

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

May 2021

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

**Wild Nite – 7 pm Tuesday, May 11.** Environmental Democracy – Environmental rights and justice. Zoom information will be on Wild Amelia/Wild Nites website.

GA Green Landscape Stewards, **noon to 1pm (all Wednesdays).** Register at [uge3039@uga.edu](mailto:uge3039@uga.edu)

**May 5 - Welcoming Wildlife**

**May 12 – Welcoming Pollinators to Landscape**

**May 19 – Stormwater Management**

**May 26- Protecting Water Quality**

## **Announcements**

**Plant Sale** – watch for an email about a potting party early in May for plant sale plants.

## **Garden to-dos for May**

If your plants are growing too slowly and have yellow leaves, feed them. If they have too much growth and a lack of flowers, skip a feeding. Fertilize palms. Plant heat loving plants like celosia, coleus, impatiens, kalanchoe, marigolds, salvia, pentas, verbena, zinnias, coreopsis, crossandra, exacum, gaillardia, gazania, hollyhocks, nicotiana, eggplant, okra, Southern peas, herbs. You have missed the boat for tomatoes (unless you buy a big one), wait till August to plant them. Stake flowers as needed, keep them deadheaded and trimmed. Watch for pests. Keep watching for late emerging plants like gingers and caladiums. Be ruthless with things that have taken over (like ferns, assorted wandering jews, spiderwort, chenille plant, cosmos). If you haven't cut back your plumbago or roses yet, it is time to do it. Prune azaleas until the middle of July.

## **The Garden Maven's Advice to the "Floralorn"**

**Dear Garden Maven,**

One of my trees has small holes drilled in neat rows around the trunk. What dastardly varmint has perpetrated this insult to my landscape? Could it be a Chupacabra? What can I do about it, and is my tree a goner?

**Yosemite Samantha**

**Dear Samantha,**

Sufferin Succotash! You have a yellow bellied sapsucker! These cute woodpeckers have special tongues with brushes at the tip so that they can lick up the sap from the holes they drill. Other animals, birds, and insects benefit from their drilling ability, like squirrels, hummingbirds, bats, and pollinators, so they are not all bad. The holes can cause permanent damage or even kill the tree, but usually the trees are not seriously harmed. If you want to stop them from drilling, wrap the trunk with hardware cloth or burlap.

Yellow bellied sapsuckers are black and white with a red cap and yellowish belly. Males have a red throat. They are attractive birds and have special x shaped feet that help them cling to tree trunks. Besides sap, they eat insects and fruit and berries. They don't sing, but have a kind of demanding meow....

And just saying, Sam, shooting sapsuckers is prohibited by the Migratory Bird Act and other federal laws...

**The Maven**

**Plant Hero of the Month:** Gotta love that Jasmine, the whole town smells like it. And the Ligustrum in bloom always smells like spring to me.