

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter September 2017

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am-2pm): Sept.18, Oct. 2 (Mondays), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)
Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Weds., Sept. 6, 10-11:00am – “Gardening with Children”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd, Yulee)

Tues. Sept 12, 7pm – Wild Nite, “Florida Wildflowers”, Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina.

Weds., Sept. 20, 10-11:00am, “Fall Blooming Perennials”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

Sat., Sept. 23, 9am – 1pm – Coastal Wildscapes Fall Native 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.

Thurs., Sept. 21, 10 am-4 pm. Fairy House and Critter Workshop –Bring clippers, scissors, glue guns, acorns, pine cones, pods, lichens, etc. Judy’s house.

Thurs., Sept. 28 – Field trip to Roberts Honey Co. for a program about bees at 1 pm. Lunch at Jones Kitchen before the program. Details to follow in an email.

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 heard that there is a home remedy for mold and mildew on plants. Can you tell me how to make it? And a second question -- When will my confederate rose bloom, and should I fertilize it now? What else can you tell me about this plant?

Tired of Mildew, I want Mil-don’t

Dear Tired,

For powdery mildew, use 1 Tbs. baking soda and a few drops of old fashioned lemon dish soap to a gallon of water and spray once a week, tops and bottoms of leaves. Don’t apply in full sun and water plants the day before spraying. You can also spray with 1 part milk, 2 or 3 parts water, once a week. Don’t store either solution if you don’t use it all up. For white mold, use 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp vegetable oil, a few drops of dish soap and a gallon of water. Spray once a week as directed above. A big part of preventing mold and mildew is improving air circulation, so maybe thin the herd a bit.

Confederate roses are not roses, but a member of the hibiscus family that originally come from China, and got their name after the Civil War. Legend has it that they originally bloomed just white, but soaked up so much blood on the battlefields that they now change color from white to pink to red over the course of a few days. They are easy to grow and can get large in frost free areas. They will die back to the ground in cold winters, but will come back in the spring. Cut back to about 6 inches in winter. (This will also keep it smaller). Deadhead to prolong blooming. Fertilize every other week, using a balanced fertilizer. Milorganite is good. It likes full to part sun. In spring, it is easy to start by sticking cuttings in water. It does tend to get whitefly, but drenching with Bayer Protect and Feed once a year seems to take care of that. Blackflies and sooty mold (I have never had these) can be controlled with horticultural oil spray. Confederate rose is also our club flower, so enjoy your blooms this fall!

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: My white gaura is always waving in the breeze with visiting bumblebees.