

The New Leaf

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

AUGUST 2023

*PATTY ELLIS, MGEV
PRESIDENT*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit.”

-Author unknown, maybe a Greek proverb?

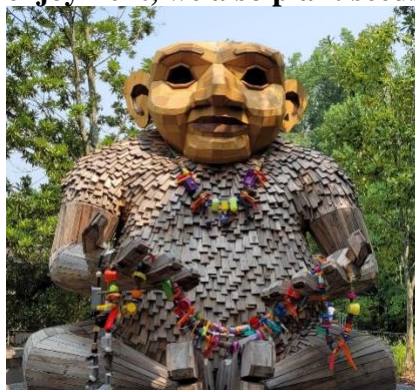
Over this past week my 15-year-old niece has been visiting from Minnesota. Since she had never been to Atlanta, we did a lot of sightseeing in the area, and some of it included gardens. One day we went to Hills and Dales and toured the home and gardens that have been there, in some form, since 1916. We learned about the families that lived there in the past and how the gardens evolved over the years. Now the gardens are available to the public to enjoy. The Atlanta Botanical Gardens were another fun morning. They are currently featuring an installation of giant wooden trolls from a Dutch artist who works with recycled materials. Each troll has a name and a story to teach the humans about how to save the world by being more mindful of how we use and dispose of things. We also took a drive to Luthersville to see the Century Plant. If you haven't heard about this amazing specimen of agave, I highly recommend taking a drive to see it. A local woman planted the seed 37 years ago and this unusual plant (which is usually found in more arid areas of Mexico and Texas) took root. This spring it started shooting up a flower stalk and it is currently in bloom. According to what I've read, the plant only blooms once in 10-45 years. After it flowers, it will die and forms seeds. It truly looks like something out of a Dr. Seuss book!

Each of these are examples of not only the joy a gardener gets from planting, and maintaining a garden, but the benefit it gives to neighbors, friends, and the future. And that's how I like to think of MGEVs. While we plant gardens for our own enjoyment, we also plant seeds that we will never fully see come to fruition.



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MGEV CONTINUING EDUCATION – “POLLINATORS”

On July 13th, our ANR Agent, Stephanie Butcher and Cathy LeBar conducted a Continuing Education program for 30 MGEV's. The topic was pollinators and it was an important one. The class also got to experience the pollinator garden first hand.



BYA

Submitted by Lyn Matthews

July's speaker was the wonderfully inspiring, Linda May. She is the Outsource Coordinator with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division. Her topic was "Creating Backyard Habitats." She is very passionate and knowledgeable on her subject. We hope to have her again.

August BYA will host Trecia Neal. Her topic is "Living with the Landscape, Why Native Plants." Her resume is very impressive. Hope you are able to attend.



A Presentation by Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

Trecia Neal

Founder, Green Gardens Education & Design;
 Member, UGA Master Gardener Ecological
 Landscape Alliance; Monarchs Across Georgia
 Board Member; Monarch Watch Conservation
 Specialist; Chair-Pollinator Habitat Certification;
 Biologist; Naturalist; Speaker

Tuesday, August 8, 7:00pm

**"Living with the Landscape –
 Why Native Plants?"**

UGA Extension – Coweta County
 255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263
 (770) 254-2620 / coweta.extension@uga.edu



Everyone loves the refreshments the hospitality committee provides at the BYA meetings. A lot of time and thought goes into preparing for these events. Lets give our hospitality committee a huge shout out and the support they deserve.

August... brings katydids, elderberries, blackberry pie, and goldenrod... August is just another thirty-one days of concentrated Summer, but it certainly gets one in condition to appreciate Fall when it comes. Good old August — we'll take it, and some of us will like it. ~Hal Borland

August is one of the hottest months of the northern year, so hold your breath and see that the fan is in order. It is also one of the longest months, and sometimes it seems even longer. ~Hal Borland

CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW

Submitted by Dale Senko



July's Thoughtful Thursday explains everything you need to know about Advanced Training for MGEVs. If you graduated training in 2022 and completed your 50 volunteer hours, you are eligible to attend advanced training classes. Class offerings vary each year as well as the locations and formats, so look for class announcements from the state program office. The next class in August, Plant Diagnostics, is full. I know some Coweta Master Gardeners will be attending. Look for upcoming classes in September and October. The video explains the different formats (in person, distance, hybrid), gold and star levels, and the distinction between Advanced Training and Continuing Education. A Prize goes to anyone who views the July 13, 2023 Thoughtful Thursday and identifies two MGEVs in photo shots! You can access the archive video in MGLOG.



AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

- Pull English ivy off of trees.
- Scout vegetables for pest problems.
- Prepare the garden for cool season vegetables and flowering annuals.
- Collect seeds from desired plants to save for planting next year.
- Control snakes by moving log, leaf and rock piles away from your house.
- Start seeding indoors for transplants of cool season vegetables.
- Water the garden according to county guidelines.

AUGUST PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

- **ANNUALS:** Cut back faded but healthy annual flowers. Water and fertilize lightly with water-soluble fertilizer making a second season of blooms appear in two weeks.
- **BULBS:** Cut fall blooming bulbs and bring them into the house to enjoy.
- **EDIBLES:** Harvest squash, okra, and cucumbers regularly. If the fruit gets too big, the plant will stop blooming.
- **HOUSE PLANTS:** Prune patio hibiscus back to 2/3 of its size now if you intend to grow it indoors this winter. Remember that it needs the sunniest spot possible inside.
- **LAWNS:** How long has it been since your lawn mower blade was sharpened? Cleanly cut grass looks healthier and does not look yellow after mowing. The lawn mower blade should be sharpened once each summer. Often Zoysia grass does not appear to need mowing even though it may be growing higher than the recommended 1/2" to 1-1/2". Mow your Zoysia grass regularly to avoid thatch buildup.
- **PERENNIALS and ORNAMENTAL GRASSES:** Perennials like salvia will continue to bloom well into fall if you keep them deadheaded. Remove yellow or diseased leaves of iris but leave the seed pods for winter interest. Collect seeds from your favorite perennials as the seed heads dry. Seeds that require no pretreatment can be stored in the refrigerator until spring when they can be sown outdoors. Store them dry in air-tight containers or tightly sealed plastic bags. Plants with such seeds are columbine, butterfly weed, aster, blackberry lily, blazing star, and pincushion flower.
- **ROSES:** Rose blooms are borne on new growth. If you are able to water your roses regularly during this hot season, they can be cut back to stimulate new twigs that will bear flowers in September. In the northern half of Georgia cut back bush roses by one third, Ever blooming roses, like 'Nearly Wild' and the 'Butterfly Rose' benefit from a good shearing now, even though they have many flowers.
- **SHRUBS:** Finish any shearing or pruning now so there will be enough time for new growth to harden off before winter arrives.
- **TREES:** After a major thunderstorm, you might be tempted to get out the saw and clean up. Before you prune here are some things to think about. You may need to hire a professional arborist or tree removal company if large limbs are hanging or broken and require a chain saw, or if damage to the tree is up so high that an extension ladder is required to reach it. Always follow safety precautions. Be aware of any power lines that may be hanging in the tree. Don't touch any wires that may be on the ground. Remove broken branches that are still attached to the tree. Remove hanging branches and smooth ragged edges with a sharp knife; this will encourage wounds to heal faster and reduce the number of places for insects to hide. Damaged smaller branches should be pruned back to where they join a larger branch. Don't top your trees. Cutting the main trunk back to stubs will reduce the vigor of the tree. New growth from the stubs tends to be spindly and susceptible to future storm damage.
- **VINES and GROUND COVER:** Remove any dead or diseased stems or twigs of vines and ground covers and dispose of them. It is best to discard diseased plant material away from your compost pile. Check vines on your arbor or pergola to make sure they are not being girdled, which means the tie cuts into the stem, restricting the flow of water and nutrients. Tie up shoots that you want to train to follow your design plan.

As always, all credit to Reeves & Glasener in their Month-by-Month GARDENING in GEORGIA.

2023 POLLINATOR CENSUS

Submitted by Dale Senko



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

GREAT SOUTHEAST Pollinator Census

AUGUST 18-19, 2023

You are invited to join us to participate in the
Great Southeast Pollinator Census

- ▶ Fun for all ages
- ▶ Sessions last only 15 minutes

Go to the Census Website to learn more →  <https://gsepc.org>

Saturday, August 19, from 9:30am — 11:30am

Continuous Counting sessions at the
Coweta UGA Extension Office
Pollinator Garden and Demo Garden
255 Pine Road
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 254-2620

Master Gardener Extension Volunteers will be present to
explain the counting process and answer questions
about "Starting a Pollinator Garden."

COME JOIN US FOR THE COUNT! **Saturday, August 19, 9:30 am to 11:30 am.** Members across Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina will join together to count pollinators as part of the 2023 Great Southeast Pollinator Census. Continuous 15-minute counting sessions will take place at the Coweta UGA Extension Office Pollinator and Demonstration Gardens, 255 Pine Road, Newnan, 30263, coweta.extension@uga.edu, www.ugaextension.org/coweta. Master Gardener Extension Volunteers will be present to explain the counting process and answer any questions about starting a pollinator garden. For more information on the census, go to their website: <https://gsepe.org>.

NEWS FROM THE HELP DESK

Submitted by Deberah Williams

A Slow Month at the Help Desk

It hasn't been as busy as usual at the Help Desk this July. In June we had requests for help from eighty-eight clients and in July the total was thirty-nine. The decline was probably because of vacations and hot weather.

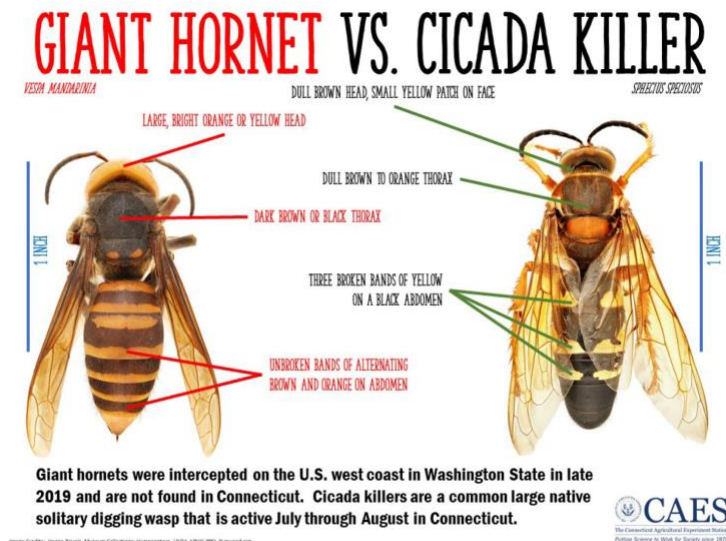
As expected, there were some weed identifications combined with "how do I kill this weed." Some people requested help with squash and cucumbers. There were two calls about fruit trees, three questions about roses and four clients with tree problems. Others asked about centipede grass and "how can I kill my shrub," which is a rare question, since most people want to save their shrubs.

There were only a few clients who asked for help with either identifying insects or how to get rid of them. One client wanted to get rid of yellow jackets, one wanted to get rid of unwanted millipedes. The two that surprised me the most were, one thought they had seen a "Murder Hornet" or "Giant Asian Hornet" and usually what they are seeing is a Cicada Killer Wasp. The Cicada Killer Wasp are around the same size as the Giant Asian Hornet but is not dangerous to anything but cicadas.

People remember "Murder Hornets" were in the news, so this concern comes up this time a year since July is the time cicadas are plentiful. I found a nice comparison of the two from a press release from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) Experiment Station in Connecticut. The Giant Asian Hornet has only been seen in North America on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and in Whatcom County in Washington State.

Because of efforts to get rid of the hornets, many hope that the large hornet is probably eradicated in the US, but if you look it up on the internet it can be disconcerting.

August will probably bring a larger number of clients who will need help with their gardening problems. That is why we need more of our Coweta Master Gardeners to support our gardening community by volunteering at the Help Desk. I know when I help a client it gives me a great feeling of accomplishment. I invite you to come help out at the Help Desk.



Graphic by Katherine Dugas CAES

Master Gardener Extension Volunteers Fall Plant Sale

Greenhouse, Behind Extension Office
255 Pine Road, Newnan, GA

- Perennials
- Shrubs
- Trees

We encourage you
to bring wagons
and boxes for ease
of shopping.



Saturday, October 14
8:30am–1:00pm
(or until plants are sold)
Questions? Call 770.254.2620

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?



Can anyone identify this plant submitted by Barbara France? Barbara is a remarkable gardener.

Send answers to:
Patfarmer100@gmail.com

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. Landscape	Cathy LeBar
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	Jerry Allen
Nature Trail	Ed Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson, Audrey Harrelson
Scholarship	Jennie Adcock
Speakers Bureau	Dan Gentry
Spring/Fall 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