

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

October 2016

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

**Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am): Oct. 3, Oct. 17**, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

**Weds. Oct. 5 – 10-11:00am** – *“Bulb Propagation and Division”*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

**Weds. Oct. 19 – 10-11am** – *“Tree Planting and Selection”*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

**Saturday, Oct. 22, 9am-noon**– Master Gardener Plant Sale, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place.

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

**Wild Amelia Wild Nite – Tues. Oct. 11, 7 pm** – *“Amelia Island Sea Turtle Update”*, Peck Center, 516 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina.

## Announcements

**October 11 (Tuesday), 5-7 pm**– Scarecrow Stroll, Osborne St. We are usually between Weed St. and Stable Alley.

**October 25** – Oleander District Annual Meeting, Statesboro. Oct. 12 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. Bring to November meeting.

## 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. Prune fall flowering shrubs just after bloom. Check grafted trees and plants and remove growth below the graft. If planting new trees, water well, don't fertilize till spring. Start keeping Christmas cactus in the dark at night to have them bloom for Christmas.

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

*Dear Garden Maven,*

When is the best time to move shrubs in this area? As usual, I have planted them in the wrong place.

*The Mad Yard Rearranger*

*Dear Rearranger,*

The smaller the shrub, the easier it is to transplant. For really large shrubs, some root pruning several months to a year ahead of the move may be advisable. Root prune in the fall, move the shrub in the spring or even the next fall. Smaller plants should be pruned by spading in a circle around the plant about a foot deep and where you want the root ball to end. For really large plants, dig a trench about 8 inches wide and 12 inches deep and fill it with 2 parts topsoil to 1 part compost. And water, water, water. These methods encourage the formation of small feeder roots, which will reduce transplant shock when they are moved.

The best time to move a deciduous shrub is after it loses its leaves and before the ground freezes in the fall or before new growth starts in the spring. Which is pretty much late fall and all winter around here. Our lives are complicated by the fact that some shrubs like Turks cap, Brunfelsia, and Duranta keep their leaves some years and lose them in others, depending on how cold the winter is. Evergreens (broadleaf and needled) do best being moved in the winter. For the first year, don't fertilize with any high nitrogen fertilizers – only use root boosting fertilizers like bonemeal. It used to be common knowledge to cut back transplanted shrubs by 1/3, but this is now debated. So prune to make it look good and keep an eye on things. At any time of year, daily watering for the first 3 weeks, then every other day for the next 3 weeks is crucial to a successful transplant. You can even transplant in the heat of the summer if you really really need to, as long as you keep the shrub well watered.

*The Maven*

**Plant Hero of the Month:** Beautiful native beautyberries let us know fall is here!