

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

August 2021

Dates and Events – Not yet...

Announcements

Plant Sale – We will have a small plant sale from 11am-1pm on the day of our meeting in September (Sept. 14). We will not be taking part in the Rock Shrimp Festival this year.

Fairy House Workshop – Sometime in Sept., stay tuned for time and place. Start collecting acorns (might be early for these), nut shells, dried pods, lichens, tillandsia (ball moss type, we don't need Spanish moss 😊), interesting bark, small buttons, beads, or other items a fairy might find while flitting around and bring home to decorate with.

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 son gave me a phalenopsis orchid for Mothers Day, and I have repotted it in an orchid pot with special orchid soil. What else do I need to know to keep this plant alive and maybe have it bloom again? Do I cut off the stems that have bloomed already?

I Don't know nothin' about orchids, Miss Scarlett

Dear Don't Know,

I also know nothin' about orchids, so I have consulted with the highest authority, The Orchid Oracle. She advised not cutting the stems until they turn brown. If they turn brown at the top, just cut off the brown. They will bloom again sometimes. The Oracle says she doesn't feed her orchids, but if you want to feed them use a granular fertilizer. If they get bugs, use a q tip and alcohol to remove them. Don't get the leaves wet when watering, she recommends putting the plant in the sink (maybe every 2 weeks) and watering well, then letting it drain completely before putting it back in its saucer. Orchids hate wet feet. She doesn't recommend the ice cube method (3 ice cubes a week) because you can't control it easily. One interesting fact that the Oracle imparted – if the "roots" (which will come out through the holes in the pot and make it look like something from outer space) are pointed they are roots. If they are rounded at the end like a knuckle, it is a flower stem. Treat orchids like African violets. They like a sunny window (but not too much sun). If the leaves turn yellow, it is an indication of too much sun. Also, orchids have a mind of their own and some stubbornly refuse to bloom again. The Oracle suggests (and gives her blessing to) going out and buying a new orchid and letting the reluctant bloomer live out its life as a green plant. She says Publix has nice ones.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Gingers of all sorts are blooming. White butterfly ginger perfuming the air, hidden ginger with its pink tropical looking flowers, corkscrew ginger with its little orange knob, peacock ginger with its variegated leaves and lavender flowers, and pine cone ginger coming out of the ground. Blue ginger yet to come!
(Contact Judy Molnar at cjmolnar@tds.net or 882-8887 with newsletter items or questions for the Maven.)