

Greenhouse Notes

A quarterly newsletter for Coastal Master Gardener Association members

Autumn 2020

President's Message

Dear Master Gardeners,

We are rolling into fall and I certainly am looking forward to the change in weather. Even with hurricane season and shorter days, I need a break from the heat. I took on heading up the Greenhouse Gang at the CGBG this summer and we collectively have donated a bucket of sweat I'm sure! But what a great experience it has been. Being productive and helpful while 'potting up' and 'dead heading' has actually been a lot of fun. It has provided me with a dose of much needed horticultural therapy.

Getting the Greenhouse cleaned up and functional was the first step in helping to generate revenue for the Gardens. The Plant Sale and Pollinator Count event last month netted some much needed funds. I am very grateful to all who shared their time and talent to support this event. Since we were outdoors, we could social distance and keep ourselves safe. Way to go Master Gardeners!



Elizabeth Lewis & Mick Sims



Greenhouse full of Goodies



Claire Bryant in Bloom

For those who follow social media, MGEVs now have a Facebook, Instagram and YouTube presence: **Coastal Georgia Master Gardeners**. The Media Team uses this site to pass research based garden information to the public. Pretty cool you guys! Agent Jill has implemented a volunteer sign up site which is easy to use for tech-challenged folks like me.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD4CAAAD2AA1F4C61-coastal>



[Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens \(Bamboo Farm\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD4CAAAD2AA1F4C61-coastal)

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up.
Thank you!

www.signupgenius.com

The Garden Clinic Group has moved into the MGEV office at the Extension. We are truly moving in the right direction since our in-person connections have changed. I look forward to an even more productive fall and winter.



I hope to see you all at the meeting this September.

Happy Gardening!

Nancy Berulis
President, CMGA

I worked at the call center this morning getting the office set up and cleaned. I also hung our new "Ask a Master Gardener" banner on the wall. It can easily be taken down and used anytime we have a booth set up, it's also pretty large at 36" x 120".
John Clayton



Bonaventure Update

The Bonaventure Camellia Team met for three weeks in June before we went on hiatus again, and it was fun while it lasted. We welcomed MG Steve Langston to the team, and we are happy to have him. A few of us (including Steve) volunteered to work individually watering the nearly 600 plants the group has installed in Bonaventure over the years, and it got us through the drought.



Though we are in the Dog Days of August as this is written, we still have shrubs in bloom - dwarf crape myrtles in Walz Garden, as well as one last hydrangea, and dwarf encore azaleas in Colonial Garden, living up to their name by blooming over and over again. By late next month, the first camellias will be blooming, and we'll be in our glory again. The Camellia group was founded way back in 2005 and has been through a lot of changes and challenges, but we're still here - and we plan on all being back together again in the not too distant future.

Belinda Jacob



Effingham Master Gardener Team

Update on one of our 200 customers who purchased a Native Plant Kit at our Native Plant Sale in September of 2019. Besides three vendors, a training session, and Master Gardener booth, we sold Native Plant kits that each contained 10 varieties of Native Plants common to our area. These kits were assembled by Karen Smith, Southern Native Plantings, Newington, GA. with our MG's help.

We assisted the Director of the UGA Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center who purchased two of the kits containing 60 plants. On 7 November, the Effingham Master Gardeners, our County Extension Agent, and the Center's Director, Gail Westcot, assessed soil amendments and planted the new plants in the Warnell Center's newly established Longleaf Pine and Gopher Tortoise Demonstration Area.



The Director reports that the two resident **gopher tortoises** let us know that they loved the added plants to their area.



Rosemary and I visited the site on 4 August and received the report that the Summer blooming plants were very colorful and now as we move to Fall more bloomers are making their way to "showing" their beauty. The Director is very pleased and plans to attend our next plant sale scheduled for the Spring of 2021.

Fortunately, our County Extension Agent, Ben Cantrell, brought along flags to identify the location and allowed us to create a nice layout mapping of the new plants. We really appreciate all the help he has been to us.

And

Native Pollinator Habitat celebrates its THREE years.

The City of Rincon has a Native Plant Habitat on the Lost Plantation Golf Club at 400 Willowpeg Way. The City purchased a bench to go next to the sign that the Master Gardener organization had purchased two years ago. Rose and I got it varnished and assembled. We are very proud of being able to promote native plants in a 200 square foot garden. Our whole Effingham Master Gardener team has helped in its development and maintenance. The garden gets rave reviews from the many visitors that make frequent visits to see the changes in the plants and the pollinators.



We were fortunate to get the opportunity for the garden as it was a graduation gift for us getting our Master Gardener certification in 2017. Even more fortunate was to have an expert MG join in leading us through the steps of getting this completed and her excellent knowledge of native plants that would flourish in this region – Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis!

If time permits, please stop by.

Mick Sims
MGEV 2017



GMGA Update



We are making history at the Georgia Master Gardener Association and we want you to be part of it! Due to the global pandemic and the CDC guidelines associated with it, we have decided to conduct our annual state conference virtually. This year's conference, Planting for the Future, is planned by the Athens Area Master Gardeners for November 13-14. You will have access to awesome speakers and area gardens from the comfort of your own home!

"Gardeners naturally envision the future, find solutions and care about nature. New generations of gardeners are adding their views on producing food, creating home landscapes and supporting our communities.

This fall we are celebrating the future by gathering ideas to help gardeners grow healthy food, weave nature through gardens and connect habitats throughout the state of Georgia that support our birds, pollinating insects and native flora. We will have video guided tours of our famous local area gardens." Full details to follow on the GMGA website.

The 2020 Annual Conference is open to all Master Gardeners, Friends of Master Gardeners, and the general public (registration is required for all).

"See" you there!

Steve Taylor

SE District Director, GMGA



The following was received in response to the request for newsletter submissions:

I sort of ignored your request for any interesting garden news, since I didn't have any. But today, lo and behold, I see my Pindo palm (*Butia capitata*) is in flower!

After moving from the frozen north, I was excited to plant a palm tree in my yard after I moved to Pooler. I've had it about 5 years, but it has never flowered until now.

Then



Now



Soon



Later



It's sad how little it takes to excite me these days.

Susan Blashford

MGEV 2020

She was given a resounding shame-shame for not being excited any time and every time anything blooms!

Tybee island Marine Science Center Project

The project has been approved by the Chatham County Extension Office for master gardener volunteers hours. The project has stalled primarily due to delays related to Covid-19. Because the ground in front of the new center is 'cement-like' since it was previously a parking lot, minimal planting will be done in the front of the building – although some native grasses may be planted to soften the landscape somewhat.



There are several outdoor elements to be installed around the building to include two life-size whale flukes (adult and baby-size), shrimp boat - exact replica of a working boat, and Blackbeard Island play space. Once these are placed, planting can begin! We're hoping for later this month, but no date is definite.

The anticipated opening of the new center is early 2021.

If you're interested in the project, please contact me at insleyjd@gmail.com. Thank you to those who have already expressed interest. Private tours are available upon request in the new, unopened center.

Janice Insley

MGEV 2019

Check out the Center's many wonderful aspects at <https://bringingtheoutsidein.org/>



Auguries of Autumn



John Clayton sent this picture and said,

"Our first Camellia bloom! Arajishi is one of the old cultivars, I think 1869, and registered in the USA in 1968.

Fall is on the way."

Which inspired pictures of other signs of seasons changing:



Pine Cone Lily, Shampoo Ginger
Zingiber zerumbet.



Sweet Autumn Clematis - *Clematis terniflora*

is a plant in the buttercup family.

(Picture on right has two sets of lovebugs enjoying the bounty.)



----- Beautyberry -----



Callicarpa americana



Callicarpa japonica and dichotoma

Left is *C. americana* – note the cluster of berries surrounds the main stem and leaf joints; whereas the ones on the right show the berries on smaller stems coming out from the main stem, and has smaller leaves.

***C. americana*, known as American Beautyberry** is native to the Southeast; its name is derived from the Greek words *callos* (beautiful) and *carpos* (fruit). It's a member of the verbena family.

Early 20th-century farmers placed fresh, crushed beautyberry leaves beneath horse and mule harnesses so the plant's oils could repel biting bugs. Some people would rub crushed leaves on their skin. Several years ago, scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research division isolated beautyberry compounds effective in repelling biting insects. One, callicarpenal, proved to be as effective as DEET in fighting mosquitoes. Other tests found beautyberry compounds also repelled ticks and fire ants.

The berries are edible. However, they aren't very palatable when eaten raw because they tend to be bitter; but they can be cooked and sweetened to make jellies, sauces, and wine.

Over 40 species of birds enjoy the ripe berries. Locally the mockingbird is especially fond of them.

I noticed when they were feasting the mockers didn't mock, just made short scratchy *chat* calls which I read is to warn off intruders – makes sense if someone looks like they're about to grab your lunch.

Site for bird calls (see AZ for 'chat'): https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Mockingbird/sounds

Summer Mystery Plants

Afraid these remain a mystery.



AUTUMN Mystery Plant



The stems are succulent/cactus-like, but it is vine-like in that it grows longer (by segments) and sends out tendrils to wrap around whatever is handy; and as you can see, it has leaves!

Most unusual.

Must have gotten this at a plant swap but can't remember when or where. (That's A.G.E. for you; but in my own defense, I have gotten numerous plants from numerous swaps and can't remember all of them unless I mark them immediately - which happens with alarming infrequency.)

C. McCurdy

Answers should be sent to mm_mccurdy@msn.com
(That's an underscore between all those mmm's)



For Social Media: see President's message above

Email: coastalmastergardeners@gmail.com

Track your Volunteer Hours: <http://www.ugamgev.org/>

Chatham County Extension Office: Phone: 912-652-7981 Email: uge3051@uga.edu

Coastal GA Botanical Gardens aka Bamboo Farm
Jill Detwiler - jill.detwiler@uga.edu - 912-921-5460

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