

The New Leaf

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

FEBRUARY 2022

*MARK HESS, MGEV
PRESIDENT*



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the thermometer is now dipping into the 20s, we are all probably looking forward to spring. While the days are finally getting longer and spring is slowly approaching, take time to enjoy the season we are in too! Enjoy collard greens that thrive during this season or, if you have overwintered carrots in the garden, they will be at their peak sugar content about now. So, while we will certainly welcome spring, let's ensure we get all we can out of winter too! We are making strides forward, getting better organized this year. One challenge we face is with so many great projects and committees happening at the same time, we tend to step on each other's toes and schedule workdays at the same time. Sonjia Lambeck has stepped up to help with this; you will find in this newsletter a calendar with all the February tasks (currently known) on it. If you want to schedule something for your group, glance at the calendar first. We are working on a more robust electronic version of the calendar but that still has some challenges.

I had the pleasure of being at our first new 2022 MGEV'S trainee class. It looks like we have a very good group. I, like many of you, truly enjoy our group and want to do all we can to ensure our newest MGEV feel welcomed and fit in! After all, let's face it – we are a great group of folks! This year we will be reinvigorating our buddy system for new MGEVs. For some of our more introverted new MGEVs, we may ask some of you to buddy up with them. This would entail reaching out to them to see if they have any questions, personally inviting them to workdays that you will be attending (it is always intimidating going to that first workday alone before you know anyone), helping them log their hours, etc. Not all new MGEVs will need a buddy; I suspect trainee Chuck Olmsted (Kathy's husband) will be fine! However, others may benefit from a little encouragement so the board may approach a few of you about serving in this capacity.

I hope to see you at a February workday!

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." -Abraham Lincoln

Contents

- *Message from the President*
- *News from the Nature Trail*
- *Recent MGEV Meeting*
- *Volunteer Hours and Awards*
- *MG Photo of the Month*
- *The Essential Oak*
- *February in the Garden*
- *Backyard Association*
- *Stump the Master Gardener*
- *Hot Topics from Help Desk*
- *Spring Plant Sale News*
- *MGEV Educational Opportunities*
- *MGEV Calendar*
- *Committee Chair*

NEWS FROM THE NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Audrey Harrelson and Barbara France

Support the McGuffey Nature Center AND Create a Lasting Family Legacy



The Coweta County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers are offering a wonderful opportunity to support the McGuffey Nature Center Project and create a lasting legacy for your family. Since 2015, the Coweta County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers have been working on a project to restore the McGuffey Nature Trails located at the Coweta County Fairgrounds. Their efforts have removed harmful invasive plant species and replaced

them with native plants. They have also added interpretative signs to give visitors information about plants and wildlife along the trails.

Your donation will help fund native trees, shrubs and plants that attract birds and wildlife and enhance this beautiful community green-space. You can help by purchasing engraved bricks to honor loved ones, remember a special friend or departed love one, mark a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, graduation), or simply to support the project.

The bricks will be placed just outside the Nature Center Building along one of the trails. You and your family can see your lasting tribute while enjoying the natural outdoor setting.

You may purchase a brick for a donation of \$50. Purchasing information and order forms may be found at our website, ugc0077@uga.edu or visiting the Coweta County Extension Office located at 255 Pine Road, Newnan, GA 30053, to pick up an order form. Call 770-254-2620 for more information.

In Honor of Edward McDaniel 1918-2009	In Memory of Ralph Joe Smith (Dad) 1915-2014	In Honor of AOC (Aunt) 1918-2014
In Honor of The Smith Family 1918-2014	In Honor of John Lee 1918-2014	In Honor of Charles (Uncle) 1918-2014

Bricks are gray. The 3 lines of type include a message of your choice.

Donor Brick Order Form – Order Deadline May 27, 2022

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Email: _____
 Telephone: _____ Donation Amount: \$ _____

> Each 4 x 8 Engraved Brick – \$50 > Text on brick: 3 lines, 20 spaces per line

Fill in Blocks below for text on Brick; each line limited to 20 spaces.

Line 1 – Select an Option: In Memory of In Honor of

Line 2 – Name of Recipient (honoree or donor), Optional Information (20 spaces)

Line 3 – Commemorative Date(s) or Optional Information (20 spaces)

Bring in or mail checks payable to Coweta County Extension, 41155 Pine Road, Newnan, GA 30053. Credit card and cash accepted in person at Extension Office only. Questions? Call 770-254-2620 or Email: ugc0077@uga.edu. Thanks for your support of this project!

BEFORE



AFTER



While Ed and Melanie Atkinson are working on getting Ed healthy again, I'll be the point of contact for workdays. A sign-up will be coming out shortly - more hands make lighter work. Questions, let me know, and Happy Native New Year, everyone. AH

On January 24, Audrey Harrelson led a group of five Master Gardeners along the Blue Trail to mark trees to be protected before the Coweta County crew clears the area of underbrush. Nancy Coats, Peggy Roberts, Dale Senko, Judi Worth and Barbara France tied pink ribbons on our valuable native trees and shrubs. Dale spotted a snag, a woodpecker had already created a hole high up in the tree. BF



RECENT MGEV MEETING – JANUARY 13, 2022



The new Board...minus Mark, is Colleen Stephens, Carol Fuller, Shanna Campbell & Patty Ellis, who conducted the meeting in Mark's absence.



There are still some committee chair and milestone gifts, recognition certificates and pins that were not distributed after the holiday gathering. Please pick those up at your earliest convenience. Just ask at the front desk the next time you're at the Extension office.

VOLUNTEER HOURS AND AWARDS

Submitted by Patty Ellis

If you've been to a business meeting over the last couple of years and I've been there, you've probably heard me ask everyone to log their hours into MGLOG. Logging hours helps us recognize all of the hard work that MGEV volunteers put in during the year, and over years of service. But it's much more than that! Sheri Dorn, PhD, the Coordinator of the Master Gardener program in Georgia, had this to say when I reached out to her about the importance of capturing volunteer hours:

“Reporting these details is so much more than a certificate or individual recognition. This information is essential for telling our many stakeholders at local (county), state, and federal levels of the important work that we do. As we gain momentum for consumer horticulture and gardening as a critical aspect of human health and wellbeing, we have a golden opportunity to share in the work of thousands of Extension Master Gardeners -- but only if we know about that work! Additionally, each detail that is reported contributes to a much broader picture that helps us make sure the program is on track (self-evaluation). Also, from time to time, volunteer accomplishments and contributions are pledged as in-kind resources for grant funds that help expand our program and initiatives. So, no story is too little or inconsequential! Each project, each hour, each volunteer is part of our story of horticulture, plants, and gardening positively impacting people and communities throughout the state. PLEASE be sure to report what you are doing so that we can share the stories!”

Here are a few things that may make your logging easier and more accurate:

-If you have a recurring activity that you do, for example weekly watering, you can log all of those hours on a monthly basis instead of each discrete day being entered. Simply put in the date you are entering the hours, and in the description box, put in the dates that are covered along with a brief description of the activity. Of course, you are welcome to continue logging them individually too.

-For the activity description, it does not have to be exhaustive. A simple sentence or two will suffice!

-Please refrain from putting other MGEVS full names in your descriptions. The MGLOG system will recognize that name, and when we are determining cumulative hours it can skew the numbers. If you want to document who attended a meeting or event in the description, include a first name and last initial.

MASTER GARDENER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Greg Emerson, Class of 2007, demonstrating the art of “leaning on the shovel.”

Greg and Susan’s beautiful garden has been on the Garden Tour multiple times. It is filled with a myriad of beautiful plants as well as an abundance of creative ideas.

THE ESSENTIAL OAK

Submitted by Dale Senko

After researching trees for a year for the MGEV calendar, I guess I needed a dose of tree reading in the new year. I asked Santa for a tree book and he left me, “The Nature of Oaks” by Doug Tallamy. It was more than appropriate since we MGEVs have been growing five different oak species to replant in tornado devastated properties of Coweta.

I have read other books by Tallamy and have heard him lecture at seminars. He is the know-all native plant guru to some and questioned by others. For those of you who are not acquainted with him, he serves up a “radical rethinking of American residential landscaping” quoting the book jacket. Oaks stand out as the most important contributors to the balance of our ecosystem. Tallamy shares his research and insights about oaks in a month-by-month chronology. In the February chapter of his book, he discusses some misconceptions about oaks.

Size: Yes, oaks can reach 100 feet but it typically takes centuries to reach their mature size. There are over 90 species of oaks in North America.

Price: If you buy a large tree it can be expensive, but it has a 50% chance of dying in the first year. Instead, buy a small tree to save money. As you can see by the oaks we potted from the Georgia Forestry Commission, they have developed into fine-looking trees and will be easy to transplant.

Property Damage: Large oaks may fall in severe storms. However, we can minimize the risk. Plant trees in groupings rather than as a single specimen. Trees that grow in spacing like a forest interlock their roots in ways that protect blowdown.

Cherry Bark Oak



Northern Red Oak



These are two types of oaks that the MGEV's have potted to give away as part of the Rooting for Newnan project.

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 Friday, February 18, 2022; plant a native tree in your backyard, an oak, perhaps.**
- **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.**

PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

- **Very Important: Deadhead your winter pansies as they will produce many more flowers.**
- **Don't fiddle with your bulbs.**
- **Now's a good time to prune your Muscadine Grapes. Prune back to the first two buds on each stem as grapes are produced on new growth.**
- **On Pears and Apples, prune out any dead or diseased branches and any limbs that cross through.**
- **Hibiscus can be pruned back by up to 1/3 of the total plant. Faded Amaryllis blooms and their stems can be removed now.**
- **On Perennials, remove dead stalks and seed pods.**
- **On Roses, remove any dead branches.**
- **For Shrubs, remove dead or damaged wood. On overgrown shrubs up to 1/3 of the oldest branches can be safely removed from their base.**
- **Lastly, Vines and Ground Covers: For annuals, clean them off their supporting structures. Prune dead or damaged stems and twigs from woody vines, and for wisteria any side shoots.**

As always, Thanks to Reeves & Glasener in their bible, "Month-by-Month Gardening in Georgia"

GRASS HINTS FROM TURF PRO DAN

You should apply nitrogen fertilizer only to cool season lawns between February and April. Do not apply nitrogen on warm season lawns until all danger of frost has passed. Usually after April 15th in Coweta County. Remember last year?

Apply a pre-emergent to minimize summer weeds on warm season turfgrass.

Apply a pre-emergent herbicide by March 1 to minimize crabgrass and common “summer” weeds that emerge in spring. It establishes a chemical barrier at the soil surface to kill weed seeds germinating as the soil warms up. Most pre-emergents are granular and need to be watered in to dissolve and create the soil barrier. (Another tip: Wait to apply fertilizer until later in the spring 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). At least one of these is generally available at the big box garden centers or plant nurseries.

BACKYARD ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Lyn Matthews



Backyard Association

A LIVE Presentation by
Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

Giff Beaton

Naturalist • Author • Editor

giffbeaton.com

**Tuesday,
February 8
at 7:00pm**



“Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia”

UGA Extension – Coweta County
255 Pine Rd, Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 254-2620 / coweta.extension@uga.edu

Registration is not required to attend, but those who call in advance and register will be entered into a drawing for door prizes.



An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative
Action, Veteran, Disability Institution

Our first BYA of the year 2022 was held January 8th. Jeremy Oxford from Hills and Dales in LaGrange spoke on Pruning Woody Ornamentals. Pruning is one of our necessary duties in the garden, but must be done for the appropriate reason at the appropriate time. I know I have pruned on the first sunny day only to have a weird cold snap take all the new buds. Moral of the story, pay attention to the weatherman.

February 8, at 7pm will be our next BYA. Giff Beaton, a naturalist and author, will speak about Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia. Please come and enjoy Giff and his wonderful pictures of these very interesting insects.

STUMP THE MASTER GARDENER



JANUARY CHALLENGE winners are Liz Volz, Merle Scholder, and Lyn Matthews. They identified the plant as *Edgeworthia chrysantha*, also known as the Paper Bush plant. Edgeworthia provides superb winter interest and fragrance. This well-branched shrub begins blooming in December, when it's nothing but a bare silhouette in the garden, and continues through the winter. Edgeworthia thrives in partial shade and appreciates well-enriched, moist soil. In spring, after the blooms pass, it sports lovely bluish foliage with silvery undertones that are both eye-catching and soothing.

Merle's response came with a helpful hint about propagating the Edgeworthia. She wrote, *"if you look at the root you should see new growth limbs at the bottom...wobble the stem. It will eventually come loose with roots and you will have a new plant."* Thanks Merle.

FEBRUARY CHALLENGE

This small understory tree retains its leaves during the winter (marcescent). The leaves turn almost yellow to light tan.

Send answers to:
patfarmer100@gmail.com



HOT TOPICS FROM THE HELP DESK

Submitted by Patty Ellis

January can be a quiet time in the garden, but an exciting time to plan and dream about what you can do and achieve. As I type this, there are only sixty days until the “official” start of spring. How exciting to think about seed starting, turf pre-emergent application, pruning, and all of the other preparations that are so important to successful gardening. One of the most important is soil testing, and I want to take a moment to thank CR Phillips, who has been diligently following up with all of our neighbors regarding their soil test results. Not only does he impart his wisdom when folks don’t understand those graphs and recommendations, but I know he learns something new with each client contact.

Here are a few things that have come across the help desk in the recent past:

*Dan Gentry is always at the ready to advise on turf questions, and someone recently asked about when to apply pre-emergent treatment. Of course, when you apply and what you do depends on what type of turf you have. Dan emailed and told them when to apply and what types of product were appropriate. Here’s a link to a UGA publication about weed control in home lawns:

<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B978&title=Weed%20Control%20in%20Home%20Lawns>

* Kathy Olmsted fielded a question from a woman wanting to know how to get rid of a stump. She provided an article from Walter Reeves about stump removal, that you can read here <https://www.walterreeves.com/how-to/how-to-get-rid-of-stumps/?highlight=stump%20removal>

*Stephanie spoke with a client who had gotten some azaleas as a gift and needed guidance on planting. She asked me to provide some more information from UGA about azaleas and soil testing, which I then forwarded. UGA has a great article that discusses all aspects of azalea care.

<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B670&title=Selecting%20and%20Growing%20Azaleas>

For those of you who attended the help desk refresher back in November and are eager to get back into the office, we’ll be starting a hybrid model of the help desk in the near future. This will include both MGEVs working remotely to answer client questions and MGEVs in the office to help with projects in the office and other help desk activities. Stay tuned for more information!

SPRING PLANT SALE NEWS

Submitted by Kathy Olmsted

The SPS will be here before you know it and in preparation we are holding our first plant intake day on Wednesday, Feb 16th from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. A second day is scheduled for Saturday, Feb 26th from 9:00am – 11:00am.

Please keep in mind that:

- *All plants must be clearly labeled (bonus points for botanical names), with color listed.
- *The Greenhouse team will have filled pots available prior to the first intake day.
- *If you drop off plants, please use the intake form and the Greenhouse pots.
- *No bare root plants.
- *We would like 10 of each plant but will take a minimum of plants of the same kind; no single type of plants.
- *We will not accept invasive plants, and no patented plants, of course.

More information will be forthcoming. We can't wait for another BIG SPS and look forward to working with our 2020 Grads and the upcoming 2022 graduates!

Additional Comments: [Audrey Harrelson](#)

As most Coweta MGEVs are aware, we have been using Sign Up Genius to prepare for the upcoming plant sale. Sign Up Genius helps us organize the various activities. One of the concerns is the limited space in the greenhouse. Because of the confines of the greenhouse, we cannot accommodate all the MGEVs who might want to participate in the various events. This is due to concerns regarding health and safety. In an attempt to give everyone a better chance to participate, we will continue to use Sign Up Genius but will ask that MGEVs be aware that others may want to participate when they are signing up.

Additionally, although the number of volunteers for each event will be limited, if you are interested in being an alternate for a given activity, let one of the greenhouse chairs know. They will call alternates in the event someone cancels. It is never anyone's goal to not be inclusive, but we are trying to stay healthy. If you have any questions, let me know. We really look forward to seeing everyone.

COWETA COUNTY MGEV SPRING PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022

8:30AM-12:00PM



AND MUCH MORE!

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Submitted by Patty Ellis and Nancy Coats

1. The Georgia Native Plant Society is holding its 2022 GNPS Symposium. More information can be found here <https://gnps.org/gnps-2022-symposium-a-virtual-event-on-february-19-20/>
2. North Fulton Master Gardeners are offering a spring gardening series of classes. You can sign up for as many classes as you'd like. The information can be found here: <https://mailchi.mp/d8da6685944d/nfmg-spring-2021-gardening-lecture-series-begins-feb-13414305?e=2d18114358>.
3. Check out the previous Thoughtful Thursday presentations when you log in to MGLOG, and don't forget to log your hours! <https://ugamgev.org/system/login/>
4. Spring gardening series from Cobb County master gardeners. <https://5j17d3of07u1b1mkz1fkc211-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Winter-Spring-2022-Virtual-Ed-Flyer.pdf>

Lawn Care Tips for Homeowners Workshop

Presented by:

Coweta County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

Saturday, February 26, 2022

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Coweta County Extension

255 Pine Road

Newnan, GA 30263

This one-hour workshop will provide you with information to help you achieve and maintain a healthy lawn.

MGEV CALENDAR

February 2022

Please note: All dates and times are subject to change

February 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Leaf	2 GROUNDHOGS DAY	3 MGEV Training Class 9a-12n, 1-4p	4 Rooting for Newnan Workday 9:30a-12n	5 EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSED GH Seeding 10a
6	7 Nature Center Workday 10a-12n MGEV Hour w/ Stephanie Butcher 2:30-3:30p	11 Backyard Association 7p	9 GH Softwood Cutting 10a	10 MGEV Training Class 9a-12n, 1-4p	11	12
13	14 VALENTINES DAY Nature Center Workday 10a-12n MGEV Hour 2:30-3:30p w/ Stephanie Butcher	15	16 GH Seeding 10a SPS In-Take 2-4p	17 MGEV Training Class 9a-12n, 1-4p	18 ARBOR DAY Rooting for Newnan Pick-up TBA	19 Nature Center Workday 10a-12n
20	21 PRESIDENTS DAY MGEV Hour w/ Stephanie Butcher 2:30-3:30p	22	23	24 New Leaf Deadline MGEV Training Class 9a-12n, 1-4p	25	26 SPS IN-Take 9-11a Education Workshop TBA
27	28 Nature Center Workday 10a-12n MGEV Hour w/ Stephanie Butcher 2:30-3:30p					

2022 Master Gardener Coweta County Committee Chairs

Ask MG/Market Day	Harley Stewart
Backyard Association	Allen Summerlin, Deberah Williams
Scholarship	Jennie Adcock
Speakers Bureau	Nancy Coats
Adv. Training/Continue Ed	Nancy Coats
Youth Education/Boys & Girls	Rebecca Gibson, Kris Carpenter
Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk	Susan Mills (library), Patty Ellis, Kathy Olmsted
Finance	Colleen Stephens
Fundraising	Diane Cook
Garden Tour	Diane Cook
Spring Plant Sale	Kathy Olmsted, Kim Magyar
Fall Plant Sale	Kathy Olmsted
Greenhouse	Audrey Harrelson, Mark Hess, Jerry Allen
Demonstration Garden	Kathy Olmsted, Amy Keller
Media/PR/Coweta Shopper	Vicki Sewell, Marci Moore, Kim Magyar, Shanna Campbell
Nature Trail	Ed Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson, Audrey Harrelson
Nominating Committee	2022 MGEV Board/plus other members
Volunteer Management/Support	Mark Hess, Carol Fuller
Directory	Mark Hess
Hospitality	Kim Magyar, Amy Sharpe
The New Leaf	Pat Farmer, Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis
Sunshine	Sara Hanson
Volunteer Awards	Patty Ellis

Photos: Pat Farmer, Mark Hess, Ed Atkinson
 Editors: Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis

