

The New Leaf

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

MAY 2023

*PATTY ELLIS, MGEV
PRESIDENT*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Milestones. Ever since the Spring Plant Sale (SPS), I've been thinking about milestones. The year 2023 has brought a lot of important events for the Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEV's), both locally and nationally. I'd like to take a moment to recognize and reflect on some of them.

Nationally, the Extension Master Gardener program turned 50 years old! It all started at Washington State University with some Extension faculty that were overwhelmed by the volume of questions they were getting from the public. As the saying goes, necessity is the mother of invention, and the idea to have trained volunteers answer homeowner gardening questions was born. The program has come a long way in the past 50 years and continues to grow and change with the needs of each community. Check out the April Thoughtful Thursday presentation on MGLOG for a discussion of the history of the program and earn some continuing education!

Locally, our SPS reached some impressive heights! On April 15th, 64 MGEV's came to work and sold about 5200 plants. They raised more than \$20,000 (gross) in support of our many programs. We saw about 900 people come through the gates, with many of them lined up starting at 7:30 am to get the best selection. We were pretty much sold out by 11:15 am and no plants had to go back to the greenhouse! Despite some hiccups with the checkout process, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We'll take the constructive feedback we've gotten and use it to make the next sale even better. The Greenhouse and SPS teams, led by Ros Johnson, Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted, and Barb Schwartz, outdid themselves!

Personally, this year is my five-year anniversary as an MGEV. I've learned so much about gardening during that time and look forward to learning more with each passing year. I want to thank whoever gave me the shout out that went out in one of Sheri Dorn's emails during volunteer week. Your kind words made my day!

One thing MGEVs don't do is rest on their laurels. By the time you read this we'll have about three weeks until the Garden Tour. Diane and the team are busy making last-minute plans and I'm sure that they could use more help, so reach out if you are able to help weed a garden or want to work the day of the tour.

We are doing great things to educate our Coweta County neighbors about gardening! Take a moment to reflect on your MGEV milestones and pat yourself on the back.



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SPRING PLANT SALE

Submitted by Kimberly Magyar

GREEN HOUSE/TRANSPORT DAY

BEFORE



AFTER



CLEAN UP



SPA DAY



THE ANTICIPATION



OPEN THE DOORS



**GOING,
GOING,
GONE!**



MAY 2023 GARDEN TOUR

Submitted by Diane Cook

The Garden Tour is just around the corner – May 20th and the big day will be here before we know it!!!! The next three weeks will be “all hands-on deck” - or should I say all trowels in dirt as we get the gardens on tour in tip top shape. We will need volunteers for work days, not only at the five Master Gardener locations on the tour, but at the Nature Center and Demonstration Garden. Please help us get all seven gardens shining. With our amazing group of volunteers, I know everything will get done and look great. Be on the lookout for the various emails detailing Garden Tour workdays.

Remember to spread the word about the tour – either online, at work, church, through friends and neighbors, smoke signals – basically any way possible. Our maximum attendance for the tour is capped at 150 people. We would be thrilled to hit that mark!!!

As always, if you have any questions about the tour, please just shoot me an email at

dcook@jackdianecook.com

Thanks so much, the Garden Tour Committee appreciates your support!

SIGN UP TO HELP NOW!



Cathy LeBar, Don and Sonja Lambeck working in the Granroos Garden.



Beyond the Garden Gate

Hidden Gems of Coweta Garden Tour

2023 Garden Tour Highlights



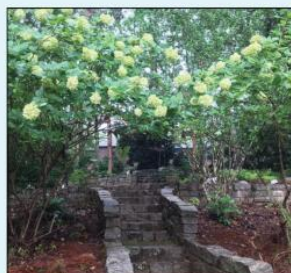
THE GRANROOS GARDEN

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 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


An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution



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

Adriana Quiñones
Executive Director,
Columbus Botanical Garden
Columbus, Ga.

Tuesday, May 9
@7:00pm

"Columbus Botanical Garden"



A beautiful Garden with an attractive location,
exciting special events, horticultural seminars & more.

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 the April BYA the guest speaker, Bonnie Helander, was outstanding. She gave many examples of what can be used as focal points in home gardens. She showed pictures, which helped visually drive home the point of how inspiring simple objects can be. You can fill a spot in your garden with objects such as furniture, water features, or even a decorative pot. Many thanks, Bonnie.

May is Garden Tour month. It is appropriate to have the Executive Director of the Columbus Botanical Garden, Adriana Quinones, as our speaker. Adriana will speak about the many programs that the Botanical Garden offers. Check out the garden's website for upcoming events and tours. It's a beautiful place and close enough to make a day trip.

Thanks to everyone for supporting our BYA. You have been a big part of its success. A special thank you to the hospitality committee for providing snacks at every meeting.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW

Submitted by Dale Senko



JOE LAMP'L – GARDENING WEBSITE

This month I checked out Patty Ellis' continuing education suggestion. She recommended the Joe Lamp'l organic gardening series. Unfortunately, the series' enrollment is closed for this year. However, I browsed the other resources on his website. His videos and podcast selections are divided by topics on Preparing, Planting, Growing, and Caring. I listened to "Mastering the Art of Succession Planting" and will return to listen to "How Heat Affects Tomato Plants." The sessions vary in length and he and his guests are interesting and entertaining. The website attracts a national audience, but Lamp'l is a Georgia gardener. In fact, he was a guest speaker at BYA.

You can search video and podcast topics on his website at <https://joegardener.com/>

YELLOW BAG FUNDRAISER

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.



**HELP SUPPORT
OUR FUNDRAISER**

Use our fundraising code **Coweta2023** save \$5 and our group receives \$15 for each bag sold.

**Need a
Mini Bag?**
Order online
with code
Cowetamini23
Pick up at local
store and
Coweta
MGEVs
receive
\$5 each

NEW

SOIL³
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—mix—

SOIL³
HUMUS
COMPOST
SOIL3.COM

SOIL3.COM




BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB "I CAN GARDEN CLUB"

Submitted by Rebecca Gibson

On Wednesday, March 22nd, we had an exciting and busy meeting. We appreciate Cathy LeBar for introducing the lesson on how seeds grow, complete with colorful instructional drawings. The children then chose packets of seeds to carry to the deck to plant. Additionally, they planted 16 broccoli seedlings that had been donated by Donna Dietz. Everyone had a really good time planting seeds and seedlings. We want to thank Amanda Nelms who thoughtfully asked her employer to contribute to our efforts with the children. They have been very generous in donating grabbers to pick up trash, gloves, and safety vests. With the time left in Wednesdays session, the children enjoyed picking up trash on the grounds around the building.



On Wednesday, April 12th, we met with the Boys & Girls "I Can Garden Club" and Judy Lippmann shared her "All About Butterflies" presentation with the group. Everyone learned a lot from this very enjoyable program.



Judy Lippman, Rebecca Gibson, Marge Cox, Judi Worth, Sonjia Lambeck, Amanda Nelms, Dana Selementi, Kris Carpenter, Donna Dietz, Dale Senko. Cathy LeBar

SPECIAL THANKS to Amy Keller for her contribution of tomato and pepper seedlings for the Boys and Girls Club vegetable garden.

MAY IN THE GARDEN

- Plant summer blooming bulbs. Bulbs need warm soils that are at least 70 degrees.
- Select pollinator plants and native plants which attract butterflies and bees.
- Water as needed according to county guidelines. Provide at least 1 inch of water per week during dry periods. Use drip or soaker hoses rather than watering overhead. Vegetables in raised beds may need water 2-3 times per week for moisture to penetrate the soil 4-5 inches down.
- Manage weeds while they are young by cultivation and mulching.
- Harmful insects become more active during warm weather, but not all insects are bad. Become familiar with the good and the bad and leave the good ones alone.

PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

Annuals: Warmer temps will make your pansies look like kaka, so pull them out and replace them with Petunias, Marigolds, Coleus, Geraniums, and other colorful annuals.

Bulbs: Just keep plants groomed. To prevent disease from spreading, remove dead or funky looking leaves.

Edibles: Healthy fruit trees produce more young fruit than the tree can easily bear, so surplus fruit should be thinned out by spacing adjacent fruit on each limb: Peach - 8", Apple - 6", Plum - 6", and Pear - 8".

Houseplants: Regularly remove dead leaves as they occur.

Lawns: As the summer mowing season starts in earnest, make sure your mower has been properly serviced, the blade sharpened, and set to the correct height cutting no more than a third of the height of the grass to be mowed.

Perennials and Ornamental Grasses: Deadheading spent blossoms will encourage the production of new flowers. Cut fall blooming Chrysanthemums and Asters by 1/3 for fuller plants in the fall. Cutting back some plants will delay blooming. Experiment, and if you have several of the same type this might be a way to enjoy flowers over a longer time.

Roses: DO NOT let faded blossoms remain on your roses. Remove and discard them regularly.

Shrubs: Prune your flowering shrubs after they've spent their last flowers, especially azaleas, rhododendrons, and viburnum. Be vigilant to remove spent blossoms before they set seeds as they will be more vigorous where the plant is putting its energy into forming next year's flowers and new growth instead of seeds.

Trees: Remove dead or diseased leaves and limbs. DO NOT put diseased plant parts into your compost pile as this may spread the problem on down the line to new plantings! Bag these diseased parts and put them out with the trash.

Vines and Ground Covers: Make sure your vining plants are tied in place - not too tightly - just where they are supposed to be. Concerning wisteria, it's an aggressive vine so cut back the long twining new growth after it blooms or you'll have a tangled mess.

As always, Many Thanks to Reeves & Glasener in their book Month-By-Month GARDENING in GEORGIA."



WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

Can anyone identify this interesting plant found by Amy Keller in the woods near her home?



Send answers to
patfarmer100@gmail.com

APRIL MGEV PROGRAMS

Submitted by Dan Gentry

Bonnie Umberger – Color in the Garden – Arbor Springs Garden Club
Don Thompson – Native Plants – Andy’s Garden Club – Fayetteville
Melanie Landrum – Vegetable Gardening in Raised Beds – Wesley Woods
Rebecca Gibson & Dale Senko – Boys and Girls Club – Gamma Phi Beta

DEMO GARDEN

Submitted by Amy Keller and Kathy Olmsted

Our next work day will be **May 2** and moved to **10 am** since we are getting warmer weather. We will meet every Tuesday in May at 10 am. Mark your calendars and we will try to send reminders.

Bring your weeding tools, small pruners, gloves and something to drink.



Amy Barnes, P Funk and her dog, Susan Mills, Amy Keller and Kathy Olmsted

NEWS FROM THE HELP DESK

Submitted by Deberah Williams

The Attack of the Ambrosia Beetles: A Sad Story

Most of the time when clients call in with questions, you can give them answers that really help and things turn out great. Plants are saved, problem solved, and everyone is happy (or at least satisfied with the answer). You and the homeowner feel good about it.

So far this year we have had a few calls that have been frustrating because the problem with the plant was so bad that sadly, the Master Gardener would have to tell the homeowner to cut their tree down and burn it. That seems very extreme, but there have been several attacks by Granulate Ambrosia Beetles, *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*. So far this year two fig trees and one crape myrtle had to be destroyed, and those are just the ones that I am familiar with.

The problem was first detected in South Carolina in 1970 and has been spreading ever since. These insects attack woody ornamentals, nursery plants, and fruit trees. In fact, there is a long list of plants that can be affected. More information about the times of year (February through Spring) and the damage to the attacked trees are in the following UGA publication.

<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C1160&title=granulate-ambrosia-beetle-biology-and-management>

I was familiar with the toothpick looking strings of sawdust (that looks, to me, otherworldly). I was not familiar with how bad the problem could be. I have worked the Help Desk for years, but never had to deliver news this bad. “I’m sorry but your tree has been attacked by Ambrosia Beetles and you need to cut your fig tree down and burn it.” That’s what makes this a sad story, plus the client’s reply was, “Thank you so much for letting me know and getting back to me so quickly.” That made me sad too but made me glad I was able to help.

Looking at the photos of the Ambrosia Beetle and realizing the diminutive size—only 1.0 mm and seeing the damage caused, and limited control options available, it is certainly troubling. Be sure to read the publication. Someone may one day ask you, “Why are those weird-looking toothpicks sticking out of my fruit or ornamental tree?”

Also, Stephanie Butcher recently wrote a very good article about this in *The Shopper*.

Photo courtesy of Bugwood, UGA Griffin.



2023 Master Gardener Coweta County Committee Chairs

Ask MG/Market Day	Harley Stewart
Backyard Association	Melanie Landrum, Deberah Williams
Boys & Girls Club/Youth Ed.	Rebecca Gibson
Demonstration Garden	Kathy Olmsted, Amy Keller
Education	Cathy LeBar, Paula Hyatt
Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk	Susan Mills (library), Patty Ellis, Deberah Williams
Fall Plant Sale	Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted
Finance	Colleen Stephens
Fundraising	Diane Cook, Cathy LeBar
Garden Tour	Diane Cook
Greenhouse	Ros Johnson, Barbara Schwartz
Hospitality	Colleen Stephens, Amy Sharpe
Communications	Shanna Campbell
Nature Trail	Ed Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson, Audrey Harrelson
Scholarship	Jennie Adcock
Speakers Bureau	Dan Gentry
Spring Plant Sale	Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted
Sunshine	Sara Hanson
The New Leaf	Pat Farmer
Volunteer Awards	Patty Ellis
Volunteer Management/Support	Patty Ellis, CR Phillips

Photos: Pat Farmer, Barb Schwartz, Dave Granroos, Rebecca Gibson, Julie Bull, Patty Ellis, Tina Potts

Editors: Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, Connie Gilliam



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**“Kind hearts are the gardens,
 Kind thoughts are the roots,
 Kind words are the flowers,
 Kind deeds are the fruits,
 Take care of your garden,
 And keep out the weeds,
 Fill it with sunshine, Kind words, and Kind deeds.”**