

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

December 2014

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

**Not many extension events in December, but enough holiday events to keep you in the Christmas spirit all month!**

**Tues., Dec. 2** – St. Marys White Lighting, parade starts at **5:30 pm**.

**Tues., Dec. 2** - 208 E. Dillingham, St. Marys, 70,000 lights synchronized with music on 97.5 on the radio.

**Fri. Dec. 5, Sat. Dec. 6** – Candlelight tours of Hofwyl Plantation (Brunswick, near exit 42), **6-9pm**, Adults \$8, Youth \$5. Call 912-264-7333 for more information.

**Sat. Dec. 6**—Magnolia Garden Club tour of homes, Brunswick. Call 912-996-0663 for more information. **Tour is 12-5pm. Bake sale 11-5 pm.** \$20 advance, \$25 day of.

**Sat. Dec. 6** – Cassina Garden Club Tour of homes, 5 Sea Island homes and Cloister. **10am-5pm.** Bake sale and Christmas market at Cassina Cabins. \$45 advance, \$50 day of. Call 912-399-1152 for more information.

**Sat. Dec. 13** – St. Marys Christmas Tour of homes, **5:30pm-9pm.** Advance \$15, day of \$20. Call 912-882-4000 for more information or get tickets at Welcome Center across from 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian.

**Sun. Dec. 14** – Plum Orchard Christmas Tour, Cumberland Island. **11:45am-5:30 pm.** Cost is ferry ticket plus \$6 for tour.

**Tues. Dec. 16** – Live Nativity at Orange Hall, **6-8pm.**

## **Announcements**

**Our Garden Club Christmas lunch is Tuesday, December 9 at the Jekyll Island Club.** If you have signed up, meet at K mart at **10:15** to carpool (at the end of the parking lot near the garden center).

## **Garden to-dos for December**

Transplant plants after they have gone dormant. Annuals for winter are carnations, digitalis, pansies, petunias, dianthus, and snapdragons. Water plants during dry spells, especially if it is cold and windy. Winter is forecast to be colder and wetter than usual, so purchase frost blankets or round up the old sheets and be prepared to mulch and cover tender plants for winter protection.

## **The Garden Maven's Advice to the "Floralorn"**

### ***Dear Garden Maven,***

The cold snap a couple of weeks ago caught me by surprise and fried some of my foliage, but most of my plants survived. What can I do to protect some of the others that might be killed by the cold temperatures?

***Hoping this year is warmer, but not betting on it...***

### ***Dear Hoping,***

It looks like we may have another cold winter, so get ready to get out there to protect your precious plants. Old sheets are my favorite winter protection. When the temperature is going below 40 degrees, cover your porch plants, house plants that stay outside, and other tender perennials like shell ginger or bromeliads with the sheets. I have left them on for several weeks if it stays fairly cold. The sheets allow water to flow through to the plants, but keep the plants warmer. Huddling house plants together and covering with sheets or other cloths works well. Spanish moss with all its air pockets works as a good winter mulch, pine straw, leaves, and even paper from the paper shredder (although you might want to cover with leaves or pine straw for appearances). When you use sheets, you can weigh down the edges with bricks or logs to keep the wind from getting underneath. Sometimes they recommend banking citrus trunks with sand. I have stapled corrugated cardboard around them instead. Do not use plastic sheeting for winter protection, since it conducts cold, and also will burn the leaves when the sun hits it.

### ***The Maven***

**Plant Hero of the Month:** The Christmas Cactuses are budding up and hopefully will be blooming for the holiday. (Contact Judy Molnar at [cmolnar@tds.net](mailto:cmolnar@tds.net) or 882-8887 with newsletter items or questions for the Maven.)