

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter June 2014

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Mon., June 2, 10 am – National Garden Week, meet at City Hall for proclamation by mayor, lunch afterwards.

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am): June 2 and June 16 (Mondays), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)

Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Weds., June 4, 10-11am – “Herbs”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd, Yulee)

Thurs, June 5, 1pm – Work day at St. Marys Senior Care Center (behind Donini’s, drive to right of bldg., then to the end of the parking lot and turn left to park in back of building). Bring trowels, clippers, water, bug spray. If you have any plants to donate, please bring them along.

Sat., June 7, 2-3:30 pm – Summer Ladies Tea at Christ Episcopal Church, corner Wheeler and Conyers St. This event is free and open to all. Parking lot is at the back of the church, off Conyers St.

Tues., June 24, 1 pm, Christ Episcopal – Fairy house and ornament painting workshop for plant sale. Wear old clothes, come to door at the back of fellowship hall, off the parking lot entered from Conyers St.

Announcements

The **Earth Angels** don’t need any more recyclables, but are looking for classroom helpers.

Christmas in July – The June meeting is the last chance to bring your donated items: 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.

Garden to-dos for June

Prune and fertilize spring blooming trees and shrubs after blooming. Plant celosia, salvia, zinnias, crossandra, exacum, hollyhocks, nicotiana, portulaca, torenia, vinca, eggplant, okra, limas, Southern peas, herbs. Annuals with slow growth and yellowing foliage may need an extra feeding. If there is too much growth and no flowers, skip a feeding. Check mulch to make sure there is 2 inches of it, keep 1-2 inches away from stems. Deadhead.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

My dollarweed is taking over after the wet spring. How can I get rid of it?

Tearfully tuggin’ and dolefully diggin’

Dear Tearfully,

Dollarweed (Hydrocotyle) comes in right behind Sand Gnats and Fire Ants on the “Things I Hate about the South” list. When first you first see this native plant, it looks so pretty, you say “it must be something like a wild nasturtium”. After it reveals its evil heart, you vow to eradicate it. Eventually you realize that it isn’t ever going away, and if you keep trying to kill it you will wind up like Captain Ahab, spread-eagled in your garden entangled in a web of its Great White Roots. The best you can do is to beat it back as much as possible. If it is in your lawn, there are several sprays you can use

that won't hurt the grass. Image is one of them. Flower beds are another story. Hand digging is the recommended method (if only we could train our armadillos to dig them up for us!) Loosen the dirt with a hoe or garden weasel, the roots pull out more easily. Cut down on the water as much as possible, as dollarweed loves water. It even floats like a mini water lily! Get the grandkids out there and offer a prize for the longest root. Accept that you will never get them all. Pine straw mulch is recommended to restrain them. Other remedies are sprinkling baking soda on wet dollarweed (will it affect pH and kill your good stuff?), applying 1 lb. sugar per 300 square feet and watering it in (turning your dollarweed farm to an ant farm?), spraying with Roundup (use a cardboard shield to protect your flowers), spraying with white vinegar, or using a water hose feeder to spray with a mixture of 1 can beer, 1 can coke, 1 ½ cups dish soap, 1 ½ cups ammonia. But surprise, surprise, it is edible! It even has a chemical, like celery, that can lower blood pressure. It can be eaten raw or cooked like a green. However, nobody raves about its taste, which is supposed to be rather bitter. Maybe someday it will command a huge price per pound.... So keeping a little bit of it around may not be such a bad idea after all!

Plant Hero of the Month: The blueberries are coming! Try the Emerald Sweets at the Harrietts Bluff u-pick farm.

(Contact Judy Molnar at cjmolnar@tds.net or 882-8887 with newsletter items or questions for the Maven.)