

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

February 2017

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am-2pm): Feb. 6, Feb. 27 (Monday), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Weds., Feb. 1, 10am-11:30 – “Roses”, Demonstration Garden, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee. (note different address.)

Tues. Feb. 14, 7 pm, Wild Amelia Wild Nite — “Update on Local Dolphins”, Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina Beach.

Sat. Feb. 11, Feb. 18 – 8 am - 12 – “Crash Course in Florida Gardening”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee). **Registration deadline Feb. 3.** \$50/person, \$75/couple(costs more after that). Phone 904-530-6350 (or 6353) ask for Rebecca Jordi. (Email rljordi@ufl.edu) More information is on Nassau County extension website.

Weds. Feb. 15, 10am-11am- “Pruning Trees”, Demonstration Garden, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee.

Sat. Feb. 25, 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 1, 10am-11am, “Flowering Shrubs”, 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

Don’t forget to pay your dues.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

My neighbor has some beautiful camellias and has offered me some cuttings. How do I root them?

Camellia Lover

Dear Camellia Lover,

An easy way is to cut a 2 liter soda bottle in half. Punch holes in the bottom for drainage. Mix one part perlite and one part potting soil and moisten. Fill the bottom of the soda bottle with mixture. Cut a small branch off the camellia, and make 4 inch cuttings from it. Remove the lower leaves and leave 2 leaves at the tip of each cutting. Dip the ends into rootone and stick the cuttings into the media. Cover with the top of the soda bottle (minus the cap). Tape it on to make it more secure if need be. Place in a bright but shaded spot for 3 months, watering only if it dries out. When a bud forms at the top, pot cuttings into 8 inch pots, fertilize. Don’t transplant until the pot is filled with roots.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Kalanchoes of all kinds are blooming!