

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

October 2015

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am): Oct. 5, Oct. 19, Nov.2 (Monday), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)
Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Wed. Oct. 7 – 10-11:00am – *“Attracting Wildlife”*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

Saturday, Oct. 10, 9am-noon– Master Gardener Plant Sale, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place.

Saturday, Oct. 10, 9am-5pm – Okefenokee Festival, Folkston

Wild Amelia Wild Nite – Tues. Oct. 14, 7 pm – “Solar Energy and Conservation”, Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina Beach.

Announcements

Plant Sale Saturday, October 3(Rock Shrimp Festival) – Bring your plants to our booth at the corner of Osborne and Bryant Sts. before 8 am or leave on Friday night behind the historic OLSS Chapel or in Peggy’s truck at her house.

Hay Days – Bigfoot assembly – Monday, Oct. 5, Osborne St. median between Bryant and Weed.

Thursday, Oct. 8, 10:00 am at Presbyterian Fellowship Hall. Bring, glue guns, scissors, paint, paintbrushes, water bottles, and plastic bags to make flowers for scarecrow display.

October 13 (Tuesday), 5-7 pm– Scarecrow Stroll, Osborne St. Come help pass out candy. Costume optional!

October 20 – Oleander District Annual Meeting, Richmond Hill. Oct. 1 is deadline to register.

Fig Leaf – Start collecting personal care items and underwear, sweatpants, t-shirts, nonskid socks or slippers for Christmas distribution at the local senior care facilities. Larger sizes are needed, unused greeting cards welcome.

Dixie Acres is back in business with its new owners! Open Tues-Saturday 9-5. Rte. 1 north of Folkston.

Garden to-dos for October

Plant winter vegetables like beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, bulbing onions, radishes, spinach, turnips, and strawberries. Plant flowers like digitalis, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, viola, million bells, flowering kale, and Shasta daisies. Plant bulbs like agapanthus, society garlic, spider lily, gladiola, star of Bethlehem, and pineapple lily. Of course, fall is a great time to plant those perennials you have purchased at the plant sale! Don’t prune spring flowering trees or bushes. Check grafted trees and plants and remove growth below the graft.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

What should I do with my caladiums this fall? Should I dig or leave in the ground?

Undecided

Dear Undecided,

Caladiums are here for such a short time! I have always left them in the ground (although I admit from negligence – by the time I would get around to digging them up, I couldn’t find them), and they usually come back after the winter. But sometimes it is the middle of July before they get above ground. The tubers I plant in pots in March beat them by about 6 weeks. This year I have vowed to dig them up, store them, and plant them in pots before setting them in the garden. If you want to leave them in the ground, mulch them well. If you dig them, do it when the temperatures start to go below 60 degrees. Those leaves disappear fast. Dig them, let them dry for a week or so, trim off any leaves, and store in an old nylon stocking or mesh bag. After March 15, plant in pots, keep watered, and either set out in the garden after they have put out leaves or plant in containers. One recommendation is to plant bulbs in 6 inch pots and set the pots up to their rims in the garden. This helps them to hold water and reduces competition from tree roots, etc. and will make them easy to lift in the fall. If you have an area where temperatures stay above 60 (or if you can keep the dried out pots in sawdust, shredded paper, or covered with a blanket when it gets really cold) you can probably keep in the pots and just replant next year. When planting caladiums, cover with 1 ½ inches – 2 inches of soil. They like bone meal once a month and need fertilizer on a regular basis.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Cassias are starting to show their showstopping yellow blooms.