

The New Leaf

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

MAY 2024

DIANE COOK
MGEV PRESIDENT

Hard to believe it is May already, and we are almost halfway through the year! As a group, we have a tremendous number of accomplishments under our belt. When I checked MGLOG before writing this article, our group of Master Gardener Volunteers (MGEVs) has already logged 2,400 hours for the year and are 4th in the state! However, I think that number could be a little low since that figure is only from 69 of us, and we total 114 MGEVs. Please remember to log your hours. 😊

The Spring Plant Sale (SPS) is in the rearview mirror. What a tremendous event it was! Thank you again for all who made it possible, as it truly was a team effort. A special thank you to Kathy Olmsted and Kim Magyar who have chaired our Plant Sale Committee for the past 5 and 4 years respectively. Their dedication to making our plant sales successful over their tenure has been amazing. But as you may have heard, they will not be continuing as Chairs in 2025. It is an important committee for our group. Kathy and Kim have developed a system over the years that they would be happy to share with the incoming group. I keep saying “group” because there is a lot involved in this committee and a good team will make this transition smoother. Look around at your fellow MGEVs over the next few weeks and see if they would be interested in teaming up with you for this Committee. It would be ideal if we could get this transitional Plant Sale Committee in place soon; that way Kim and Kathy could mentor the new committee for the remainder of the year.

Even though the Spring Plant Sale is behind us, there is still much ahead for our group. Just like we are all starting to get into the rhythm of taking care of our own gardens, our various committees are getting into the rhythm of their summer work. Be on the lookout for workdays for the Landscape Extension Team, Nature Trail, Inspiration Garden, and “Ask the Master Gardener” at Market Day in downtown Newnan (which is on the first Saturday of every month). Also, please try and make it to our May 9th Volunteer meeting. These meetings are always so informative and fun for our group.

As I have mentioned in previous articles, working alongside fellow MGEVs is a great way to gain knowledge. This was the case just recently when Sonjia Lambeck and I were talking about our mutual interest in identifying birds. I shared with Sonjia the Cornell University app Merlin, that I learned about at a BYA meeting last year. You can find it here <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

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NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Ed and Melanie Atkinson

We are still somewhat in shock over the loss of about 130 pine trees due to the infestation of pine beetles. There are still more dead trees that will likely need to be removed in the future. It will take some time to finish the clean-up and see what has survived and what we will discover that was not apparent prior to the disturbance.

On a positive note, we have had several really good workdays and great participation from the 2024 class. We have been working on the Red Trail so that it will be in good shape in time for the June Garden Tour of the Inspiration Garden. There is still a lot of work to be done and we could use your help on **May 6th and 20th, from 9:00 am – 11:00 am**. We are at a loss when trying to plan projects to pursue when we never know how many workers to anticipate. Please let us know if you plan to be a somewhat regular volunteer at the Nature Trails. We have a volunteer ready to adopt the fern areas, learn more about ferns, and work to maintain and enhance the areas. We have several areas started for pollinators that will be more viable with more sunlight due to the removal of the pines. If that is an interest of yours, we would love to have you adopt an area, maintain it, and further develop it. At one time, we had an inventory of plants, but that is far out of date, especially where the pines were removed and the whole area disturbed. We could use someone that would like to inventory the plants and create an updated data base. Another suggestion is to create a handout to let visitors know what plants are at the center and when to see them at their best. Perhaps you have other thoughts or interests. We would love to hear your ideas.



LOVE IT or LOVE TO HATE IT

Submitted by Dale Senko

Gary Brown, Class of 2020, “Loves” his Pieris (Temple Bells) that he found at Petals from the Past. It is gorgeous in full bloom.

He “Loves to Hate” his Oakleaf Hydrangea (Snowflake) because it has barely grown in four years. If anyone also has this oakleaf, contact Gary to compare your experience with the plant.



Pieris Temple Bells



Oakleaf Hydrangea Snowflake

BYA

Submitted by Lyn Matthews

Backyard Association

A Presentation by Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers



Sara Henderson

Historic Oakland Cemetery Garden Director, Retired

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7:00pm

“The Shady Side of Gardening”

UGA Extension – Coweta County

255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263

FREE to attend, but you must register to be entered into the drawing for door prizes.

If you are an individual with a disability who may require assistance or accommodations in order to participate in or receive the benefits of a service, program, or activity of UGA, or if you desire more information, please contact us.

(770) 254-2620
coweta.extension@uga.edu

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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

Master Gardener Program

SPRING PLANT SALE

Submitted by Kim Magyar and Kathy Olmsted

On behalf of Kathy Olmsted and myself, we want to thank everyone who participated in any way during our 2024 Spring Plant Sale (SPS). From seed orders, the propagation schedule, workdays, intake days, soil mixing, watering, inventory, prep days, transport day, set-up day, sales day, and hospitality, it takes a dedicated team of volunteers to put on a SPS of over 5,200 plants that sell out in just over 2 hours. The pace is slow and steady wins the race, until sale week, and then it's fast and furious. Not to mention the constant stream of requests we have of Stephanie Butcher, Dana Selementi, Laura Morris, Ashley Yeager, and the rest of the Extension office team. Behind the scenes, the Extension office goes out of their way to make things simple, easy, and successful for us and our sale. Please thank them for all they do when you see them!

Our large quantity plant donors know who they are, and Kathy and I thank them immensely! Without those folks, our sale would not be as impressive as it is. But do you have any plants to donate for the 2024 Fall Plant Sale, or even the 2025 Spring Plant Sale? Even if it's just a few of "something special", we value your donations. As seasoned, involved MGEVs know, some of our plants have been sold for many, many years, and quite frankly the customers don't purchase them (and the plants may be considered "tired" in our customers' view). Some examples might be common cannas/crocoshmia/mints, forsythia, lemon balm, and some single-blooming daylilies, etc. They are great plants in small quantities for our sale, but our regulars are looking for something newer, different, and exciting, just as we all do when shopping for plants. Do you have anything you could donate in the future? Even if it's just 1 or 10 (or more) plants, our organization appreciates the donations. Please think of us when you divide or separate your unusual or desirable plants!

While Kathy and I will not be Chairing the 2025 sales, we have built a solid foundation for those who come after us. We are willing to help with inventory and printing pot sticks, as well as any other advice that's needed. Kathy and I have so many people we want to thank, but we fear we will unintentionally forget someone . . . SO THANK YOU ALL!





**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
“I Can Garden Club”**



On March 27 Pat Farmer delivered a program called “Reading the Tree Rings” to the children. Everyone got to count tree rings and look for woodpecker holes in the tree bark. On April 24 the MGEVs led the children on a hike on the RED trail and to the Inspiration Garden.

WHAT'S AN EPHEMERAL?

Ephemeral, in botany, is any short-lived plant, usually one that has one or more generations per year, growing only during favorable periods (as when adequate moisture is available) and passing the unfavorable periods in the form of seeds. They usually arrive in early spring and disappear in a few weeks. Ephemeral's make a wonderful addition to a shade or rock garden.



Celandine Poppy



Rue Anemone



Trout Lily



Virginia Bluebell



Blood Root



Common Violet



May Apple



Red Columbine



Trillium

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 wilt, 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 that will result in more vigorous growth where the plant is putting its energy into forming next year's blooms 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."

MGEV 2024 Calendar

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

<u>DATE/Time</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
04/22 - 1:00	Nature Trail Workday	Nature Trail
04/23 - 1:00	Inspiration Garden Workday	Inspiration Garden
04/24 - 10:00	Landscape Extension Team Workday	Extension Office
04/30 - 1:00	Inspiration Garden Workday	Inspiration Garden
05/01 - 10:00	Landscape Extension Team Workday	Extension Office
05/03 - 9:30	Real Colors® Leadership Development Training	Extension Office
05/04 - 10:00	Market Day On the Square Downtown Newnan- Ask A Master Gardener Booth	Across from Redneck Gourmet
05/06 - 9:00	Nature Trail Workday	Nature Trail
05/07 - 1:00	Inspiration Garden Workday	Inspiration Garden
05/08 - 10:00	Landscape Extension Team Workday	Extension Office
05/13 - 10:00	Landscape Extension Team Workday	Extension Office
05/14 - 1:00	Inspiration Garden Workday	Inspiration Garden
05/20 - 9:00	Nature Trail Workday	Nature Trail
05/21 - 1:00	Inspiration Garden Workday	Inspiration Garden
05/22 - 10:00	Landscape Extension Team Workday	Extension Office
05/28 - 1:00	Inspiration Garden Workday	Inspiration Garden
05/29 - 10:00	Landscape Extension Team Workday	Extension Office
06/01 - 10:00	Market Day On the Square Downtown Newnan- Ask A Master Gardener Booth	Across from Redneck Gourmet
06/01- 10:00	Inspiration Garden – Garden Tour – Nature Trail Tour	Inspiration Garden Nature Trail

- Please note Inspiration Garden time may change to morning as weather warms – look for email
- Real Colors Leadership Development Training is only for those who have pre-registered

Upcoming BYA/Morning Glory Meetings

<u>DATE/Time</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
05/14 - 7:00 p.m.	May BYA - Sara Henderson - "The Shady Side of Gardening"	DMMR
06/11 - 7:00 p.m.	June BYA - Rose Guerra - Hummingbirds	DMMR
07/09 - 7:00 p.m.	July BYA - David Brown* - Floral Arrangements	DMMR
07/23 - 10:00 a.m.	Morning Glories - Josh Fuder* - Growing Fruits	
08/13 - 7:00 p.m.	August BYA - Gabriella LaToya - Pollinators	DMMR
09/10 - 7:00 p.m.	Clint Waltz - "All Things Turf Grass"	DMMR
10/08 - 7:00 p.m.	October BYA - TBD	DMMR
10/22 - 10:00 a.m.	Morning Glories - Party with Petals & Just Dig It Farms Jason Powell - Petals from the Past - "Fall Gardening" Tracy Potager - TBD Plus - Petals from the Past Plant Sale	Exhibit Hall Fairgrounds
11/12 - 7:00 p.m.	November BYA - Sally Bethea, author "Keeping the Chattahoochee"	DMMR

* Speakers are tentative – waiting for confirmation

Upcoming MGEV Volunteer Meetings/Events

Volunteer Meetings are always at 10:00 a.m. in the DMMR

- **May 5th – Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon – 1:30-3:30**
- May 9th, July 11th, September 12th, November 14th, December 18th – Awards Dinner

Dates are subject to change – be sure to check the online calendar at our [MGEV Volunteer Resources page](#)

2024 Master Gardener Coweta County Board and Committee Chairs

MGEV BOARD:

President	Diane Cook
Vice President	Kathy Olmsted
Past President	Patty Ellis
President Elect	Jennie Adcock
Treasurer	Chuck Olmsted
Secretary	Stephanie Odom

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Ask MG/Market Day	Harley Stewart
Backyard Association	Melanie Landrum, Deberah Williams
Boys & Girls Club/Youth Ed.	Rebecca Gibson
Communications	Jerry Allen
Inspiration Garden	Kathy Olmsted, Amy Keller
Education/Speakers Bureau	Cathy LeBar, Nan Van Patten, Patty Ellis
Extension Landscape	Cathy LeBar
Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk	Susan Mills (Library), Patty Ellis
Fundraising	Open
Garden Tour	Open – no Tour planned until 2026.
Greenhouse	Barbara Schwartz (lead), Cathy LeBar, Marge Cox
Hospitality	Amy Sharpe, Susan Mills
Nature Trail	Ed & Melanie Atkinson, Audrey Harrelson
New Leaf	Pat Farmer, Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, Connie Gilliam
Plant Sales (Fall/Spring)	Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted
Scholarship	Jennie Adcock
Spring Plant Sale	TBD
Sunshine	Sara Hanson
Volunteer Awards	Patty Ellis

Photos: Pat Farmer, Dale Senko, Barb Schwartz, Ron Gill, Kim Magyar, Ed and Melanie Atkinson
 Editors: Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, Connie Gilliam



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