

The New Leaf

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

JUNE 2023

*PATTY ELLIS, MGEV
PRESIDENT*



Pictured: Washingtonia palm trees at the entrance to the Greek National Gardens.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our first garden tour in a long time has come and gone and by all accounts that I've heard, it was extremely successful! Congratulations to Diane Cook, who led the team from inception to completion. Thank you to all the garden owners who gave their time and privacy to provide gardening inspiration to our community. And of course, kudos to all the volunteers who made each garden shine. What an accomplishment for our group to have two hugely successful events within such a short span of time!

While I didn't get to participate in our garden tour, I did do a little garden touring of my own while on vacation in Greece. The Greek National Gardens are just down the street from the hotel that we stayed at in Athens. I spent time exploring the winding paths, water features, and different planting areas. The gardens were started in 1839 by Queen Amalia. While much is native to the area, there are trees planted and named in honor of George Washington! There are even some ancient artifacts interspersed along the walkways and it's an oasis in the middle of a bustling metropolis. I'm sure that the queen would be proud that her project is still being enjoyed today by citizens and visitors alike. If you ever find yourself in Athens, I highly recommend that you take some time to visit.

When I returned to my own garden after two weeks, I discovered that all my veggies had grown by leaps and bounds! Corn that was a couple of feet tall on May 13th is now taller than me. Pole beans have managed to climb to the top of the trellis and the tomatoes are huge! The first squash is almost ready to pick, and bush beans are a couple of days from harvest. I'm looking forward to a long and healthy harvest this year.

Speaking of new crops, the applications for the next MGEV class will be going out in the not-too-distant future. It will be exciting to plan for a new class and freshly minted MGEVs to join us in this endeavor. If you have friends and neighbors that you think would make a great addition to our group, please encourage them to get on the list for an application!

I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend, and I'm looking forward to all our projects in the second half of 2023.

MAY 2023 GARDEN TOUR

Submitted by Diane Cook

As I sat down to write this last New Leaf article for the Garden Tour, I struggled to find the words to describe what a tremendous group of Master Gardeners we have – amazing, hardworking, dedicated, talented. All those words fit for sure, but they just do not capture the whole picture of what a wonderful, supportive group we have. So, since I cannot find all the words to describe us, I will simply have to say, "thank you."

Thank you to the MG garden owners who shared their gardens: Pat Farmer, Greg Emerson, Dave Granroos, Donna Dietz and Alice Jackson. Thank you to the Demo Garden and Nature Center for adding to their already long list of things to do to be a part of the tour. Thank you to all the MGEV's who helped get the gardens ready for the tour and who volunteered on the day of the tour. Thank you Dale Senko, for all your work on the educational write ups for the gardens on the tour. Thank you Deberah Williams and Shanna Campbell-Yeane for your work on our various graphics. The final results for the Garden Tour will be presented at the Volunteer meeting in July, but at present our numbers indicate that 120 tickets were sold, with approximately \$2,300 in profit! So, while there is room for improvement, a pretty good result for not having had a tour in so many years!!

FARMER GARDEN



DIETZ GARDEN



JACKSON GARDEN



EMERSON GARDEN



GRANROOS GARDEN



BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB "I CAN GARDEN CLUB"

Submitted by Rebecca Gibson, Sonjia Lambeck, Dale Senko

DONATION FROM DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Rebecca Gibson and Dale Senko had the pleasure of attending a Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) meeting last month. The sorority, a group of former and current educators, had requested a presentation about our volunteer work with the Boys and Girls (B&G) Club. Rebecca, a former educator herself, gave the history of our involvement with the club and our current activities.

We were honored to receive a donation from DKG. We plan to put it to good use starting a "strawberry patch" at the B&G Club garden. It may not be a traditional "patch". We recently acquired a unique multi-tiered planter. We were looking for a new way to plant with the kids using the deck at the B&G club. Thanks to the support from DKG, we hope to experiment with planting strawberries in vertically stacked planters.

Cathy Pugh arranged the donation of a Greenstock five-stack vertical garden unit and trolley from the company to use for the Strawberry Project.

On May 3rd, the children traveled to the James E. McGuffey Nature Center. Pat Farmer and Dale Senko led two groups on the Red Trail, Demo Garden and Pond. The children identified a variety of plants and trees including our favorite, a very large White Oak. Thanks to all the MGEVs who participated in this project.







May 10th was the date of our Open House and final program of the school year. It was hosted by the children. Invitations were distributed to special guests and parents. Zoe S., Cobb County Family & Consumer Science Agent assisted us with preparing veggie wraps and smoothies.

BYA

Submitted by Melanie Landrum



Backyard Association
A Presentation by Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers



David Brown
Greenhouse Manager,
Floral Designer
Hills and Dales Estate

Tuesday
June 13, 7:00pm

**"Growing and
Caring for Happy &
Healthy Indoor Plants"**

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.



An Equal Opportunity,
Affirmative Action, Veteran,
Disability Institution

At our May BYA we welcomed guest speaker, Adriana Quinones, Executive Director from Columbus Botanical Garden. Adriana presented a beautiful program full of inspiring pictures from this beautiful garden. She shared the history of the gardens and most excitedly all the future expansion plans! The diverse and growing collections at the Columbus Botanical Garden provide something for everyone to enjoy. It's only an hour drive from Newnan and totally worth checking out!

Our June BYA meeting should prove very popular, as we host crowd favorite, David Brown, Floral Designer at Hills and Dales. David will be speaking on the highly requested topic of houseplants. You can expect him to cover a wide range from the easy and not so easy to grow.

Thanks to all who continue to support our Backyard Association meetings. The crowds have been large, and everyone seems to leave feeling inspired to return to their gardens. A special thank you to all the volunteers that continue to make our BYA's a huge success! It most definitely takes a dedicated team! Deberah and I appreciate each and every one of you!!!

MGEVS VISIT "PETALS FROM THE PAST"



The whole gang along with our host, Jason Powell, in Jemison, AL

CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW

Submitted by Dale Senko



For this month's review, I dug into the archives of Thoughtful Thursdays found on MGLOG. These continuing education segments have been presented for the last five years, so there are plenty of topics to choose. I browsed through the years and one caught my eye.

"Mitigating Construction Impacts on Trees" is presented by Dr. Jason Gordon. A few years ago, Dr. Gordon was our technical support for the MGEV 2022 Calendar on trees. He was always accessible, supportive and answered my many tree questions in easy to understand terms. When I saw the listing for his September 8, 2022, Thoughtful Thursday topic, I wanted to listen.

The presentation is 30 minutes long, with an additional 15 minutes of Q&A. He talks about how projects, whether they are large construction or small cable trenching, can negatively impact trees. Root removal, smothered roots and soil compaction can cause problems for trees and eventual tree death. Tree decline may be mitigated by creating a tree protection zone outward from the root plate.

Check out Thoughtful Thursday's archives for your continuing education or the next monthly session on June 8.

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul. – Alfred Austin

JUNE IN THE GARDEN

- Harvest vegetables as early as possible.
- Big green caterpillars on parsley and fennel will become butterflies. Try not to kill them.
- Replenish the mulch in your vegetable garden.
- Plant a "trap crop" (sunflowers) to attract leaf footed bugs away from tomatoes.
- Use organic options to control insects that are harming vegetables.
- Continue to deadhead annual flowers to encourage production of more flowers.
- Azaleas and big-leaf hydrangeas can be pruned now without harming next year's blooms.
- Prune back fall chrysanthemums to encourage bushier growth.

PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

Annuals: IF you want to keep your annuals blooming then you MUST deadhead faded blossoms WEEKLY because IF the seeds set - Game Over!

Bulbs: Cut off all yellow foliage from spring blooming daffodils.

Edibles: Use garden herbs often in your cooking as these plants grow best when they are regularly grazed for their leaves.

House Plants: Remove faded blooms as you notice them. This will help prevent the spread of disease.

Lawns: Now's a good time to check for a thatch layer at the roots of your grass. More than 1/2" needs to be removed with a de-thatcher. Also look to have a core aeration done as this will allow for oxygen to get directly onto the roots of your turf grass and will also remove some of that thatch. Those core plugs will dissolve back into the soil with no ill effects.

Perennials & Ornamentals: Keep leaf litter at a minimum by pruning off any dead or diseased stems, leaves, or branches. Continue deadheading faded blossoms to encourage continued blooming. If you will cut back fall blooming chrysanthemums now, they'll be bushier and less likely to fall over when the heavy blooms come in this fall.

Roses: In general, climbing roses produce most of the blooms in early summer so after they bloom is a good time to prune climbers. Always look for dead or diseased stems and always look to deadhead spent blossoms.

Shrubs: Shear hedges when they look untidy. Prune them so that they are slightly wider at the bottom than the top, this will result in fuller, healthier plants. Conifers should be sheared in winter when they are dormant. Privet and barberry are fast growing and may be sheared several times during the growing season. Now is a good time to shear azaleas and any rhododendrons that are finished blooming for the year. Pruning them later in the year will most likely shear off future blossoms.

Trees: Prune back spring flowering trees once they finish blooming and remove seed pods.

Vines & Ground Covers: Prune any wild suckers or shoots off your wisteria for one last time this season, as next year's flower buds will form in midsummer. This is the time to prune spring flowering clematis. Prune to reduce their size or to fit their supporting trellis.

As always, many thanks to Reeves & Glasener in their Month-by-Month GARDENING in GEORGIA!



It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside. ~Maud Hart Lovelace, *Betsy-Tacy and Tib*, 1941

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

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



Botanical name:
Aseroe rubra
common name
starfish stinkhorn.
Cathy LeBar and
Amy Barnes
identified this
unusual mushroom.

NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Audrey Harrelson

Nature Trail News

Some of you know that the Nature Trail site has a number of water drainage problems. There are areas which range from those that remain wet most of the time to places where a heavy downpour funnels water from the parking lot towards the pavilion, washing away plants and soil immediately. Multiple efforts to address this have been made. This year we began working on plantings to control some of the water, with mixed results. If this were our homes, most of us would bite the financial bullet and fix the problem. That's not an option here, so...we try other things. Progress reports will continue on this issue.

Workdays are being cut back to the first and third Mondays of the month from 10-12, beginning in June. Due to others using the site, we're only working on the 19th this month. A reminder email will go out.

ROSE LOVER



Cathy LeBar has a love for roses. She joined the local Rose Society in 2019 and has many accomplishments, studying diligently, passing the tests to become a Consulting Rosarian and Rose Judge in 2022. She has judged several Rose Shows including the one at Atlanta Botanical Gardens May 13-14 this year. The South Metro Rose Society had their 36th Annual Rose Show May 20-21, 2023. There were over 300 entries in Horticulture and 18 rose arrangements. Cathy entered and won 3 blue ribbons and 2 Rosettes for Queen of Show in Standard and Mini Arrangements in SMRS local show.

NEWS FROM THE HELP DESK

Submitted by Deberah Williams

Arborvitae:

Better than Leyland Cypress, but...

At the Help Desk we have had a number of calls from clients who are very worried about problems with evergreen screening trees. The calls are not about Leyland Cypress but about their Green Giant Arborvitae, previously known as *Thuja standishii x plicata*, a cross between the western red cedar and Japanese arborvitae. The arborvitae has taken the place of Leylands for a landscape screen. One client had planted 100 plants and many of the trees are slowly dying.

Arborvitae don't tend to have the same problems as Leyland Cypress, but they come with their own set of problems; mostly planting issues or dry period or windy-dry periods. However, serious problems happen when the roots are crowded during planting.

Walter Reeves explains the problem much better than I can. Here is an excerpt from his website that gives the details and solutions:

Q: Can you identify what's killing my Emerald Green arborvitae trees? The trees would first get small patches of gray/brown needles. Then, the browning spreads until it consumes the tree. Can you identify what is causing this issue?

A: It looks to me like the root ball dried out at some point. In my experience, arborvitae cannot stand having dry roots. This can be a real problem if arborvitae is planted in the spring.

We all know what type of weather comes after spring. Just a couple of days of hot weather can absorb all the water in a newly-planted arborvitae root ball.

In my experience, arborvitae should always be planted in the fall so there's not so much water stress during winter. Roots can easily grow and explore the surrounding soil, giving them more area from which to absorb water.

The best way to plant them is to loosen soil in an area six feet in diameter. Remove top six inches of soil and pile nearby. Then remove as much soil from the tree root ball as you can. Spray the roots with water as you work. Spread the roots out widely in your initial hole and backfill over the roots with the soil you removed.

Water deeply once a week or twice a week if it is windy or the temperatures are high. Continue watering for at least three months. If your soil is mostly red clay, extend the watering until cool fall days arrive.

Watch for the gray patches of needles next year and water the tree immediately.

"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June?" L.M. Montgomery

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, Denise Grove, Dave Granroos, Donna Dietz, Rebecca Gibson

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