

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## April 2017

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

**Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am-2pm): April 3 and 17** (Monday), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

**Weds. April 5, 10am-11am, "Hummingbirds"**, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.), \$10, must register at rljordi@ufl.edu. Call 904-530-6353 or 530-6350 for information.

**Weds. April 19, 10-11:00 am, "Snakes"**. Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)

**Weds., May 3, 10-11:00 am, "Hardy Tropicals"** Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)

**Tues. April 11, 7 pm, Wild Amelia Wild Nite** — "*NE FL Butterflies and Nectar Plants*", Peck Center, 516 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina Beach.

**Sat. April 22, 8am-noon.** St. Marys River (and land) Cleanup. Bring rakes or grabbers if you have them. Details later, but usually they meet at the boat ramp downtown. Picnic at White Oak in the afternoon.

### **Garden to-dos for April**

Deadhead cool season annuals. Pick up old camellia and azalea blooms and discard to prevent blight. Clean up cold damaged plants, ginger can be cut back to the ground. Plant bulbs like agapanthus, caladiums, amaryllis, begonias, crinum, rain lilies. Reshape perennials. Fertilize citrus.

### **Announcements**

Pavilion planting work days – **Monday, April 3, Friday, April 7, 8:30 am.** Bring clippers, trowels, bug spray, water.

**Thursday, April 6** -- Field trip to Baxley. Meet at **9 am** at K Mart parking lot.

### **The Garden Maven's Advice to the "Floralorn"**

*April 1, 2017*

*Dear Garden Maniac:*

I have been reading your advice column for many years, alas, to no avail. Instead of my gardening skills being prolific, they could best be described as herbicidal.

Thus I have switched gears. Last year I attempted to raise chickens (10,000 baby chicks) and once again failed miserably. I did everything I could think of-- I purchased a tractor, bib overalls, a straw hat, watched reruns of the Real McCoys and Green Acres (I even dated a has-been Hungarian actress with an extensive collection of 1960's lingerie, much to my chagrin and dismay when the lovely Mrs. Howell found out) all to no avail. I came up empty again.

So, even though you are batting .000 when it comes to my gardening success, I have decided to give you yet another chance.

What is the proper depth at which to plant the baby chicks? I went at about 6" last year. Feet down or feet up? (It didn't seem to matter, they didn't come up either way.) How frequently should they be watered? It appears that chickens don't care for water, and they didn't fertilize themselves either, like I thought they would. I have added a pitchfork to my tool cart this year and hope it will help.

Please respond promptly as I have resolved to move on to raising beef cattle if I fail again this year with the chickens and I'm getting a little old to dig such large holes.

Sincerely,

*Harvey "Ace" Howell*

*Dear "Ace",*

It appears that your skills have evolved from "herbicidal" to "homicidal". Everyone knows that it is easier to start chickens from seed. Go out and buy a few dozen cases of eggs. You can use the small size. Plant them about 4" deep, 6" apart with the pointy side up. If this fails, you might consider switching to stamp collecting or golf.

*The Maven*

**Plant Hero of the Month:** Amaryllis is just starting to bloom.