

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## August 2018

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

**Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am): August 5 and August 19** (Mondays), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

**Weds. Aug. 6, 10 am – 2 pm-** Plant clinic, Nantonio's Harmony Gardens, 173100 Andrews Rd., Hilliard FL.

**Thurs., August 7, 10-11am** – "Gardening with Children: Sunflowers, Beanstalks, and Worms", Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd, Yulee)

**Weds., August 21, 10-11am,** "Vegetables", Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

**(Thursdays) Aug. 29, Sept. 5, Sept. 12, 8am-12pm** – Crash Course in NE FL Gardening, Yulee County Bldg. \$50 per person, see Nassau County UF/IFAS Extension website to register online, classes fill up fast. An excellent class.

**Th. Aug. 22, 10am-12pm** – Rain Barrel workshop, \$30 includes all supplies, held at Woodbine Extension office. Register online on Camden County Extension Website. Call Kelly Hill, 912-264-7218, with questions.

### **Announcements**

**The Earth Angels** are looking for classroom helpers on an occasional basis. Contact Barbara C., Karen W. or Angel.

**Plant Sale** – Keep getting your plants ready and growing for the October sale. There is still time to root them.

### **Garden to-dos for August**

Plant coleus, blue daze, salvia, asters, begonias, melampodium, moon vine, pentas, porterweed, tithonia, verbena, black eyed susan vine, cat's whiskers. Bulbs like agapanthus, amaryllis, cannas, crinum, gladiolus, society garlic, and rain lilies can be divided and planted. Plant herbs like Mexican tarragon, mint, parsley, oregano, rosemary, and thyme. Plant tomatoes, beans, summer squash and other warm season crops early in the month so they will have time to mature. Later in the month plant cool season vegetables like broccoli, collards, bunching onions, turnips. Fertilize heavy blooming flowers. Save seeds from flowers. Let pods dry on the plant, harvest when pods begin to open. Dry inside for a few days, then put in a plastic bag or jar and store. Fertilize fig trees after harvesting. Prune dead branches on trees.

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

***Dear Garden Maven,***

My Night Blooming Jasmine is huge, about 9 feet tall and very wide. It has bloomed a lot and still has quite a few flowers on it. The hummingbirds love it and it smells so good at night when it blooms. However, to my horror, lots of the stems and leaves have some yucky looking pure white stuff on it. In some places it looks like rice, in others, like white mold. It seems to be moving onto other bushes in the bed. What is this nasty stuff and what do I do to save my shrub? I am really attached to it.

***Saddened by my moldy jasmine***

***Dear Saddened,***

That yucky stuff is mealybugs. Depending on how extensive the infestation is, you may get away with using a strong stream of water to dislodge them. Use insecticidal soap on the more determined ones. For a severe infestation, cut the plant way back (it will grow back) and spray with water, then insecticidal soap. You can also use neem oil, but during the heat of the summer spray it around sundown. Keep checking and respraying for a few weeks or more.

***The Maven***

**Plant Hero of the Month:** Gingers of all sorts are blooming. White butterfly ginger perfuming the air, hidden ginger with its pink tropical looking flowers, corkscrew ginger with its little orange knob, peacock ginger with its variegated leaves and lavender flowers, Siam tulip buds showing themselves and pine cone ginger coming out of the ground. Blue ginger yet to come!