

St Marys' Garden Club Newsletter

September 2014

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am): Sept. 15 (Monday), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Wed., Sept. 3, 10-11am- *"Wildflowers"*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

Friday, Oct. 3 – 10-11:30am – *"Bring On the Pollinators"*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

Coastal Wildscape events – Ashantilly Center, Darien. Call 912-289-7736 for more information:

Sept. 18, Stratton Hall, 1423 Newcastle St., Brunswick, 5-7:30pm. *"Demystifying Myths of Creepy Crawlers, Alligators and Snakes"*. Evening Cocktails. Preregister. Website is info@coastalwildscapes.org

Announcements

Plant Sale October 4 (Rock Shrimp Festival)– Keep getting your plants ready and growing for the sale.

Garden to-dos for September

Plant and divide bulbs like amaryllis, elephant ear, grape hyacinth, iris, leopard lily, snowflake, watsonia, and rain lilies. Plant herbs like Mexican tarragon, anise, Basil, bay tree, borage, chervil, ginger, marjoram, thyme. Plant cool season vegetables like broccoli, collards, onions, lettuce, escarole, pole beans, snap beans, radishes. Fertilize palms, shrubs, young trees. Plant trees. Prune perennials. If you want it to fill in from the base, make the cut 1 ft. above where you want the branches to begin.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the "Floralorn"

Dear Garden Maven,

I have a large sago which is my "problem child". It seems to be giving me nothing but trouble. It gets new growth, those cute little leaves sticking up at the top like an Indian headdress, then soon after they turn brown and frizzy. Now it has lots of white spots, which I guess are scale.... If it weren't so old, I'd take a chain saw to it. Help! It has become a love-hate relationship.

Torn and Weary

Dear Torn,

Both problems are common with sago's, and I have had them with my two sago's. First the "Frizzle Top". This is from a manganese deficiency. Get some manganese sulfate and apply it with your palm fertilizer. Water it in. Do this from time to time (follow directions on the bag). This should take care of the problem.

Scale (an insect) is extremely common on sago's. One method to get rid of it is to use the jet setting on your hose nozzle and spray it off the leaves. Some people use horticultural oils (some can only be used at certain times of year, the ultralight can often be used year round) on the leaves and fronds. If the fronds are heavily infested, you can cut them off, but don't take so many that you stress the plant. A soil drench may help (like Bayer, you mix it with water and pour it around the plant).

There have been some reports that coffee grounds are good for treating scale on sago's. Steep the grounds in water for 10 days, like sun tea. Then spray on the leaves. Mulch the plant with coffee grounds. Coffee grounds are also reported to take care of mealy bugs, aphids, whitefly, and spider mites.

So let's have another cup of coffee!

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: The Pentas at the pavilion have suffered through the oppressive summer heat and keep on blooming and looking beautiful! The Mexican petunias, bless their hearts, are in their full glory and having many happy butterfly visitors. In fact, almost everything is blooming and looking good.