

# The New Leaf

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

**JANUARY 2023**

*PATTY ELLIS, MGEV  
PRESIDENT*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Possibilities. What a fabulous word! For me it evokes excitement, the promise of new adventures, but also a dash of danger. As I think about the holiday awards event on December 8<sup>th</sup>, seeing all of the happy faces of MGEVs enjoying great food and even better company, I'm excited for the possibilities of another year as a Master Gardener.

Of course, possibilities also involve change. Sometimes change is scary, but it can also mean growth, and isn't that what gardening is all about? Trying new things and seeing what works is how we learn and grow as people and as gardeners. I want to challenge each of you to try something new this year, be that a new project, new plant, or new idea. Have you always wanted to learn how to propagate plants, but thought it was too complicated? You can help plan the plant propagation event to get a behind the scenes look at how the process works. Do you want to learn more about soil science? Sign up for the help desk and follow up on soil test reports with clients. Maybe you need to dig more in the dirt. Sign up for a work day at the nature trail or help out in the greenhouse in preparation for the spring or fall plant sale. We all have our areas of "expertise" when it comes to gardening, the areas where we feel safe and comfortable. Maybe this year is the year that you choose to step out of your comfort zone.

I recently read a book called *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know*. The author, Adam Grant, challenges the reader to rethink and unlearn old and unhelpful thought patterns, and backs it up with science. As Master Gardeners we are taught to base our recommendations on evidence, but as humans it often feels more comfortable to stick with our ingrained patterns. I hope that this year you will be inspired to try something new and think outside of your own box. As the incoming board President, I'll admit that I've had some trepidation about accepting a leadership role for a large group, but I also know that we have a strong and dedicated group of MGEVs who will help me along the way. I'm looking forward to this adventure and hope that you are excited to join me. Bring on 2023!

## Contents

- *Message from the President*
- *Volunteer Hours and Awards*
- *Free Compost*
- *Spring Plant Sale*
- *May 2023 Garden Tour*
- *BYA*
- *Boys an Girls Club*
- *January in the Garden*
- *Pruning Tips from CR*
- *Stump the Master Gardener*
- *MGEV Holiday Party*
- *Artist Corner*
- *MGEV of 2022*
- *Nature Trail*
- *Next Volunteer Meeting*
- *Committee Chairs*



## VOLUNTEER HOURS AND AWARDS

Submitted by Patty Ellis

If you've been to a business meeting over the last couple of years and I've been there, you've probably heard me ask everyone to log their hours in MGLOG. Logging hours helps us recognize all of the hard work that MGEV volunteers put in during the year, and over years of service. But it's much more than that! Sheri Dorn, PhD, the Coordinator of the Master Gardener program in Georgia, had this to say when I reached out to her about the importance of capturing volunteer hours:

"Reporting these details is so much more than a certificate or individual recognition. This information is essential for telling our many stakeholders at local (county), state, and federal levels of the important work that we do. As we gain momentum for consumer horticulture and gardening as a critical aspect of human health and wellbeing, we have a golden opportunity to share of the work of thousands of Extension Master Gardeners -- but only if we know about that work! Additionally, each detail that is reported contributes to a much broader picture that helps us make sure the program is on track (self-evaluation). Also, from time to time, volunteer accomplishments and contributions are pledged as in-kind resources for grant funds that help expand our program and initiatives. So, no story is too little or inconsequential! Each project, each hour, each volunteer is part of our story of horticulture, plants, and gardening positively impacting people and communities throughout the state. PLEASE be sure to report what you are doing so that we can share the stories!"

Here are a few things that may make your logging easier and more accurate:

- If you have a recurring activity that you do, for example weekly watering, you can log all of those hours on a monthly basis instead of each ~~discrete~~ day being entered. Simply put in the date you are entering the hours, and in the description box, put in the dates that are covered along with a brief description of the activity. Of course, you are welcome to continue logging them individually too.
- For the activity description, it does not have to be exhaustive. A simple sentence or two will suffice!
- Please refrain from putting other MGEVs full names in your descriptions. The MGLOG system will recognize that name, and when we are determining cumulative hours, it can skew the numbers. If you want to document who attended a meeting or event in the description, include initials.

There are still some committee chair and milestone gifts and recognition certificates and pins that have not been distributed after the holiday gathering, so please pick those up at your earliest convenience. Just ask at the front desk the next time you're at the extension office.

*"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart."* – Elizabeth Andrew

*"The quality of your life will be determined by the quality of your contribution. When you work to improve the lives of others, your life improves automatically."* – Kurek Ashley

*"Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud."* – Helen Dyer

## FREE COMPOST

**Submitted by Roslyn Johnson**

**Attached are photos taken Friday, December 16 of Vining Stone delivering 12 yards of their own "proxim" compost growing medium. Vining Stone's owner, Nick Leigh, generously donated this along with free delivery to MGEVs for our planting needs in 2023. Vining Stone is a Coweta County (Sharpsburg) small business owned and operated by the Leighs and their super staff. Vining Stone sells and delivers landscaping materials such as stone, pavers, gravels, soils, compost, and mulches. Pictured in the photos is Dave, of Vining Stone, completing the delivery.**



# SPRING PLANT SALE

## Save the Date!!



**April 15, 2023**  
**8:30 am — Noon**  
**Coweta County Fairgrounds**  
**AG Building**  
**275 Pine Road, Newnan, Ga.**  
**Questions? Call 770-254-2620**





## MAY 2023 GARDEN TOUR

• • • • • Save the Date!! • • • • •



Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunter

## Spring Garden Tour

Saturday, May 20, 2023

9:00am — 3:00pm

Questions? Call 770-254-2620



An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution

## BYA

Submitted by Melanie Landrum

Our January speaker will be Rose Guerra. She'll be speaking on Winter Wildlife in GA.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 7PM.**

Rose leads environmental education programs around metro Atlanta. She currently works with several environmental organizations, including Atlanta Audubon Society, Dunwoody Nature Center, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, City of Sandy Springs Rec/Parks, and Chattahoochee Nature Center. Private programs are available for scout groups, home school groups, garden clubs, etc.

## BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Submitted by Rebecca Gibson

The Boys & Girls "I Can Garden Club" Committee is excited about planning for a new gardening season with the children. Each master gardener who is interested in helping to spark a lifelong interest in children for growing things is invited to participate in our next meeting which will be held on Friday, January 6, 2023 at noon at the Extension Office. Also, if you would like to help us prepare the site for our projects when the children are not present, be on the lookout for dates to work.

Thank you so much and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

## 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 eleagnus.
- 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. Actually, 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 (stagorns) 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 kamtschaticum, 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.

## STUMP THE MASTER GARDENER



### DECEMBER CHALLENGE

CR says that this damage was caused by a deer trying to sharpen his antlers. Spray a deer repellent product to keep more damage from happening. Hopefully this tree will be able to recover.



## MGEV HOLIDAY PARTY

**“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love!”** —*Hamilton Wright Mabie*



• **“Fairy Lights on Winter Nights.”**

•

**“It is the Season to Sparkle.”**





“At Christmas, all roads lead home.”

“Merry everything and happy always.”

## ARTIST'S CORNER

Jennie Adcock is one of the most prolific artists in our MGEV group. She creates “constantly.” Follow her blog to get the true measure of her creativity.

Jennie

[overthehillandrunning.blogspot.com](http://overthehillandrunning.blogspot.com)





## MGEV OF 2022 KATHY OLMSTED



The highlight of the annual MGEV holiday awards banquet is awarding the MGEV of the year. Every year we call for nominations from current, active MGEV. The board of directors makes the final decision after collecting the names. This year's MGEV of the year is Kathy Olmsted! You may have met her at the spring or fall plant sales, as she is one of the chairs. Kathy is also a co-chair of the demonstration garden committee and works with the help desk. This is a well-deserved honor. Congratulations Kathy!

## NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Audrey Harrelson & Ed Atkinson

As with most projects, work continues and we'd love some help with ongoing chores and some plantings. In the event of rain or temperature predicted to be lower than 40 degrees at start time, the workday will get cancelled, otherwise, join us prepared to do general outdoor work, bringing your own tools and gloves.

Monday, January 9           1-3  
 Monday, January 16       1-3 (this is MLK day, as a reminder)  
 Saturday, January 21     1-3  
 Monday, January 30      1-3

**Pernille Funk & Michael Williams**



**Marge Cox**



**Betty Boylston**



## NEXT VOLUNTEER MEETING



Don't forget to mark your calendar for the first volunteer meeting of the year on **January 12th** in the DMMR at the extension office. There will be a lot to discuss for 2023!

## 2023 Master Gardener Coweta County Committee Chairs

**Ask MG/Market Day**  
**Backyard Association**  
**Boys & Girls Club/Youth Ed.**  
**Demonstration Garden**  
**Education**  
**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  
 Susan Mills (library), Patty Ellis, Deberah Williams  
 Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted  
 Colleen Stephens  
 Diane Cook, Cathy LeBar  
 Diane Cook  
 Jerry Allen, Ros Johnson, Barbara Schwartz  
 Colleen Stephens, Amy Sharpe  
 Shanna Campbell  
 Ed Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson, Audrey Harrelson  
 Jennie Adcock  
 Dan Gentry  
 Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted  
 Sara Hanson  
 Pat Farmer  
 Patty Ellis  
 Patty Ellis, CR Phillips

Photos: Pat Farmer, Ed Atkinson, Barbara France, Maureen Dwyer, Shanna Campbell-Yeaney  
 Editors: Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, Connie Gilliam