

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

June 2018

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Mon. June 4, 10 am –National Garden Week observance, Bring flower arrangements to City Hall for photo op with the mayor. Then we will deliver to various sites. Lunch afterwards!

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (Mondays, all at 10am): June 4, June 18, -- Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a plastic bag.

Weds., June 6, 10-11am – “Lawn Problems”, Yulee Satellite Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd).

Weds. June 13, 8:45 am --- Field trip to our member Bill’s vegetable garden, meet at the old K mart (other end of Publix shopping center) to carpool.

Coastal Wildscapes events -- Register on Coastal Wildscapes website: www.coastalwildscapes.org

Sapelo Island trip – Tues. June 12, 8am-2:30pm. \$30

Lunch and learn “Birds of Prey”, Sat. June 16, 11am-1pm, Unitarian Church, 1710 Gloucester St., Brunswick, \$25.

Announcements

Christmas in July – Bring your items to the June meeting and give them to Joan. Suggested items include: body wash, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, talcum powder, hand cream, face cream, deodorant, combs and brushes, nail polish/remover, cotton balls, tissues, either purse size or regular size, mouthwash, lip balm. This is a wonderful project that helps people in our own community.

Plant Sale – Start growing plants for the plant sale in October. Lots of plants can be started by taking cuttings now and sticking them in a pot of dirt. Keep watered and in the shade. Even though they may look like they have died, wait a few weeks to throw them out. Often new growth will start after you think they are dead.

Garden to-dos for June

Plant melampodium, pentas, portulaca, purslane, salvia, zinnia, lantana, buddleia, daylily, verbena, coneflower, plumbago, sun coleus. Plant bulbs like agapanthus, blackberry lily, clivia, achimenes, crinum, iris. Plant eggplant, okra, southern peas, and sweet potatoes. Watch for pests like grasshoppers or slugs who chew holes in the plants, aphids, other pests. Laugh maniacally as you handpick and execute the giant grasshoppers. If ants are running wild on your trees or shrubs, they may be farming aphids. Malathion will take care of both the farmers and the livestock. Some things like gingers, clerodendrum, and caladiums have still not come back. Keep watching for the latecomers. Deadhead, deadhead, deadhead. Fertilize most plants monthly. Keep mulch at least 1-2 inches away from the crowns of plants. It should be 2 inches deep, no more.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

A friend recently gave me a crinum lily. Where should I plant it and how should I take care of it?

Don’t wanna be cryin’ about my crinum

Dear Don’t,

Crinums are so easy to grow, they should be illegal. They grow all over the south in abandoned lots and cemeteries with no care at all. They are the carp of the plant world – they never die of natural causes. Plant in full sun to part shade in well drained soil. Plant them where you want them to stay, because they may take a few years in a new place to flower. The older they get and the more crowded they become, the better they flower. If they get so crowded you need to divide them, do it in late fall. If you fertilize, do it in the spring. Flowers have a scent that is more pronounced in the evening. The flowers are showy when in bloom but after that the plant adds a nice structural element to the garden with its big straplike leaves. Some flowers are pink, some are white (St. Christopher lilies), and some are white with a reddish stripe down the middle of the petals (milk and wine lilies). No southern garden is complete without a crinum, and it will reward you with blooms for many years.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Hydrangeas are in full bloom!