

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## December 2018

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

**Tues., Dec. 11, 7pm -- Wild Nite – “Right Whales”**, Katie Jackson, Florida Wildlife Commission, Peck Center, 516 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina.

### **No extension events in December, but enough holiday events to keep you in the Christmas spirit all month!**

**Sat. Dec. 15 – Plum Orchard Holiday tour** – Ferry leaves at 11:45 am, tour is from 1:30-3:30pm. Reservations required. Call 877-860-6787, ask for Plum Orchard tour. Cost is \$10 plus \$10 park entry fee, PLUS cost of the ferry (\$28 plus tax).

**Sat., Dec. 1 – 12-8 pm – Christmas in the Park**, Gilman Park. Fun for the kids!

**Tues. Dec. 11– Live Nativity at Orange Hall. Performances at 7 and 7:30 pm.**

**Sat., Dec. 15, 12-4pm – Santa’s Helper Holiday Bazaar**, St. Marys Welcome Center (corner of Osborne and Conyers). 16 vendors.

**Thurs. Dec. 20, 6 pm., Candlelight Stroll and Caroling.** Meet at Orange Hall and walk to waterfront.

### **Announcements**

**Our Garden Club Christmas lunch is Tuesday, December 11 at Creative Catering in Woodbine.** If you have signed up, meet at the old K mart at **10:45** to carpool (at the end of the Publix shopping center). We will leave promptly at 11. Lunch begins at 11:30.

### **Garden to-dos for December**

Late December is the time to transplant plants if the weather has turned cold. Keep them well watered for the next few months. If it is still warm, wait till they go dormant before moving them. Annuals for winter are carnations, digitalis, pansies, petunias, dianthus, and snapdragons. Plant vegetables such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, green peas, onions, and radishes. Water plants during dry spells, especially if it is cold and windy. Purchase frost blankets or round up the old sheets and be prepared to mulch and cover tender plants for winter protection. Spanish moss makes a good protective mulch for plants. After the holidays, plant poinsettias outside, but protect from freezing.

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

**Dear Garden Maven,**

How do I go about growing herbs indoors in the winter? I’ve never had much luck.

**Skeptic**

**Dear Skeptic,**

I feel your pain, I have never been able to keep them alive in the house either. Maybe I just didn’t have a sunny enough window. According to the herb growers (Bonnie Plants), you need to have a window with 6 hours of sun to get good results. Most herbs like temperatures in the 60’s and 70’s, and will take 55 degrees at night. Don’t let the leaves touch the window, or if it gets too cold they will suffer. They want to be planted in PREMIUM potting mix (not the cheap stuff) and they like to be fertilized regularly with a good indoor fertilizer like Miracle Gro indoor plant food. Bonnie recommends chives, lemon balm, marjoram, mint, oregano, parsley, rosemary (I think rosemary does better outdoors in our climate), sage, and thyme. They do admit that even with all your efforts, herbs grown indoors will be leggier and more spindly than those grown outside, but that you will still have enough to clip and use for cooking. Good luck with your herbs!

**The Maven**

**Plant Hero of the Month:** My Yesterday Today and Tomorrow is blooming, Confederate Rose, Cape Honeysuckle, and lots of other things are going strong. My drift roses are looking happy and bright.