

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## September 2016

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

**Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am-2pm): Sept.12, 19, Oct. 3** (Mondays), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

**Weds., Sept. 7, 10-11:30am** – “Landscaping for Wildlife”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd, Yulee)

**Tues. Sept 13, 7pm** – “Historic Trees” by Danny Lippi, Peck Center, 516 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina.

**Weds., Sept. 21, 10-11:30am**, “Butterflies”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

**Sat., Sept. 24, 9am – 1pm** – Fall Plant Sale, Ashantilly Center, Darien. (from Rte. 17 in Darien, turn east on GA 99 (beside the Courthouse), go 1.5 miles, look for Ashantilly sign.

### **Announcements**

The **Earth Angels** are looking for classroom helpers on an occasional basis. Contact Barbara C., Karen W. or Angel.

**Plant Sale** – Keep getting your plants ready and growing for the October sale.

**Critter Workshop – Thurs., Sept. 15, 12:30pm.** Christ Episcopal Fellowship Hall, parking lot is off Conyers St, near the corner with Wheeler St. Bring clippers, scissors, glue guns, small twigs with lots of small branches that look like antlers, pine cones, pods, etc.

**UNF Continuing Ed Class-- Oct. 11, 18 and 25**(Tuesdays), 9:30-11:00 am. *“Creating a Garden that is Good for the Planet and You”*, focusing on pollinator friendly landscapes. \$50 annual OLLI membership fee, \$30 class fee.

Contact Sally Steinauer at [sallysteinauer@bellsouth.net](mailto:sallysteinauer@bellsouth.net) for more information and to register.

### **Garden to-dos for September**

Prune perennials. Plant bulbs, trees. Fertilize palms with slow release fertilizer. Most palms are deficient in potassium, so add Muriate of Potash to correct the deficiency. Apply organic matter to roses, fertilize, and prune back 1/3. This is the last month to fertilize citrus trees. Plant Marigolds, chrysanthemums, onions, basil, parsley, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, broccoli.

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

***Dear Garden Maven,***

I have a problem with my pecan trees. The ground is littered with nuts in their green shells, some with spots. The leaves are turning brown and some have black streaks at the middle and black spots. Some of the leaves are falling off the trees. I would love some delicious pecans, so I need help fast!

***Call me Nutty***

***Dear Nutty,***

Sadly, it may be too late to help your current crop. There are several reasons for early dropping of nuts. 1. Lack of pollination in spring. Pecans are pollinated by the wind, heavy rain can affect pollination, and if male and female flowers mature at different times, pollination won’t happen. Unpollinated nuts have no future. 2. Pecan weevils – Evil weevils emerge from the ground in August and September. They punch a hole in the shuck and shell, the nut loses water and falls to the ground in a few days. Spray Sevin every 7 days (easy to remember, Sevin every 7) during August and Sept. around the base of the tree and the ground under the tree. Pick up fallen pecans to keep the bugs from going back underground and coming back to haunt you next year. 3. Pecan scab – attacks leaves and shucks. Black spots on leaves and leaf midribs are signs of pecan scab. Spots are usually dark and circular. On the shucks they will look sunken, and eventually turn the shuck all black. To prevent scab next year, clean up all fallen leaves and shucks. Spider mites can cause problems with the leaves – a dull color with many small brown spots, and defoliation. Bayer Protect and Feed, a soil drench that you use once a year, can help with many insect problems. You could put some on now and drench again next spring, then use it every year. Clean up under the tree every few days so any weevils won’t get a toehold. You can try the Sevin now if there are still a lot of nuts on the tree. You should be able to see the weevil holes in the shucks on the ground so that you can know if that is the problem.

***The Maven***

**Plant Hero of the Month:** The firespike (Odontema) is starting to bloom, which suits the hummingbirds just fine. Check out the ones at the historic chapel.

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