

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

June 2022

Dates and Events

National Garden Week, June 5-12. Bring your flower arrangements to City Hall on **Monday, June 6 at 10 am** for the photo op and proclamation by the mayor. Wear your garden club shirt if you have one.

Sat. June 25, 9-11am, 85831 Miner Rd., Yulee. *New Homeowner Guide to Landscape Shrub and tree workshop*, \$25. Register on Nassau County extension facebook page.

June 9, Thursday, 12 noon. Virtual Lunch and learn, *Stormwater management*. Register Camden Co. extension website.

Thurs. June 23, 9-11am or Weds. July 20, 9-11am. *Build your own Rain Barrel*. \$35 for materials. GA DNR Headquarters, Brunswick. Register on Camden County Extension website.

Announcements

Christmas in July –Bring donations for Camden House and Helping Hands food pantry to Joan at the June or July meeting. Suggested items include personal care items, new women's clothing items, diapers, nonperishable food items.

Garden to-dos for June

Plant melampodium, pentas, portulaca, purslane, salvia, zinnia, lantana, buddleia, daylily, verbena, coneflower, plumbago, sun coleus. Plant bulbs like agapanthus, blackberry lily, clivia, achimenes, crinum, iris. Plant eggplant, okra, southern peas, and sweet potatoes.

Watch for pests like grasshoppers or slugs who chew holes in the plants, aphids, other pests. Laugh maniacally as you handpick and execute the giant grasshoppers. If ants are running wild on your trees or shrubs, they may be farming aphids. Malathion will take care of both the farmers and the livestock. Some things like gingers, clerodendrum, and caladiums have still not come back. Keep watching for the latecomers. Deadhead, deadhead, deadhead. Fertilize most plants monthly. Keep mulch at least 1-2 inches away from the crowns of plants. It should be 2 inches deep, no more.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the "Floralorn"

Just a few words about the passing of our longtime member and dear friend, Frances. Her contributions to our club and community and to us personally will not be forgotten. She was never too busy to spend time with her friends or to give advice and help when asked. Every time I prune bushes, the "Pruning Princess" is on my shoulder and I ask "What would Frances do?" If Frances organized something, she did it to the fullest and left no detail to chance. She took Arbor Day from a half hour ceremony for our club alone to a city event with multiple organizations participating. It won't be the same next year without her. She was a true Southern Lady, with style and grace and most important, kindness. We miss you Frances.

The Maven

No questions this month, just a couple of musings –

Magnolia leaves! How can such a beautiful tree be such an annoyance? The leaves are so big and are all over my shade garden again after I picked them by hand last month. Raking pulls up the plants. Maybe a stick with a nail on the end?

Two plants never to allow in the garden no matter how much they beg (unless in a strong pot): Asiatic jasmine (the kind with the little veins, used as a ground cover). This buzzard will climb your trees and travel underground to invade your flower beds. A few years and you will curse the day you planted it.

Asparagus fern (also called artillery fern because it shoots up to 6 ft tall (and also artillery may be the only way to get rid of it). It is a noxious weed in Florida. It gets everywhere and I have had to dig out 3 bushes completely to rid myself of this nasty plant. Drought doesn't kill it, it comes back, it has thorns, and isn't easy to pull. If you have one keep it in a pot away from your flower beds and cut the berries off before they seed themselves.

Plant Hero of the Month: Catch Eloise's pink crinums blooming their fool heads off at the Presbyterian!