

# The New Leaf

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

**FEBRUARY**  
**2021**

---

*DONNA DIETZ*  
*MGEV PRESIDENT*

---

---

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

---

by Donna Dietz



If there is anything that has been reaffirmed to me in the last several months, it is that the Coweta County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers are the BEST! When the going gets tough, you step up and volunteer. Thank you, on behalf of the committee chairs, for so enthusiastically signing on to participate in the various activities. Keep up the momentum. More volunteer opportunities to come. Our projects, which allow us to stay within the parameters of the pandemic regulations, are well underway. In preparation for the upcoming Spring Plant Sale, there have been workdays at the greenhouse thanks to Amy K., Audrey and Mark. The Nature Trail team led by Dale, Pat, Ed and Melanie, had one workday with more planned for this month. A site visit was made to the Demonstration Garden. Plans have been submitted for a covered gazebo to be built at the site. It will be the centerpiece of an outdoor classroom. The Help Desk, remotely monitored by Patty and Kathy, has been operating on a continual basis to meet the needs of our gardening clientele. The BYA chairs Allen, Deberah and Melanie are lining up some great programs this year presented via Zoom. So, you can see we are doing as much as we are able to do. I would also like to give a shout out to our Extension guidance and support team led by Stephanie and Karen. They facilitate our projects by meeting the requirements of UGA and county guidelines, some of which change on a daily basis. Just ask Karen how many forms she has to fill out.

**Stay optimistic, stay flexible and stay well!**

## **JANUARY Workday at the Nature Trails**



### **First 2021 Nature Trail Workday Submitted by Dale Senko**

Outdoor activity is said to be a good for the body, mind and soul. Fourteen MGEVs experienced its benefits at the first Nature Trail workday in 2021.

This is a good time of year to control weeds by hand pulling. The ground is soft and releases weeds more easily than any other time of year. Privet and chickweed fell victim to an attack by 28 hands. Of course, more remains to be controlled. Audrey H. spied some nandina berries and made short work of them by cutting them down before they spread. We also worked on removing weeds between pavers in the courtyard and filling the pavers with aggregate. We planted may apple and St. John's Wort donated by the Atkinsons. We plan to plant more at the Nature Center in the coming months after doing some bed preparation.

Come join us at future workdays and reap the benefits for your health and nature's. Please check your emails and sign up to volunteer.



**Photos: Workday Volunteers included Lyn Matthews, Dianne Teer, Gary Brown, Jerry Allen, Ros Johnson, Martha Hendrix, Cathy LeBar, Susan Mills, Audrey Harrelson, Nancy Coats, Pat Farmer, Ed and Melanie Atkinson, Dale Senko**

## FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

- Divide perennials that flower in the fall
- Good time to prune
- Prune vines and brambles like grapes, raspberries and blackberries
- Georgia Arbor Day is February 19, 2021; plant a native tree in your backyard
- Cut back ornamental grasses before new growth starts
- Clean out bird boxes and get ready for returning birds
- Some cool season crops may be planted when soil is above 40 degrees

### CR's February Pruning Tips:

To Prune or Not to Prune? And if so, how much, and when?

Answer: Well, now's a good time for SOME plants. Obviously, we don't want to put a heavy prune on plants that will be blooming in the spring...except when we're talking about the plant's health, i.e. dead limbs, crossing or rubbing limbs, water sprouts. But, what about all those other plants that ARE NOT blooming this spring? Now's the time. Everything is dormant! Pruning now becomes a function of proportion. We hear the term OVERGROWN. A plant is only overgrown if it is proportionally out of balance with the size of the space.



*Don't think the Garden loses its ecstasy in winter.*

*It's quiet, but the roots are down there RIOTOUS!*

### **Advice from Dan *The Grass Man* Gentry**

#### **Apply a Pre-emergent to Minimize Summer Weeds**

To keep your turfgrass looking good next summer, apply a pre-emergent herbicide by March 1 to minimize crabgrass and common “summer” weeds that emerge in spring, such as dandelions, dollar weed, spurge and plantain. The pre-emergent works by establishing a chemical barrier at the soil surface so when weed seeds germinate (starting in early spring as the soil warms up enough), they are killed when shoots reach the soil surface. Most pre-emergents are granular and need to dissolve to work so it is important to water the turf if substantial rainfall does not occur within 24 to 48 hours following application. It is best to only apply an herbicide at this time and fertilize later after the grass is mostly greened-up.

The active ingredient and trade names of common products for homeowners are benefin (Balan, Crabgrass Preventer), pendimethalin (Scott's Halts, Lesco Pre-M Plus), dithiopyr (Dimension, StaGreen Crab Ex, Crabgrass Preventer, Vigoro Crabgrass Preventer) and prodiamine (Barricade). Generally, one or more of these products are available at the big box garden centers or plant nurseries and are commonly advertised to control crabgrass. Check the bag label to confirm, but any of these products can be used on all common warm-season grasses and tall fescue.

**Your choice:**



## BACK YARD ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Lyn Matthews

The February 9, 2021, Backyard Association meeting will be at 7:00 pm, with Walter Reeves. Walter's topic will be, "Walter's Gardening Faux Pas". Can't wait to hear that. I hope everyone will join us on Zoom with Walter.

Melanie told me that Mike Cunningham, from Country Gardens Farm, will be our speaker for March. We have enjoyed Mike on several occasions, and this will be no different. This Zoom will be March 9, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

A few things to mark on our calendars and not to be missed are the Soil 3 fundraiser starting March 16th ending March 30th. We had a wonderful event in 2020, I'm sure 2021 will be even better.

Our Spring Plant Sale will be early April at the Greenhouse. Look for more information to come.

Stay safe, it's going to be a great year with your backyard friends.



**Backyard Association**

A Virtual Presentation by  
Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

**Registration Required**  
(See registration information below)

**Walter Reeves**

*The Georgia Gardener*

Tuesday  
February 9 at 7:00pm

"Walter's  
Gardening  
Faux Pas"

To register, visit: <http://bit.ly/BYA2021WalterReeves>

Meeting ID: 992 5701 0669      Passcode: 754960

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



An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution

## CHANCE TO BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Submitted by Nancy Coats



### Great Backyard Bird Count

Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds in the **Great Backyard Bird Count**. From February 12-15, 2021, you're invited to join the fun by watching, counting and reporting as many birds as you can find in your backyard, schoolyard, or favorite place.



For detailed information on participation, click on <https://www.birdcount.org/>.

## GREEN HOUSE NEWS

**Submitted by Barbara France**

**The greenhouse is open and humming. Co-chairs Mark Hess, Amy Keller and Audrey Harrelson are leading small, masked teams of 6 to 8 Master Gardeners for an hour or two long sessions of seeding for the Spring Plant Sale. We are seeding peppers, tomatoes, basil, coleus, petunias, zinnias and moon vine. We are also working on softwood cuttings.**

**There are plans to accept "donations" from our personal gardens. Pots of soil will be available for you to use for dividing your perennials.**

2021 Propagation Calendar		
DATE	DAY	TASKS
01/05/21	Tuesday	Seeding Geraniums (4 varieties), Gazanias (2 varieties)
01/28/21	Thursday	Seeding Parsley, Greek Oregano
02/02/21	Tuesday	Seeding Dahlias, Agastache, Salvias
02/04/21	Thursday	Seeding Peppers
02/06/21	Saturday	Softwood cuttings-Geraniums, coleus
02/09/21	Tuesday	Softwood cuttings-Cuban oregano, Mona Lavender, Euphorbia
02/16/21	Tuesday	Pot Mexican Petunias
02/18/21	Thursday	Seeding Basil
02/27/21	Saturday	Seeding Tomatoes
03/04/21	Thursday	Seeding Binary Zinnia 6 -packs
03/20/21	Saturday	Seeding Ipomoea



## SPRING PLANT SALE – INTAKE INFORMATION

Submitted by Melanie Atkinson

We are looking forward to having our Spring Plant Sale at the Greenhouse this year! We are requesting Master Gardeners to “pot-your-own” and donate some of the beautiful plants you have growing in your yards. The Greenhouse and Plant Sale committees will provide our standard, trade gallon size black containers with soil and a blank label that you can pick up as scheduled and use to pot your donated plants. Please be sure your plants are healthy, insect free, and trimmed of dying leaves so they look their very best!! Use a permanent marker on the white plastic strip to label each pot with the plant name, flower color and your name and place the label securely in each black container that you will return to the greenhouse. List the information called for on the Plant Sale Intake Card which you will pick when you get your pots. Bring the card with you when you bring your plants to the greenhouse.

***Please bring plants to the greenhouse on intake days only!*** Please do not drop them off on days when no one is there to receive or care for them and please do not come to the greenhouse without permission. Check your email regularly for Dates to Pick-up Pots and Dates to Return Pot-Your-Own Plants for the Sale. We must all work together to make this happen under the current circumstances.

**\*\* HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE PLANT SALE INTAKE CARD MIGHT BE COMPLETED**

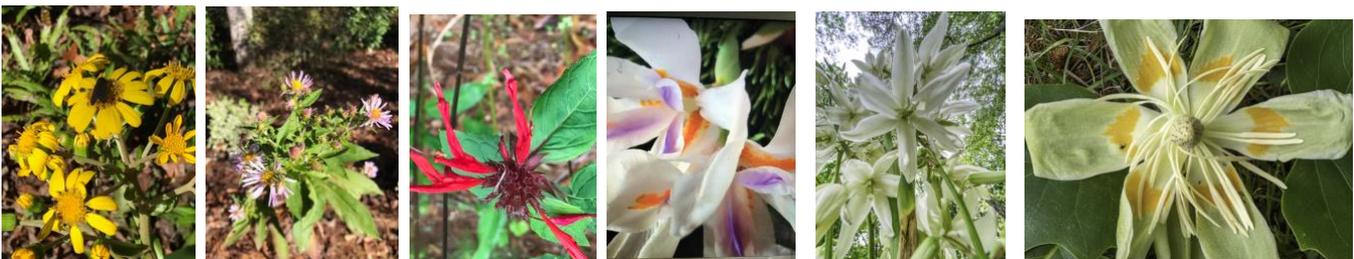
NAME:     \*\* YOUR NAME \*\*    

DATE:     \*\* DELIVERED GH    

Quantity	Plant Common Name	Container Size	Flower Color	Botanical Name / Notes
8	Canna Lily	1 gal	Red Orange	
5	Day Lily	1 gal	Yellow	Beautiful, ruffled bloom
20	Day Lily	1 gal	Various colors	
6	Butterfly Rose	1 gal	Multi-colored	
3	Ninebark	2 gal	Pink	Red leaves

**\*\* FLIP THE CARD OVER AND CONTINUE ON THE BACK \*\***

Plants with specified colors usually sell better and knowing the color is helpful to customers. The botanical names and any additional notes you provide help us and our customers, to know more about your plants. Please remember to get permission before coming to the MGEV facilities. Your help in completing the intake card and returning it with your plants on intake days *is very much appreciated!!* If questions, please contact Audrey Harrelson, Amy Keller or Mark Hess.



## 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, C.R. Phillips, Dan Gentry



*"An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution"*

