

The New Leaf

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

APRIL 2023

*PATTY ELLIS, MGEV
PRESIDENT*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



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It's hard to believe that we're already starting the fourth month of 2023, and that our biggest fundraiser, the Spring Plant Sale, (SPS) is right around the corner. While the sale is a lot of hard work, it is also the perfect example of how volunteers working together can be a powerful force. April being Global Volunteer Month, it is a great time to celebrate all of the ways that MGEVs benefit our community and beyond. Every seed planted, cutting rooted, and plant potted for the SPS will make its way into a local garden. The funds earned support all of our MGEV programs which reach further into Coweta County to provide gardening education. Because of your love of gardening, and your willingness to volunteer to share that love and knowledge, a child will eat their first home grown tomato and a neighbor will learn the skills and information needed to tend to their gardens, however large or small they may be. This may not seem like something life changing, but it is, and it benefits both the volunteer and our neighbors in positive ways.

Speaking of planting seeds, Mike Cunningham of Country Gardens Farm gave an information packed presentation about small spaces and organic gardening for the March BYA. The thing that made the biggest impression on me was something he mentioned before the presentation. He was talking about being a Coweta resident and meeting his wife, Judy, in 4-H. She was the reason that he continued going to 4-H, and that she "planted lifelong seeds of inspiration" that shaped his personal and professional life and got him to where he is today. It was like a lightbulb went off in my head hearing that, because I feel like that's also what MGEVs are doing while engaging as volunteers.

Whatever your role as a Master Gardener Extension Volunteer, please know that you are making an impact! The time that you give to this program provides knowledge, and that knowledge inspires those around you. Your time and effort as a volunteer are important, and that is what I'm celebrating this month!

SPRING PLANT SALE

Submitted by Kimberly Magyar

As I write this, the 2023 Spring Plant Sale (SPS) on April 15 is just 3 weeks away. The sale is our biggest fundraiser and we couldn't do it without all the MGEVs; from the watering team, plant donors and specialists, workday volunteers, container expert, the MGEV Board and support from Stephanie and the office team. It takes a village to put this sale together. The Greenhouse team, led by Ros Johnson and Barb Schwartz (with consultants Don Lambeck, Dave Granroos, and Amy Keller) have our plants looking very good. Barb and Ros covered and moved everything to prevent cold weather damage and I think we should have an awesome sale. This fundraiser helps support our scholarships, BYA programs, Boys & Girls Club, Demo Garden, Nature Trail, Community Education, and many other good works.

If you haven't signed up already, please check out the Sign-Up Genius that was sent to your current MGEV listed email. If you don't see the email, please ensure your email address is correct in MGLOG and let Dana know if you are unable to change it. The Hospitality Team will be serving a delicious lunch on Thursday and Saturday, so an accurate headcount is needed. We will be accepting your donated house plants on Thursday and Friday during our workdays. On Friday, MGEVs will be able to purchase plants. Please see the Sign-Up Genius email for more info. If you haven't picked up your Mother plants, please do so ASAP.

Basic Plant Sale Outline: See the Sign-Up Genius for more detailed info:

Wednesday: Set up tables

Thursday: Move plants from GH to Ag Building

Friday: Plant Spa Day

Saturday: THE SALE

We need many volunteers to assist in all areas and many hands make light work. Thank you all so much for your continued support of the annual 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



An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution

MAY 2023 GARDEN TOUR

SIGN UP TO HELP NOW!



Beyond the Garden Gate

Hidden Gems of Coweta Garden Tour

2023 Garden Tour Highlights



THE GRANROOS GARDEN

Landscaping with structure and beauty that creates privacy and a variety of garden spaces.



THE DIETZ GARDEN

The reinvention of a garden literally destroyed by the 2021 tornado, made beautiful again.



THE FARMER GARDEN

A lakeside garden that attracts birds and wildlife using sustainable practices.



THE EMERSON GARDEN

A garden that is "joy on display" with water features and unique landscape ideas.



THE JACKSON GARDEN

A spacious natural setting with an ever-changing landscape and an abundance of heirloom plants.



JAMES E. MCGUFFEY NATURE CENTER

Receive a free gift when visiting this nature center that provides healthy benefits in a beautiful, tranquil atmosphere. Maintained by Coweta County and UGA MGEVs.



MGEV DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

Get inspired by the this ever-changing multi-seasonal garden with its mix of perennial, annual, vegetable and herb beds.

Tickets are \$25 with limited availability. Purchase online or at the UGA-Coweta Extension Office.

Saturday, May 20

9:00AM—3:00PM Rain or Shine

UGA Extension—Coweta County

255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263



(770) 254-2620

coweta.extension@uga.edu


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To purchase tickets online, use the QR code above or visit <https://t.uga.edu/8Ui>

BYA

Submitted by Lyn Matthews




Backyard Association
A Presentation by Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

Bonnie Helander
Member, PTC Garden Club,
Art of Landscaping Garden Club,
Garden Club of Senoia; Garden Writer,
Southern Woman Magazine

Tuesday, April 11
7:00pm

"Garden Focal Points"

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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At March Morning Glory we had our own organic gardener, Mike Cunningham. Mike's topic was, "Small Space Gardening" just find some sun, a plastic pot, fill it with Black Kow and Soil3 and try your hand at it. Being organic, he uses pesticides sparingly, if at all but he did mention Spinosad. Mike showed us a great way to start. I hope some will give it a try. It is always a joy to have Mike and Judy with us.

On April 11th at 7:00 PM we will welcome Bonnie Helander. Bonnie is well known in our area as an author of many publications and a speaker at many garden clubs. She is greatly sought after and speaks on many topics. She will speak to us on "Garden Focal Points." It should be a thrill to hear what she has to say. Bonnie is an excellent speaker with a great deal of useful information.

I would suggest that you arrive early. We usually have a full house.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW

Submitted by Dale Senko



NORTH FULTON MG SPRING GARDENING SERIES THOUGHTFUL THURSDAY EPISODE

North Fulton County Master Gardeners Spring Gardening Series 2023

A series of five classes began in March with "Walking in the Woods with Spring Wildflowers". If you want to learn about ephemerals and brush up on your wildflower identification skills, watch this video. Two Master Gardeners present the topic in a chatty, conversational style and show wildflower photographs. They cover the characteristics of about 20 wildflowers to help you identify these flowers as you walk in the woods during early spring. Plan to test your skills at identifying by walking the trails at our own McGuffey Nature Center. But don't wait, most of the ephemerals end in early April. You can view this video at <https://www.youtube.com/northfultonmastergardeners> which is the North Fulton MGEV YouTube channel featuring many other presentations.

Thoughtful Thursday – March 9, 2023 Episode (Archived Recording on Home page of MGLOG)
"Weather Update" with Pam Knox

Except for the December Arctic blast, winter has been warmer than average, according to Pam Knox. Spring bloom is as much as a month early. In this episode, Knox explains the impact of La Nina which is ending and El Nino which is beginning in summer. If you want learn about weather outlooks for all the upcoming seasons in 2023, this is a good episode to watch and earn an hour of continuing education. Knox also discusses a citizen science project in which you can participate. It asks citizens to record rain levels daily at their home location. This provides scientists with multiple points. If you want to join the project, go to <https://www.cocorahs.org/> for information.

APRIL IN THE GARDEN

- The last frost for Coweta County can be between mid-March to mid-April. Check soil temperatures before planting summer plants and vegetables. <http://georgiaweather.net/?content=calculator&variable=CC&site=WANSLEY>
- Let the foliage of spring blooming bulbs turn brown before removing.
- Plant summer annuals after the danger of frost has passed.
- Spread 3-4 inches of mulch around plants, trees, and shrubs to discourage weeds and conserve moisture.
- Monitor landscape plants weekly for aphids on new growth and blast them off with a water hose.

APRIL PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

ANNUALS: To develop a good root system, remove all blossoms at time of planting as blooms take the energy needed for root growth, especially plants purchased in '6 packs' as their root systems are small compared to their foliage.

BULBS: Remove faded blooms of daffodils before they set seed, leaving the stems to help with photosynthesis. This process stores food for next year's blossoms.

EDIBLES: Remove the thin sucker sprouts as they arise from the lower trunks of apple, pear, and peach.

HOUSE PLANTS: In order to prolong their blooming, regularly remove the withered flowers from *florist azaleas* you receive for Easter.

LAWNS: You're going to start mowing your lawns this month, and there are two types of mowers to consider: *rotary* and *reel*. The *rotary* types are easy to find, easy to use, lower in cost, easy to repair, and easier to replace the blade. They may, however, leave an uneven cut as their wheels will conform to the possibly uneven surface of the lawn.

The *reel* types yield an even manicured look especially on Bermuda and Zoysia turf grass. They are, however, more expensive, harder to find, and their blades must be sharpened by an expert.

PERENNIALS and ORNAMENTAL GRASSES: Prune back lantana. Even if these plants were overgrown last fall, it is best to prune them now in early spring when they are actively growing. You may cut back 1/3 to 1/2 of the total plant, and they will quickly recover.

ROSES: Many rose plants are produced by grafting a desirable rose onto the stem of a vigorous but possibly unattractive rose (the rootstock). The area where the two join is called the graft union. It looks like a swollen knob a few inches above ground level. Don't leave stubs on the graft union when pruning. Suckers may appear here and must be removed.

SHRUBS: Prune flowering shrubs like forsythia, flowering quince, early blooming spireas and azaleas as soon as they finish blooming. If the shrubs are overgrown and lack vigor with very few blooms, pruning can help rejuvenate them. Remove 1/3 of the oldest wood and cut the rest to 12" from the ground. Repeat this process for the next few years to create a vigorous plant.

TREES: There is still time to prune or shear candles on evergreens. Restrict your pruning of deciduous trees to removing dead and diseased branches. Wait until winter to remove large branches.

VINES and GROUND COVERS: If they need tidying up, prune vines like spring flowering jasmine as soon as they finish blooming.

And as always, many thanks to Reeves and Glasner in their Month-by-Month GARDENING in GEORGIA.



GREEN HOUSE



I like my thumbs like my plants, green!



In my happy place.



You can't buy happiness but you can rescue it!



Puppy Love



Plants can't solve all problems, but they are a great start!



A house without a dog is like a garden without flowers.



The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature.



Nature never goes out of style.



There is beauty around every bend.



Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"



Blossom by blossom the spring begins.

YELLOW BAG FUND RAISER

You can use the code Coweta2023 all year for an extra \$5 off and Coweta MGEVs will get \$15 for each bag sold. If you are buying the mini bags use code COWETAMINI23.

DELIVERY INCLUDED

Order online with our code at soil3.com

GIVE & GROW with SOIL³

Soil3 Compost \$30 off Early Bird sale!! Get a \$5 extra discount and MGEVs get \$15 for each bag sold with fundraising code-Coweta2023

Soil ³ Humus Compost	\$199.99	←includes local delivery→	\$224.99
	- 35.00	←(Early Bird + \$5 Discs)→	- 35.00
	\$164.99		\$189.99

Questions? Contact the Extension Office at 770-254-2620
<https://shop.soil3.com/discount/Coweta2023>

Soil³ Vegetable Mix

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A STAR IS BORN!

Great job, Melanie!

NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Ed Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson, and Audrey Harrelson



Visit the Nature Trail soon so you don't miss the mayapple, *Podophyllum peltatum* and the trillium. The native azaleas are budding and about to bloom as well. Spring at the Nature Trail is beautiful.

WELCOME DANA



Welcome!

WE ARE EXCITED TO
INTRODUCE YOUR NEW
ANR PROGRAM ASSISTANT,
DANA SELEMENTI!

DANA STARTED IN HER
POSITION LAST MONDAY
AND IS READY TO ASSIST
YOU.

770-254-2620 EXT. 8308
DANA.SELEMENTI@UGA.EDU

HELP DESK

Submitted by Deberah Williams

When working the Help Desk, you normally get routine questions that correspond with weather and the time of year. In March, I would expect client questions about cold weather damage, vegetable gardening, lawn care, upkeep, insect IDs, normal gardening problems, and questions about soil test results.

We *have* gotten those questions, but I've noticed we have gotten some unusual questions from clients that have (to me) been real head scratchers.

The first hard question, answered by Pat Lincoln: **How Can I Send Puppies to Pakistan?**

When I saw that this question was asked and answered, I had to contact Pat to let her know what an AMAZING job she had done on this one.

Pat modestly said, "I'd like to claim credit for knowing but Ashley put a note on the spreadsheet to check the USDA website. There really wasn't much information on Pakistan but I keep going through the site for general information and found a note on Veterinary Service Center. It's then I remembered my daughter had to go through them and quarantine her dog before it was allowed in South Korea."

Hard question #2 was handled by Jerry Allen: **What in the world happened to my Leyland Cypress?**

The answer was foraging deer. When I saw the photo, I kept thinking, "How could a disease cause this problem? The damage is so exact." The answer—that was how high the deer could reach. This one amazed me, too.

Another question answered by Jerry Allen: **I have an invasive plant I can't get rid of. Can you tell me what to do to control it?** Jerry was talking the other day about this question concerning an extremely invasive plant Walter Reeves said to never plant. I was very interested, so I looked it up and according to Walter Reeves' website, it is so invasive he called it "a devil in disguise." (I also saw that *Southern Living's* Grumpy Gardener recommended "setting off a tactical nuclear weapon in your garden" to control it.) The plant is a Chameleon Plant, *Houttuynia cordata*. It is sold as a hearty perennial groundcover and bog plant, but is very, very hard to control. I agree with Jerry that this is an invasive plant people should not have on their property and was glad to hear about it. We could be getting more calls about it. I sure hope not.

I'm very happy to be working the Help Desk with such a knowledgeable and hardworking group of Coweta MGEVs who really care about clients with very hard questions, and find joy in helping to answer them. Pat Lincoln also said, "One thing is for certain, I've been forced to do research and learn new things in order to answer some of the questions that come up. And, when all else fails, I go to Stephanie. She is amazing and has such a wealth of knowledge."



Leland Cypress



Houttuynia

MARCH MGEV PROGRAMS

Wednesday, March 22, Dale Senko and Donna Dietz provided a program for the "Potpourri Group". Dale gave a great talk on herbs, their care and propagation. The group learned how to plant a pot of herbs. Donna displayed a beautiful example of an herb pot she created.



"No Winter lasts forever, no Spring skips its turn. April is a promise that May is bound to keep."



Please join us!
Volunteer
Celebration!

Sunday, April 16th, 1:30pm-3:30pm
Coweta County Extension Office
255 Pine Road, Newnan

To honor all that you do to assist
with youth development and
agriculture programming.

Food Provided by
"The Grumpy Pig" Food Truck
RSVP by Monday, April 10th
At the link below or use the QR code
<https://tinyurl.com/volunteer-23>

For questions, please contact Roberta Prince at rprince@uga.edu or 770-254-2620





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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
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Patty Ellis, CR Phillips

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