

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## April 2021

### **Dates and Events** -- free unless noted.

#### **NOGS Tour in Savannah cancelled for 2021, but ...**

**Sat., April 24, 10 am - 4pm --Cassina Garden Club** is having its Garden Tour of 8 private gardens on St. Simons. They also have a plant sale, plus tours of the historic cabins and Demere Park Butterfly garden. Tickets (\$30 in advance, \$35 day of) are available online at Cassina Garden Club website. 1195 Arthur J. Moore Drive, St. Simons.

**Sat. Apr. 17, 9am – 1pm. Coastal Wildscapes Spring Native Plant Sale.** 1712 Bond Rd., Darien. Go to website to register. It is unclear if they are charging admission or not.

**Wild Amelia Wild Nite – Tues. Apr. 13, 7pm.** *“Right Whale Update”*. They will have the zoom codes on the website closer to the date.

#### **Camden County Extension (Jessica Warren) zoom programs:**

Register at [uge3039@uga.edu](mailto:uge3039@uga.edu) Phone 912-576-3219

**Weds. Apr. 7, 12 – 1pm.** *“Composting at Home”*

**Fri. Apr. 9, 12-1pm.** *“Lunch & Learn, Slime Molds, Bark Lice, and other Landscape Oddities”*. I think I’ll skip the lunch that day....

**Weds., Apr. 21, 12 – 1 pm.** *“Mulching in the Landscape”*

**Garden to-dos for April** Deadhead cool season annuals. Pick up old camellia and azalea blooms and discard to prevent blight. Clean up cold damaged plants, gingers can be cut back to the ground. Cut back those deciduous vines that have held onto their leaves all winter so they can put out some new growth. Plant bulbs like agapanthus, caladiums, amaryllis, begonias, crinum, rain lilies. Reshape perennials. Fertilize citrus. Plant single (not double) zinnias to feed monarchs. Prune azaleas after they bloom.

### **Announcements**

Our plant sale is in June. Spring is the time to divide perennials, so as you do so, please pot up a few for the sale.

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

#### ***Dear Garden Maven:***

How do I care for my Red Sister Cordyline? It looks a little rough after the winter and the bare stems remind me of clunky flamingos....

#### ***Like a Red Headed Stepchild***

#### ***Dear Red,***

Red Sister took a beating last winter. Lots of brown and crispy leaves. When the new growth is just starting (about now) cut off the damaged leaves except for the ones at the very top of the plant. Once new leaves start above them, you can cut them off. The stems that are too long can be cut back to 6 inches above the ground. These will form new shoots just below the cut. If you cut them down almost to the ground, they will send up multiple shoots. You can cut the stems you have removed into segments about a foot long, stick them in the ground in the shade, keep them watered, and most of them will make new plants that you can plant around the original plants. If you have multiple stems on one plant that are too tall, you can cut half of them back this year, and the other half next year. It is challenging to get them to give a bushy look, rather than a gangly one, so keep at it. It may take several years to get the patch looking good. They want to be 4-6 feet tall, and in ideal conditions will flower in early summer. Fertilize every 3 months with slow release fertilizer and don’t overwater.

#### ***The Maven***

**Plant Hero of the Month:** Azaleas and camellias are winding up their performance.