

# St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

## March 2021

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

**Last Minute!** – Mon. March 1, 2-3pm. “Landscaping with Coastal Natives”, register for Zoom on coastal wildscapes website, events tab.

**Tues. Mar. 9, 7 pm, Wild Amelia Wild Nite** — “*St. Marys Earthkeepers*”, Zoom meeting, ID 841 2390 3939, Passcode 172992. The link is also on their facebook site (Wild Amelia).

**Camden County Extension (Agriculture and natural resources tab) virtual events:**

**Fri. Mar. 12, 12-1pm.** “*Lichens and what they mean for your Trees*”

**Mon. Mar. 15, 12-1pm.** “*GA Green Landscape Stewards*”

**Weds. April 7, 12-1pm.** “*Composting at Home*”

**Register for the three above at** [uge3039@uga.edu](mailto:uge3039@uga.edu)

**Sat. Mar. 13, 10am-12pm.** “*Rain Gardens Webinar*”. UGA Marine Extension. Register at Camden Co. Extension website, Camden ANR blog tab, click on event to register.

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

Frost date is March 15. After that day, clean up dead vegetation 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”**

Lots of questions this month.... So for the first (probably last) time, I am going to two pages....

**Dear Garden Maven,**

How do I care for hibiscus?

**Playful gardener**

**Dear Playful,**

Hibiscus should be grown in full sun (5-6 hours) or part shade. Too much intense sun (like 12 hours) or too much shade will cause the leaves to turn yellow. They prefer slightly acid soil and are heavy feeders. Fertilize the whole root area out to the drip line. They like to have soil that is moist but not wet all the time. When blooming they need to be well watered. (But the leaves will turn yellow if you give them too much.)

Pruning will make them want to flower more. In spring cut back about 1/3 just above the node. You can also prune in summer or early fall. Deadhead during the growing season.

**The Maven**

**Dear Garden Maven,**

How do I prune my Drift roses?

**Rosebud**

**Dear Rosebud,**

Drift roses do not have to be pruned, but they like it when they are. Prune in the spring just as the shoots are starting to come out. Valentines day is the usual rose pruning time in our area. Fertilize after pruning. Because they have such a long blooming season here and usually don't go totally dormant, you may want to conservatively prune them. Cut out the dead, diseased, or crossing stems, as well as any stems that spoil the shape (Coral Drift gets what I call cowlicks that stick out way too far). After the first blooms, deadhead and cut back the flowering stems by 1/3. For more drastic pruning, cut back by 2/3 to about 6 inches from the ground in early spring. They will forgive you anything.

**The Maven**

***Dear Garden Maven,***

I notice you never talk about vegetables. How about it?

***Veggie Lover***

***Dear Veggie Lover,***

I love them too, if teardrops were tomatoes, I'd be swimming in tomato sauce... I have written about my sad and disastrous southern vegetable gardening experiences before. Unfortunately, I have only been successful with jalapeno peppers and basil and a few cherry tomatoes that I don't even like to eat. And to get a big bag of jalapenos when you only use about 6 a year is not helpful. It is so embarrassing and an insult to my mavenhood. This year I am going to try some cucumbers again and hope that my abysmal luck has changed .

That being said, the perpetual vegetable bridesmaid (although I used to grow them up north) will venture forth with some advice:

Frost date is March 15. It is like May 15 up north, you can plant any summer vegetables with confidence.

Give them enough space between plants to handle the humidity so they don't get fungus.

Give them enough sun.

Add some things to make the dirt better – black know, peat moss, etc.

Make sure they get enough water, and fertilize with a fertilizer for vegetables.

Check every day for bugs, fungus, and animal damage.

Some people swear by growing in 5 gallon buckets.

If it doesn't work, switch to growing collard greens and cabbage in the winter. People seem to be pretty successful with those.

Good luck!

***The Maven***