

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## November 2016

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

**Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am-29pm): Nov. 7, Nov. 21**, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

**Weds., Nov. 2, 10-11am** – “Herbs”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

**Weds. Nov. 16 – 10-11:30am** – “Are Bats Beneficial?”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee) preregister by Nov. 9 on Nassau County extension website, Fee \$15.

**Weds. Nov. 30 – 10-11:30am** – “Holiday Mailbox Decoration”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

**Wild Amelia Wild Nite – Tues. Nov. 15 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday because of election day), 7 pm** – NOVA movie “Journey of the Butterflies”, Peck Center, 516 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina.

**Pioneer Day, Saturday, Nov. 19, 9am-3pm**, Okeefenokee Wildlife Refuge, Folkston.

### Announcements

**Pre Holiday Boutique** -- Fairy houses, critters, and Garden Club note cards will be available for purchase at the November meeting.

Money is also due for the **Christmas Lunch**.

**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. Bring to November meeting.

### Garden to-dos for November

Plant annuals like pansies, petunias, snapdragons, dianthus, alyssum for winter color, winter- and spring-flowering shrubs, bare-root fruit trees, citrus. Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants). Repot cacti and succulents, if needed, once they have finished blooming. Plant winter-blooming perennials, bare-root roses, bare root trees, shrubs, vines. Prune deciduous trees, fall and winter-flowering shrubs and vines just after bloom. Sow seeds and plant seedlings of cool-season or winter vegetables like beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, bulbing onions, radishes. Repair or plant lawns, rake lawns to remove debris. Towards the end of the month, begin mulching sensitive plants for winter.

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

**Dear Garden Maven,**

I am rearranging my garden and would like to make it more attractive to birds and butterflies. What are some things I should consider?

**Welcoming gardener**

**Dear Welcoming,**

In general, birds look for food, shelter, nesting areas, and water when considering a place to call home. Water can be provided by a small pond, birdbath, or fountain. Trees, shrubs, and vines make good shelters. A variety of trees and shrubs, preferably native species, is best for attracting a variety of birds. There are few birds deep in the woods. They prefer some open area, with sheltering plants nearby, so go for the “edge effect”. This mimics the edge of a wooded area with trees, then some lower shrubs and plants at the edge of an open area of lawn or ground cover. Some shrubs should be producers of berries, like beautyberry or holly. Birds will not nest in food producing shrubs, so other shrubs should provide cover. When it comes to birds, laziness pays off. Birds do not like to nest in manicured shrubs, such as sheared hedges. The small interlocking twigs that shearing produces prevent birds from nesting in the shrubs or escaping predators. If a bird does make his way inside the shrub, it can be a death trap for the unlucky little guy. So no Edward Scissorhands. Birds prefer a looser, more natural appearance. Likewise, don’t go crazy cleaning up in the fall. Seed heads (such as coneflower, sunflowers, or rudbeckia) can be left for the birds

to eat. Dead trees harbor insects that other birds eat, and provide nesting sites for some birds, and fallen fruit left on the ground to ferment will attract butterflies. Weedy vines like Virginia creeper, greenbrier, and blackberry provide cover and food for the birds. Don't weed out the Spanish needles – butterflies love them. Check online to find what species to plant for specific birds or butterflies.

**Plant Hero of the Month:** Confederate roses are blooming with their ever-changing colors!