

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

October 2018

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (Monday, 10am): Oct. 1, Oct. 15, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Weds. Oct. 3 – 10-11:00am – *“Salt Tolerant Plants”*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

Weds., Oct. 17, 10-11am – *“Irrigation and Water Conservation”*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

Saturday, Oct. 20, 9am-noon– Master Gardener Plant Sale, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place.

Wild Amelia Wild Nite – Tues. Oct. 9, 7 pm – *“River Otters”*, Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina.

Thurs, Nov. 15, 11am-1pm, *“Maritime Forest Lunch and Learn”*, Cannons Point Preserve, St Simons, \$25. Register at website, coastalwildscapes.org

Announcements

October 16 (Tuesday), 5-7 pm– Scarecrow Stroll, Osborne St. We are usually between Weed St. and Stable Alley.

October 18 – Oleander District Annual Meeting, Savannah.

Fig Leaf – Start collecting personal care items and underwear, sweatpants, t-shirts, nonskid socks or slippers for Christmas distribution at the local senior care facilities. Larger sizes are needed, unused greeting cards welcome. Bring to November meeting.

Garden to-dos for October

Plant winter vegetables like beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, bulbing onions, radishes, spinach, turnips, and strawberries. Plant flowers like digitalis, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, viola, million bells, flowering kale, and Shasta daisies. Plant bulbs like agapanthus, society garlic, spider lily, gladiola, star of Bethlehem, and pineapple lily. Of course, fall is a great time to plant those perennials you have purchased at the plant sale! Don't prune spring flowering trees or bushes. Prune fall flowering shrubs just after bloom. Check grafted trees and plants and remove growth below the graft. If planting new trees, water well, don't fertilize till spring. Start keeping Christmas cactus in the dark at night to have them bloom for Christmas.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

What are some good plants for color in the cooler weather?

Can't Wait till we need a jacket

Dear Can't Wait,

Fall and winter can be fun months for gardening. The weeds slow down a little, well maybe they only grow an inch a day instead of 6 inches.... But the weather gets downright perfect, and it is a pleasure to be outside pulling weeds, planting, and deadheading. Camellias are dependable, and their glossy evergreen leaves provide a nice backdrop for other plants. Sasanquas start blooming in the fall, japonicas start later and bloom through March. Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow blooms in cooler weather, as does our Plant of the Year Cape Honeysuckle. Winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*, not Carolina jessamine) It is not easy to find around here and needs to be trained to look tidy but its leafless stems and yellow blossoms are welcome in winter. Fashion azalea blooms throughout the winter. Sweet alyssum, calendula, dianthus, sweet pea, pansies, violas, petunias, bachelors buttons (sow seeds in fall), stocks, nemesia, African daisy, dusty miller, and of course, flowering kale, cyclamen, and geraniums add color to the cool weather garden. Enjoy your garden during the nicest part of the year!

Plant Hero of the Month: Cassia is blooming bright yellow, and firespikes are blooming red, and my gorgeous blue ginger is brightening up the landscape!