

The New Leaf

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

JULY 2023

*PATTY ELLIS, MGEV
PRESIDENT*



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Have you tried something new in your garden this year? I've been reading about pollinators and companion planting and decided to try that in my raised bed vegetable garden. With a few exceptions, it seems to be working out great! I planted basil, borage, zinnia, marigold and anise hyssop alongside all my vegetables and wow! I've noticed an exponential increase in pollinator activity, along with a decrease in insect pest and disease activity. The outliers are my cucumber plants, so I am going to have to do some further research about why they are having a disappointing showing.

But that's what gardening and life are all about, right? That new idea, plant design or technique might be a spectacular success or a dismal failure or something in-between. Regardless of the outcome, you've gleaned new insights that will come in handy in the future.

What about trying something new as a volunteer? Our group has so many opportunities to dip your toes into and learn. Here are a few things that you might consider:

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*Volunteer to record or edit a Backyard Association (BYA) meeting, volunteer meeting and/or a continuing education presentation. These presentations can then be shared with our group and to the public. You don't need to be a technological genius!

*Take a shift at the "in-person help desk" and I guarantee that you will learn something new. You don't have to be a plant or insect ID expert or know the genus and species of every plant. You just have to be willing to research problems for your neighbors in Coweta County and do a little bit of pre-volunteer shift training.

*Show up at a Nature Trail workday and learn about native plants and invasives. The trails are a beautiful place to spend some time and weeding is very therapeutic.

Don't forget about our upcoming volunteer meeting on July 13th, at 10 AM in the DMMR. This is your chance to catch up on everything happening in the group and socialize with your fellow MGEVs. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

4-H ADVENTURE DAY CAMP



On May 30th, Audrey Harrelson conducted a program for the 4-H Adventure Day Camp. Her theme was “Be a World Superhero - Change YOUR World.” The children enjoyed the presentation and asked a lot of questions. The talk was conducted in the outdoor classroom at the Nature Trail. The campers walked the purple trail and got to see a new part of the Nature Trail as well. Melanie Atkinson, Ed Atkinson, Pat Farmer and Dale Senko were Audrey’s support team.

BYA

Submitted by Lyn Matthews



The BYA speaker for June was David Brown from Hills and Dales. His talks are always informative as well as entertaining. This time the subject was "*House Plants-Growing and Caring for Healthy and Happy Indoor Plants.*"

Also, this month we heard from Ashley Frasca. Ashley spoke at the Morning Glory program. She is from the WSB Saturday morning call in garden show. She took over for Walter Reeves when he retired. The title of her talk was "*Green and Growing.*"

On Tuesday, July 11, 7 pm, Linda May, Outreach Coordinator Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, will be the guest speaker at the July BYA meeting. Her topic of discussion will be "Creating Backyard Habitats."

CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW

Submitted by Dale Senko



I tuned into the June 8th Thoughtful Thursday for continuing education. "Resources for Your MGEV Adventure" provided a review of information sources for MGEVs. Sheri Dorn and her assistant Sarah Sawyer, from the state office, outlined the Georgia MGEV program website. It contains information on upcoming events, advanced training, Trellis blog and Extension publications. If you don't receive Trellis, you can sign up to receive it there. It also provides connections to Facebook and Instagram pages.

Everyone is familiar with MGLOG, but I bet you were unaware of all its various features. Sheri and Sarah reviewed the homepage and gave navigation tips. In the MGEV Profile tab, you can change your email or home address, phone number or update other parts of your profile. This summer the Risk Management Training (RMT) section will prompt you when to update your training. The homepage shows a "Top Ten List" of the total number of hours accrued by county. It also shows the average hours by MGEV. Coweta leads the state with average number of volunteer hours per MGEV. Of interest to Committee Chairs, there is a report which totals hours recorded by project and time intervals. This session is 30 minutes long and can be found at Thoughtful Thursday on the MGLOG homepage

JULY IN THE GARDEN

- Observe your garden in the morning and at dusk. Keep an eye out for pests and diseases. Least harmful early intervention in the best.
- Cut back herbs like basil, mint, and oregano by half to prevent them from producing seeds and to promote more fragrant leaves.
- Take time to do a “tick check” after working in the yard.
- Continue to plant annual seeds such as marigolds, cosmos, and sunflowers.
- Support tall flower stems prone to fall over after a rain.

PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

ANNUALS: Continuing deadheading annual flowers.

BULBS: Remove dead flowers from daylilies and dahlias or just have the deer nibble them off.

EDIBLES: Prune figs lightly removing tall shoots from the middle of the bush. Remove vertical water sprouts from apple, peach, and pear limbs.

HOUSEPLANTS: Care **MUST** be taken when pruning house plants as some have sap that will irritate your skin and eyes! That's why you should **ALWAYS** thoroughly wash your hands after handling these plants. Houseplants known to have irritating sap are dieffenbachia, poinsettia, philodendron, pothos, and weeping fig.

LAWNS: *Grasscycling* is the practice of leaving your grass clippings on the lawn rather than bagging them. This practice saves time, fuel, and adds nitrogen back into the soil, reducing the amount of fertilizer required. Most new mowers have a 'mulching' setting that accomplishes this effort.

Now is the time to raise the height of your mower blade another notch. With the higher heat our lawns are experiencing, this will give the roots a chance to actually provide sufficient nutrients so the grass can grow.

PERENNIALS and ORNAMENTAL GRASSES: Prune back by 1/3 to 1/2 fall blooming perennials like asters, chrysanthemums, helianthus, heliopsis. This will result in fuller plants that shouldn't require staking. Continue to deadhead repeat bloomers as this will encourage more blooms.

ROSES: Prune weak or dead limbs every time you examine your roses. Don't forget to periodically sterilize your pruners so as not to spread disease.

SHRUBS: Remove dead branches and flowers once they finish blooming. Prune fast growing species like privet, abelia, laurel, and holly as this will neaten them up and they will still have time to harden off before winter. Dead heading your butterfly bushes will encourage more blooms until frost.

TREES: There is still time to prune trees that bloomed in the spring. Cut off seed pods and prune lightly to shape the trees. Prune summer flowering trees as soon as they finish blooming, if pruning is needed at all.

VINES and GROUND COVERS: If you have English ivy or Virginia creeper growing on a wall or around doors or windows and it threatens to cover the doors or windows, cut it back now!

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



SAVE THE DATE**MGEV MEETING:**

It's never too early to mark your calendars for the upcoming **July MGEV meeting** on **July 13th**, at **10 AM** in the DMMR. Join us to learn what is going on with each of our committees, socialize with fellow MGEVs, get some continuing education and enjoy some awesome food from the hospitality committee. See you there!

2023 POLLINATOR CENSUS:

POLLINATION POWERS THE EARTH!



FALL PLANT SALE/ GREEN HOUSE

Submitted by Kim Magyar

On May 31st, we had a productive intake day at the Greenhouse. The weather was outstanding. We potted up approximately 484 plants, and there are plenty of tasks still to accomplish. On June 13th, we potted the hardwood cuttings.

We have items to do that are for all skill and knowledge levels. Please join us! We would love to see your pretty and handsome faces!!



HELPERS:

Barb Schwartz,, Cathy LeBar, Marge Cox, Denise Dasher, Kathy Olmstead, Kim Magyar, Chuck Olmstead, Don Lambeck, Sonjia Lambeck, Melanie Landrum, Susan Mills, Amy Barnes, Janice Wise

A BIG thanks to everyone who showed up on June 21st to pot up 432+ plants. Although it rained a bit (we worked under the plant port), the temperature was perfect for a workday. Thanks to Dave Granroos and his helpers; he provided a truck load of plants.



The next scheduled workday is Wednesday, July 12th at 9:00 am. Please look for more information to come from the GH team--Barb Schwartz, Marge Cox, and Cathy LeBar.

As far as plants, we no longer need Crocosmia or yellow Canna-we have plenty of both. If you have any shrubs, trees or grasses, we could use more of those, along with more perennials and native plants.



NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Audrey Harrelson



Summer heat and humidity have kicked in. Moving Forward, we've reduced workdays to 2 per month, maximum (we often are unable to work due to other users). Tentative scheduled days are Monday, July 3rd and Monday, July 17th, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Any available help is welcomed. The work is much like what we all do in our own yards, weeding, watering and picking up debris and it benefits the citizens of Coweta County. More importantly it contributes to our group commitment as Coweta Master Gardeners.

This is what 3 people (Audrey Harrelson, Ed Atkinson and Melanie Atkinson) did in 2 hours recently. We could do a lot more with more helpers.

DEMO GARDEN OPEN HOUSE

Submitted by Dale Senko

On Sunday, June 25th, the Demonstration Garden's Outdoor Classroom was dedicated to Bill Cline who helped with funding. Mr. Bill was honored with a memorial plaque during the program. Stephanie Butcher and Garden Chairs Kathy Olmsted and Amy Keller spoke to his family and friends about his dedication and support of the project. Later everyone toured and enjoyed the garden which is bursting with flowers and pollinators.



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	Barbara Schwartz (lead), Cathy LeBar, Marge Cox
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, Amy Keller, Dave Granroos, Marge Cox, Dale Senko. Patti Ellis
 Editors: Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, Connie Gilliam



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