

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter May 2014

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Sat., May 3, 10am-3pm – Rose Festival & Arts & Crafts Fair (and plant sale), Savannah Botanical Garden, 1388 Eisenhower Drive, Savannah. Free admission and free parking.

Weds., May 7, 10-11am – *“Perennials”*, Yulee Satellite Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (all at 10am): May 5 and May 19, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Also **May 10** at Ace Hardware in Fernandina, also 10 am.

Tues., May 13, 7pm, *“Building a Manatee Care/Rehab at Jax Zoo”*, Peck Ctr. Auditorium, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina.

Sat., May 31, 9am-noon, Nassau Master Gardener Plant Sale, Demonstration Garden, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee.

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

May 8, Lunch & Learn, “Boq Gardening”, must preregister.

Announcements

Tues., May 6, 2 pm – Magnolia Manor, help residents plant their patio planters. Call Linda Bryan with questions. The **Earth Angels** still need recyclable items – cardboard tubes, Styrofoam trays, seeds. Also, they need classroom helpers, donations of small garden tools (like trowels from the dollar store) and cash donations for supplies.

Christmas in July – Bring your items to any meeting and give them to Joan S. Suggested items include: body wash, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, talcum powder, hand cream, face cream, deodorant, combs and brushes, nail polish/remover, cotton balls, tissues, either purse size or regular size, mouthwash, lip balm. This is a wonderful project that helps people in our own community.

Garden to-dos for April

Fertilize palms. Plant celosia, marigolds, salvia, pentas, verbena, zinnias, coreopsis, crossandra, exacum, gaillardia, gazania, hollyhocks, nicotiana, eggplant, okra, Southern peas, herbs. Keep watching for late emerging plants like gingers and caladiums.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

I am new to the area, and have heard that gardening is really different down here. What are some good things to keep in mind?

Missing my Lilacs

Dear Missing,

You are right, it is a lot different. **1)** The season is two months longer at each end. (March 15-Dec.15 or later) And in the summer, a lot of plants that are summer plants up north give up by July, like petunias. There is a winter season when you can plant pansies, snapdragons, etc. **2)** Zones --Lots of things won’t take the heat or need more cold than we can provide. We are zone 8b some years, 9a others. So I won’t plant anything that doesn’t grow in both zones 8 and 9, unless I am willing to gamble. **3)** Full sun also is more like 3-4 hours rather than 6 or more, because the sun is stronger. **4)** Back in zone 6-7, I didn’t need to fertilize and usually didn’t. Here most things won’t grow in the sandy soil without it. Milorganite has become my best friend. Live oak mulch or pine straw helps improve the soil. **5)** Up north, I went for perennial beds in a big way. Here, there is such a variety of flowering bushes that bloom all season long and other plants that get really big that I have changed my whole gardening style to big plants like duranta, lantana, plumbago, landscape roses, shrimp plant, esperanza, bottlebrush. Shady beds can look beautiful with just foliage plants of different colors. **6)** Some houseplants can go right in the ground or winter over outside with a cover when it goes below 40. **7)** And the craziest thing of all, many of the plants that grow well here can be started from a clipping just stuck in a pot of dirt and kept watered in the shade. Enjoy experimenting and learning about all the wonderful plants that grow in our beautiful area!

Plant Hero of the Month: Gotta love that beautiful jasmine, just breathe it in!

Contact Judy Molnar at cjmolnar@tds.net or 882-8887 with newsletter items or questions.