



September 2023

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Tues, Sept 12, 7 pm. Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina. **“NE Florida Shorebirds” Wild Nite.**

Sat. Sept. 23, 9am-1pm – Fall Native Plant Sale at 15591 Ga Hwy 99, Darien. More information on coastal wildscapes website.

Weds. Sept. 13, 10 am-11:30 pm. Ashantilly Center. Coastal Wildscapes **“Balancing Civilization and Wildness in Landscapes.”** \$10 non member. More information on Coastal Wildscapes website.

Thurs. Sept. 7, 12 noon-1pm. Camden County Extension virtual Lunch and Learn. **“True Value of Oaks”**. Register at uge3039@uga.edu or on website.

Announcements

Plant Sale 9 am Saturday, Sept. 9. Lunch and Learn at noon. First Presbyterian, plants can be dropped off Friday afternoon. Don't forget your food for the lunch and learn. Hoping to get a good crowd on a Saturday!

Garden to-dos for September

Prune perennials. Plant bulbs, trees. Fertilize palms with slow release fertilizer. Most palms are deficient in potassium, so add Muriate of Potash to correct the deficiency. Apply organic matter to roses, fertilize, and prune back 1/3. This is the last month to fertilize citrus trees. Plant Marigolds, chrysanthemums, onions, basil, parsley, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, broccoli.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

I have a bromeliad in a pot. The flower has died, should I cut it off? Also, how do they do in the ground here?

Having a “Bro”mance....

Dear Bromantic Gardener,

Cutting the dead flower off will help the plant form pups to start new plants. Cut at the base of the stem.

Bromeliads don't need a deep pot, shallow ones are fine. Some bromeliads just can be attached to trees, boards, etc. and grow without soil. Don't overwater, fill up the cup, but dump out any standing water after a week or so.

*Bromeliads do well in the ground in a humid area (no problem in Camden County!) that doesn't have frost. If the temperature is going below 40 degrees, cover them with sheets. They like to be under a canopy of trees, with bright light but not direct strong sunlight. Morning sun and dappled sunlight are ok. If outside, just water the dirt and don't worry about filling the cup. Fertilize at half strength about once a month with liquid houseplant fertilizer during the growing season. They need good drainage. Overwatering is the worst crime against bromeliads. They can get spider mites, mealy bugs, and scale. Use insecticidal soap in the evening to treat for these insects. They are also sensitive to copper which is in a lot of products, so read labels before using products around them. The blooms last a long time, months sometimes. After it blooms, the plant dies, but pups form around it which will start new plants. Guzmania is the most common variety, with colorful torchlike flowers. Neoregalia has variegated foliage, and Vriesia has flat flowers that look something like the feathers on arrows. Try your bromeliad in the ground and it may multiply. **The***

Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: The butterfly gingers are in their full glory and the passion flowers are still putting on a show. All the rain has things really growing. The butterflies are all over the place!