

# THE NEW LEAF

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

April 2025



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been asked what is my favorite thing about being a Master Gardener. The questioners always wait, expecting to hear about things like working in the greenhouse, the plant sales and educational opportunities. And yes, those are great things about being a part of this group. But the very best thing, without question, is the friendships that are formed within this group. What a warm, engaging and giving group of men and women I have been blessed to become a part of. I see it in so many ways....exchanging plants, warm hugs, help and encouragement when life is difficult. There are snippets of life shared while digging “in the dirt.” This is part of being an MGEV and there is so much more. What a blessing!

I was happy to be a part of the work of our newest committee on Friday, the Social Committee. In one brief session they have put together a year’s worth of activities. These activities not only bring us together in fun and friendship, but focus on things that interest us as Master Gardeners. Friday’s well attended trip took us to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens to view the amazing orchid exhibit. And there is more lined up for the rest of the year. Be on the lookout for more information on the summer’s planned event; a visit to the Lavender Festival in Molena, GA. Many thanks to Diane Cook and her committee for providing another means to not only enlighten us, but to provide us with yet another opportunity to nurture our friendships within this group.

### Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Warmly,  
Jennie

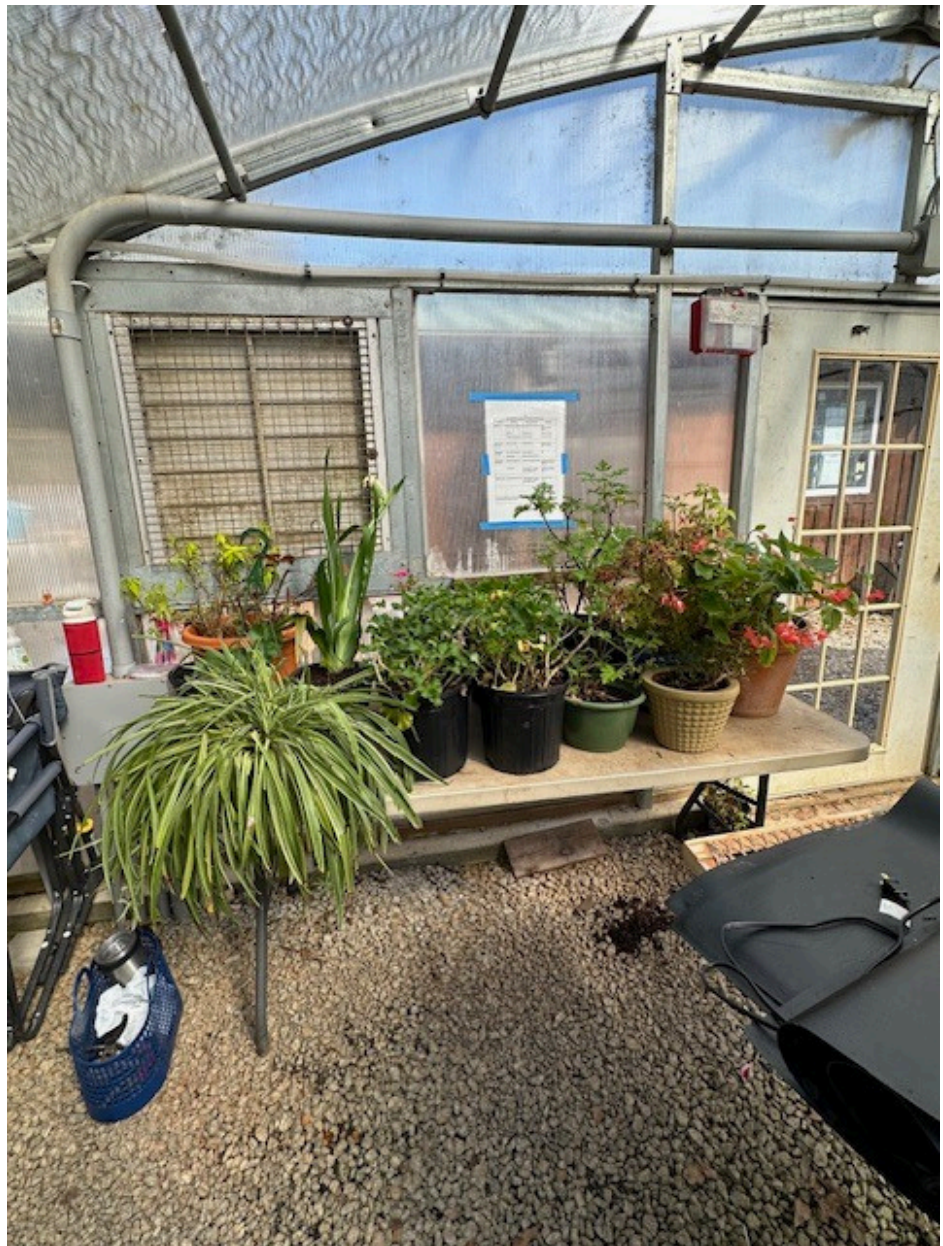
# GREENHOUSE

Submitted by Barb Schwartz

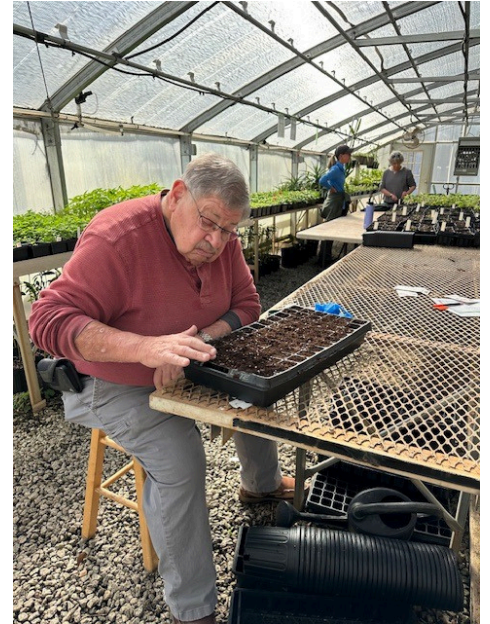
February 27th - From cuttings to seeding and on to “spring cleaning” of perennials, everyone got into the gardening swing of things in preparation for the spring plant sale.



**We had a very productive day with cuttings. Thank you to everyone who showed up and got “into the soil.” We are in the process of making more room for more seedlings and the rest of the cuttings. We need you to look at this table in the greenhouse, and if you see your pot or mother plant, please come and get it as soon as possible. We so appreciate your plants and the cuttings but we still have more to do. Thanks to each of you, our space is staring to get full.**



## March 6th - Workday



## It's Strawberry Box Season!

As you shop, please collect any sturdy, low-edged boxes that we can use to move plants to the Ag Building. Then they will be used for our customers to use, to fill, and take plants home from the Spring Plant Sale.

Boxes can be dropped off at the greenhouse on the upcoming intake day and regular workdays. Boxes can be placed off the floor in the cedar shed to keep them dry. Do not leave boxes in the greenhouse or outside, as the moisture will break down the cardboard. Please contact Barb Schwartz to arrange other drop off times.

**BYA**  
Submitted by Kim Magyar



# Backyard Association

A Presentation by Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers



## Jo Phillips

Horticulturist, Horticulture and Garden  
Manager at Hills & Dales Estate-retired,  
Graduate of University of Georgia

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025**  
**7:00pm**

**“Heirloom Plants for  
Garden Fragrance”**

**UGA Extension – Coweta County**

**255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263**

**(770) 254-2620 / [coweta.extension@uga.edu](mailto:coweta.extension@uga.edu)**

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

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Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution.

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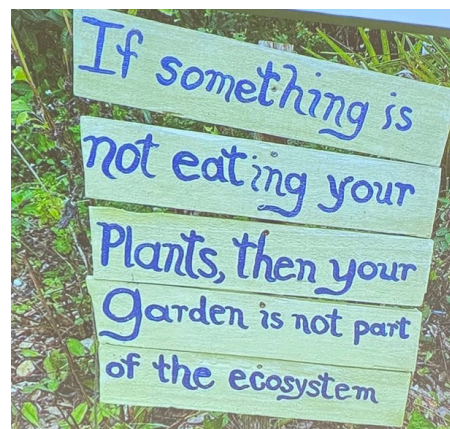
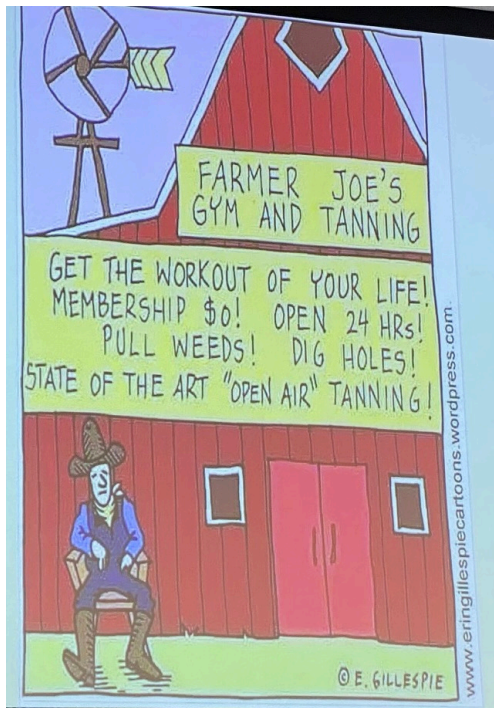
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

**EXTENSION**

Master Gardener Program

**MARCH BYA**  
Submitted by Denise Grove

**March BYA had the inspiring speaker Trecia E. Neil. Trecia's presentation focused on the importance gardening can have in maintaining our mental health.**



# INSPIRING YOU

Submitted by Dale Senko

One of the important goals for the Inspiration Garden is to be a source of plants for the plant sales. Late last year, the Inspiration Garden supplied cuttings for the spring plant sale. Now, as the perennials in the garden are showing their crowns, volunteers are dividing plants for the sale. At an intake day in March, perennial divisions were delivered to the Greenhouse and they supplied over 100 plants for sale. That included primrose, green and gold, fireworks goldenrod, garlic chives, dwarf cream mum and blue-eyed grass. Early spring trumpet daffodils are waving their pretty heads in the garden. Volunteers are cleaning up and renovating beds during spring workdays at the garden. Larkspurs and poppies have germinated in the two annual beds. We will let you know when they bloom.



# APRIL IN THE GARDEN

• The last frost for Coweta County can be between mid-March to mid-April. Check soil temperatures before planting summer plants and vegetables.

Georgiaweather.net

<http://georgiaweather.net/content=calculator&variable=CC&site=WANSLEY>

- Let the foliage of spring blooming bulbs turn brown before removing.
- Plant summer annuals after the danger of frost has passed.
- Spread 3-4 inches of mulch around plants, trees, and shrubs to discourage weeds and conserve moisture.
- Monitor landscape plants weekly for aphids on new growth and blast them off with a water hose.

## APRIL PRUNING HINTS

**ANNUALS:** To develop a good root system, remove all blossoms at time of planting as blooms take the energy needed for root growth, especially plants purchased in 6 packs, as their root systems are small compared to their foliage.

**BULBS:** Remove faded blooms of daffodils before they set seed, leaving the stems to help with photosynthesis. This process stores food for next year's blossoms.

**EDIBLES:** Remove the thin sucker sprouts as they arise from the lower trunks of apple, pear, and peach.

**HOUSE PLANTS:** To prolong their blooming, regularly remove the withered flowers from azaleas you receive for Easter.

**LAWNS:** You're going to start mowing your lawns this month, and there are two types of mowers to consider: rotary and reel. The rotary types are easy to find, easy to use, lower in cost, easy to repair, and easier to replace the blade. They may, however, leave an uneven cut as their wheels will conform to the possibly uneven surface of the lawn.

The reel types yield an even manicured look especially on Bermuda and Zoysia turf grass. They are, however, more expensive, harder to find, and their blades must be sharpened by an expert.

**PERENNIALS and ORNAMENTAL GRASSES:** Prune back lantana. Even if these plants were overgrown last fall, it is best to prune them now in early spring when they are actively growing. You may cut back 1/3 to 1/2 of the total plant, and they will quickly recover.

**ROSES:** Many rose plants are produced by grafting a desirable rose onto the stem of a vigorous but possibly unattractive rose (the rootstock). The area where the two join is called the graft union. It looks like a swollen knob a few inches above ground level. Don't leave stubs on the graft union when pruning. Suckers may appear here and must be removed.

**SHRUBS:** Prune flowering shrubs like forsythia, flowering quince, early blooming spireas, and azaleas as soon as they finish blooming. If the shrubs are overgrown and lack vigor with very few blooms, pruning can help rejuvenate them. Remove 1/3 of the oldest wood and cut the rest to 12" from the ground. Repeat this process for the next few years to create a vigorous plant.

**TREES:** There is still time to prune or shear candles on evergreens. Restrict your pruning of deciduous trees to removing dead and diseased branches. Wait until winter to remove large branches.

**VINES and GROUND COVERS:** If they need tidying up, prune vines like spring flowering jasmine as soon as they finish blooming.

And as always, many thanks to Reeves and Glasner in their Month-by-Month GARDENING in GEORGIA.

# BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB



**Craig Exner, retired teacher and certified beekeeper, presented an excellent class on bees and how they help to pollinate plants in the garden. Cathy LeBar and Kris Carpenter assisted. He provided illustrations and discussed the lifecycle of bees and the part each plays in our ecosystems. As a parting gift, he provided each child with a plastic straw filled with delicious honey.**

**"The hum of bees is the voice of the garden."**



"Be like the honeybee who  
gathers only nectar wherever  
it goes. Seek the goodness  
that is found in everyone."  
- Mata Amritanandamayi



# PLANT SALE

Submitted by Cindy Irons



## Coweta Master Gardeners' Spring Plant Sale

Coweta County Fairgrounds, AG Building  
275 Pine Road, Newnan, GA

- Tomatoes
- Flowers
- Annuals
- Perennials
- Peppers
- Herbs
- Shrubs
- Trees

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

**Saturday, April 12, 2025  
8:30AM until 12:00 Noon  
Questions? Call 770.254.2620**

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**EXTENSION**  
Master Gardener Program

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The Spring Plant Sale is less than two weeks away! Many thanks to all who have signed up already. There are still slots available for Move Day (Thursday, April 10th), Spa Day, (Friday, April 11th) and Sale Day (Saturday, April 12th). So join the fun and earn some hours! Fresh out of MGEV training, the Spring Plant Sale was an amazing and humbling experience for me. The highlight of the year was getting to serve our customers and volunteer with so many other MGEVs. Now a year later, I have an even greater appreciation for the numerous ways MGEVs work together and accomplish so much throughout the year.

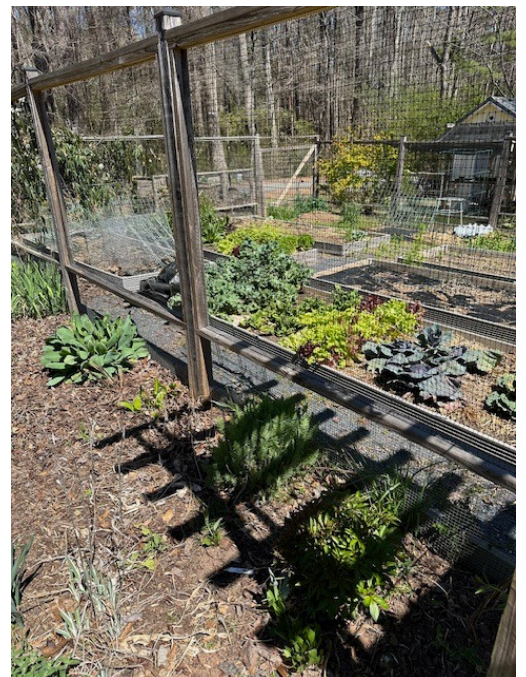
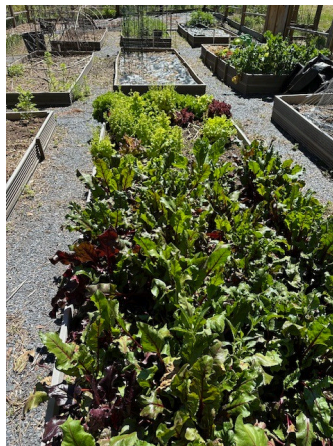
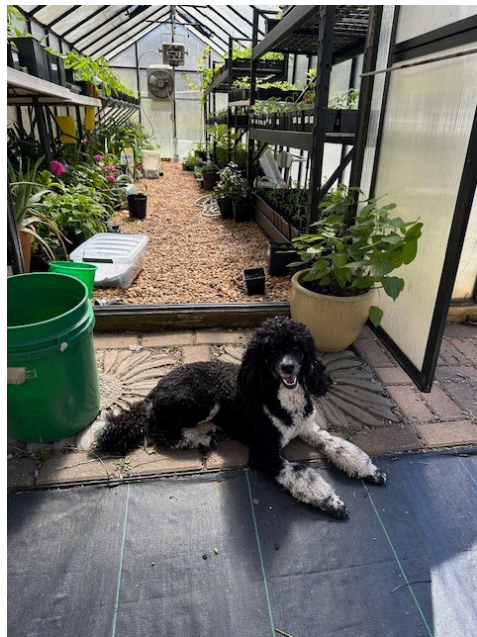
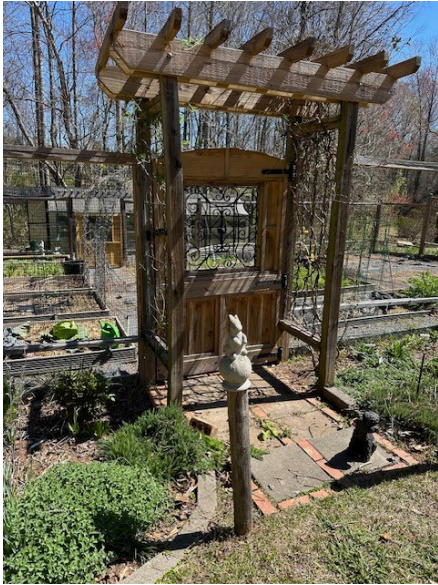
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all who have donated their prize plants, seeded, weeded, plugged, pruned, planted and labeled. You make the sale possible so that we can support our community. Special thanks to the greenhouse team for their daily oversight of the greenhouse as well as the Education Committee and volunteer speakers for a great Continuing Education refresher highlighting plants and tips for the sale. Mary Pat and I look forward to seeing you April 9th through 12th!



# MGEV GARDENS

## AMY KELLER - Class of 2016

Amy Keller and Robert Winslow have a beautiful garden in any season but the spring is especially busy. There is a vegetable garden with cold weather crops, a green house, a hoop house and much more that gives them a head start on this remarkable and highly bio-diverse landscape.





**What other MGEV's are seeing in their gardens this month!**

**Amy Barnes proving that tulips can be grown in Georgia!**



**Tulip gesneriana**



**This bloom on a Hoya plant, *Hoya carnosa*, was passed along from Judy Lippman to Ed Atkinson at the 2018 MGEV graduation.**



**Donna Dietz is loving her Yoshino Cherry Trees, *Prunus serrulata*.**

# **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

Submitted by Patty Ellis



**Dick Viall receiving his certificates and official name badge at the March 13th Volunteer Meeting.**

**Happy Spring everyone! Coweta County currently has 106 active MGEVs, and the most recent trainee to become an active MGEV was Dick Viall, who was given his certificate and name badge at the March 13th volunteer meeting. Congratulations Dick!**

**As of March 24th, we have logged 1431 volunteer hours and 368 continuing education hours, both of which are third place in the state. Keep logging those hours! It allows us to recognize not only individual achievements, but also what we contribute to our county and state.**

**So far this year two people have achieved more than 100 volunteer hours, Cathy LeBar and Mary Pat Geoffrion. Thank you ladies for all your hard work!**

# NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Ed Atkinson

**Bloodroot**  
*Sanguinaria canadensis*



**May Apple**  
*Podophyllum peltatum*



**Trillium**

**COME AND DISCOVER  
THESE EPHEMERAL  
PLANTS AT THE  
NATURE TRAILS.**

# 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	Keith Brady, Rhodes Shell
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, Amy Barnes, Ed Atkinson, Cindy Irons  
Editors: Pat Farmer, Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, and Dana Selementi



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