

## St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

### March 2014

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

**Mon, Mar. 3 – Plant Clinic, 10 am – 2 pm**, Yulee Satellite Office, 86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee (attached to fire station). Drop in from 10-2 with your sick plant in a plastic bag for a prognosis and advice on its care.

**Sat., Mar. 8, 10am-noon, Rain Barrel presentation, \$15**, Yulee Satellite Office (address above)

**Sat., Mar. 8, 9-11 am, “Invasive Plants”**, Fernandina Beach Rec. Center, 2500 Atlantic Ave., register by March 6, call 904-879-1019. Breakfast provided, \$5 registration fee. Guided nature hike 11-11:30.

**Tuesday, Mar. 11, 7 pm – Wild Amelia, “Diamondback Terrapin Conservation”, Dr. Terry Norton, Peck Ctr. Auditorium, 516 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina.**

**Sat., Mar. 22, 8am-noon—St. Marys River (and roadside and ditch)Cleanup.** Meet at Gilman Park. Volunteers will assign areas for cleanup and give out trash bags. Bring rake or trash stick, gloves, sunscreen, bug spray, old shoes or boots, etc. After the cleanup volunteers can go to a picnic at White Oak plantation (tickets given out after cleanup).

**Tues., Mar. 25, 1pm- Fairy House & Critter workshop** for plant sale, Episcopal Church on Wheeler St. Bring glue guns, clippers, pods, moss, acorns, seeds, etc.

**Weds., April 2, 10-11am – “Container Gardening”, Yulee Satellite Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd)**

#### **Coastal Wildscape events – Ashantilly Center, Darien. Call 912-289-7736 for more information:**

**Mar. 20, Lunch & Learn, “Beneficial Insects”**

**Apr. 5, Spring Plant Sale**

#### **Announcements**

The Earth Angels still need recyclable items – cardboard tubes, Styrofoam trays, seeds.

#### **Garden to-dos for March**

Test soil before planting if needed. Fertilize citrus, loquat with citrus fertilizer. Cut back and fertilize perennials. Plant poinsettias outside in late March (not near a light). Cut back to 12-18" and pinch back new growth once a month till Sept. 10. Most annuals, herbs, and vegetables can be safely planted by March 15. Prune and fertilize or transplant azaleas after they bloom. Prune shrubs, always fertilize after pruning. Fertilize palms every 2 months starting now. Clean up cold damaged plants after new growth appears (or cut back to where it is still green).

#### **The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”**

**Dear Garden Maven,**

How can I jump start my garden after this winter?

***Itchin’ to get out there, but waiting for spring***

**Dear Itchin’,**

When you cut back all the dead stuff, pull back the mulch and throw some coffee grounds and Epsom salts inside the drip line. Scratch it in slightly with a rake and then top dress with an inch or so of Black Kow). The Garden Rebel on the radio recommends this. Cover it back up with mulch. You can also throw a couple of handfuls of superphosphate(not too much) around in the beds on top of the mulch. If you have never tried live oak leaves as mulch, they are great. The water washes over them and you get lots of worms. Best of all, they are free. Spanish moss is also a great mulch for around bushes where you aren’t planting a lot of little stuff. Just keep piling it on all season. (It also works well as a blanket to protect plants from frost.)

**Plant Hero of the Month:** Strawberry begonia and gasteria (Ox Tongue) looking happy unprotected in the ground.

***Send your announcements of work days, garden parties, events of interest, or questions for the Garden Maven to JudyM. The newsletter is planned to come out around the first of each month. (You can also find homes for plants you are evicting or extra plants.)***