

St. Marys Garden Club Newsletter

January 2022

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Savannah Botanical Garden – Saturdays (except Dec. 25, Jan 1, and Feb 12) now through February, 10:30 am, guided tours of the camellia garden. Meet at the camellia garden at the green bridge. Donations appreciated. **1388 Eisenhower Dr. ,Savannah. *This is not the Coastal GA Botanical Garden that we visited a few years ago.***

Camden Co. UGA Extension Lunch and Learn Series—2nd Tuesday of each month, 12-1pm. To get the registration link go to uge3039@uga.edu . January's topic is seed saving, other topics: native plants, wildlife, azaleas, herbs, stormwater, invasive plants, possums, composting, palms, sago palms, citrus issues. Jessica Warren will be doing this, so you know it will be good!

Wild Amelia Wild Nite – Tues., Jan. 11, 7pm. Monarch Butterflies. Go to the Wild Amelia website a few days before the presentation to get the link for the zoom.

Garden to-dos for January

Plant flowers such as carnations, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, dianthus, foxglove. Vegetables - peas, beets, broccoli, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, radishes, turnips, and cauliflower can be planted, as well as fennel, garlic, borage, lavender, parsley, rosemary, and thyme. Don't fertilize flowers this month. Plants need less water in winter, but if a hard freeze is predicted watering 24-48 hours in advance will help protect your at risk plants, especially citrus. Don't do any major pruning, especially on flowering trees, but you can prune dead limbs, suckers, and crisscrossing branches. You can also transplant dormant plants, but be sure to water.

If you had a real Christmas tree, use it in the garden. Sink the trunk into the ground (you may need to stake it to have it stand up straight). The birds will enjoy using it for cover and in the spring you can use it as a support for vines such as morning glory, moonflower, and cypress vine. Or peas and cucumbers. Protect plants that are marginally hardy with mulch, sheets, or even cardboard stapled around the trunks of grafted trees to prevent dieback. Even just putting them on the porch will help. Spanish moss is a great (and free) insulator. You can use Christmas lights under a cover to help keep very delicate plants warm.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the "Floralorn"

New Years Resolution time!

Last year's resolutions:

Deadhead every time I go out in the garden. Carry scissors with me for this purpose.

Cut back unsightly branches when I notice them, not just when I do a big pruning.

Fertilize regularly. Smaller amounts more frequently.

Prune plants at the correct time.

Clean up fallen foliage to prevent disease.

Organize and repot porch plants that need it.

Get rid of things that are more trouble than they are worth.

Plant something that I have never grown before.

This year I've added a couple:

Don't try to grow things that are pushing the hardiness/heat tolerant limits. It only leads to heartache....

Get rid of invasives, unless I like them a lot (Mexican petunias and a few others), then corral them.

Keep a garden journal of when things are blooming, when I planted something, fertilizing schedule, etc.

Add more plants for butterflies, birds, and pollinators. And mulch more often!

Happy New Year from the Maven!

Plant Hero of the Month:

Camellias are blooming early this year, as are some of the azaleas. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow is going strong, and bolivian sunset is brightening the garden with its orange blooms.

