

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

July 2019

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinic—Monday, July 8, July 22, 10 am-2 pm -- Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)
Bring your sick plants in a plastic bag.

Weds., July 10, 10-11 am – “Native Plants of Florida”, Yulee Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd).

Weds. July 24, 10-11 am – “Orchids”, Yulee Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.). Purchase an orchid for \$5 to take home (supplies limited, cash or check).

Thurs. July 11, 6-8 pm, Ritz Theatre in Brunswick. “Secrets of the Longleaf Pine”, Film and Cocktails, \$20, register online on Coastal Wildscapes website.

Announcements

Plant Sale – Keep potting those plants for the plant sale in October. Lots of plants can be started from cuttings just by sticking them in a pot of dirt and keeping it watered in the shade (See this month’s ***Garden Maven***).

Garden to-dos for July

Keep flowers watered, deadheaded, and clipped back or pinched back when they need it. If you can reach them, clip off the seed heads on your crape myrtles to encourage bloom through September. Make sure your plants are mulched to keep the soil temperature cooler. Water containers every day if there is no rain.

Plant annuals such as celosia, coleus, crossandra, impatiens, kalanchoe, nicotiana, ornamental peppers, portulaca, torenia, salvia. Also plant lima beans, eggplant, okra, Southern peas, peppers, and watermelon.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

I’d like to start some plants for the plant sale but am not sure how to do it. What kind of plants can I start and how do I go about this?

How in Tarnation do I do Propagation?

Dear “Prop”,

It is shocking how many plants can be started from cuttings in pots of dirt in the shade. This works best with shrubs – rosemary, roses, angel trumpets, cassia trees, night blooming jasmine. Any plant that has stiff cuttings (not necessarily woody) is worth a try. Some might not work, but what have you got to lose? I have started the plants above from cuttings, as well as tree ivy (fatshedera), Philippine violet, and camellias (not as much success with these, only about 10% rooted). Some people root cuttings in water (I know someone who got 7 plants from a 15 inch stem that got knocked off a shrimp plant), but this has not been as successful for me as just sticking the cuttings in a pot of dirt. The key is to keep them in the shade and well watered. Give it a try when you are pruning and trimming. Put a lot of cuttings in a big pot and repot them after they are rooted well. Sometimes the leaves will drop off and you’ll think they are dead, but be patient and most of the time they will put out new leaves. Roses are especially easy to root.

Plants can also be divided. Cutting off a clump from the edge of a large perennial can yield several nice size plants. Some plants like ground covers are so enthusiastic they escape their boundaries. These out of place clumps can be potted up and allowed to fatten themselves up before the plant sale. The more unusual the plant the better! If you have a plant that you think would sell well, try to root it.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Crinums and spider lilies are blooming.