

The New Leaf

Coweta County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers Newsletter
University of Georgia Extension – Coweta County

JANUARY 2024

DIANE COOK
MGEV PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It seems odd to be writing this article for the January 2024 edition of New Leaf the week before Christmas amidst the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. How could it have sneaked up on us so quickly?

January, sweet January!!! Do not get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoy the holiday season; however, there is something to be said about the calm of January and the hope a new year brings. Once the decorations are packed away until next Christmas, everything seems to be so clean, fresh, and serene. Except, of course, for the glitter that has a knack of sticking around until sometime in March. So, if any of you have a secret glitter cleaning technique, please share it with me!!!

January, a time for reflections on the year just past, with resolutions and fresh starts for the year ahead. As for reflections on the past year, it was an amazing one for our group! From a successful Plant Propagation & Seed starting workshop, to record breaking Plant Sales, a Garden Tour, amazing BYA and Morning Glory presentations, Pollinator Census, and scholarships granted. And that is not even all our accomplishments! A round of applause is due to each of you who made 2023 such a success for our group.

I would be terribly remiss if I did not also reflect on the amazing job Patty Ellis did as President in 2023. Her organization, communication and leadership during her tenure helped our group accomplish so much. It will be very difficult indeed for me to follow Patty as president this coming year!! On behalf of everyone in our group, THANK YOU, PATTY for being such an awesome President.

Now for resolutions and fresh starts. As far as resolutions go, I have the typical ones which I dust off every year, having not quite fully accomplished them the year before. You know the ones, eat healthier, exercise more, lose weight, etc.; but what about resolutions and fresh starts as an MGEV? Here are some thoughts that I had:

- ➤ Perhaps try something new in 2023. Volunteer on a committee you haven't been involved with previously, go to workdays that you haven't participated in before. You never know what will inspire you until you give it a try!
- ➤ Get involved with the incoming group of MG volunteers. It is always so exciting when we have a new class. Get to know them, maybe even mentor one of them. Sit in on some of the classes. This will also help with your continuing education hours.
- ➤ Been thinking about something our group could do? Don't be shy. Just shoot me an email or call me so that we can explore your ideas further! The MGEV Board exists to support all our efforts, so share your thoughts and visions for our group, and we will try our best to make it happen.

I am looking forward to a fun, exciting 2024 for our wonderful group!!!



Contents

- *Message from the President*
- *MGEV Awards*
- *MGEV 2023*
- *Holiday Dinner*
- *BYA*
- *MGEV Volunteers*
- *Love It or*
- *January in the Garden*
- *January Pruning Hints*
- *What Have We Here*
- *In Memoria*
- *Spring Plant Sale*
- *Committee Chairs*

MGEV AWARDS 2023



Annual Hours

100 Hours: Cathy LeBar, Diane Cook, Patty Ellis, Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted, Barb Schwartz, Amy Sharpe, Amy Barnes, Marge Cox, Donna Dietz, Greg Emerson, Pat Farmer, Carol Fuller, Dave Granroos, Nan Van Patten, Jerry Allen, Amy Keller, Ed Atkinson, Ros Johnson, Sonjia Lambeck, Pat Lincoln, Stephanie Odom, Dale Senko, Barbara France, Audrey Harrelson, Melanie Atkinson, Deberah Williams, Denise Dasher, Melanie Landrum

250 Hours: Cathy LeBar, Patty Ellis, Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted, Barb Schwartz, Amy Sharpe, Diane Cook, Donna Dietz,

500 Hours: Cathy LeBar

750 Hours: Cathy LeBar

Cumulative Hours

500 Hours: Diane Cook, Susan Mills, Marci Moore

1000 Hours: Kim Magyar, Ed Atkinson, Kathy Olmsted, Amy Sharpe

1500 Hours: Angela Natho

2000 Hours: Pat Farmer, Cathy LeBar

2500 Hours: Dave Granroos

Years of Service

5 Years: Ed Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson, Shanna Campbell, Diane Cook, Patty Ellis, Audrey Harrelson, Mark Hess, Roslyn Johnson, Kathy Olmsted, CR Phillips, Judith Shelnett, Michael Williams, Bev Yeager

10 Years: Cathy LeBar

15 Years: Virginia Duflo, Dave Granroos

20 Years: Beverly Maddox, Angela Natho

2023

COMMITTEE CHAIRS



**Ask MG/Market Day
Backyard Association**

**Boys & Girls Club/Youth Ed.
Demonstration Garden
Education
Ext. Landscape
Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk**

**Fall Plant Sale
Finance
Fundraising
Garden Tour
Greenhouse**

**Hospitality
Communications
Nature Trail**

**Scholarship
Speakers Bureau
Spring Plant Sale
Sunshine
The New Leaf
Volunteer Awards
Volunteer Management/Support**

Harley Stewart
Melanie Landrum, Deberah Williams
Rebecca Gibson
Kathy Olmsted, Amy Keller Cathy LeBar, Paula Hyatt
Cathy LeBar
Susan Mills (library), Patty Ellis, Deberah Williams
Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted
Colleen Stephens
Diane Cook, Cathy LeBar
Diane Cook
Barbara Schwartz (lead), Cathy LeBar, Marge Cox
Colleen Stephens, Amy Sharpe
Jerry Allen
Ed Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson, Audrey Harrelson
Jennie Adcock
Dan Gentry
Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted Sara Hanson
Pat Farmer
Patty Ellis,
Patty Ellis, CR Phillips

2024 MGEV PRESIDENT – DIANE COOK



2023 MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR

DEBERAH WILLIAMS
Class of 2014



MGEV HOLIDAY DINNER



WORKER BEES



"Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour. "

- John Boswell



STEPHANIE SAYS “THANKS.”



BYA

Submitted by Lyn Matthews

In lieu of the December BYA we had our annual awards get together was a wonderful success. The room was dressed in holiday decorations. The tables were laden with fabulous food. We had the largest audience for a year end awards celebration ever.

Thanks to everyone who provided the delicious food. Each year we are together is more special than the last, this year was no exception.

We can start enjoying 2024 by attending the January BYA. Paul Pugliese, UGA County Extension Coordinator/ANR Agent, Bartow County will speak to us about the “Perils and Pitfalls of Overused Plants.”

I would also like to thank everyone who wished me a Merry Christmas during the recent Holiday Party. What a wonderful surprise. I love you all. Hope to be back at work soon. Happy New Year!



Backyard Association

A Presentation by Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers



Paul Pugliese

UGA County Extension Coordinator/
ANR Agent, Bartow County

**Tuesday,
January 9, 2024
at 7:00pm**

“Perils and Pitfalls of Overused Plants”

UGA Extension – Coweta County

255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263

(770) 254-2620 / coweta.extension@uga.edu

FREE to attend, but you must register to be entered into the drawing for door prizes.



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EXTENSION

Master Gardener Program

An Equal Opportunity,
Affirmative Action, Veteran,
Disability Institution

MGEV's VOLUNTEER

Volunteers gathered on December 1 to sort and wrap gifts at Community Christian Church for SILVER BELLS COWETA. This program serves homebound or isolated senior adults who would not otherwise experience the joy of the holiday. MGEV's Marge Cox and Amanda Nelms worked together to wrap blankets for this Holiday project. Story in a recent Newnan Times Herald Article.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW FEATURE

LOVE IT or LOVE TO HATE IT

Submitted by Dale Senko

Do you have a plant in your garden you love or a plant in your garden you love to hate? Each month we will be featuring your plant, loved, or hated, in the New Leaf. Please email your picks to: dlsenko31@gmail.com. A short description about the plant and why you love it or love to hate it would be helpful. If you have a photo, please send it as well.

Here is my pick of a plant in my garden I love to hate, Japanese anemone! It has a pretty flower blooming late in the summer. However, it won't play nice in my garden beds. It spreads like crazy and crowds out its neighbors. The best way to get rid of it is not to plant it in your garden in the first place. It spreads fast and acts as a ground cover smothering other plants. I have been pulling and digging it out of my garden for a couple of years, but it is still outsmarting me.



Anemone hupehensis – Japanese anemone

JANUARY IN THE GARDEN

- Clean, repair and organize garden tools.
- Make a garden plan for spring and summer.
- Get a soil test.
- Remove invasive non-native vines and plants such as privet, kudzu and Elaeagnus.
- Purchase native trees and shrubs which attract birds and butterflies.
- Transplant small leafless shrubs and trees when the ground is not frozen.

JANUARY PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

- **Annuals:** Remove faded blooms from plants as you notice them. This procedure (deadheading) is particularly important for pansies as these plants produce many more flowers if deadheaded regularly. Hold the plant stem with one hand while tugging on individual flowers with thumb and finger. Garden scissors can also be used to remove flowers.
- **Bulbs:** No pruning is needed at this time of year.

- **Edibles:** Prune your Muscadine grapes now, removing the long whips that grew last year. You'll prune back to the first two buds on each long stem, leaving only these to make new growth this year. It is on this new growth that the grapes are produced. After several years of pruning back to two buds, a series of spur clusters (staghorns) will protrude from the main vine arms. If the clusters crowd each other too much, remove a few to give the rest more room. Pear and apple trees often suffer broken limbs due to an excess of fruit in August. Shorten long and slender limbs by one third to one half. Limbs that cross through the center of a fruit tree seldom bear fruit. They also shade the leaves of more productive limbs. It's a good time to examine the structure of your trees. Remove crossing limbs, dead limbs, and limbs that deviate from the appropriate form. Fig bushes that have become too large for their space can be severely pruned now.
- **Houseplants:** Tired of that big hibiscus taking too much space? You can prune away one third of the total foliage without harming it. Use small clippers to shorten individual branches. Make each cut next to where a smaller branch joins the part you are removing. Faded amaryllis blooms and their stems can be removed now. Treat amaryllis like a house plant for the rest of the winter. Plant outdoors in May in a sunny bed. In succeeding years, the bulb will bloom mid to late April.
- **Lawns:** As winter wears on, the tree leaves you failed to rake last fall can blow across your lawn and build up in piles along the edges. Don't let leaves pile up and suffocate your grass. Without sunlight, disease will attack grass crowns and roots. Rake up the leaves and add them to your compost pile, run over the leafy spots with a lawn mower to shred the leaves into tiny pieces. Don't store mowers or other motorized lawn equipment near a gas water-heater or furnace. If a gas tank leaks accidentally, the fumes can ignite and burn down your garage or home. Most manufactures recommend draining the gas tank each winter. Never store gasoline, even in spill -proof cans indoors.
- **Perennials and Ornamental Grasses:** Remove any dead stalks, seed pods, or leaves you missed in the fall. Wait until early spring just before perennials begin to put out new growth before you prune plants back hard to a height of several inches. Some perennials don't need to be pruned back hard, but you can tidy them up by removing dead flower stalks. Perennials that don't require much pruning include Anemone x hybrida, Asarum shuttleworthii 'Callaway', Begonia grandis, Heuchera americana CVS., Saxifraga stolonifera, Sedum kantschicum, and Veronica prostrata.
- **Roses:** Bright winter days make it easy to see dead branches in the center of a rosebush. Though it is too early to perform your spring pruning, dead limbs can be removed any time you notice them.
- **Shrubs:** Remove any dead or damaged wood from existing shrubs. Dead wood is dry and brittle – if you are not sure if a branch is dead scratch it. If the inside is green then there is still hope, and you can wait until spring to see if any buds form. Renovate overgrown shrubs by removing 1/3 of the oldest branches from the base of the plant. The oldest branches are usually the thickest. Remember that many spring-flowering shrubs bloom on old wood (branches that grew the previous season), so you will want to wait until after they flower to do any drastic pruning.
- **Trees:** Prune bare-root trees when you plant them. Thin branches that are closely spaced. This will allow better light and air circulation, resulting in better overall growth. Prune any broken roots. When you prune, make your cut on a slant just above a bud. On the side branches, make your cut just beyond a bud pointed towards the outside.
- **Vines and Ground Covers:** If you have annual vines that are clinging to walls, fences, arbors, or other supports, it should be easy to pull or prune them off and clean up the surfaces now that they have died. Save any seeds that you missed collecting in the fall. They make easy and inexpensive presents for your gardening friends. Once leaves drop, it is easier to see where you want to prune your vines, especially if you want to train them as an *espalier*. Prune to remove dead or damaged stems and twigs from woody vines. Prune wisteria vines to reduce or thin side shoots from the main stems. These shoots make flower producing spurs. For the best blooms, shorten these shoots back to two or three buds. Because it is such an aggressive grower, wisteria needs to be pruned on a regular basis, sometimes two or three times a year. If you have large areas of evergreen ground covers like English ivy or vinca, wait until early spring to prune them back close to the ground, but only if they need it.

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

Mantises are an order of insects that contains over 2,400 species in about 460 genera in 33 families. The largest family is the Mantidae. Mantises are distributed worldwide in temperate and tropical habitats. They have triangular heads with bulging eyes supported on flexible necks.

Eats: insects, beetles, cricket

Scientific name: Mantodea

In the spring the nymphs will emerge, almost in swarms, and they look like tiny versions of adult mantids. Praying mantis are not harmful insects. They can bite people, but usually that only occurs if you are holding one and it reaches around to your finger.

Many cultures also believe that seeing a praying mantis will bring good luck.



PRAYING MANTIS

IN MEMORIA



“Howard Wilson passed away on November 30th. Some of you will remember Howard. He became a Coweta master gardener in 2000 and was an active volunteer for more than a decade until he had to step away from the program for health reasons. In fact, he was MGEV president in 2002 and 2003. We could always count on Howard to help with client landscape questions, and he often performed site visits and worked at the help desk. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family during their time of loss.”

Stephanie

2024 Propagation Calendar		
DATE	DAY	TASKS
JANUARY		SEEDING
1/2/24	Tuesday	Seed Geraniums
		Seed Lemongrass
1/24/24	Wednesday	Hardwood cuttings
		Abelia, Lespedeza, Hydrangea, Ninebark,
		Spirea, Rose Kerria, Butterfly bush, Fig,
		Ladybank Rose, Viburnum etc.
1/30/24	Tuesday	Seed Salvia (5 varieties)
		Seed Eggplant
2/10/24	Saturday	Seed Dill & Parsley (2 types)
		Angelonia
		Dahlia
		Spilanthus
		Alyssum
2/13/24	Tues	Softwood cuttings
		Coleus, Begonia, Geranium, C Oregano
2/15/24	Thurs	Seed Peppers
		Seed Dianthus (Sweet William)
		Seed Marigolds
		Seed Celosia 2 types
2/27/24	Tuesday	Seed Basil, 2 types
		Seed Calendula
3/5/24	Tuesday	Seed tomatoes
		Seed Sunflowers (dwarf)
3/12/24	Tuesday	Seed tomato 6 packs
3/19/24	Tuesday	Seed Moonflowers (soak seeds overnight)
		Intake days
3/2/24	Saturday	
3/5/24	Tuesday	
3/9/24	Saturday	

SPRING 2024

PLANT SALE

PROPAGATION

SCHEDULE

SALE DATE

April 13, 2024

2024 Master Gardener Coweta County Board and Committee Chairs

MGEV BOARD:

President	Diane Cook
Vice President	Kathy Olmsted
Past President	Patty Ellis
President Elect	Jennie Adcock
Treasurer	Chuck Olmsted
Secretary	Open

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Ask MG/Market Day	Harley Stewart
Backyard Association	Melanie Landrum, Deberah Williams
Boys & Girls Club/Youth Ed.	Rebecca Gibson
Communications	Jerry Allen
Demonstration Garden	Kathy Olmsted, Amy Keller
Education	Cathy LeBar
Extension Landscape	Cathy LeBar
Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk	Susan Mills (Library), Patty Ellis
Fundraising	Open
Garden Tour	Open – no Tour planned until 2026
Greenhouse	Barbara Schwartz (lead), Cathy LeBar, Marge Cox
Hospitality	Amy Sharpe, Susan Mills
Nature Trail	Ed & Melanie Atkinson, Audrey Harrelson
New Leaf	Pat Farmer
Plant Sales (Fall/Spring)	Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted
Scholarship	Jennie Adcock
Speakers Bureau	Dan Gentry
Spring Plant Sale	Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted
Sunshine	Sara Hanson
Volunteer Awards	Patty Ellis

Photos: Pat Farmer, Dale Senko, Diane Cook
 Editors: Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, Connie Gilliam



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