

The New Leaf

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

MAY 2021

DONNA DIETZ
MGEV PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



An unwelcomed visitor crossed our threshold (yes, the upstairs door blew open) in the early morning hours of March 26. It was the March winds and April showers all at once. We heard the proverbial train roaring toward us, then glass breaking and trees falling. In a minute's time the EF4 tornado was here and gone. We were lucky, though. Our home survived, except for a few dings and missing slates from our roof, and our four cats and dog Bailey are fine. We did, however, take a direct hit to our trees. All told, over 150 were lost. Sooo.... As before, we were shade gardeners, now there is a blank canvas for us to create a landscape of sun-loving plantings. It is going to be a lot of work, but I am not complaining. True to my husband's mantra "It could have been a lot worse." There are plenty of our neighbors without homes. My heart goes out to them.

Okay, enough about me. Let's talk about the Spring Plant Sale. In spite of the pandemic, the RAIN and the tornado, we had a very successful SPS. Thanks to the untiring efforts of the Greenhouse and Plant Sale teams, there was a generous profit made at the SPS. Many thanks to Amy Keller, Audrey Harrelson, Mark Hess, Kathy Olmsted and Kim Magyar for spearheading the work. Everything left over was donated to a group or individuals who were in need.

Looking forward...it has been proposed that the CCMGEVs pot up and maintain hardwood seedlings donated by the Forestry Commission and then give them to those homeowners affected by the tornado, at a time to be determined. Thanks to Ed Atkinson for the idea and to Karen Mansour for getting the ball rolling.

I was meeting with the Scholarship committee a week ago and noticed that there was a group of MGEVs working at the greenhouse tidying up after the sale. There was also a group from the class of 2020 working on improvements to the beds around the Extension office. So many positively good things continuing to happen! *Thanks to all who volunteer!*

WORKDAY AT THE NATURE CENTER

We had another productive planting and cleanup day at the Nature Trail on April 19. Thanks to plant donations from the Atkinsons, we filled planting beds at the courtyard and Purple Trail. The plants selected attract pollinators so we hope we are helping to feed our insect friends.

Joining the team were MGEVs Lyn, Ron, Gary, Barbara, Judi, Susan, Linda, Greg, Deberah, Cathy and Donna.

Submitted by: Dale Senko



When the sun is out and the wind is still, You're one month on in the middle of May. Robert Frost

Plants Blooming at the Nature Center in May

Columbine



Jack in the Pulpit



Green and Gold



Star Grass



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.

Look for these plants in your Spring Garden.



Red Anise



Yellow Anise.



May Apple



Native Azaleas & Viburnum

May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive. *Fennel Hudson*

Gardening with Deb the Vegetable Guru!

Every year I try to attend a vegetable gardening talk by Bob Westerfield because I always get some new information. Westerfield is the Senior Public Service Associate for UGA, with areas of interest in Consumer Fruits and Vegetables at the Griffin CAES Campus. He often comes to Coweta for BYA talks or Master Gardener training sessions. I didn't get to attend any last year but was very happy early this spring to join a Bob Westerfield Zoom talk presented by Gordon County.

The *2021 Gordon County Extension Home Vegetable Garden Workshop* was a basic gardening how-to talk, but during the presentation, Westerfield went through more information about growing vegetables than what we generally recommend to clients at the Helpdesk.

Some of the new and interesting things:

- **Stressing vegetables:** Vegetables should always be fertilized when planted, but after the plant is growing nicely, hold off on the nitrogen to let the plants become stressed—stressing causes it to produce fruit. “Pull back on fertility and wait until the plant begins to put on fruit. This triggers the plant to reproduce, and too much nitrogen can even make the plant drop or stop fruiting.”
- **About growing corn:** Try the triple sweet varieties. “The triple sweets like warmer weather so don't plant them quite as early, but they have a longer shelf-life, are way sweeter, sweet after 10 days, and hold freshness for much longer than regular sweet corn.” Recommended varieties are Providence, Serendipity, and Montauk.
- “Corn is a nitrogen pig and you want it to be. It's a monocot (grass). Fertilize at planting then when it grows to 12” tall, apply 5 lbs. per 100 foot row of nitrogen, like 28-0-0. Wait on it, water it and at about waist high, give it another dose of nitrogen. Corn is a once and out plant, so when silks come out you should get corn in about 20 days.”
- **Cucumbers:** Watch and water, keep it plenty moist to prevent bitterness. For pickle worms spray on (BT) bacillus thuringiensis or Sevin. Or consult the GPMH. For downy mildew, plant resistant varieties.
- **Squash:** “Squash is a tough animal because of vine borers and squash bugs. Plant successions of new squash plants (plant every two weeks). You can grow squash in cages or hoop houses and hand-pollinate them, which can be hard, and you need to pollinate each bloom multiple times, like pollinators.
- “Grow new hybrid self-pollinating cucumber and squash varieties in greenhouses or hoop house. (No need to pollinate, similar to seedless watermelons). Buy them at Harris Seeds, Jung Seeds, Johnny's Seeds or other large seed companies.”

There are many other really great tips for planting a vegetable garden. To view this video, go to the following address and enjoy: https://kaltura.uga.edu/media/t/1_z37v3d4v

SPRING PLANT SALE

Submitted by Kathy Olmsted and Barbara France

Despite a rainy downpour and Covid regulations, the Coweta MGEVs put on a successful 2021 Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, April 10. The sale was a success because of all the hard work done in the background by the MGEV force. We have the best and hardest working volunteers, wonderful leadership by Stephanie and Karen, and such a supportive, generous community~~we are truly blessed!

We are happy to report that the greenhouse area is empty – even the crepe myrtles are gone! Our wonderful volunteers and loyal customers made it an enjoyable day, despite the weather. The best part is that we made a total of \$8,278.00 to help fund scholarships.

We did have many plants left over and, thankfully, we were able to make donations to:

- The New Leaf Community Garden**
- Bridging the Gap Tomato Project**
- Coweta/Newnan Boys and Girls Club “I can garden club”**
- Coweta Development Authority: Citizens who lost plants and trees during the tornado.**

We want to thank everyone who helped make the sale possible. It takes a team effort and we have the best MGEV team around!

Kathy, Kim, Shanna





**"The world's favorite season is the spring.
All things seem possible in May."
- Edwin Way Teale**

BACK YARD ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Lyn Matthews

Lisa Bartlett, the Garden Manager from Smith-Gilbert Gardens, was our speaker for the April 13 backyard association zoom meeting. I, for one, was blown away. This is a woman of great knowledge, passion, and a very fine sense of humor. Before going into horticulture, she was a talent agent for standup comedians. She said that Jeff Foxworthy built her house. When she bought her house, she put in the garden first. Then she wouldn't let workmen trample her plants to make repairs. Doesn't that sound like a lot of us?

Her topic was Designing with Hydrangeas - There's One for Every Landscape. It's a subject we have heard many times, but, this was exceptional. She presented so much information and with a new approach. If for some reason you were unable to watch the program, please watch it on the Coweta County MGEV YouTube Channel at <http://bit.ly/CowetaMGEVYouTubeChannel>. You will not be disappointed. You will learn all the many things I did not mention in this report.

“The Importance of the Great Georgia Pollinator Census” will be presented to us by Becky Hunt Griffin. Becky is the Community and School Garden Coordinator and a GA Certified Beekeeper. She will discuss last year's pollinator census with the research that was collected, and what will be done using that knowledge. The 2021 Georgia Census will be August 20 and 21. I hope everyone will participate, it's fun. And please zoom in for the May 11, Backyard meeting. Stay safe friends.



Backyard Association
A Virtual Presentation by
Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

Registration Required
(See registration information below)

Becky Griffin
*Community and School
Garden Coordinator,
Georgia Certified Beekeeper/
Pollinator Health Program Associate*



Tuesday, May 11
at 7:00pm

**“The Importance of the Great
Georgia Pollinator Census”**

To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/BYA2021BeckyGriffin>
Meeting ID: 915 8993 5826 Passcode: 037748

Need information? Contact UGA Extension—Coweta County
(770) 254-2620 / coweta.extension@uga.edu

CR's May Pruning Tips:

Remove dead or diseased limbs on trees. **DO NOT** put them in your compost pile or they may introduce problems into your garden in the future.

Prune Leyland Cypress to control Seridium canker. The symptoms of Seridium canker include older foliage, especially the interior foliage, turns yellow and then brown; branches and twigs die; sunken reddish, dark brown, or purple areas (the cankers) form on the bark and sap oozes. Often the infection starts on the lower branches on the tree and moves up.

Prune out diseased limbs, being sure to cut 6" below where the infection occurs. This will insure that you prune where healthy wood is growing. Prune branches that are broken or torn from the main trunk. Sterilize your pruner between each cut with a 1:10 bleach:water mixture.



So, says Walter Reeves, in Month-to-Month Gardening in Georgia, p. 277.

Stump the Master Gardener



Can anyone identify this easy to grow, spring flowering, native plant?

Send answers to: patfarmer100@gmail.com

Make hay in May for you may never know what June is coming with and you may never know what July will present! When you see May, make hay! *Ernest Agyemang Yeboah*

HOT TOPICS FROM THE MGEV HELP DESK

Submitted by Patty Ellis

Sometimes Mother Nature reminds us that she is in control of our gardens and landscapes. Despite our best efforts, storms, pests, and diseases alter what we've worked so hard to create, and the team at the help desk is here to provide science based gardening information that helps us bring things back to balance. Here are a few problems we've encountered over the past month and the solutions:

*A client emailed asking if the office had a landscape design student that could come and help her redesign her landscape after everything was lost in the recent tornado. Of course, we don't provide those types of services, but as MGEVs we can evaluate and recommend certain plants based on the client's yard and goals. Allen Summerlin and Greg Emerson visited her and made some recommendations while there. The help desk followed up by emailing multiple UGA publications on trees, shrubs, proper planting, and tree care.

*Often after their initial contact folks find our advice so helpful that they become repeat customers! One such request from a Coweta resident was a gentleman who called in with questions about treating azalea lace bugs. We called him and discussed when and how to treat, as well as following up with an email containing publications about azalea care and a link to the updated *Georgia Pest Management Handbook: Homeowners Edition* with specific treatment advice. We also reviewed his soil test results to make sure that his soil pH and fertility were appropriate for azaleas.

*Dan Gentry has been busy advising clients on all sorts of turf issues, including bare spots in lawns, weeds, and when to fertilize. Clients are appreciative of his depth of knowledge on this subject, and the rest of the help desk staff know that if we have a turf questions, Dan is the man!

The help desk is a great resource for Coweta County residents to get answers to their garden questions. It's also a wonderful way for MGEVs to gain more knowledge of all aspects of gardening. That's why Pat Lincoln, class of 2020 stepped forward to be a member of the help desk team. She'll be starting at the beginning of May. Welcome Pat, and thanks for being willing to help! If you think that the help desk sounds interesting and would like to learn more, please reach out to Patty Ellis and Karen for more information. We love having a group with diverse gardening interests and strengths that also enjoys working with the public.

MASTER GARDENER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Photo by Karen Mansour

Send all photo entries of Happy Gardeners and Happy Plants to:
patfarmer100@gmail.com



Master Gardener 2021 Committee Chairs

Ask MG/Market Day	Harley Stewart
Backyard Association	Allen Summerlin, Deberah Williams, Melanie Landrum
Scholarship	Jennie Adcock, Karen Mansour
Education: Speakers Bureau,	Dan Gentry
Adv. Training/Continue Ed.	Dan Gentry
Youth Education/Boys & Girls	Vacant
Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk	Susan Mills (library), Patty Ellis, Kathy Olmsted
Finance	Kris Carpenter
Fundraising	Kris Carpenter, Diane Cook
Garden Tour	Diane Cook
Spring Plant Sale	Kathy Olmsted, Kim Magyar
Fall Plant Sale	Kathy Olmsted
Greenhouse	Audrey Harrelson, Amy Keller, Mark Hess
Demonstration Garden	Kathy Olmsted, Amy Keller
Media/PR/Coweta Shopper	Vicki Sewell, Marci Moore, Martha Woodham, Kim Magyar
Nature Trail Project	Dale Senko, Pat Farmer, Ed Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson
Nominating Committee	2021 MGEV Board/plus other members
Volunteer Management/Support	Donna Dietz, Carol Fuller
Directory	Mark Hess
Hospitality	Kim Magyar, Amy Sharpe
The New Leaf Newsletter	Pat Farmer, Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis
Sunshine	Sara Hanson
Telephone	Roni Wolcott
Volunteer Awards	Patty Ellis

Photos: Pat Farmer, Ed Atkinson, Mark Hess, Barbara France, Karen Mansour

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