

THE NEW LEAF

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

MARCH 2025



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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2025 is moving forward faster than the speed of lightning, right? And you, Master Gardeners, are not wasting any time with all of your accomplishments. Despite two snow storms and ever changing weather conditions, work days are being scheduled and preparations for the much anticipated Spring Plant Sale are moving forward. The Boys & Girls Club is finding ways to engage children despite changes in their normal operations. We are working towards finding committee chairs for the 2026 Garden Tour; keep your fingers crossed. BYA continues to knock it out of the ballpark with their programs and Hospitality is still providing tempting goodies, beautifully presented at our events. And this isn't everything that's going on. Every committee is busy and offers endless opportunities.

All of this to say, fellow MGEVs, there is a place for you to participate in this organization! It doesn't matter if you have physical limitations, scheduling difficulties, or other challenges. We can help you to find a place to serve and be a part of this busy and fun filled community. There is nothing nicer than fitting in, being able to serve, and to feel positive about what you have to offer. If you need help finding your niche, give Dana Selementi or me a shout out. We are glad to help.

And a special thank you to Diane Cook for agreeing to take on the weekly updates once again!

Take care,

Jennie Adcock



GREENHOUSE

Submitted by Barb Schwartz



Happy gardening hands hard at work again. Our time was well spent. Thanks to all who provided cuttings or worked or both. We potted up 72 pots for over 720 individual cuttings.

January 31, 2025





**Rhodes Shell and Barbara Schwartz
working in the
greenhouse - February 20, 2025**



BYA
Submitted by Kim Magyar



Backyard Association

A Presentation by Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers



Trecia Neal

Biologist; B.S., M.S.Ed.; Public Speaker; UGA Master Gardener; Green Gardens Education and Designs LLC; Wildlife Garden Designer; Board of Monarch's Across Georgia-Pollinator Certification Committee Co-Chair; Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist-KU.edu; Biologist at Fernbank Science Center, Retired.

Tuesday, March 11

7:00pm

**"Searching for Connection —
Why Humans Need Nature."**

UGA Extension – Coweta County

255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263

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

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



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MORNING GLORY

Keith Robinson, Dunaway Garden's Executive Director, spoke at the Morning Glory Meeting on February 25th. He spoke about "Collecting and Designing with Bulbs." Keith's very entertaining talk also gave the group an update on the new happenings at Dunaway Gardens.



INSPIRING YOU

Submitted by Dale Senko

The first signs of spring are appearing at the Inspiration Garden. The crocus are blooming, buds are showing on branches, and all sorts of growth are happening under the leaves blanketing the beds. If you did some winter sowing in a milk jug, look for signs of growth. Many of the seeds in the milk jugs at the Inspiration Garden are germinating.

The team had their first workday of 2025 and laid out plans for the new year. Clean up has started, but we know more cold days are yet to come. In the next few months watch for how the team reimagines the herb garden and revitalizes other herbs growing in the garden. It may give you some ideas for your own garden. Better yet, come volunteer at the garden and get involved.

Amy Keller and Kathy Olmsted have asked garden volunteers to take charge of a bed this year. They can edit the bed with their choice of new plants and dividing established ones. Team leaders will ensure the choices are compatible with the goals of the garden, i.e. low maintenance and drought tolerance. Some of the divided plants will go to the plant sale team.

We are looking forward to another inspirational garden this year. Look for information in the coming months about Open Garden Day. Plan to visit and get inspired.



MARCH IN THE GARDEN

- Spring arrives on Thursday, March 20 at 5:01 AM but more cold can still come.
- Prune early spring blooming plants (forsythia, quince, winter honeysuckle) after they finish blooming.
- Sow seeds indoors for spring vegetables and flower transplants according to germination and planting dates.
- Divide overgrown clumps of Hosta.
- Finish pruning rose bushes.
- Prepare your garden beds for planting; incorporate plenty of organic matter such as compost.

Check UGA Weather site for soil temperature when beginning to plant.
Georgiaweather.net <http://georgiaweather.net/?content=calculator&variable=CC&site=WANSLEY>



PRUNING IN MARCH

- **Annuals:** Pick out and snip off all those faded blooms and stems.
- **Bulbs:** Right now you should be seeing lots of blooms. Nothing to do but enjoy!
- **Edibles:** Blueberries tend to grow tall sprouts in the center of the bush, and now is an excellent time to remove them, **BUT DO NOT** prune any horizontal branches within 6' of the ground as they will bear most of your fruit.
- **Houseplants:** Turn your house plants once a month as they tend to lean into the sun. It makes them look neater that way.
- **Lawns:** I just had my yard 'scalped' removing all the chaff, and it's starting to green up already.
- **Perennials and Ornamental Grasses:** Nothing this month, but April will be busy.
- **Roses:** Prune bush roses severely between now and March 15th. The new growth that is produced will bear most of the year's rose blooms. Wait until June to prune climbing roses. Also, remove all the dead and diseased branches. Cut away limbs that rub. If the plant is completely overgrown, 1/2 to 2/3 may need to be removed.
- **Shrubs:** Continue to prune deciduous shrubs removing all dead wood. If a shrub is rangy, spindly, or has overgrown its location, it is time to prune it back severely. Stay off your camellias until they finish blooming.
- **Trees:** Prune all dead and diseased branches. There aren't any leaves, so it's easy to see what needs to be done. Remove all crossing branches, rubbing branches, and any branches that make a sharp V-shape with the main trunk as these are usually weak and are prone to break off.
- **Vines and Ground Covers:** Get out your lawnmower and mow off your monkey grass on the mower's highest setting or about 3". Spring will convert the ragged edges with lovely, new green foliage.



PLANT SALE

Submitted by Cindy Irons

Save the Date!
Coweta MGEV Spring Plant Sale
Saturday April 12th, 2025
Stay tuned for more details.



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at least three weeks prior to the program date.



6 Weeks and Counting until the Spring Plant Sale!

Heartfelt thanks to all for your generous contributions of time, plants, and comradery! Because of your efforts and the diligence of the Greenhouse team, we have thousands of healthy plants already growing in and around the greenhouse.

It is time for our fellow MGEVs to help fill in the rest of our stock—perennials, grasses, vines, and ground cover. Please drop off your donations on the intake days listed below, between 10 and 11 am.

If you would like volunteers to come to your garden for a dig, please email Barbara Schwartz, Cindy Irons, or Mary Pat Geoffrion to coordinate. Remember to complete an intake card, including the plant's common name, variety/cultivar, flower color, your name and phone number. Extra brownie points for botanical name!

Saturday, March 1st
Thursday, March 6th
Tuesday, March 11th
Saturday, March 15th

Please be on the lookout for schedule changes, updates, and notices from the Greenhouse team.

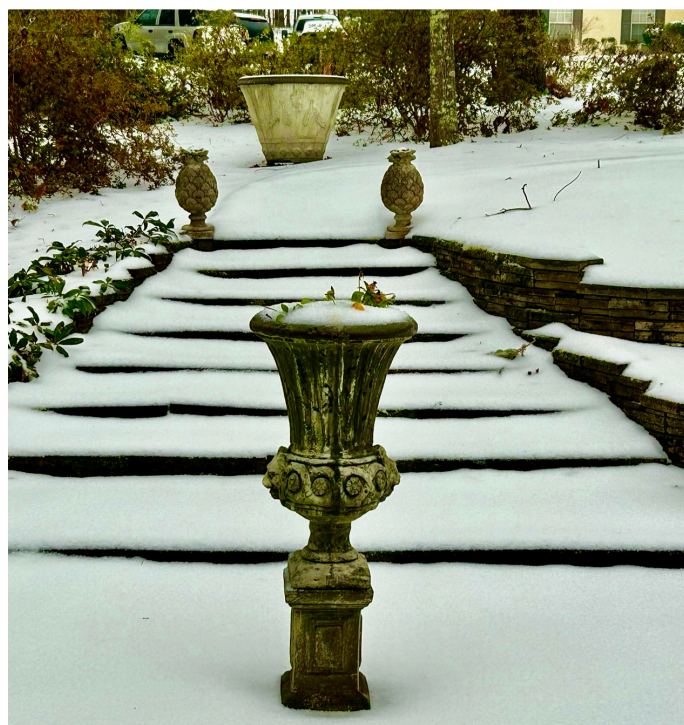
Interested in a quick refresher about the many plants we offer before the Spring Plant Sale? Watch for an opportunity from the Education Committee in March. Mark your calendar now for spring plant sale workdays! Details and Sign-Up Genius will be forthcoming.

Thursday, April 10th, Move and Set Up Day
Friday, April 11th, Spa Day
Saturday, April 12th, Plant Sale!

MGEV GARDENS

DENISE BEST

Denise Best's garden is as lovely and inspiring in the winter as it is in the spring and summer. Denise, Class of 2000, and her husband Alasdair have created a number of focal points that can be enjoyed in every season.



February 14th in the BEST garden!



4H SPEAKER

Submitted by Dale Senko



The Ag Discovery 4H Club Leader requested information about container gardening. At the club's February meeting, Dale Senko presented "Container Gardening" to club members and their families.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Submitted by Patty Ellis

The weather is warming up and our 104 active Master Gardener volunteers have been busy bringing science-based gardening information to Coweta County. We are currently #4 in the state for volunteer hours (691) and #2 for continuing education hours (222). But that only represents 48 people reporting! Remember, taking a couple of minutes to log your hours doesn't just show us what you have done as an individual it also demonstrates at the state level how important the Master Gardener program is, so please take a bit of time to sit down and log those hours.

As of February 26th Cathy LeBar has logged 100+ hours, Congratulations! One other person, Mary Pat Geoffrion, is close. As the volunteer meeting on March 13th gets closer, I'll be checking to see if anyone else has reached this milestone. As always, if you have any questions or difficulties logging hours, please reach out to Dana Selementi or myself for help!



WETA COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: February Deberah Williams

Deberah has volunteered with the Extension Master Gardener program since 2014 and loves giving back. In fact, she gives her time and talents to many local community organizations including the American Cancer Society, juvenile court, and her church.

Deberah is a skilled graphic designer and author, and she creates beautiful flyers, artwork, and educational pieces.

She says that her favorite volunteer activities are Backyard Association meetings and Help Desk where she feels she makes the biggest impact in the community and in her friends and neighbors' gardening journeys.

Congratulations, Deberah!



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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.

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 Rodriguez
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, Barbara Schwartz, Melanie Landrum, Rhodes Shell, Donna Dietz, and Patty Ellis
Editors: Pat Farmer, Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, and Dana Selementi



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