

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

May 2019

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics, Monday, May 6, May 20, 10am-2pm-- Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)
Bring your sick plants in a plastic bag.

Weds., May 1, 10-11am – “Snakes”, Yulee Satellite Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.).

Sat., May 11, 9am-noon, Master Gardener Plant Sale, Demo Garden, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place.
Plant Clinic will also be held at the sale.

Thurs., May 16, 10-11am – “Palm Trees”, Demonstration Garden, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee.

Weds. May 22, 7pm. “Vines, Native and Invasive” by Rebecca Jordi, Peck Ctr., 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina.

Tues., May 14, 7pm, Wild Amelia Wild Nites, “Sustainable Seafood”, Peck Ctr. Auditorium, 516 S. 10th St.,
Fernandina.

Sat., May 11, 10am-2pm – Habitat Certification Brunch and Learn at Crooked River State Park. \$25 non member. Go
to Coastal Wildscapes website, click on “Events”, then click “register” for the event or call 912-289-7736.

Sat. May 4, 9am-2pm – Rose Festival, Plant, rose, and daylily sale, by Savannah GC Council. At Savannah Botanical
Garden, 1388 Eisenhower Drive, Savannah. Call 912-346-4770. Free admission and parking.

Announcements

Christmas in July – Bring your items to any meeting and give them to Joan. Suggested items include: body wash,
shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, talcum powder, hand cream, face cream, deodorant, combs and
brushes, nail polish/remover, cotton balls, tissues, either purse size or regular size, mouthwash, lip balm. This is a
wonderful project that helps people in our own community.

Garden to-dos for May

If your plants are growing too slowly and have yellow leaves, feed them. If they have too much growth and a lack of
flowers, skip a feeding. Fertilize palms. Plant heat loving plants like celosia, coleus, impatiens, kalanchoe,
marigolds, salvia, pentas, verbena, zinnias, coreopsis, crossandra, exacum, gaillardia, gazania, hollyhocks, nicotiana,
eggplant, okra, Southern peas, herbs. You have missed the boat for tomatoes (unless you buy a big one), wait till
August to plant them. Stake flowers as needed, keep them deadheaded and trimmed. Watch for pests. Keep
watching for late emerging plants like gingers and caladiums. Be ruthless with things that have taken over (like
ferns, assorted wandering jews, spiderwort, chenille plant, cosmos). If you haven't cut back your plumbago or roses
yet, it is time to do it. Prune azaleas until the middle of July.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

I keep seeing large beautiful bushes with giant hanging trumpet flowers. What are they and how do I grow them?

Trumpet Lover

Dear Trumpet,

The ones that hang down are Brugmansia, “Angel's trumpet.” They are a woody shrub that gets 6-8 feet tall and
blooms several times a year with huge white, yellow, pink, peach, or orange flowers. The ones that face upward are
the smaller Datura, “Devil's trumpet”. Both are extremely poisonous, inducing hallucinations, convulsions, a zombie
state, coma, and death. Don't prune it without gloves and rub your eyes or eat a sandwich, it is THAT toxic. Some
people even suggest not getting too close to the flower to smell the evening fragrance. I've had no luck with Datura,
but Angel trumpets are easy to grow and unless you have pets or kids that snack on the landscaping, it is a beautiful
plant to have in your yard. They root easily from a cutting from a friend stuck in a pot and kept watered in the
shade. They like sun with afternoon shade and acid soil. So if azaleas and camellias do well in your yard, they will
also. Supposedly they like a lot of water (but good drainage) and fertilizer, but I have had one in an area that gets
hardly any water for years and it blooms. And I only fertilize a couple of times a year with Milorganite rather than
the recommended weekly fertilizing with bloom booster or non-slow release fertilizer. Some years it will die back to
the ground, but it will come back. The plant will not bloom until the branches form a “Y”. When pruning, keep 6-10
nodes on the branches above the “Y” for future blooms. **The Maven**

Plant Hero of the Month: Jasmine is making the whole town smell like spring!