

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## February 2015

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

**Nassau Extension Plant Clinics—Feb. 2 and Feb. 9 (10am):** (Monday), Yulee County Bldg., 86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee. Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

**Feb. 10** (Tues.) **Wild Amelia Wild Nite** – “Update on Jacksonville’s Urban Dolphins”, Peck Center, 516 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina Beach.

**Feb. 11**, 10am (Weds)– “**Roses**”, Demonstration Garden, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee.

**Feb. 14 and 21– 8:30am-12:30pm** – “**Crash Course in Fla. Gardening**”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee) Call Rebecca Jordi, 904-530-6350 to register by Feb. 6. \$50 per person, \$75 per couple.

**Feb. 28** (Sat.), 8:30-2:30, Duval Co. Extension “**Day of Gardening**”, \$15, register by Feb. 23, 904-255-7450.

**March 4, 10-11:30am** (Weds) – “Bluebirds”, fee \$20, Yulee Co. Bldg., preregister by Feb.25, Call 904-530-6350.

### Announcements

**Christmas in July** – Start collecting new or unused personal care items to give to area senior care homes. Travel sizes are fine, don’t forget the men.

**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. She is running a **one month only** special collection of toilet paper rolls. Please take off the last bits of paper before turning in at Feb. meeting, although I can’t imagine a lovelier way to spend a winter night than in front of a fire cleaning up those toilet paper rolls....

**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 February

Prune roses by Feb. 14. Fertilize after pruning. Don’t cut back dead perennials until March 15. The dead foliage will help protect them from cold damage. Cut ornamental grass back to 6-12 inches. Clean out dead annuals. Prune out water sprouts, suckers, and rubbing branches from citrus. Plant baby’s breath, calendula, dianthus, dusty miller, marguerites, pansies, petunias, and snapdragons. Plant vegetables like beets, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, parsley, turnips. Compost leaves and grass clippings.

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

**Dear Garden Maven,**

How should I prune climbing roses?

**RoseLover**

**Dear RoseLover,**

You can prune repeat flowering climbers in late winter (now). Climbers that bloom only once a year should be pruned after flowering or in late summer. No climber should be pruned before it is two or three years old, and they should never be cut back to a couple of feet from the ground unless they are particularly aggressive. Pruning begins by cutting off dead, damaged, or spindly stems. Cut these flush to the cane. If it is an old neglected bush and really congested in there, cut out the oldest canes at the base to promote new growth. Leave 5-6 younger stems to tie to supports. You can cut back side shoots by a third to half their length to encourage branching. Cut ¼” above the bud. The more horizontal the canes, the more flowers. So prune to match the support. For a wall or wide trellis, fan out long branches across the support. For a narrow trellis, train in a zigzag pattern to keep the canes as horizontal as possible. For a post or pillar, keep 2-3 canes and wrap them in gentle spirals around the support. Pull suckers off grafted roses (below the knobby graft) with a quick downward motion. (This scares me, I have never tried this.) Some people seal the ends of the cut canes with white glue to keep out cane borers. Fertilize with a granular fertilizer and mulch with a couple of inches of mulch, kept away from the crown of the plant.

**The Maven**

**Plant Hero of the Month:** Start watching for the yellow Jessamine blooming up in the trees.