

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

November 2017

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (Monday, 10am): Nov. 6, Nov. 20, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Weds., Nov. 1, 10-11am – *“The Fruqal Gardener”*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

Weds. Nov. 15 – 10-11:00am – *“Holiday Mailbox Decorating”*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

Wild Amelia Wild Nite – Tues. Nov. 14, 7 pm – *“Coyotes in Our Community”*, Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina.

Glynn County Council Standard Flower Show– Oct. 31-Nov. 4 - Exchange Club Fair, 101 Emory Dawson Rd., Brunswick. \$5 admission to fair. Fairgrounds open 5 pm.

Announcements

Fig Leaf – Bring to November meeting -- 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,

This asparagus fern is driving me crazy! It has completely taken over some of the bushes and I can’t seem to get rid of it. It is all over the place. What is the easiest way to get rid of it?

Shaking my Fist and Ready to buy a Cannon

Dear Cannon,

They don’t call it artillery fern for nothing! Short of moving, there is no “easy” way to rid yourself of this deceptively attractive and prickly South African native. In the north, it is a beloved houseplant. Here, it is a noxious and unwelcome weed. It grows anywhere, even at the beach, where it has now become a problem. Invasive does not begin to describe it. As you have discovered, it should never be planted in the ground where it does not die back in the winter. Even in a container, you need to keep an eye on it to keep it from seeding itself into your garden. (Foxtail fern is a better-behaved relative that gives the same look without taking over.)

The basic way to get it out is to cut back the stems to a few inches, then cut around the crown a few inches out, and then dig up or pull the weed, getting all of the rhizome and some of the roots. The good news is that those little grapey things on the roots are to hold water. They will not sprout another plant, and the roots won’t either. Hooray, because those roots are like a big thick mat that knits the dirt together and it is almost impossible to dig out them all out. Get all the rhizome, because just a piece of it will bring another asparagus fern into the world. Also throw out as many of the seeds as possible. You can also cut it back to the ground and spray the new growth with Roundup. You may have to do this a few times. If it is coming up through your bushes, things get harder. Cut back the plant to a few inches from the ground. Use a sponge brush to paint the stem with roundup. You may have to do this a few times before it kills the plant. Personally, I have dug up the bushes and eradicated all the fern and planted something else. Happy hunting!

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Hard to believe, but some of the plants at the pavilion that were inundated with salt water and trash by Irma are green and blooming after looking completely dead for a few weeks. Way to go, plumbago, dwarf ruellia, and spider lilies!