

The New Leaf

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

AUGUST 2021

*DONNA DIETZ MGEV
PRESIDENT*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we are languishing through the hot and sultry summer, often referred to as the “Dog Days”, did you ever stop to wonder where the term originated? According to the Farmers’ Almanac the phrase refers to the fact that during this time the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth and part of the constellation Canis Major (the Greater Dog). This is why Sirius is sometimes called the Dog Star. The ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the sun’s warmth, accounting for the long stretch of sultry weather. They referred to this time as *dies caniculares* or ‘dog days’.

Need volunteer hours?? There will be opportunities to help spruce up the Demonstration Garden in advance of the Coweta County Fair. Also, plans continue for the Extension building grounds as Cathy LeBar showed us at the July business meeting. The whole area will become an educational experience for the community and help will be needed from all of us to work on it.

PLEASE record your hours in MGLOG.

We will truly miss those MGs who have moved away. Roni Wolcott, aka the Squirrel of the Nature Trail, who was my fellow classmate from the 2007 MG class and Valerie Duke, who always had a big smile and laughing eyes and regaled us with her travel adventures, have moved to Florida and Alabama respectively. Best of luck to you both!

Food for thought: August 3- National Watermelon Day
August 10-National S’mores Day
August 19-National Potato Chip Day
August 21-National Honeybee Awareness Day
August 29-More Herbs, Less Salt Day

Oh, and by the way, August 26 is National Dog Day.

**Don't Forget
The Great Georgia
Pollinator Census**

August 20th and 21st

4H CAMPERS AT THE NATURE CENTER

Thanks to MGEVs Ginger, Ron, Gary, Vicki, Cathy, Ed, Melanie, Dale and Pat who assisted with the 4 H campers on July 6.



MGEVs helped the kids maneuver the Purple Trail and Pavilion to look for clues about native plants, forest ecosystem, watersheds, wildlife, ferns, invasive plants and pollinators. At the end, campers were given a pollinator plant to plant at home and observe pollinators at work.



The 4H teen volunteers were also on hand to help and were great to work with.

MGEVs have conducted a 4H Camp session for years now. We look forward to continuing this volunteer tradition in the future.

NT Team (Ed, Melanie, Pat, Dale)



Wanted! Tree Photos for the 2022 Calendar.

We need more

Can be from years past; must be trees located in Coweta County

Submission Deadline: July 31
Send to Deberah Williams

deberah@numail.org

Contact Dale or Deberah if you have any questions.

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

- Pull English ivy off trees.
- Scout vegetables for pest problems.
- Prepare garden for cool season vegetables and flowering annuals.
- Collect seeds from desired plants to save for planting next year.
- Control snakes by moving log, leaf and rock piles away from your house.
- Start seeding indoors for transplants of cool season vegetables.
- Water the garden according to county guidelines.

Pruning Tips from CR

What to prune in August?

Well, actually, I just put a hard prune on our 12' - now 10' foot - hollies, and a shaping prune on the Japanese hollies and golden barberries for starters.

If you have day lilies their blossoms may be pretty well spent for the year so you could cut them back IF they are exhibiting dry leaves.

STAY AWAY from your azaleas as they are busy setting buds for next spring though!

Pick the berries off your tomato plants when they ripen - IF they are showing signs of sun scald or you are having trouble with deer or birds you could pick them while they are green, put them in a paper bag, and up in a dark cabinet they go - with your checking on them weekly. I've salvaged several nice Big Beefs this way.

Lastly, now is the time to bring in your cut flowers, put them in a vase, and enjoy. Walter Reeves recommends the following: Peruvian Lilies, Crocosmia, Dahlia, Dutch Iris, Gladiolus, Cornflowers, Liatris, Asiatic/Oriental Lilies, Tuberose, Blazing Star, Calla Lilies, and of course, your beautiful Roses

Stump the Master Gardener



JULY'S WINNER – This was a hard one. It is a Milkweed Vine. Grown by Ed and Melanie Atkinson. Milkweed, famous for hosting the Monarch Butterfly, also attracts many other insects. It is the only food that a Monarch Caterpillar can eat.



**Can anyone identify this butterfly AND the plant it is on.
HINT: Easy to grow, sun loving annual.**

Send answers to: patfarmer100@gmail.com

Highlights from the CC MGEV Business Meeting – July 8



1. **Boys and Girls Club Garden Club starts up again in September, and we are looking for new members for this fun committee. Contact Sonjia Lambeck (678-462-1574) if you are interested in helping out.**
2. **BYA – Future Meetings are in person. You can watch replays of the programs on the CCMGEV Web Site.**
3. **There will be no Fall Plant Sale. The Spring Plant Sale will be on April 9, 2022.**
4. **Cathy LeBar gave a presentation highlighting all the work the class of 2020 has done to improve and landscape the outside of the Extension Building. She showed plans she has developed to continue this project in the future. All MGEV's are welcome to participate.**
5. **The MGEVs will be having their regular Christmas Party as well as a Fall Gathering to honor the class of 2020.**



BACK YARD ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Lyn Matthews

The July BYA was another treat for the mind and body. Our friend, Sara Henderson, was the person to give that feeling. She is so full of knowledge that a short time with her is like a moment of sheer pleasure. Sara has the kind of voice that is so soothing you just don't want for her to end the program. Her topic this month was on unusual and underused bulbs. Many of the bulbs she showed were probably used in our grandparents' gardens and even maybe, our first gardens. In addition to the older varieties, she also recommended reliable resources. She said that sometimes our local nurseries may not have the best bulbs, so go online. Be diligent finding the products, then get them in the ground. "Don't leave them on the kitchen counter." Brent and Becky's Bulbs and Old House Garden are two of her favorite on-line sources. Visit with Sara at Oakland Cemetery Gardens. It is an experience not to be missed.

August 10 at 7 pm will have another familiar face for our group. Mr. David Brown, the floral designer for Hills and Dales Estate in LaGrange, Georgia, will be showing us design techniques as well as sharing a little of the history of the family who owned Hills and Dales, the gardens and greenhouse. For the people who have never heard David, you are in for a treat. There is nothing stuffy and dull from him. He shares several stories that will entertain as well as instruct.

We are looking forward to seeing, yes seeing, our BYA family again. This will be our second face to face meeting. Just like old times, or maybe better, now that we know what we have missed.

Thanks to our program developer, Melanie Landrum, for years of great speakers. And, a big thank you to the hospitality committee for all your hard work.

BOY'S AND GIRL'S CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Submitted by Sonjia Lambeck

Although school is just beginning, it's already time to look ahead to prepare for the second semester when CCMGEV host a Garden Club for elementary children at the Newnan/Coweta Boys & Girls Club. MGEV volunteers visit the Wesley Street facility two afternoons each month from January through May.

Previous volunteers and Coweta County Extension Staff have laid out the program curriculum. The children are pre-enrolled by Executive Director, Lauren Odom. The Co-Chairs will have materials prepared. So, all volunteers need to do is just show up and give the children help and encouragement to learn about gardening through hands-on projects, including planting seeds to grow at home and preparing food for a party showing off newly learned skills to their parents and friends.

The Newnan/Coweta Boys & Girls Club works with hundreds of kids and teens each year to help them reach their full potential. The club provides an environment where all youth feel safe and secure to dream, discover, and develop. Programs focus on helping kids succeed in school, live healthy lives, and become leaders. Club alumnus and Boys & Girls Club staff member, Andrew Persons affirms "the Club was a place that kept me busy. It taught me skills needed to become a positive and productive adult."

Sonjia Lambeck and Kris Carpenter are Co-Chairs for Boys & Girls Club Garden Club this year and invite all MGEV's to join the fun. Please contact with Sonjia or Kris to volunteer.

NEW POLLINATOR GARDEN

Submitted by Mark Hess

Have you noticed the black plastic at the Extension Office? Coweta County MGEV team is partnering with the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts (GACD) to install a pollinator garden. GACD's Pollinator Initiative is a program designed to increase pollinator habitat and pollinator education throughout Georgia. The initiative is just in the initial phase of killing the grass and preparing the area. We are using a no-till method suggested by GACD. Next year, we will remove the plastic and add compost from Soil³ as well as grow bags. GACD is supplying the seeds for the pollinators that perform best in Georgia. Keep an eye on this spot as it develops over the year.

The initial area, approximately 1/10 of an acre, was prepared by Master Gardeners Nancy Coats, Cathy Heffner, Nan VanPatten, Jack Watts and Mark Hess. Then, a storm blew through and strewed the black plastic all over! Fortunately Cathy LeBar, Tammy Cash, Paula Hyatt and Ron Gill came to the rescue and restored the area.



The Annual Great Georgia Pollinator Census

August 20th and 21st, 2021

A citizen science project where Georgians count insects that land on a favorite pollinator plant for 15 minutes, putting these insects into categories. Click on the link below for more information about how you and your family can participate in this fun activity

<https://ggapc.org>

HOT TOPICS FROM THE MGEV HELP DESK

Submitted by Patty Ellis

“Summer time, and the livin’ is easy....” Well, that is unless you’re a gardener battling the onslaught of insect pests feeding on your prize tomatoes or the fungal diseases spurred by several days of unrelenting rain and humidity. Here are some of the client questions that have come across the help desk within the past month:

*Since we’ve recently had a lot of rain and humidity, there are lots of fungal issues cropping up. Dan recently did a site visit for a client who had patches of brown and yellowing grass in a Zoysia lawn. The patches were atypical and closer examination of the leaves revealed lesions and tip die back. He consulted with Stephanie, who obtained a specimen to send in to UGA for fungal ID to determine the best course of treatment. We have great resource packets about each type of lawn typically grown in our area and have these ready to send out to clients as well. If you’d like a lawn packet for your specific type of lawn, send an email to the help desk or call the office.

*A grounds maintenance professional from a local university sent in pictures of a distressed crape myrtle tree on the school grounds. Stephanie diagnosed ambrosia beetle infestation and glyphosate damage. The recommendation was to cut the tree down and burn it to decrease the chances of spreading the beetles to other trees. You can learn more about Ambrosia beetles here <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C1160> .

*Kathy recently spoke with a client who had beetles on her potted hibiscus plant. She advised to either hand pick the beetles and douse them in soapy water or to use an insecticide recommended by the *Georgia Pest Management Handbook- Homeowner Edition*. We always remind clients to follow label instructions exactly!

*Another recent client had black sooty mold on a crape myrtle tree. This mold is generally caused when aphids infest the tree and excrete “honeydew” which the mold then grows on. It does not generally cause great harm to the tree, but can cause some distress due to decreased photosynthesis. Controlling the aphids controls the mold. This publication from UGA discusses various common garden pests, including aphids, and their control <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1074&title=Control%20of%20Common%20Pests%20of%20Landscape%20Plants> .

The help desk crew is always ready to provide science based solutions to gardening problems. If you want to help clients and broaden your knowledge at the same time, get in touch with Patty or Karen for further information.

MGEV JULY PHOTOS

Photos from the garden of Ron Gill, Class of 2020.



Limelight Hydrangea



Lilies

MASTER GARDENER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



**Who is that masked man?
Looks like it is Mark Hess,
MGEV Class of 2018. Aside
from being a Tomato
Whisperer, Mark does a great
job working in the
Greenhouse and is responsible
for the MGEV Directory.**

Send all photo entries of Happy Gardeners and Happy Plants to: patfarmer100@gmail.com

Ask MG/Market Day	Harley Stewart
Backyard Association	Allen Summerlin, Deberah Williams, Melanie Landrum
Scholarship	Jennie Adcock, Karen Mansour
Education: Speakers Bureau,	Dan Gentry
Adv. Training/Continue Ed.	Dan Gentry
Youth Education/Boys & Girls	Vacant
Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk	Susan Mills (library), Patty Ellis, Kathy Olmsted
Finance	Kris Carpenter
Fundraising	Kris Carpenter, Diane Cook
Garden Tour	Diane Cook
Spring Plant Sale	Kathy Olmsted, Kim Magyar
Fall Plant Sale	Kathy Olmsted
Greenhouse	Audrey Harrelson, Amy Keller, Mark Hess
Demonstration Garden	Kathy Olmsted, Amy Keller
Media/PR/Coweta Shopper	Vicki Sewell, Marci Moore, Martha Woodham, Kim Magyar, Shanna Campbell
Nature Trail Project	Dale Senko, Pat Farmer, Ed Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson
Nominating Committee	2021 MGEV Board/plus other members
Volunteer Management/Support	Donna Dietz, Carol Fuller
Directory	Mark Hess
Hospitality	Kim Magyar, Amy Sharpe
The New Leaf Newsletter	Pat Farmer, Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis
Sunshine	Sara Hanson
Telephone	Roni Wolcott
Volunteer Awards	Patty Ellis

Photos: Pat Farmer, Ed Atkinson, Ron Gill

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