

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## March 2019

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

**Sat. March 2, 9am-noon, Nassau Extension Weed Wrangle** – Help remove invasive species at John Muir Ecological Park. Call 904-530-6353 for more information, register on website.

**Nassau Extension Plant Clinic (10am-2pm): March 4, 18, April 1** (Monday), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

**Weds. March 6, 10am-11am, “Bluebirds”**, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bluebird houses available for purchase (\$20, cash or check only).

**Tues. Mar. 12, 7 pm, Wild Amelia Wild Nite** — “*Role of Marine Laboratories, Whitney Lab*”, Peck Center, 516 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina Beach.

**Sat. March 16, 10am-8pm** - Jazz ‘n Art, Woodbine Riverwalk. Bring bug spray.

**Weds. March 20, 10am-11am, “Hummingbirds”**, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)

**Sat. March 30, 10am-1pm (members only 9-10)** – Spring Native Plant Sale, Ashantilly, 15591 Hwy 99, Darien.

**March 13, April 25** in person workshops –*Camden Co. Extension Invasive Plant Class*, \$40 for online and in person class. Call 912-576-3219 for more information.

### **Garden to-dos for March**

Frost date is March 15. After that day, clean up dead vegetation and prune and cut back to your heart’s content. (Except for things that will be blooming in spring or early summer). Fertilize citrus and loquats with citrus fertilizer. Fertilize tea olive with acid loving plant fertilizer. Prune and fertilize azaleas after blooming. You can prune azaleas until the middle of July. Plant tomatoes and most anything else you can find. Don’t yank out things that look dead, cut back but give them a chance. **THEY WANT TO LIVE!!!**

### **Announcements**

Start growing your plants for the plant sale. When cleaning up your yard, clip 4- 6 inch tips from the newly sprouting branches and stick in a pot with dirt in it. Keep in the shade where it will get watered. Don’t give up if they drop their leaves. Sometimes they do this before sprouting new growth.

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

*Dear Garden Maven,*

I have aphids on my camellias and yellow spots on some of the leaves. What should I do?

*My Camellias are playing “Camille”*

*Dear Camille,*

Aphids target the soft new growth on camellias. Leaves will come out curly or crinkly after they have been fed upon by them. They also create sooty mold with their honeydew. Before using insecticides, try spraying the aphids with a strong stream of water. If this fails to dislodge them, use insecticidal soap (not when the sun is on the leaves). Other solutions: a square of aluminum foil around the bottom of the plant, burying shredded banana peels around it, planting garlic nearby, spraying with 1/3 white vinegar, 2/3 water solution, and for fans of mobster movies, squashing some aphids and leaving the bodies as a warning for the others. The yellow spots and splotches on the leaves are probably tea scale. Check under the leaves for brown and white specks. For a natural remedy, pick off the splotchy leaves, bag them, and throw them out. Then spray with horticultural oil (2% solution). Spray the top and bottom of the leaves, twigs, and stems in the evening when the temperature is 45-90 degrees and no rain is forecast for the next 24 hours. If this fails, go to a systemic insecticide like acephate or imidacloprid.

*The Maven*

**Plant Hero of the Month:** Check out the Orange Hall azaleas when they start blooming. Our garden club members recently cut back the vines and other growth that hid them.