

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

May 2016

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (Mondays, all at 10am): May 2, May 16, -- Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a plastic bag.

Weds., May 4, 10-11am – “Hydrangeas”, Yulee Satellite Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd).

Tues., May 10, 7pm, Wild Amelia Wild Nites, “Sharks”, Peck Ctr. Auditorium, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina.

Sat. May 14, 10am-5pm – Cassina Garden Club’s Tabby and Tillandsia Garden Walk, St. Simons. \$25 advance, \$30 day of event. Begin at Hamilton Plantation, next door to Epworth by the Sea, for a self-driven tour of 6 private gardens on St. Simons. Plant sale from 8 am – 2pm at cabins, Garden Party and cabin restoration tours 2pm-5pm. Call 912-638-9808 for more information or purchase online at cassinagardenclub.org. Tickets available at Ace Hardware Garden Center, St. Simons or at the cabins.

Weds, May 25, 10-11am – “Palm Trees”, Demonstration Garden, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee.

Weds, June 1, 10-11am – “Garden Pests”, Yulee Satellite Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd)

Sat., May 7, 9am-noon, Master Gardener Plant Sale, Demo Garden, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place.

Sat. May 7 is also **World Naked Gardening Day**. However, I would advise against celebrating it at the plant sale....

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.

And just in time for World Naked Gardening Day.... To those of you missing your Miss Christine’s bug spray after Miss Christine moved to Tennessee, there is a similar non-greasy all natural bug spray that works really well (at least for gnats) and that you can spray on your hair, face, anywhere. It’s called Noooo No-See-ums and is available at Knuckleheads (by the boat ramp). \$10 per 4 oz. bottle.

Garden to-dos for May

Fertilize palms. Plant celosia, coleus, impatiens, kalanchoe, marigolds, salvia, pentas, verbena, zinnias, coreopsis, crossandra, exacum, gaillardia, gazania, hollyhocks, nicotiana, eggplant, okra, Southern peas, herbs. You have missed the boat for tomatoes (unless you buy a big one), wait till August to plant. Stake flowers as needed, keep them deadheaded and trimmed. Watch for pests. Keep watching for late emerging plants like gingers and caladiums. Be ruthless with things that have taken over (like ferns, assorted wandering jews, spiderwort, chenille plant, cosmos). If you haven’t cut back your plumbago or roses yet, it is time to do it. If the azaleas have bloomed, prune now until July.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

My agapanthus bloomed once six years ago and has not bloomed since. I have moved it twice, hoping it would feel at home in the new location. Why does it not reward me for my trouble?

A Little Gratitude would Mean So Much

Dear Gratitude,

How like a serpent’s tooth is an ungrateful plant! First, is it getting enough sun? It needs at least a half a day (except when it blooms for some people in mostly shade). You said it was moved twice. It often needs a few seasons to feel like blooming again after being moved or repotted, so this could be the problem. It likes to be crowded, except it stops blooming when it is overcrowded. Check your pH. Agapanthus like acid soil, and our soil is often alkaline. You can add acidic compost or try an acid fertilizer like you would use on camellias or azaleas. Cottonseed meal is also acidic. Feed every week or 2 during the growing season with 10-20-20 fertilizer or Miracle Grow. Or move to Australia, where they are not so picky and have become a problem weed....

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Seems like every other mailbox in St. Marys is covered with blooming jasmine.