

# THE NEW LEAF

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

**MAY 2025**



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello MGEVs! I know that we all breathed a huge sigh of relief when the doors to the Spring Plant Sale closed on Saturday, April 12th. We start every year eagerly anticipating what the plant sale will look like. Will these tiny seeds become beautiful plants to fill the annual, herb and vegetable tables? Will these little sticks that we carefully cut from mother plants and cuttings brought in from Master Gardener yards actually turn into a plant that someone will want to purchase? And can we pot all of these plants, that were generously shared by other MGEVs?

Will our new Spring Plant Sale leaders successfully figure it all out? And the Greenhouse Team, will they be able to maintain an aging greenhouse and keep those little plants thriving until April?

And what about identification, signs and pot sticks that must be printed through an old and faltering program? What about the education we will receive on the plants we are selling and print outs to guide customers and MGEVs on how to grow the plants? Will we have signage to guide customers to the site and what about the possibility of an unexpected road closure?

What will Hospitality serve its weary workers, something warm and comforting or something to fill an overworked MGEV?

What about the weather on moving day? Will the plants survive the trauma? Will the set up work to move the customers through the building and will check out be friendly and efficient?

At the end of a weary 4 days on April 12<sup>th</sup> the answer was a resounding YES. Many thanks go to Mary Pat, Cindy, Barb, Amy and ALL of the MGEV volunteers who contributed in any way to make this sale a success. We are also thankful for the calming and knowledgeable leadership of Dana and Stephanie. We appreciate YOU and all that you did to make this endeavor what we had all hoped for - a successful and profitable Spring Plant Sale.

If you missed out on the fun, there is a place for you, as we are already preparing for the Fall Plant Sale!

Take care and enjoy your gardens!  
Jennie

# GREENHOUSE

Submitted by Barb Schwartz

## The Greenhouse - Start to Finish!



Thanks to the Greenhouse workers: Charlene Rodriguez, Marge Cox, Don and Sonjia Lambert, Barb Schwartz, Norbert Snyder and Becky Lee.



Becky Lee, Norbert Snyder and Don Lambert in the time honored tradition of “tossing the bottle.”  
( to get the summer shade cloth up)



**Trespassers will be propagated, pruned and potted!**



**CITIZEN SCIENTISTS NEEDED**



Bird Feeding Survey,

[https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ePFPNlhgZcFfOV8](https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ePFPNlhgZcFfOV8)

Help Keep Wild Birds Healthy. Your responses will help scientists at the University of Georgia understand how people who engage in backyard bird feeding can help keep wild birds healthy. Survey takes 10-15 minutes and is eligible to anyone 18 or older who owns at least one bird feeder and feeds wild birds.

For questions, contact Nicole Kemon at [Nicole.Kemon@uga.edu](mailto:Nicole.Kemon@uga.edu).

# INSPIRING YOU

Submitted by Dale Senko

Early April had its ups and downs in temperature. Like you, we waited for consistent warm temps to begin warm season planting. Bed clean up was the first order of business. Volunteers weeded and reorganized plants in individual beds. Susan Mills and volunteers have emptied the herb plot and will be installing new herb selections. Nancy Harrelson has created a “critter hangout” bordered with branches and twigs to encourage bees, frogs and other “friends” to live in her bed. Barbara France and Becky Lee are training the yellow honeysuckle (*Lonicera flava sulphurea*) which illuminated the garden this spring. Donna Dietz and I added daffodils and allium bulbs and edited some of the perennials in our bed.



**APRIL 1st workday at the  
Inspiration Garden.**

**Barbara France and Becky Lee in front  
of “the” yellow honeysuckle.**



**April 15- taxes, vegetables, and milk jugs.**  
By April 15th the temperatures warmed up and the vegetable plot was planted. Our resident vegetable farmer, Mark Hess, planted an assortment of tomatoes and peppers. If you started seeds during cold months in milk jugs, it's time to set them free. We separated those at the Inspiration Garden and transplanted them in the ground and into small pots.



**Mark Hess  
planting the  
vegetable garden  
plot**



**Step 1-carefully pull  
the soil mound out  
of the jug**



**Step 2- gently  
separate each  
plant.**



**Step 3- plant in the ground or into pots.**

**BYA**  
Submitted by Kim Magyar

# Backyard Association

A Presentation by Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers



## Jennifer Petritz

Horticulturist, President of the American Hydrangea Society,  
worked at Atlanta Botanical Garden and the Atlanta History Center

**Tuesday @ 7:00pm, May 13, 2025**

## “Hydrangeas 101– Back to basics”

**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.

University of Georgia is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact the UGA Extension in Coweta County at (770) 254-2620/coweta.extension@uga.edu, at least three weeks prior to the program date.



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**Hettie Smith**  
**MGEV HERO**

**The first MGEV to begin  
preparation  
for the**

**FALL PLANT SALE**

**OCTOBER 11, 2025**

**SAVE THE DATE**





# MGEV ADVANCED TRAINING

Dale Senko, Donna Dietz, Robin Bugg, and Pat Farmer attended an MGEV Advanced Training Program at UGA, Griffin.

**TITLE:** TherapEutic Horticulture in Extension Programming





# SOCIAL COMMITTEE

## FIRST SOCIAL COMMITTEE TRIP



**Great time was had by all at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.**

**The orchids were in full bloom.**





## 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

**Annuals:** Warmer temps will make your pansies look tired 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 they will be more vigorous where the plant is putting its energy into forming next year's flowers 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, but not too tightly, just where they are supposed to be. Concerning wisteria, it's an aggressive vine so cut back the long twiging new growth after it blooms or you'll have a tangled mess.

# BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Submitted by Rebecca Gibson

One of the projects that Coweta County Master Gardeners facilitate is the Boys and Girls Club "I Can Garden" club. Check out the new raised beds that are being planted to grow some fantastic veggies!

Wednesday, April 16th, was Planting Day in the new garden at the Boys & Girls Club. Keith Brady and Marge Cox led the spirited day with the MGEVs and the children. It was a lot of fun.





# SPRING PLANT SALE

Submitted by Cindy Irons



**Our Fearless Leaders**  
**Mary Pat Geoffrion and**  
**Cindy Irons**  
**Thanks for all your hard**  
**work!**





**You must be a gardener because  
you've "grown" on me.**



**I'm "digging" this gardening thing.**



**I'm "rooting" for your garden to grow beautifully.**



**Flower Power**



**Someone added soil to my allotment.  
The plot thickens....**





**Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit;  
wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.**



**It's a-mazing how many worries  
are lost while gardening.**



**Despite the gardener's best intentions,  
Nature will improvise.**



**Why did the tomato turn red?  
Because it saw the salad dressing!**



**I am a gardener. What's your superpower?**



**Let's "plow" through this  
gardening project together.**





**When the going gets tough,  
the tough get growing.**



**Does anyone know a good place where I can buy a fern?  
Asking for a frond.**



**Nature does not hurry yet  
everything is accomplished.**



**Plant and your spouse plants with you;  
weed and you weed alone.**



**Gardening is cheaper than therapy.**



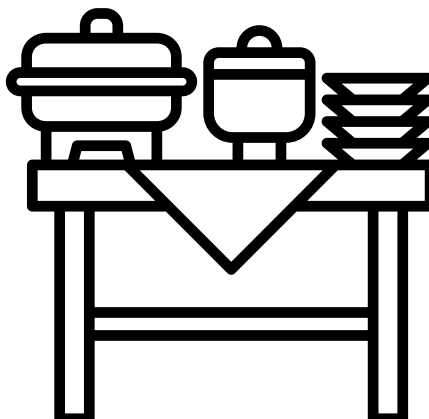
**Money can't buy happiness. But it can buy plants,  
and that's the same thing.**





**Last but definitely not least, a very special thanks to our Hospitality Committee. Amy Sharpe, Susan Mills and staff came early and stayed up late so that we could have nourishment to keep the Spring Plant Sale moving forward.**

**Thank you all!!!**







**The Final Four has new meaning for MP and me this year—Set Up Day, Move Day, Spa Day, and Sale Day!**

**Like basketball, a good sales event requires a great team and a lot of hard work throughout the year. A few key game day stats: about 700 visitors including children, 70 volunteers, and over 5,000 plants for sale only tell part of the story. The rest of the story is...YOU. Your generous gifts of time, care and plants make it possible to continue the tradition of offering healthy and beautiful plants to friends and neighbors and to further our mission of bringing science-based information to the community. Deepest gratitude to all our MGEVs and the extension staff for many hours of collaborative work while having fun, sharing knowledge, and ideas. It is a joy to experience the investment you make in this endeavor, especially the constant care of Barb Schwartz and the greenhouse volunteers.**

**Like follow-up after any game, we replay the “film” for what went well and areas of development. Thank you to all you gave us informative feedback. Overall quality of the plants and customer service, new check-out procedures, separate native section, added signage, and the map/plant locations handout were well received.**

**Areas of growth include fine tuning the intake, inventory and pricing processes along with the plant selections and quantities. And Gardenware, the program that prints potstix, needs to be replaced. In addition to guiding and coaching us, Kathy Olmsted and Kim Magyar put in countless, frustrating hours/days/weeks cajoling the program to work to provide best in class labels for the spring sale. Thank you for your dedication! With these areas of focus, MP and I will be looking to all of you for insights, knowledge and ideas.**

**Now it's on to the next game...the fall plant sale. The cycle begins again, gathering donations from your gardens. May 1st, 2nd and 4th (Thursday, Friday and Sunday) are open for digs, when greenhouse volunteers come to your home and carefully remove your gifts. Please contact Barb Schwartz with questions or if a different date is needed.**

**Feedback from the plant sale is that our shoppers are looking for favorite perennials, shrubs, and trees, as well as plants we have not offered in recent years such as Gaura, unique varieties of Chrysanthemums, Irises and Daylilies, and fruits such as blueberries, strawberries and blackberries. If you have anything ‘extra special’ to donate, please let one of us know. Additionally, email us if you have contact information about former MGEVs who might have treasures and would be willing to let us dig in their yard.**

**Lastly, and on a personal note, words can't express our gratitude for all the support we receive as we learn how ‘to play the game.’ You are awesome!**

**Mark your calendars!**

- 2025 Fall Plant Sale: Saturday, October 11**
- 2026 Spring Plant Sale: Saturday, April 18**

**Happy Gardening,  
Cindy and MP**



# MGEV GARDENS

**BARBARA FRANCE**, class of 2002, says that her garden is in transition but she still manages to provide a beautiful design and lovely plants. Garden Tour worthy at any time.





# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Submitted by Patty Ellis

COWETA COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: April Patty Ellis

*Patty became a Master Gardener volunteer (MGEV) in 2018. As a lifelong gardener and retired medical professional, she appreciates the focus on bringing science-based gardening information to the community. She enjoys being behind the scenes and working the MGEV Help Desk to answer gardening questions, editing the newsletter, tracking volunteer achievements, and was a member of the board of directors for five years.*

*When not in her garden or fulfilling her MGEV duties, she is a costumer for the Newnan Theatre Company and a volunteer for several dog rescues. She loves helping others learn and improve their lives.*

*Congratulations, Patty!*



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in order to participate in or receive the benefit of a program of UGA  
Extension or you desire more information, please contact us.

We've passed the largest of the volunteer events for 2025, the Spring Plant Sale. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in making the event so successful! Of course there are many other projects that we do as MGEVs, like BYA, help desk, and the nature trail, that advance the mission of our group. We want to recognize your hard work, so whatever project you are passionate about, PLEASE log your hours in MGLOG!

As of April 21st, we have 107 active MGEVs and are in 3rd place in the state for volunteer hours with 2548. We are in 4th place for continuing education hours with 447.

The following volunteers reached 100- and 250-hour milestones since the last newsletter:  
100 hours: Nan Van Patten  
250 hours: Mary Pat Geoffrion, Cathy LeBar

Thank you for all of your hard work, and as always, if you have any questions or problems logging hours, please reach out to Dana Selementi or me for help.



# 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, Rebecca Gison. Jerry Allen, Nettie Smith  
Editors: Pat Farmer, Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, and Dana Selementi



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