

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## January 2020

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

**Register early for this first item! It fills up fast!** It is really worthwhile.

Rebecca Jordi, the Nassau County Extension Agent, will be again offering the *Crash Course in North Florida Gardening*. The course is given over 3 Thursdays (Feb 6, 13, and 20) from 8am-noon at the 86026 Pages Dairy Rd. location in Yulee. Cost is \$50 per person or \$75 per couple (one book per couple). Register on the Nassau County Extension website or call 904-530-6351 for more information. **Registration deadline is Jan 30.**

**Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am-2pm): Jan 27 and Feb 3** (Monday), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

**Weds. Jan. 22– 10-11:00am** – “*Fruit Tree Pruning*”, Yulee County Bldg., 86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee. Bring pruning shears and gloves.

**Tues. Jan. 14, 7 pm, Wild Amelia Wild Nite** — “*Egan’s Creek Greenway*”, Peck Center, 516 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina.

**Sat. Jan 25, 9 am – 3pm** -- \$50, in Richmond Hill. *From Canopy to Floor, Nature’s Hidden Connections*. Registration information on Coastal Wildscapes website.

### **Garden to-dos for January**

Plant flowers such as carnations, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, dianthus, foxglove. Vegetables - peas, beets, broccoli, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, radishes, turnips, and cauliflower can be planted, as well as fennel, garlic, borage, lavender, parsley, rosemary, and thyme. Don’t fertilize flowers this month. Plants need less water in winter, but if a hard freeze is predicted watering 24-48 hours in advance will help protect your at risk plants, especially citrus. Don’t do any major pruning, especially on flowering trees, but you can prune dead limbs, suckers, and crisscrossing branches. You can also transplant dormant plants, but be sure to water.

If you had a real Christmas tree, consider using it in the garden. Sink the trunk into the ground (you may need to stake it to have it stand up straight). The birds will enjoy using it for cover and in the spring you can use it as a support for vines such as morning glory, moonflower, and cypress vine. Or peas and cucumbers. Protect plants that are marginally hardy with mulch, sheets, or even cardboard stapled around the trunks of grafted trees to prevent dieback. Even just putting them on the porch will help. Spanish moss is a great (and free) insulator. You can use Christmas lights under a cover to help keep very delicate plants warm.

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

Well, it’s January, and time for some New Year’s resolutions. Garden resolutions may be a little easier to keep than the usual “Lose 30 pounds” or “walk two miles a day”. So here goes with a list of ways I vow to be a better gardener:

1. Deadhead every time I go out in the garden. Carry scissors with me for this purpose.
2. Cut back unsightly branches when I notice them, not just when I do a big pruning.
3. Fertilize regularly. Smaller amounts more frequently.
4. Prune plants at the correct time.
5. Clean up fallen foliage to prevent disease.
6. Organize and repot porch plants that need it.
7. Get rid of things that are more trouble than they are worth.
8. Plant something that I have never grown before.

### **Happy New Year from the Garden Maven!**

**Plant Hero of the Month:** Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow is in full bloom, roses are looking happy with the cool weather, and my sleeping hibiscus is still going strong! Enjoy the camellias for the next few months.