suckers, and rubbing branches from citrus. Plant baby's breath, calendula, dianthus, dusty miller, marguerites, pansies, petunias, and snapdragons. Plant vegetables like beets, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, parsley, turnips. Compost leaves and grass clippings. Keep those sheets handy for covering plants when temperatures below 35 degrees are forecast.

Announcements

Karen is looking for the plastic sleeves that the newspaper comes in.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

I see that we are supposed to leave dead leaves on our plants until after danger of frost. Is this for all perennials or can I clean up some of this dead brown mess?

Garden Neatnik

Dear Neatnik,

Plants that are sure to come back like elephant ears, cannas, bananas, Mexican petunias, and other bulletproof plants can be cleaned up as early as they have died back. The ones that are more tender and iffy need to have that extra protection from their dead leaves (things that grow in zone 9 and higher). Also, some of the other other perennials will emerge sooner in the spring if some protection is left. You can also cut back the dead stems and lay some Spanish moss lightly on top of the plant and around it. Or some leaves. This might look better than the dead foliage. Ornamental grass needs to be cut back now so when the new growth starts it won't be obscured by the dead foliage. Liriope, being evergreen here, also needs to get its old beat up leaves cut back, not necessarily every year, but cut them back before the new growth starts.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: The kalanchoes are blooming their little heads off!