



Shades of Green

Agriculture and Natural Resources

E-Newsletter

August 2024



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXTENSION

Athens-Clarke County

A Note from Athens-Clarke County

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Hello readers!

Thank you for tuning in to our August 2024 edition of Shades of Green! This month, we are proud to feature student winners of the annual REEU essay contest and top picks from the UGA Trial Garden Open House Event. Scroll to our Events/Resources section for information on the 2024 Great Southeast Pollinator Census and a local KACCB event!

We hope you enjoy this month's issue of "Shades of Green".

Take care,

Athens-Clarke County Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Cultivating Connection with Wild Acres Farm: UGA REEU

Marigold Market Service Learning and Outreach Field Trip Article: 1st Place 2024

Every year, students in the UGA Department of Crops, Genetics and Genomics receive the opportunity to participate in the Research and Extension Experience for Undergraduates (REEU) program. Students are paired together for a day of volunteering with a local farmer or farming family at the Marigold Farmer's Market in Winterville. Students help the farmer with selling goods and learn first-hand what it takes to produce a product for the public. The teams then write a short article describing their experience at the market as part of a competition for a cash prize awarded by the department. The winning article is published on the UGA Plant Center website and in Athens-Clarke County Extension's Shades of Green. We are happy to feature this year's winning article, "Cultivating Connections with Wild Acres Farm", written by students Amanda Le and Isabella Balderrama.



UGA CGG students Amanda Le and Isabella Balderrama at the Marigold Market with Hannah and Adam Reynolds of Wild Acres Farm

Cultivating Connection with Wild Acres Farm

Amanda Le and Isabella Balderrama

As participants in the Research and Extension Experience for Undergraduates (REEU) program at UGA for Crops Genetics and Genomics, we had the enriching opportunity to volunteer at the Marigold Farmers Market in Winterville, GA. Our mission was to engage with farmers, understand the local agricultural landscape, and delve into the "field to table" approach. Here, we share the stories and knowledge we gained from Hannah and Adam Reynolds of Wild Acres Farm.

Meet the Farmers: Hannah and Adam Reynolds

Hannah and Adam Reynolds recently embarked on their farming journey. Adam, with an upbringing in rural Conyers, learned his love of gardening at a young age. Together with his wife, Hannah, they are navigating the challenges and rewards of their first year.

What They Grow

At Wild Acres Farm, the Reynolds decided to start off their journey by growing what they consider "farm staples." This includes a variety of crops including eggplant, corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce, bell peppers, squash, and winter pumpkins. At Wild Acres Farm, the Reynolds strive to adhere to organic farming practices.



Cultivating Connection with Wild Acres Farm

Amanda Le and Isabella Balderrama

Community Engagement

Adam and Hannah are passionate about the role of education in transforming public opinion about food and agriculture. At the market the Reynolds planned a cooking demonstration featuring their air-fried green tomatoes. By cooking this classic southern dish, the Reynolds were able to emphasize how familiarity and trust are crucial factors to education. This engaging activity not only showcased the versatility of their produce but also attracted diverse market attendees.

Volunteering at the farmers market under the REEU program was a transformative experience, deepening our understanding of sustainable farming and community dynamics. As two volunteers, we helped them prepare some air-fried green tomatoes for market attendees. Throughout this activity, it became quite apparent how loved the simple dish is among the locals that provided such a unique yet delicious taste to our food palette. This experience gave us an understanding of how much commitment and enthusiasm are needed to get your food to the table. The dedication of farmers like Hannah and Adam Reynolds inspire us to continue exploring and supporting local agricultural initiatives.



UGA Trial Garden Winners 2024

The UGA Trial Garden hosts top ornamental varieties developed by UGA plant breeders and industry partners. Each year, top performing varieties are selected as a part of the Industry and Public Open House showcases, held June 2024. Plants are scored based on development, growth habit, flower production and overall performance in the garden. Top 5 cultivars for Open House, Industry Open House, and Public Open House are featured here.

UGA Trial Garden TOP 5 Open House Awards 2024



Canna Cannova 'Gold Leopard' from American Takii
Eye-catching pattern and in bloom while still compact.



Cleome Sparkler 'Mix' from Syngenta
An explosion of fireworks in the garden.



Heliotropium Aromagica 'Purple' from Proven Winners
Beautiful deep color, with a fragrance described as 'candy' or 'vanilla'

UGA Trial Garden Winners 2024

UGA Trial Garden Industry Open House Awards 2024



Helianthus Sunfinity 'Double Yellow'
from Syngenta
Big and bright bush-type sunflower =
instant happiness!



Celosia Bright Sparks 'Burgundy' from
Syngenta



Echinops tjangschanicus by Dr. John Ruter
A fun desert specimen with great interest and
architecture



Lantana Heartland 'White 2025' from
DummenOrange

UGA Trial Garden Winners 2024



Digitalis Artic Fox 'Lemon Cream' from Darwin Perennials



Portulaca Mega Pazzaz 'Papaya Twist' from Danzinger



Petunia Surfina 'Heavenly Blackberries & Cream' from Suntory



Bracteantha Granvia 'Crimson Sun' from Suntory

UGA Trial Garden Winners 2024

UGA Trial Garden Public Open House Awards 2024



Osteospermum Akila Hawaii Sunset 'Mix' from
PanAmerican Seed



Spreading Petunia Easy Wave 'Navy Velour'
from PanAmerican Seed



Petunia hybrida
Painted Love
'Purple' from
Syngenta



Hardy Hibiscus from Dr. John
Ruter

Local August Events

Pop-Up Trail Talks at Greenway

Saturday August 3, 2024

9:00—11:00 a.m.

Greenway— College/MLK Parking Lot

Come join Trails and Open Space staff and learn about our amazing trails and natural spaces right here in Athens! Keep on the lookout for upcoming dates and locations as we will pop-up anywhere we have a trail. In addition to meeting with our staff, we will have a small family-friendly activities, giveaways, and ways to get involved more involved on the trail.

Register at accgovga.myrec.com

The Keepin' it Clean Dirty Dance Party!

Saturday, August 24th 5—9 pm

Little Kings Shuffle Club

223 W. Hancock St Downtown Athens

In support of the Loop 10 Daffodil and Tree Planting Project and Green School Program

Ag Festival

Saturday, August 10th

9 am– 2 pm

Farmview Market

2610 Eatonton RD

Madison, GA 30650

Learn about local agriculture with the Mobile Ag Classroom and enjoy a local petting zoo, face painting, giveaways, live workshops, music and more.

Make & Take Duck Boxes

Saturday, August 3rd

9 AM– 11:30 AM

Oconee County Extension

Watkinsville, GA

Participants will build a duck box for Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. Pre-registration is required and the cost of duck building box is \$25. Call 706-542-7078 to register.

UGA Extension offices around the state are working hard at developing quality online presentations on various topics.

Visit the UGA Extension [event calendar](#) to see events happening local to our county as well as virtual opportunities.

The Great Southeast Pollinator Census

August 23-24, 2024

Visit gsepc.org for more information.

What's REALLY Happening in Your Pollinator Garden

Thursday, August 29th, 6-7 PM

Virtual Event Hosted by Gwinnett County Extension, contact Lisa Klein at 678-377-4026 for link.

By now we've all heard about the importance of attracting pollinators to our home gardens, but what exactly draws those whimsical bees and butterflies to our gardens besides pretty flowers? Lisa Klein takes a deep-dive into this fascinating world and explains what they eat, what draws them to flowers, and what else we can do to make our gardens more hospitable to pollinators.



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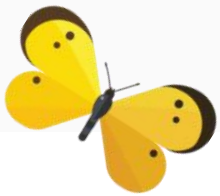


GREAT SOUTHEAST Pollinator Census

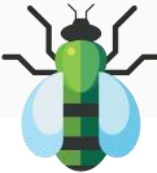
AUGUST 23-24, 2024

The Great Southeast Pollinator Census

Open to residents of
Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and
Florida.



Protecting the Southeast's Pollinators One Count at a Time!

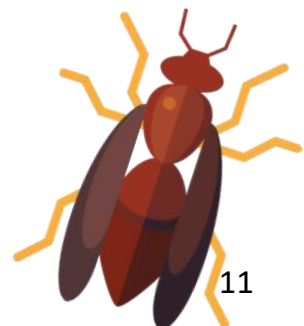
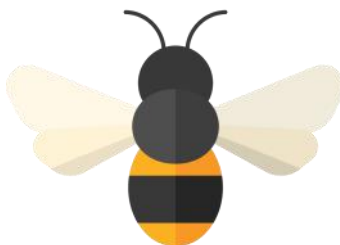


The Great Southeast Pollinator Census is a citizen science project created by the University of Georgia. This project is designed for everyone to participate and make a difference for pollinator conservation.

You will be asked to choose a favorite pollinator plant— a plant from your garden that shows insect activity, for example— for counting. You should count and identify the insects that land on the flowers of that plant for 15 minutes. To make sure your counts are included in our database, visit our website again after counting where you will find a pop-up prompting you to add your information.

For details and to access the 2024 Counting Sheet, visit [The Great Southeast Pollinator Census – Citizen Science at Work](https://www.gsepc.org)

[\(gsepc.org\)](https://www.gsepc.org)



The Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful Board of Directors Presents

The Keepin' it Clean Dirty Dance Party!

In support of the Loop 10 Daffodil and Tree Planting Project
and the ACC Green Schools Programs



Saturday, August 24 | 5-9 PM

Live DJ - Food For Purchase - Dancers - Face painting - Photobooth

\$5 entry donation online or at the door

Little Kings Shuffle Club - 223 West Hancock Street - Downtown Athens



Love Where You Live Raffle



Love Where You Live

Athens Date Night

Gift cards and swag from your
favorite Athens spots.

Play Where You Live

Family Experiences

Gift cards and swag from your
favorite family and kid friendly spots.

Adventure Where You Live

Indoor + Outdoor Fun

Gift cards and swag from your favorite
Athens adventure destinations.

Raffle ticket purchase and updated event info online at www.accgov.com/dirtydanceparty

Local Farmers Markets



The **Athens Farmers Market** is running year-round on Saturdays from 8am-12pm at Bishop Park, and Wednesdays from 5pm-8 pm at Creature Comforts. Make sure to visit [their website](#) for updates and details.

Find them on Facebook:

[@AthensFarmersMarket](#)



West Broad Farmers Market

Will hold markets beginning Saturday, **April 20—December 15th, 2024** from 11 am-2 pm in the West Broad Neighborhood, and on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at Authentic Brewing Company in Normaltown.

Visit [their website](#) for more information.

Find them on Facebook:

[@WestBroadMarketGarden](#)

MARIGOLD



MARKET

The **Marigold Market** is returning on Saturdays 9 am—1 pm at Pittard Park starting April 6th. The Monday Marigold Market (& Café) offers fresh produce and seasonal soup specials year-round, 9 am—3 pm weekly at the Historic Pittard Bank Building. Visit [their website](#) for more information.

Find out more on Facebook:

[@marigoldmarketwinterville](#)


Instagram: [@marigoldmarketwinterville](#)



Concerned about the state of your garden?

Are weeds taking over your landscape?

No need to fear, Clarke is here!

Follow @gardenwithclarke on Instagram  and learn how to battle pests, identify weeds, build your soil and so much more as you garden alongside Clarke, Athens-Clarke County's super gardener!



gardenwithclarke
UGA Extension Athens-Clarke County





Helpful resources online:

[Find My Local Extension Office](#)

[Georgia Turf](#)

[Free Online Webinars](#)

[Pest Management Handbook](#)

[Pesticide Applicator Info](#)

[Georgia Certified Plant Professional](#)

[Bugwood— Pest Images](#)

[UGA Center for Urban Agriculture](#)

[Extension Publications](#)

[OnlineLandscape Alerts](#)

Athens-Clarke County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mission Statement

The UGA Athens-Clarke County Extension's mission is to respond to the people's needs and interest in Agriculture, the Environment, Families, and 4-H/youth in Athens-Clarke County with unbiased, research-based education and information.

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