

The New Leaf

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

FEBRUARY
2024

DIANE COOK
MGEV PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MGEVs, we have hit the ground running in 2024! We had our first Volunteer meeting, welcomed in a new class of MGEVs as they began their training, had multiple workdays in some very chilly, challenging weather, and so much more. Yes, as a group we certainly have a lot on our “To Do” lists and unlike the picture accompanying this article, we get them done!

If you were not able to make the Volunteer meeting, one of the goals of the board this year is to support our group as much as possible; supporting our various committees, and chairs, making sure our new group of MGEVs have all the help and resources they need to get off to a strong start, and retaining existing MGEVs!

As you may have heard, the MGEV Handbook is in the process of being updated. Thank you, Patty Ellis, for taking on this task. In addition to the basic description of the committees that will be in the handbook, we want to work with each committee to compile their “To Do” lists from month to month in an accessible format. Our goal is to document, as much as possible; what makes each committee run and to have this information compiled in an easy, accessible format. We’re working to have this information available not only to assist with the week to week “To Do” lists, but also to help when we have leadership changes within a committee. As I mentioned at the volunteer meeting, we do not want MGEVs who have volunteered to chair a committee feel as if they have made a lifetime commitment. So, when a chair wishes to move on to another committee or just doesn’t have the time to spend as a chair, their knowledge will be available for a smooth transition for the next MGEV to step in as chairperson. The “To Do” list information will also assist our incoming MGEVs to assimilate into the group. Hopefully, by seeing the basics of what each committee does, the new MGEVs will find it easier to transition onto committees and integrate quickly. Finally, ideally, this information would assist in a year-end review of what strategies were successful and seeing where improvements can be made.

On a different note, all work and no play is not good for MGEVs. The Board would like to see our group have some fun, educational outings this year. To that end, should you come across an educational opportunity that looks like fun, please share it with me so that I may include it in my weekly updates and share it with the group.



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MGEV CLASS OF 2024 ORIENTATION





"Minds are like flowers. They open up when the time is right."
- Steven Richards

"Friends are like flowers that bloom in the garden of life, adding color and beauty to our world."
- Author Unknown

WHAT'S BLOOMING IN MGEV GARDENS?

The garden of **Rhodes Shell**, class of 2022, is resplendent with Japonica and Sasanqua camellias as well as winter jasmine. Camellias are best planted in rich, moist soil in a partial shade location. If planting multiples of this broad leaf evergreen shrub, space them at least five feet apart. They can grow 2-12 ft tall and 2-10 ft wide. They do not like to compete for water and nutrients with trees. They should be planted at the same depth they were growing in their nursery container with the top of the crown slightly exposed. Camellias bloom early fall, winter, and early spring.



Send pictures of your garden to patfarmer100@gmail.com

LOVE IT or LOVE TO HATE IT

Submitted by Dale Senko

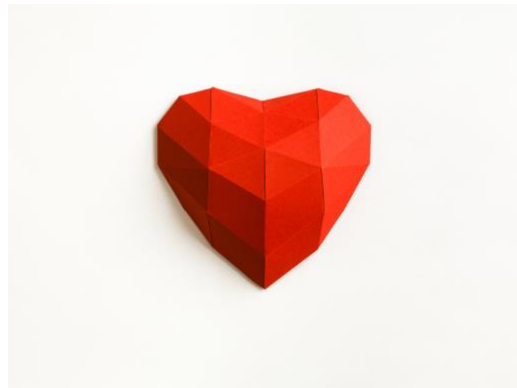
I caught up with [Amy Barnes](#), Class of 2022, while she was grocery shopping. She readily responded with a plant she loves and one she loves to hate. She shared that the gardenia (cape jasmine gardenia) she planted in memory of her mom is one she loves. It blooms faithfully two times a year and sometimes three.

With no hesitation, Amy said she loves to hate her cut leaf coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*). She has had it for five years and has been trying to tame it for four. She planted three and so far, has removed one. She knows the plant is native and beneficial, but its aggressive nature makes it ideal for open areas but not for gardens with limited space.



Online photo

“A flower cannot blossom without sunshine, and man cannot live without love.” — Max Muller



BYA

Submitted by Lyn Matthews



Backyard Association

A Presentation by Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

Tom Johnson

"The Camellia Man"

*Plant Propagator, Horticulturist,
Garden Director, Speaker*

**Tuesday,
February 13, 2024
at 7:00pm**



"Creating the Romantic Garden"

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

* If you are an individual with a disability who may require assistance or accommodation in order to participate in or receive the benefit of a service, program, or activity of UGA, or if you desire more information, please contact us.

The January Backyard Association's speaker was Paul Pugliese. His topic was, "The Perils and Pitfalls of Over Used Plants". He was straightforward in giving us the horror stories of what could happen in the worst-case sceneries of incorrect planting and trying to make a plant survive when it just can't. In this case we often misdiagnosed the problem which leads to months or even years of treatment that will never work. Right plant for the right space is the best rule. Sounds so easy but we do tend to ignore it. Please remember to thank our hospitality committee members for the beautiful setting and refreshments they provide each month. Offer to help if you can. It's a great way of saying thank you.

SPRING PLANT SALE

Submitted by Barbara Schwartz

Carol Fuller, Susan Mills, Rhodes Shell, Pernille "P" Funk, and Betty Boylston planting the confederate rose cuttings. It's starting to look like a plant sale is coming.

**SPRING
PLANT
SALE**

APRIL 13



MGEV HEROES

Diane Cook, Cathy LeBar, and Barbara Schwartz dressed for winter gardening! Covering plants against upcoming freeze on January 16th. Thanks team. That's what MGEV heros do. SAVE PLANTS!!!!



FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

- Good time to prune.
- Prune vines and brambles like grapes, raspberries, and blackberries.
- Georgia Arbor Day will be celebrated February 13-19, 2023; plant a native tree in your backyard, an oak perhaps.
- Cut back ornamental grasses before new growth starts.
- Clean out bird boxes and get ready for returning birds.
- Some cool season crops may be planted when soil is above 40 degrees.

FEBRUARY PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

- **Annuals:** Remove faded blooms from plants as they occur (Just like in January).
- **Bulbs:** Remove faded blooms as they occur. Leave the foliage until it turns yellow and collapses.
- **Edibles:** Blueberries tend to grow tall sprouts in the center of the bush. Now is a good time to remove them. Don't prune branches that are within picking distance. The horizontal branches within 6' of the ground will bear the most fruit.
- **Houseplants:** Most plants will naturally lean toward their light source. Unless they are turned once per month, indoor plants acquire an unbalanced look. Small potted plants can be turned by hand. Larger plants in pots can be placed on wheeled plant holders designed for easy turning. Ungainly plants can be pruned back by half to correct asymmetric growth.
- **Lawns:** Your lawn should be dormant this month and no mowing will be necessary.
- **Perennials and Ornamental Grasses:** While there are no pruning activities this month, it's an excellent time for transplanting, watering during mild spells in the weather, and fertilizing with a liquid 20-20-20 fertilizer.
- **Roses:** Prune rose bushes severely between now and March 15th; the new growth that is produced will bear most of this year's rose blooms. Wait until June to prune climbing roses. Remove dead, weak, or damaged canes. Make a flat cut $\frac{1}{2}$ in. below the dead or damaged portion. Cut away limbs that rub against each other or cross through the center of the plant. To shorten a living branch, make a 45-degree-angle-cut $\frac{1}{4}$ in. above a bud that points outward from the plant. If your rose has been pruned every year, prune back the size of the plant by $\frac{1}{3}$. If the rosebush is completely overgrown, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the plant might need to be removed.
- **Shrubs:** Continue to prune deciduous shrubs to remove dead wood, rejuvenate them, or keep them from getting too big for the space in which they are growing (as when they block the view from windows or spread out into a pathway). One way to avoid the need to prune constantly is to select the right plant for the right place. If shrubs have overgrown their original location or become straggly and spindly in appearance, prune them back severely while they are dormant. Prune back spiraea, privet, and Abelia X grandiflora to a height of 12 inches. You may choose to stretch out the pruning over a period of years. Remove $\frac{1}{3}$ of the oldest wood in the first year; in the second year, take $\frac{1}{2}$ of the remaining oldest stems and cut back long shoots that grew from the previous season; in the third year, prune out whatever old wood (the oldest wood has the thickest stems) is remaining, and prune new shoots just enough for a pleasing effect. Prune camellias and azaleas once they finish flowering. Remove faded blooms and snip back the tips of branches for an overall pleasing effect. Prune evergreen shrubs like boxwood, holly, anise, leucothoe, and others before new growth begins. Remove dead wood and tip branches to a desired height.
- **Trees:** This is a good month to prune deciduous trees. Because there are no leaves, you can see the form of the tree and determine where you need to prune. When pruning to remove a large limb do so in stages so the branch doesn't tear and split back on the tree, peeling off a section of bark. Do not make a flush cut. Prune back to where the swollen part of the branch comes out of the tree. This is called the branch collar. Sharp, good quality tools are best, and regular maintenance will ensure they last a long time. Hand-pruners are ideal for heading and thinning stems up to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch

in diameter. Loppers are ideal for selective pruning of larger branches. Saws are useful for branches over 1 inch in diameter. Tips for pruning your newly planted trees: 1.) Remove dead or diseased branches, 2.) Remove broken branches below the point of injury back to a healthy branch, 3.) Prune to remove branches that are crossing or rubbing. Wounds can develop where branches rub, creating an environment conducive to pest and disease problems, and 4.) Remove branches that form narrow V-shaped crotches with the main trunk. These crotches are weak and may break in the future. To minimize the problem, select improved varieties of trees with strong branching habits.

- ***Vines and Ground Covers:*** This is a good month to get out the lawn mower and cut back your tattered or winter-damaged monkey grass. By cutting it back now there will be a reduced chance of cutting off new growth. Set the mower at the highest setting and mow down the foliage. The grass should be about 3 inches high when you finish. If you have only a small patch of monkey grass, you can cut it back with a pair of sharp shears. Once spring arrives, fresh dark-green leaves will quickly cover up the ragged edges.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Jennie Adcock, Scholarship Committee Chair

Hello fellow MGEVs. Scholarship information is now available online (see below). Please look at this information and pass it along to anyone who might be interested and eligible. In the application, include church, neighborhood, and other activities. We would love to see lots of scholarship applications come in for this great scholarship opportunity. And remember, college students are also eligible. Thanks!!


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EXTENSION
Coweta County

**2024 Coweta County
 Master Gardener
 Extension Volunteer
 Scholarship**

**Apply online with one of
 the links below:**



**2024 MGEV
 Scholarship
 Application**

An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution
 If you are an individual with a disability who may require assistance or
 accommodation in order to participate in or receive the benefit of a
 service, program, or activity of UGA, or if you desire more
 information, please contact us.

WINTER SEED SOWING IN JUGS



COLLECT & WASH JUGS.
DISCARD CAP

MAKE 5 OR 6
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " HOLES IN
BOTTOM OF JUG



SLICE JUG IN HALF
LEAVING THE HANDLE
ATTACHED

PACK 3-4" OF **WET**
SOIL IN BOTTOM OF JUG



SOW SEEDS ACCORDING
TO PACKET INSTRUCTIONS

LABEL WITH
SHARPIE

TAPE JUG BACK TOGETHER
WITH DUCT TAPE



SET JUGS IN A SUNNY SPOT.
SNOW & RAIN WILL ENTER THROUGH
CAP HOLE CREATING CONDENSATION.
SPRAY WITH WATER IF DRY.



JUG BECOMES
A GREENHOUSE!



OPEN JUG
IN SPRING!

* ONCE SEEDS HAVE SPROUTED
PROTECT FROM LATE FROST
BY COVERING WITH BLANKETS.

MGEV 2024 CALENDAR

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

<u>DATE/Time</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
01/23 – 10:00	Greenhouse Workday	Greenhouse
01/23 – 1:00	Demo Garden Workday	Demo Garden
01/24 – 10:00	SPS/Greenhouse – Hardwood Cuttings	Greenhouse
01/30 – 10:00	SPS/Greenhouse – Salvia Seeding	Greenhouse
01/31 – 3:00	Boys & Girls Club – Soil Presentation	B & G Club
02/05 – TBA	Controlled Burn – Forestry Division	Nature Trail
02/07 – 10:00	Greenhouse – Seeding & softwood cutting prep.	Greenhouse
02/10 – 10:00	SPS/Greenhouse – Seeding	Greenhouse
02/13 – 10:00	SPS/Greenhouse – Softwood Cuttings	Greenhouse
02/15 – 10:00	SPS/Greenhouse – Seeding	Greenhouse
02/27 – 10:00	SPS/Greenhouse – Seeding	Greenhouse
03/02 – 10:00	SPS/Greenhouse – Intake Day	Greenhouse
03/05 – 10:00	SPS/Greenhouse – Intake & Seeding	Greenhouse
03/09 – 10:00	SPS/Greenhouse – Intake Day	Greenhouse
03/12 – 10:00	SPS/Greenhouse – 6 pack Tomato Seeding	Greenhouse
3/18 Overnight	SPS/Greenhouse – Soak Moonflower seeds	?
3/19 – 10:00	SPS/Greenhouse – Seed Moonflowers	Greenhouse
4/13	Spring Plant Sale!!	Fairgrounds

UPCOMING BYA MEETINGS

<u>DATE/Time</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
02/13 – 7:00 p.m.	Creating the Romantic Garden – Tom Johnson – “The Camelia Man”	DMMR
03/12 – 7:00 p.m.	March BYA	DMMR
04/09 – 7:00 p.m.	April BYA	DMMR
05/14 – 7:00 p.m.	May BYA	DMMR
06/11 – 7:00 p.m.	June BYA	DMMR
07/09 – 7:00 p.m.	July BYA	DMMR
08/13 – 7:00 p.m.	August BYA	DMMR
09/10 – 7:00 p.m.	September BYA	DMMR
10/08 – 7:00 p.m.	October BYA	DMMR
11/12 – 7:00 p.m.	November BYA	DMMR

UPCOMING MGEV VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Always at 10:00 a.m. in the DMMR

- March 14th
- May 9th
- July 11th
- September 12th
- November 14th
- December Awards Dinner TBA (tentative for the 18th???)

Dates are subject to change – be sure to check the online calendar at [MGEV Volunteer Resources page](#)

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	Stephanie Odom

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
Sunshine	Sara Hanson
Volunteer Awards	Patty Ellis

Photos: Pat Farmer , Dale Senko, Diane Cook, Barb Schwartz, Amy Barnes, Rhodes
Shell Editors: Dianne Têer, Patty Ellis, Connie Gilliam



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Eggplants

