

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

April 2015

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics—April 6 and 20 (10am): (Monday), Yulee County Bldg., 86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee. Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

April 1, 10am – “Managing Nuisance Wildlife”, 86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee.

April 11—Spring Native Plant Sale. **9 am – 1pm.** Coastal Wildscapes—Ashantilly Center, Darien.

April 14 (Tues.), 7 pm. Wild Amelia Wild Nite – Katlin Collings, “Sea Turtles and the Sea to Shore Alliance”, Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina Beach.

April 15-17 – Garden Club State Convention, Jekyll Island

Fri. April 17, Sat. April 18, 10am-4pm --NOGS walking tour of 8 private Savannah Gardens-- \$40. Check out the Garden Club of Savannah website for gorgeous pictures and info. You can buy tickets the day of the event.

April 22 (Weds) – Earth Day

Saturday, April 25 ,10am-5pm(Rain date Sun. Apr. 26) -- Tabby and Tillandsia Garden Walk, St. Simons.

Cassina Garden Club’s annual event. \$30 in advance, \$35 day of. Buy tickets online (or with a check and form available online) or at Ace Hardware on St. Simons. Call 912-638-9808 for more information.

Announcements

Christmas in July – Keep collecting new personal care items to give to area senior care homes.

Keep saving aluminum can pop tops for the Ronald McDonald house.

Karen wants more trash! Yogurt cups or small plastic cups. Greeting cards (Xmas okay) with the backs torn off, plastic lids (3-4 inch), ribbon, clean aluminum foil.

Fairy House workshop – If you have any of that wiry moss that grows on the oak branches, please save for the fairy houses. Nuts, acorns, pods are also welcome.

Garden to-dos for April

Clean up dead leaves from cold damaged plants; cut back bushes. Fertilize after cutting back. Prune perennials to shape them. Divide perennials and fall flowering bulbs. Plant most annuals, herbs, and vegetables. Begin checking roses for black spot, spray for fungus. Fertilize April 15. Fertilize palms with slow release fertilizer. If you use a high nitrogen or quick release fertilizer, it will create a potassium deficiency in older leaves.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

My young magnolia has black stuff all over the leaves and little shell like things on the trunk. What is this, and what can I do about it?

Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,

The black stuff is sooty mold, produced by honeydew from scale insects (those things on the trunk). You can scrape off as much of the scale as possible and throw it out, then spray with an insecticidal soap or an ultrafine horticultural (not dormant) oil. Spray the oil in the morning or evening, never in full sun. You can also use a soil drench containing imidaclopril (Bayer Tree and Shrub Insect Killer is one). Pull back the mulch, and apply 6-12 inches from the trunk. A moat will help keep the liquid in the area you need it. For the sooty mold, you can use the spray recommended by Chris at Donini’s – a teaspoon of bleach per gallon and a few drops of old fashioned lemon dish soap. Again, don’t spray in full sun. It seems to help loosen the black stuff so it comes off the leaves. There is also a similar scale that attaches to the bark of crape myrtle.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: My lemon tree is full of blossoms and making the whole yard smell good.