

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

May 2020

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

I Got Nuthin. But my yard continues to look better each day.

Announcements

Tues, May 12, 9am – Work party at Christ Episcopal Church (on Wheeler St.). Lots of projects so we can stay 6 ft. or more apart. Bring rakes, clippers, tarps, bug spray, water, weeders, etc .

Christmas in July – Bring your items to our next meeting and give them to Joan. Suggested items include: body wash, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, talcum powder, hand cream, face cream, deodorant, combs and brushes, nail polish/remover, cotton balls, tissues, either purse size or regular size, mouthwash, lip balm. This is a wonderful project that helps people in our own community.

Plant Sale – Keep potting up those plants. Please send a list of what you are planting to Gail or Darlene.

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,

What kind of care do I need to give my amaryllis after it blooms?

Green Thumbed Lady

Dear Green Thumb,

After they bloom, cut the spent flowers off the top. When the stem starts to sag, cut it off to the top of the bulb. Water and fertilize it all summer. In late summer to early fall, you can thin any overcrowded beds. Plant amaryllis 12-15 inches apart with the top 1/3 of the bulb above the soil line. Plant in full sun to part shade. Amaryllis are deer resistant and easy to grow. They can bloom for up to 40 years.

The Maven

A note from the Maven about weeds.

One person's weed is another's attractive plant. Some plants that show up here as weeds are beloved and sold in garden centers in other parts of the country. Oxalis, cypress vine, violets, and spiderwort show up on their own and can take over. So be careful where you let them settle in. Hummingbirds love cypress vine with its little red morning glory type flowers, so I always let some climb a porch post. Creeping oxeye (*wedelia*) is a vine with pretty yellow daisy like flowers, but it can smother a garden overnight. So try to keep these contained in a particular area. Of course, I have not yet been successful at this. But an attractive weed is more fun to pull than an ugly one.

Some native plants that you may find growing as weeds in your yard are crossvine and Carolina blue ruellia. You may be able to transplant the crossvine (google how the leaves look) or leave some to climb a tree and bloom high up in the branches. The blue ruellia is a charming plant. I let it grow where it wants, and it blooms with one inch blue flowers among the other plants and just makes everyone look better. It has not yet taken over. (It may be plotting against me, however.) Cabbage palm also shows up in a lot of places, as do yaupon holly and beautyberry.

Plant Hero of the Month: Between the jasmine and the gardenias, the whole town is smelling wonderful! The roses are almost all in bloom, enjoying the all the rain we've had. And there seem to be a lot more hummingbirds around this year.