



March 2024 Newsletter

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Tues. Mar. 12, 7 pm, Wild Amelia — “*Protecting Wildlife Corridors*”, Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina.

Weds. March 13, 10-11 am. Hilliard Library, 15821 County Rd. 108, Hilliard. “*Understanding Garden Fertilizer.*” Register on Nassau extension website.

Sat. March 16, 8am-6:30 pm. Woodstork Festival. Crooked River State Park. Register or volunteer at Woodstorkfestival.com. \$5 parking fee.

Tues. March 19, 9 am. Pot party! Bring trowels, clippers, any extra pots you have. Will pot up things for the plant sale. See email address. Be there or be square!!

Weds. March 20, 9 am. “*South GA Native Plant and Wildflower Symposium*”. Register at www.sgnpws.org. \$50, \$60 after March 7.

Thurs. March 21. Trip to County Plant Farm in Baxley! See email for details.

Thurs. March 14, 12-1pm – Lunch and Learn online. “*Frogs of Georgia*”. Register Camden County Ext. website.

Sat. April 6, 9am-noon. Shrubs and Trees Workshop. \$25. 85831 Miner Rd, Yulee. Register at the Nassau extension website.

Garden to-dos for March

Frost date is March 15. After that day, clean up dead vegetation and prune and cut back to your heart’s content. (Except for things that will be blooming in spring or early summer). Fertilize citrus and loquats with citrus fertilizer. Fertilize tea olive with acid loving plant fertilizer. Prune and fertilize azaleas after blooming. You can prune azaleas until the middle of July. Plant tomatoes and most anything else you can find. Fertilize with wild abandon! Don’t yank out things that look dead, cut back but give them a chance. St. Fiacre is the patron saint of gardeners, if your garden still looks like only prayer will help it.

Announcements

Thurs. March 14, 9am. Spring cleanup and weeding at OLSS historic chapel, corner of Bryant and Osborne. Bring clippers, weeders, water, bug spray, etc.

Sat. May 4. Plant Sale. Start growing things to sell. See the Maven below for ideas.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

How do I tell whether to propagate something in water or in soil? *Inquisitive Gardener*

Dear Inquisitive,

Not all plants will start in water. Usually, they have softer stems like basil, tomatoes, impatiens, or coleus. Most houseplants will root easily in water. Some leaves will root in water, like African violets. Water produces roots earlier than in soil, about 2 weeks as opposed to 3 or 4 weeks, but roots are usually wimpier than roots produced by soil starting. If you are rooting in water, cut stems 4-6 inches long, take off leaves that will be under water, use a clean jar, keep in a place with bright indirect light and warm temperatures, and change the water every 3-5 days. Use rooting hormone for best results and fertilize with water soluble fertilizer.

Starting in soil is best for shrubs and other outdoor plants. Rooting hormones are good to use, but not always necessary. Spring is the best time of year, since Mother Nature is hot to grow. Lots of shrubs can be started by taking softwood cuttings, 3-6 inches long, cut at a 45-degree angle. Dip in rooting hormone, make a hole with a pencil in some regular potting soil, and plant with at least one growth node under the dirt. Keep a couple of leaves at the top of the stem. Place in shade and keep moist. Firespike, Angels Trumpet, Sleeping hibiscus, Cassia, and other shrubs root easily. Woody stems don’t work well. Get a big pot and try several kinds of shrubs. It’s fun to experiment!

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Azaleas are starting to come forth.