

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

April 2022

Dates and Events -- free unless noted. Lots of fun Stuff this Month!

Sat. Apr. 9, 9am – 1pm. Coastal Wildscapes Spring Native Plant Sale. 1712 Bond Rd., Darien.

Wild Amelia Wild Nite – Tues. Apr. 12, 7pm. “Coyotes”. They will more information on the Wild Amelia/Wildnites website closer to the date.

NOGS Tour in Savannah sold out for this year but ... limited number of shortened walking tour tickets available Fri. April 22 and Sat. April 23 for **1-4 pm that day only** for \$40. Available noon-2pm at Green Meldrim house, Madison square. Next year’s tickets available in November.

Sat., April 30, 10 am - 4pm --Cassina Garden Club is having its Garden Tour of 8 private gardens on St. Simons. They also have a plant sale, plus tours of the historic cabins. Tickets (\$30 in advance, \$35 day of) are available online at Cassina Garden Club website. 1195 Arthur J. Moore Drive, St. Simons.

Sat. April 30, 9:30-10:30 pm. “A Night with Moths”, Altama Plantation, register at Coastal Wildscapes website.

Camden County Extension (Jessica Warren) zoom programs - Register at uge3039@uga.edu Ph 912-576-3219:

Thurs. Apr. 14, 12 – 1pm. “Azaleas: Issues and Care”

Nassau County Extension Landscape Matters Programs - Register at Nassau County Extension Facebook page:

Weds. April 13, Plant Propagation, 10 am-11am, 86026 Pages Dairy Rd, Yulee. Free to attend, \$5 for activity.

Sat. April 23, 9 am-noon. “Lawn Workshop for new gardeners” \$25.

Weds. April 27, 10 am – 11 am, Webinar. “Florida’s Snakes”.

Garden to-dos for April Deadhead cool season annuals. Pick up old camellia and azalea blooms and discard to prevent blight. Clean up cold damaged plants, gingers can be cut back to the ground. Cut back those deciduous vines that have held onto their leaves all winter so they can put out some new growth. Plant bulbs like agapanthus, caladiums, amaryllis, begonias, crinum, rain lilies. Reshape perennials. Fertilize citrus. Plant single (not double) zinnias to feed monarchs. Prune azaleas after they bloom until mid July.

Announcements

Our plant sale is in May 21, and Angel is leading us in this project. Spring is the time to divide perennials, so as you do so, please pot up a few for the sale.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven:

I am looking for some very low maintenance plants for shade or partial shade. They will be under my windows so can’t be too large. I am getting lazier by the day and don’t want to do a lot of clipping, pruning, fertilizing, or hand wringing. What can I plant to make my life easier?

I wanna smell the roses, but I don’t wanna have to spray them

Dear Wanna,

Three things come to mind that are easier than silk flowers: Cast iron, holly fern, and coontie palm.

Cast iron isn’t called that for nothing. When leaves die, just pull them out. Very few weeds can thrive in a bed of cast iron. The most work it will take is clipping an occasional brown end of a leaf or digging some out when it spreads itself out too much. But for the most part, it doesn’t need fertilizer, lots of water, or even any love from you. If the plant world has a masochist, cast iron is it. Although, it doesn’t like suffering in the sun and will look ratty, but will still not die.

Holly fern is shiny, shapely, and a lovely shade of green. It is also one of the easiest things to grow in our zone. It only gets 2 ½ - 3 feet tall so it will not block your windows. The leaves at the bottom are the ones that die first, so they are hidden by the top growth. After they are dead awhile, you can just rake or pull them off. An occasional top leaf will die and need to be cut off, but that’s about all. Doesn’t need a lot of fertilizer. Plant 3 feet apart.

Coontie palms have been around since the dinosaurs, so they know a lot about survival. They will grow in sun, shade, and everything in between. They are hard to dig up and transplant, so put them where you want them to stay. They are drought tolerant, slow growing, and undemanding. You can cut off the old leaves in the spring every few years if they get ratty. They get a new flush of leaves every year like a sago. Plant 2- 3 feet apart. Native plant, host to a rare butterfly.

Plant Hero of the Month: Azaleas and camellias are winding up their performance.