

## St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

### September 2021

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

**Tues. Sept. 14, 7 pm.** Wild Amelia Wild Nite virtual presentation. Not listed yet, but check Wild Amelia website early in Sept. for details.

**Sat. Sept. 18, 9am-1pm** – Fall Native Plant Sale at 1712 Bond Rd., Darien. Pre-ordering suggested. Masks required. Register at [admin@coastalwildscapes.org](mailto:admin@coastalwildscapes.org)

**Fri. Sept. 24, 12 noon-1pm.** Camden County Extension Lunch and Learn. ***“Beneficial Garden Insects”***. Register at [uge3039@uga.edu](mailto:uge3039@uga.edu)

#### **Announcements**

**Plant Sale** – Pop up plant sale from **11am-1pm on Tuesday Sept. 14** (before our regular garden club meeting ) at the Presbyterian fellowship hall. There will be the highly sought after Cassias! Bring your plants in time to set up before the sale.

**Fairy House Workshop** – **Weds. Sept. 22 from 10am-noon** at Christ Episcopal on Wheeler St. It will be in the fellowship hall at the back of the church (parking lot is off Conyers St). Bring masks, glue guns, nut shells, pine cones, acorns, lichens, ball moss, pods, small sea shells, anything an enterprising and creative fairy would use to decorate her home.

#### **Garden to-dos for September**

Prune perennials. Plant bulbs, trees. Fertilize palms with slow release fertilizer. Most palms are deficient in potassium, so add Muriate of Potash to correct the deficiency. Apply organic matter to roses, fertilize, and prune back 1/3. This is the last month to fertilize citrus trees. Plant Marigolds, chrysanthemums, onions, basil, parsley, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, broccoli.

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

***Dear Garden Maven,***

I would love to grow night blooming jasmine. What can you tell me about this plant and how to take care of it?

***Fragrance fanatic .....***

***Dear Fanatic,***

For fragrance, night blooming jasmine (*Cestrum nocturnum*) is hard to beat. It smells like a perfume counter. It is not a jasmine, but part of the nightshade family (*Solanaceae*). It flowers up to 4 times a year, is easy to grow, and is relatively carefree. The most important thing I have learned the hard way is to give it plenty of room. The tag at the nursery (I got mine at Gore’s) said it got 4-6 feet tall. In reality, it wants to be 10 to 12 feet tall. And 8 - 10 feet wide. It doesn’t get woody, so it can’t be trained as a small tree. So I am always forced to cut it back. It likes morning sun, doesn’t need a lot of fertilizer (although mine is growing where oak leaves have been decomposing for years) and if you are going to prune it, do it after flowering. In the spring it helps to cut it back to around 3 feet and it will quickly come back. Another word of caution. It is so fragrant that planting a lot of them may overdose you and give you (and your neighbors) a headache. So start small. It is easy to propagate from cuttings and is supposed to root easily in water. It is also supposed to repel mosquitoes, since it attracts moths and bats that eat them. Another odd thing is that all night blooming jasmines flower at the same time.

***The Maven***

**Plant Hero of the Month:** The butterfly gingers are in their full glory and the passion flowers are really putting on a show. And my datura I got at the plant sale is getting ready to bloom again.