

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

August 2022

Dates and Events – Free unless noted

Coastal Wildscapes events – register on website

Thurs. August 11, 10-11:30am, Marine Extension, Brunswick. *Pollinator Friendly Landscapes*, \$10 non member.

Thurs. August 28, 3pm, Ashantilly. *Janisse Ray lecture and book signing*. \$20.

Camden County Extension events – Register on their website.

Thurs, Aug. 11, 12-1pm – Virtual lunch and learn, “*Ode to the Opossum*”

Tues, Aug. 16, 10am-noon – “*Build your own Rain Barrel*”, \$35.

August 19-20. Pollinator census. Go to Great Georgia Pollinator Census website and download count form.

Announcements

Christmas in July has been changed to Christmas at Christmas, due to July meeting being cancelled. Hold onto your items and give to Joan in November.

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 poor rosemary plant is looking sad, long branches, a sickly shade of green, not very bushy. Can it be revived?

Love may grow where Rosemary goes, but it isn’t doing mine much good

Dear Love,

Well, I have learned a lot from my crack research team about this one. Rosemary likes full sun, and does not grow well in the shade. So not enough sun may be your problem. Like most plants it will get leggy if it needs more light. It demands good drainage and is drought resistant. Yellow leaves can result from root rot (poor drainage, too much water) or too much nitrogen. Our humidity can give it fungus diseases. Usually, to rejuvenate a plant, I would cut it way back, maybe to a foot from the ground. But rosemary will not grow new growth from the woody parts of the plant. They love a lot of tip pruning, so the more you clip for cooking the better. Give it a hard pruning once a year in early spring or summer. It requires pruning to look good. Never cut into the woody part of the plant. Cut the new growth (soft stem) down to a couple of inches above the wood. It also prefers poorer soil with a good portion of sand or grit. If you need to fertilize, make it light and just in early spring. Like most herbs, if the soil is too rich, it loses smell and taste. Fortunately, rosemary usually has few problems with disease or insects. Give it a hard pruning (not in the fall) and see if it greens up and gets bushier. (If you have root rot or funguses, it is easier to just pull the plug and dig the poor doomed plant up.) If pruning doesn’t help, start over in a sunnier location with a new plant and make sure you keep a good pruning schedule.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Passionflowers are going crazy growing and blooming themselves silly. They have taken over 2 shepherd crooks and the gulf fritillaries and zebra longwings can’t get enough of them.