

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## October 2019

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

**Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (Monday, 10am): Oct. 7, Oct. 21**, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

**Weds. Oct. 2 – 10-11:00am** – *“Native Pollinators”*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

**Weds., Oct. 16, 10-11am** – *“Attracting Butterflies – Larval Host Plants”*, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.)

**Saturday, Oct. 19, 9am-noon**– Master Gardener Plant Sale, Yulee Govt. Complex, 96135 Nassau Place.

**Wild Amelia Wild Nite – Tues. Oct. 8, 7 pm** – *“Environmental Effects of Pollution on Sharks and Fish”*, Peck Center, 516 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Fernandina.

**Tues., Oct. 15 --Oleander District Annual Meeting-** Held at New Ebenezer Retreat Center, Rincon, GA. Registration deadline is Oct. 8. Registration form on Oleander District website. \$30.

### Announcements

**Cookbooks are here! If you haven't bought yours yet, we will be selling them at the festival (\$15 plus tax).**

**Sat., Oct. 5 – Plant sale at Rock Shrimp Festival.**

**October 20 (Sunday), 1 – 5 pm**– Scarecrow Stroll, Osborne St. We are usually between Weed St. and Stable Alley.

**Fig Leaf** – Start collecting personal care items and underwear, sweatpants, t-shirts, nonskid socks or slippers for Christmas distribution at the local senior care facilities. Larger sizes are needed, unused greeting cards welcome.

### Garden to-dos for October

Plant winter vegetables like beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, bulbing onions, radishes, spinach, turnips, and strawberries. Plant flowers like digitalis, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, viola, million bells, flowering kale, and Shasta daisies. Plant bulbs like agapanthus, society garlic, spider lily, gladiola, star of Bethlehem, and pineapple lily. Of course, fall is a great time to plant those perennials you have purchased at the plant sale! Don't prune spring flowering trees or bushes. Prune fall flowering shrubs just after bloom. Check grafted trees and plants and remove growth below the graft. If planting new trees, water well, don't fertilize till spring. Start keeping Christmas cactus in the dark at night to have them bloom for Christmas.

### The Garden Maven's Advice to the “Floralorn”

*Dear Garden Maven,*

I saw in the paper that the Crinum lily is our Plant of the Day at the plant sale. Why should I buy one?

*Should I buy one?*

*Dear Undecided Buyer,*

Well, for starters, every southern garden is required by law to have one. Just kidding, but the crinum is THE ultimate passalong plant of the south. They show up everywhere, from formal gardens to abandoned lots. Even a holly stake through the heart will not kill them, they are immortal. Crinums are a relative of amaryllis, as you can see by the way they bloom on the 4 sides of the stem. Most varieties get around 3 feet tall, but some can be 6 feet tall. Most have an evening fragrance. They are very versatile – you can use them as a specimen planting, an accent for the corner of the house, lining the driveway, on either side of an entrance or driveway, at the center of a circular planting, or as a backdrop for other plants. Because they tolerate heavy moisture, they can be used in rain gardens or at the edge of a pond. The leaves are attractive when not in bloom, and they are drought resistant. The leaves may or may not die back in the winter, but the plant itself is extremely long lived. Plant them in part shade or a sunny area that gets afternoon shade. Plant up to their necks, where the stem gets smaller. They like to be somewhat crowded, and may not bloom for a while after dividing, but when dividing, winter is the best time. The bulbs can get to be huge (20 lbs), so prepare to wrastle them. It took three of us to muscle a clump out of the ground to get some of the plants of the day.... So please buy at least one. Owning a crinum means never having to say you're sorry. (Unless your dog or neighbor eats it, since, like most of our garden plants, it is poisonous.)

*The Maven*

**Plant Hero of the Month:** My plumbago (the one that gets watered regularly) is looking SUPER BLUE and more florificent than it ever has!