

# THE NEW LEAF

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

JANUARY 2025



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Happy  
New Year*

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As we welcome in the New Year, if you are anything like me, you stand in bewilderment of the fact that another year has come and gone. Those resolutions, hopes, plans, and dreams have either come to fruition or fallen by the wayside. Regardless, it is time to look forward once again and reach for new goals. Let's make sure that we plan for some fun and fellowship along the way. As we have always heard "All work and no play makes Jack (or Jill) a dull boy (or girl)". That's one of the good things about being a Master Gardener; what is scheduled as a work day usually becomes a time of fun and fellowship with our group.

This year I encourage you to put yourselves out there. Try something new. Meet your fellow MGEVs and enjoy yourselves. Happy MGEVs feel good about themselves, the work that they are doing, what they are learning, and ultimately share the results of those experiences with our community. This is our goal as Master Gardeners.

Happy New Year, and I hope to see you setting new goals, joining committees, making new friends, having fun and contributing to our wonderful community in Coweta County.

Take care, Jennie

2025

*NEW CHAPTER,  
NEW YEAR*



**Carrying on the Lyn Matthews Christmas tradition. Susan Mills, Melanie Landrum, Kim Magyar, Ginger Combs, Dave Matthews, Kathy Olmsted and Nancy Harrelson decorating the Extension Office Christmas tree.**



# 2024 HOLIDAY PARTY & AWARDS



**Santa said, you've been good this year. I told him it was just a lack of opportunity.**



**Nice until proven naughty.**



**The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud and clear for all to hear.**





**Christmas is not a time of year, but a state of mind.**



**You make every Christmas merrier.**



**Let's be naughty and save Santa the trip.**



**Dear Santa, define "nice."**



**Dear Santa, leave the credit card under the tree.**



**Dear Santa, it was just a phase.**





**It's all fun and games until Santa checks the Naughty List!**



**Naughty list. Yeah, that tracts.**

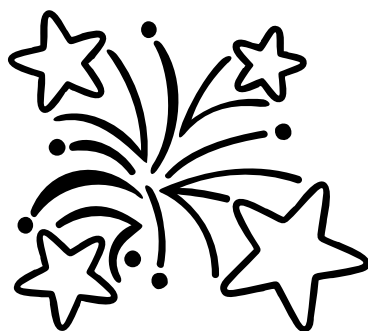


**Dear Santa, before I explain...how much do you know already?**



**Life is short. Eat the Christmas cookie.**







# MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR



**KIM MAGYAR**  
Class of 2016

**MASTER  
GARDENER OF  
THE YEAR  
2024**

**Thanks for all you  
do every year.**





# INSPIRING YOU

Submitted by Dale Senko

The Inspiration Garden is designed to inspire the public with gardening ideas and planting options. Let the garden “inspire you” this year.

Each month we will highlight plants and share garden activities. Garden leaders Amy Keller and Kathy Olmsted determine what plants to try out, schedule maintenance and propagation activities. Their merry band of volunteers care and nurture the selections twice monthly. Since the garden matches many gardeners’ home garden space, it offers a good template to copy.

## Propagation at the Greenhouse:

Last month plants from the Inspiration Garden were sources for cutting propagation. Salvia Mexicana Limelight, Salvia pink variety, cuphea Starfire pink, pineapple sage, salvia Santa Barbara, Texas tarragon, African blue basil, Jerusalem sage, and salvia madrensis were among the plants propagated for the spring plant sale.

## Early Seed in the Ground:

Now that we have cooler temperatures, the time for seeding poppies and larkspur in the ground is ideal. Clear ground of summer annuals to make way for these plants, cold temperature stratification and early spring germination.

## Catalog Shopping:

If you are still looking for tomato seeds, check seed catalogs for dwarf tomatoes. Gondwana moon dwarf tomato variety (see photo) and other dwarf tomato plants are compact and don’t grow above 4 feet. Dwarf plants are perfect for smaller gardens or where space is limited; even if you just want an easier plant to manage. The fruit are around 4-5 oz, multicolored, and pleasantly sweet with a well-balanced flavor. Dwarf plants don’t always mean small tomatoes. There are many varieties of dwarf tomato plants which grow large tomatoes. Seeds are generally easy to find. This variety was particularly healthy and disease resistant which was why it was chosen for our Inspiration Garden

## Bog Garden:

Are you thinking of starting a bog garden but not sure about what happens to it in winter? Check out the bog container at the Inspiration Garden.

Gondwana moon dwarf tomato



Gondwana moon dwarf tomato





# VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

COWETA COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

## **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: December Carol Fuller**

*Carol's journey as a Master Gardener began over 17 years ago. Throughout the years she has contributed her time and energy to a variety of programs, but some of her personal favorites are BYA, the greenhouse and plant sales.*

*Whether she is staffing an event or working behind the scenes, Carol thrives on helping others. She enjoys answering questions from the public about gardening, various volunteer programs, and how to get involved in the community.*

*Thank you Carol for your dedication and enthusiasm.*

*Congratulations!*



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Master Gardener Program

An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution.  
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.





## Seedlings Available

Several frosts and freezes have pushed our GFC seedlings into dormancy, putting them in prime condition for the planting season. Although orders have picked up in the last few weeks, we still have some limited availability on genetically-improved pine seedlings and hardwood seedlings as well. If you are looking for high quality, superior stem form, excellent disease resistance and good early volume production, we offer all of that in both loblolly and slash pine varieties. We also offer a wide variety of hardwood seedlings, such as white oak, northern red oak, and swamp chestnut oak, along with aesthetically pleasing trees such as dogwood and redbud. For more information on the seedlings we offer, please go to our website at [GaTrees.org](http://GaTrees.org). You can also place an order at our online store, [GaSeedlings.org](http://GaSeedlings.org). If you are a large landowner or consulting forester and you have questions about quantity discounts, please give us a call at 478-508-0056.



Georgia Forestry Commission | [www.gatrees.org](http://www.gatrees.org)



Program Participation Sign-In Sheet

Activity: Workday Educator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: Nature Trail Activity Date: Nov 18, 2024

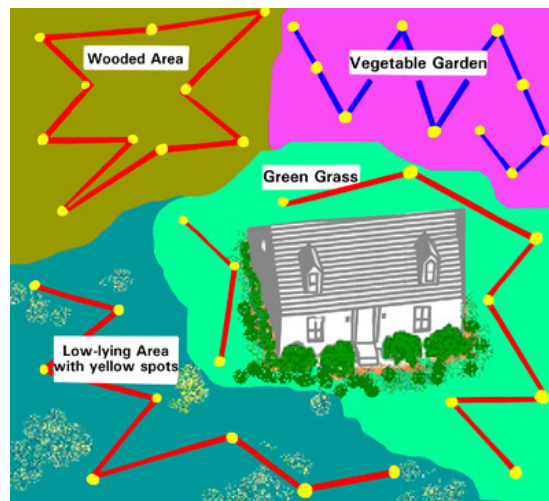
Thank you for participating in a program with UGA Cooperative Extension. We attempt to obtain information from individuals with whom we are offering our educational programs, assistance, and materials to all people and appreciate your help in this matter.

	Name	Email Address	County
1	Ed Atkinson		
2	Betty Boysson		
3	Melanie Atkinson		
4	Crysti Nix		
5	Dick Viall		
6	Mark Hess		
7			
8			
9			
10			



# JANUARY IN THE GARDEN

- Clean, repair and organize garden tools.
- Make a garden plan for spring and summer.
- Get a soil test.
- Remove invasive, non-native vines and plants such as privet, kudzu, and elaeagnus.
- Purchase native trees and shrubs which attract birds and butterflies.
- Transplant small leafless shrubs and trees when the ground is not frozen.





## JANUARY PRUNING HINTS

**Annuals:** Remove faded blooms from plants as you notice them. This procedure (deadheading) is particularly important for pansies as these plants produce many more flowers if deadheaded regularly. Hold the plant stem with one hand while tugging on individual flowers with thumb and finger. Garden scissors can also be used to remove flowers.

**Bulbs:** No pruning is needed at this time of year.

**Edibles:** Prune your Muscadine grapes now, removing the long whips that grew last year. You'll prune back to the first two buds on each long stem, leaving only these to make new growth this year. It is on this new growth that the grapes are produced. After several years of pruning back to two buds, a series of spur clusters (stagorns) will protrude from the main vine arms. If the clusters crowd each other too much, remove a few to give the rest more room. Pear and apple trees often suffer broken limbs due to an excess of fruit in August. Shorten long and slender limbs by one third to one half. Limbs that cross through the center of a fruit tree seldom bear fruit. They also shade the leaves of more productive limbs. It's a good time to examine the structure of your trees. Remove crossing limbs, dead limbs, and limbs that deviate from the appropriate form. Fig bushes that have become too large for their space can be severely pruned now.

**Houseplants:** Tired of that big hibiscus taking too much space? You can prune away one third of the total foliage without harming it. Use small clippers to shorten individual branches. Make each cut next to where a smaller branch joins the part you are removing. Faded amaryllis blooms and their stems can be removed now. Treat amaryllis like a house plant for the rest of the winter. Plant outdoors in May in a sunny bed. In succeeding years, the bulb will bloom mid to late April.

**Perennials and Ornamental Grasses:** Remove any dead stalks, seed pods, or leaves you missed in the fall. Wait until early spring just before perennials begin to put out new growth before you prune plants back hard to a height of several inches. Some perennials don't need to be pruned back hard, but you can tidy them up by removing dead flower stalks. Perennials that don't require much pruning include *Anemone x hybrida*, *Asarum shuttleworthii* 'Callaway', *Begonia grandis*, *Heuchera americana* CVS., *Saxifraga stolonifera*, *Sedum kamtschaticum*, and *Veronica prostrata*.

**Roses:** Bright winter days make it easy to see dead branches in the center of a rosebush. Though it is too early to perform your spring pruning, dead limbs can be removed any time you notice them.

**Shrubs:** Remove any dead or damaged wood from existing shrubs. Dead wood is dry and brittle. If you are not sure if a branch is dead scratch it. If the inside is green then there is still hope, and you can wait until spring to see if any buds form. Renovate overgrown shrubs by removing 1/3 of the oldest branches from the base of the plant. The oldest branches are usually the thickest. Remember that many spring-flowering shrubs bloom on old wood (branches that grew the previous season), so you will want to wait until after they flower to do any drastic pruning.

**Trees:** Prune bare-root trees when you plant them. Thin branches that are closely spaced. This will allow better light and air circulation, resulting in better overall growth. Prune any broken roots. When you prune, make your cut on a slant just above a bud. On the side branches, make your cut just beyond a bud pointed towards the outside.

**Vines and Ground Covers:** If you have annual vines that are clinging to walls, fences, arbors, or other supports, it should be easy to pull or prune them off and clean up the surfaces now that they have died. Save any seeds that you missed collecting in the fall. They make easy and inexpensive presents for your gardening friends. Once leaves drop, it is easier to see where you want to prune your vines, especially if you want to train them as an espalier. Prune to remove dead or damaged stems and twigs from woody vines. Prune wisteria vines to reduce or thin side shoots from the main stems. These shoots make flower producing spurs. For the best blooms, shorten these shoots back to two or three buds. Because it is such an aggressive grower, wisteria needs to be pruned on a regular basis, sometimes two or three times a year. If you have large areas of evergreen ground covers like English ivy or vinca, wait until early spring to prune them back close to the ground, but only if they need it.



BYA

# Backyard Association

A Presentation by Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

## Cliff Brock

Horticulturist, Blogger, Former Curator-State Botanical Flower Garden,  
Worked at New England Wildlife Society/ Plant Delights Nursery

**Tuesday @ 7:00pm, January 14, 2025**

### "Slips, Seeds & Starts"

Recreating a horticultural pass-along culture

**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.

**(770) 254-2620**

[coweta.extension@uga.edu](mailto:coweta.extension@uga.edu)



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## Winter Sowing in Jugs



Collect and wash translucent jugs. Discard jug cap.



Put at least 4" of moist potting soil mix in bottom of jug.



Open jug in Spring after seeds sprout and danger of frost ends.



Make 4 - 6 drainage holes in bottom of jug.



Scatter seeds on top of potting soil and press seeds into soil to make contact.



Transplant when seedlings are at least 2" tall.



Cut jug in half leaving a hinge.



Tape jug together.



Label jug with a weather resistant marker.



Set jugs outside where rain or snow can enter top. Water if needed.

### Join Us On Facebook by joining our group - Winter Sowers.

What is Winter Sowing?  
Winter sowing is a method of starting seeds outdoors in winter in an enclosed container, allowing them to germinate in spring.

Winter Sowing is a great way to grow your own plants from seed. The only seeds that can't be winter sown are tropical seeds.

**Winter Sowers Group by Wintersown Educational**



## MGEV GARDENS



### Pat's Garden

**Tractor Seat (*Ligularia dentata reniformis*)** gets its name from its dark green, glossy tractor seat shaped leaves. You can grow this Japanese native plant both indoors or outdoors - it prefers bright, but indirect sun or dappled shade. Direct morning sunlight is ok, but avoid planting them in a spot with direct hot, afternoon sun. Too much full sun can cause the leaves to wilt or burn.

If you are looking to add a splash of bright color to shaded areas in the fall and early winter, *ligularia* is an excellent choice. The yellow daisy like flowers are the last things to bloom in the garden before the first frost.

Send future IDs to:  
[patfarmer100@gmail.com](mailto:patfarmer100@gmail.com)





As I write this on December 24th, I'm reminded of all the successful events and educational opportunities we have provided for the Coweta community. Thank you to everyone for your time and efforts.

While you have until the end of January 2025 to log your 2024 hours, I hope you'll take a few minutes to hop onto MGLOG and tally the remainder of your hours for the year. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to Dana or Patty for help!

#### **Years of Service**

10 years: Ginger Combs, Dan Gentry, Sara Hanson, LeighAnn Harvey, Melanie Landrum, Lyn Matthews (deceased), Harry Rogers, Harley Stewart, Liz Volz, Deberah Williams  
20 years: Martha Hendrix

#### **Annual Hours Attainment**

100 Hours: Cathy LeBar, Kathy Olmsted, Diane Cook, Patty Ellis, Kim Magyar, Barbara Schwartz, Nan Van Patten, Amy Keller, Sonjia Lambeck, Pat Farmer, Carol Fuller, Melanie Landrum, Marge Cox, Pat Lincoln, Charlene Rodriguez, Dale Senko, Mary Pat Geoffrion, Rhodes Shell, Norbert Snyder, Liz Volz, Ed Atkinson, Susan Mills, Don Lambeck, Chuck Olmsted, Cynthia Irons, Amy Barnes, Melanie Atkinson, Barbara France, Sandra LaChance, Crysti Nix, Amy Sharpe,  
250 Hours: Cathy LeBar, Kathy Olmsted, Patty Ellis, Diane Cook, Kim Magyar, Barb Schwartz, Janice Wise  
500 Hours: Cathy LeBar  
750 Hours: Cathy LeBar

#### **Cumulative Hours Attainment**

500 Hours: Jerry Allen, Marge Cox, Barbara Schwartz, Nan Van Patten, Liz Volz, Judi Worth  
1000 Hours: Melanie Atkinson, Patty Ellis, Dan Gentry, Amy Keller, Lyn Matthews (deceased)  
1500 Hours: Melanie Landrum, Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted  
2000 Hours: Virginia Duflo  
2500 Hours: Donna Dietz, Deberah Williams  
3500 Hours: Cathy LeBar

**MGEV of the Year: Kim Magyar**



# **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Submitted by Patty Ellis

**Do you follow the Coweta MGEV social media channels? If not, please check us out on Facebook and Instagram! At least twice a day on Facebook you'll find posts about gardening, landscaping, wildlife, educational opportunities, events, and even a "Friday Funny" weekly post. Starting on January 5th there will be a regular feature called "Soil Sunday" where all the posts will feature something about soil. Right now, this is planned to be monthly but may expand to be more frequent. Posts on Instagram are more intermittent but will still feature events and educational opportunities. Our YouTube channel is the source for videos of previous BYA events that you can watch for continuing education (CE) credit. When you like and share our content, it helps get our information out there. If you have photos, videos, or other content that you'd like to share, please email it to Patty Ellis. Go here for links to all of our social media: [Coweta County Volunteer Resources](#)**





# MGEV Board and Chairpersons

## 2025 MASTER GARDENER COWETY COUNTY BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### MGEV BOARD:

President	Jennie Adcock
Vice President	Nan Van Patten
Past President	Diane Cook
President Elect	Kathy Olmsted
Treasurer	Chuck Olmsted
Secretary	Nancy Coats

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Ask MG/Market Day	Harley Stewart, Amy Barnes
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, Marge Cox, Charlene Rodrigues
Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk	Susan Mills (Library), Patty Ellis
Fundraising	Open
Garden Tour	Open- No Tour planned until 2026
Greenhouse	Barbara Schwartz (lead), Marge Cox, Rhodes Shell
Hospitality	Amy Sharpe, Susan Mills
Nature Trail	Ed & Melanie Atkinson, Audrey Harrelson
New Leaf	Pat Farmer, Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis
Plant Sales (Fall/Spring)	Cynthia Irons, Mary Pat Geoffrion
Scholarship	Rhodes Shell
Social Media	Patty Ellis
Sunshine	Sara Hanson
Volunteer Awards	Patty Ellis



Photos: Pat Farmer, Dale Senko,  
Editors: Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis,



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