

# THE NEW LEAF

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

JUNE 2024



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### STAY SAFE OUT THERE!

Well MGEVs we are half way through our year and we are not slowing down!! When I checked recently, we were at 3,334 hours with 77 MGEVs reporting. That is up 900 hours in just the past month alone. As always, our seasoned MGEVs are hard at work and clearly our freshly minted MGEVs have hit the ground running.

Thank you all!

As we head into June, we are in full gardening mode, both in our own gardens and our volunteer commitments. Therefore, I thought now would be a great time to pass along some tips to keep us safe this season.

- **Warm Up.** Gardening often involves physical labor which can be hard on your body. So to help prevent injuries, warm up and stretch your muscles before starting.
- **Pay attention to your posture.** Center your body over your work, especially when lifting or digging.
- **Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate!!** Consider adding an electrolyte powder to your water bottle. These powders help improve your hydration with electrolytes, vitamins and nutrients.
- **We all know to be sun smart, but it is easy to forget when you are in the middle of gardening.** So, remember your hats and sunscreen. They're essential. Sunscreen should have a minimum SPF of 15, and be sure to check the expiration date on your sunscreen from last season. If you are out for an extended period, don't forget to reapply.

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- Use insect repellent to protect you from ticks and biting insects.
- Remember to take breaks often, especially as the days get hotter.
- Consider using a cooling microfiber towel around your neck. These towels quickly cool you down simply by first soaking in cool water, wringing them out, and wrapping them around your neck. The cooling effect can last several hours and can easily be reactivated by re-soaking.
- Finally, wear appropriate footwear. I know from experience that flip flops, even for a quick task, are never a good idea, unless you want a broken ankle like I had several years back.

As the summer heats up you should also consider volunteering at the in-person Help Desk. It is a great way to volunteer and keep cool. If you haven't worked the in-person help desk before, it is easy to get set up to do so. Reach out to Patty Ellis before signing up for any shifts. Patty will get you set up to complete some quick training. You don't need to know everything to work the help desk, You need to know where to look to get the answers.

Well, that about covers it for now. See everyone at a volunteer event or workday soon.

- Diane Cook, MGEV President





# NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Ed and Melanie Atkinson



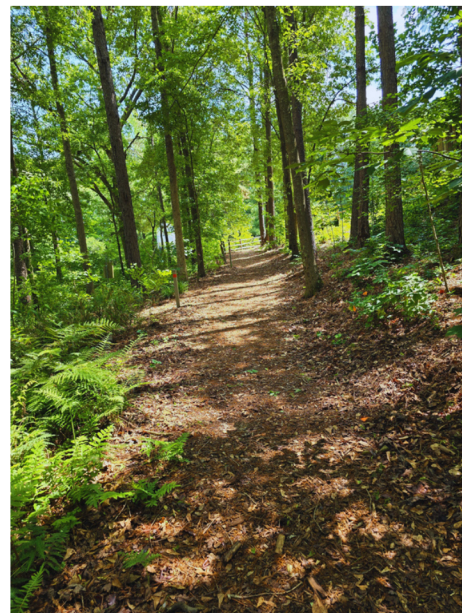
**Visit**  
**James E. McGuffey**  
**Nature Center & Trails**  
**Come enjoy**  
Center and Trails. Relax in the beauty of nature.  
The McGuffey Nature Center provides the perfect backdrop for a picnic and an opportunity to learn more about our native environment.

Beautiful Facilities    Self-Guided Tours    Group Tours for Children and Adults

- **ADMISSION** – Free to the public.
- **OPEN** – Daily, except Monday, T-Sat  
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM, Sun 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM
- **WHERE** – 275 Pine Road, Newnan, GA 30263  
(Coweta County Fair Grounds).
- **GROUP TOURS** – Led by one of our Coweta County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers. Group tours are available upon request. Contact Coweta County Extension Office for more information at (770) 254-2620.
- **SELF-GUIDED TOURS** are always fun, with plenty of useful information posted along the Purple Trail and in the Pavilion.



BEFORE



AFTER



**2024 COWETA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**  
Submitted by Diane Cook



**Jack Whittemore**  
**(Presenter Nan VanPatten)**  
**Newnan High School**  
**Recipient of \$1000**  
**Scholarship**



**Emily white**  
**Georgia Institute of**  
**Technology Recipient of**  
**\$1000 Scholarship**



**Denise Grove was the Scholarship**  
**Presenter at the East Coweta High**  
**School Awards Night.**  
**Kathryn Dickson (not pictured) was the**  
**Recipient of \$1,000 Scholarship**



**Emily Nesbitt**  
**College of Coastal Georgia**  
**Recipient of \$1,000**  
**Scholarship**



**Whitney Benz**  
**Trinity Christian School**  
**(Presenter Rhodes Shell)**  
**University of West Georgia**  
**Recipient of the Pat Clayton**  
**Memorial Scholarship \$1,500**



## LOVE IT OR LOVE TO HATE IT!

Submitted by Dale Senko

Charlene Rodriquez, Class of 2024, loves hydrangeas flowering on old wood. “Watching dead sticks turn into green foliage, forming white clusters then turning into beautiful blue large flowers is wonderful.”

Charlene loves to hate roses. “They start the season with nice green leaves and the first blooms are amazing. After the first couple of pretty blooms bugs come, brown spots appear on leaves, there is heat and humidity damage. Now I have an ugly bush for the rest of summer.”

We feel your pain, Charlene!



## FROM THE GARDEN OF GREG EMERSON



**GREG'S latest water feature!**

**Is there anyone out there willing to caption this photo!?**

**Send responses to:**

**Patfarmer100@gmail.com**

# EXTENSION LANDSCAPE

Submitted by Cathy LeBar





## SPEAKERS BUREAU

Submitted by Patty Ellis




On May 7th Dale Senko gave her presentation “Herbs 101” at the Newnan Carnegie library. Thirty-six neighbors were treated to everything you need to know about growing and using herbs. Attendees also got to take home an herb plant grown by some of our MGEVs or herb seeds donated by Baker Creek. Thank you, Dale, for sharing your knowledge with our community!

## 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.

## PRUNNING TIPS 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 is a good time to check for a thatch layer at the roots of your grass. More than a half inch 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!***



## IN MEMORIUM

### LYN MATTHEWS

Sadly we lost Lyn Matthews, a shining light, early on May 10th. Lyn was a Veteran Master Gardener from the class of 2014. To say Lyn was extra special is an understatement. Lyn could do anything, and it was obvious when she put her special touch on it! From arranging the most beautiful flower bouquets, table settings, and decorating the MG Christmas tree, or carving our Christmas ham, Lyn handled these tasks like no other. Lyn dearly loved volunteering at the greenhouse, nature trail and Inspiration Garden. She had been a member of the BYA team for the last several years and insisted on continuing to write for our newsletter all during her illness. Lyn was special to us all and will be so greatly missed. Please keep Lyn's husband Dave and family in your thoughts as they go through this most difficult time.



COWETA COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
**VOLUNTEER OF  
THE MONTH**

# **Cathy LeBar**

*Cathy has been a volunteer with Cooperative Extension for 11 years and has served in two counties -- Clayton & Coweta*

*She loves to share her knowledge of plants with others, enjoys the diversity of various educational projects and loves designing and maintaining Extension office landscapes.*

*Congratulations, Cathy!  
Thank you for your hard work!  
You are a true leader and always  
go above and beyond for the  
Master Gardener Program.*



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**EXTENSION**  
Master Gardener Program

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If you are an individual with a disability who may require accommodation  
in order to participate in or receive the benefit of a program of UGA  
Extension or you desire more information, please contact us.*



# TOPICS FROM THE HELP DESK

Submitted by Patty Ellis

As things heat up weather wise, they also heat up in the MGEV Help desk inbox. Recently a phone call came into the Extension office that demonstrated perfectly how great guidance for our clients and following good diagnostic procedures leads to proper identification and the right information.

A voicemail was left at the extension office and forwarded to the help desk. Pat Lincoln listened to the message and because it was a bit vague, she called the client to collect more information. Turns out the client had a “vine” that was taking over some plants in her yard, and she wanted to know how to get rid of it. Pat asked the client to send in some pictures of the vine. When I took over the remote help desk on Monday and looked at the photos, I saw something I had never seen before, so I pulled up the Picture This app and snapped a photo. The app came up with “five angled dodder” which I had never heard of. To confirm the ID, I entered the name into Google along with the word “extension” to get science-based results. Sure enough, when I compared the photo the client had sent to those found in publications from the University of Wisconsin and Ohio State, it was indeed a species of dodder. Just to be sure, I emailed Stephanie, and she confirmed the ID.

If you’ve never heard of or seen a dodder vine, they are fascinating! Dodders are parasitic plants that lack chlorophyll, leaves, and a root system. They grow from seeds that can remain dormant in the soil for years. When the seeds sprout, the vine seeks out an appropriate host plant and starts wrapping itself around the branches. It then inserts its modified roots, called haustoria, into the vascular system of the host plant. Eventually the dodder will flower and produce seeds that fall to the soil to wait for the right conditions to sprout again.

Unfortunately, once the dodder has inserted itself into the host plant, the only way to get rid of it is to either prune the plant below where the vine is attached, remove and dispose of the entire plant and the dodder before it flowers, or treat the host plant with an herbicide such as glyphosate which will kill the host and the dodder. If you attempt to remove the vine it can resprout from the plant’s vasculature. Pre-emergent applications can kill the seeds, so that is the best way to prevent further spread.

To learn more about dodders and see photos, check out the article that Stephanie wrote in 2018, as well as a publication from Ohio State that discusses them at length.

Stephanie Butcher 2019 Dodder article  
OSU Dodder's Tangled Tale

# REMINDERS...



 UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
EXTENSION | 

## GREAT SOUTHEAST Pollinator Census

AUGUST 23-24, 2024



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**COWETA MASTER  
GARDENER VOLUNTEERS**  
**FALL PLANT  
SALE**  
**12 OCTOBER 2024**  
**STAY TUNED  
FOR FURTHER DETAILS!**

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



# MGEV Board and Chairpersons

## 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
Plant Sales (Fall/Spring)	Open
Scholarship	Jennie Adcock
Sunshine	Sara Hanson
Volunteer Awards	Patty Ellis



Photos: Pat Farmer, Dale Senko, Melamie Landrum, Ed and Melanie Atkinson, Patty Ellis, Cathy LeBar, Greg Emerson.  
Editors: Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, Connie Gilliam



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