

# The New Leaf

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

OCTOBER 2023

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PATTY ELLIS, MGEV  
PRESIDENT

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**A volunteer zinnia plant in the gravel of my veggie garden.**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Summer has finally turned to fall and thankfully Mother Nature has turned off the blast furnace. I've been able to sit out on the patio and watch the migrating hummingbirds, along with many butterflies and moths, enjoy the flowers that I included in my veggie garden this year. They especially love the zinnias, which have faithfully produced flowers throughout the season. Usually fall brings out the urge to "tidy up" before winter hits. We also know that having a landscape without hollow stems, seeds, and fallen leaves will not support the beneficial insects and wildlife that live in our yards. So next time, the thought of raking leaves or cutting off spent blooms hits, take some time to rethink that pristine looking landscape. Check out the Xerces Society's "Leave the Leaves" campaign to support pollinators and other invertebrates that are integral parts of a diverse ecosystem. [Leave the Leaves](https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves) <https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves>

Of course, October also means the fall plant sale. As usual, the plant sale and greenhouse teams have worked and planned to put together a fabulous sale. This will help us raise money to support all the other programs that we provide. But, it's not just about money! It's also a chance to tell people about everything that MGEVs do in the community. If you weren't at the most recent volunteer meeting, this was one thing we discussed along with the budget. While it's great to break records and make lots of money, we must focus on why we are raising the money. We are, first and foremost, a group of volunteers who are trained to provide horticultural information and education to our neighbors. Some years we will have more resources available than others, which will mean adjusting our expectations and our focus. This year happens to be a great year for fundraising, and that will be reflected in the budget. As stewards of the budget, the board will be meeting later this month to hammer out the specifics, so keep an eye out for more information about this soon.

One final thought from me this month. Every year we choose an MGEV of the year, and there are many from our group that would be a great choice. Email your nominee and a brief explanation of your choice to me at [pattvellis2003@yahoo.com](mailto:pattvellis2003@yahoo.com)



## NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Ed Atkinson

On Friday, September 22, the McGuffey Nature Center was honored with a visit from the Master Naturalist class based in Douglas County, led by Kevin Livingston. Participants represented Douglas, Cobb, Paulding, and Fulton Counties. Earlier in the day, they visited Nearly Native Nursery in Fayetteville. Melanie Atkinson and I presented a little background of the site and the layout of the trails, before leading walks on the Purple and Red Trails. They were interested in our successes and our issues in determining which plants are appropriate for a restoration site and other challenges. Many had never seen Turk's Cap and thought it was beautiful. The American Beautyberry also attracted a lot of attention. The Demo Garden was a big hit with all the pollinators and flowers in bloom. After their lunch around the Ceremonial Circle, the blue trail was explored by several people. One comment was about how great it is to have a paved, accessible trail, something that is missing at many other trails and gardens. After their lunch, the Pavilion was used for a very interesting presentation on Mushrooms/Fungi by Sam Landes of the Georgia Mushroom Club. There were many positive remarks about the wonderful facility that is available to the community. Let us know of other groups that would like a tour. Even though there is much work to be done, it's good to let others know about the Nature Trails.









## CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW


Submitted by Dale Senko



For the past 8 months in this newsletter column, I have reviewed different types of continuing education resources. This month I went to the Roku Channel. If you can access the free channel, go to “Martha Gardens” to find this series of eleven episodes. Yes, this is the same celebrity doyenne who impressed us for years with her cooking, DIY crafting, and decorating advice. Now she wows us with her gardens. Martha takes us to her New York farm. I can’t vouch to whether Martha is giving research-based gardening advice, but her guest “instructors” are top professionals in their field of expertise. Each episode is about 30 minutes and gives tips and how-to’s for various types of gardening - vegetables, roses, succulents, perennials, just to name a few. Episode 11 is one to watch, especially if you are considering volunteering your garden for the next garden tour. Martha shows how she prepares her garden for a public tour and encourages you to do the same.


## BYA

Submitted by Lyn Matthews



**Gabrielle LaTora**  
Agriculture Agent,  
Fulton County Extension Office  
Entomologist

**Tuesday,  
October 10  
7:00pm**



**“Insect Allies: Predators and  
Parasitoids in the Garden”**

**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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Disability Institution

After hearing JoHannah Bing speak in September, "Are you ready for a day trip to Hills and Dales in LaGrange?" It's a beautiful time of the year to visit this awesome garden. Plus, there are good places to have lunch in LaGrange. Take some time to enjoy this weather. Haven't you earned it? Thank you JoHannah for a wonderful program.

On October 10th, at 7pm, the BYA topic will be "Insect Allies: Predators and Parasitoids in the Garden" presented by Gabrielle LaTora, Agricultural Agent for Fulton County Extension Office and an Entomologist. This is sure to be an evening filled with information that all gardeners will find useful.

On October 24th, from 10am to noon, come and enjoy a "Party with Petals." Yes, our friend, Jason Powell, will be back with beautiful plants for sale, a question-and-answer session and much more. Due to the expected large crowd, we will be using the Coweta County Fairgrounds Conference Room at 275 Pine Road. This will be another special event with Jason, so please come early to look at the plants. Did I mention door prizes? May I suggest bringing something to carry your goodies and purchases home in.

Just a brief note: The Fall Plant Sale is October 14th, 8:30 - Noon. Come early, you know it sells out fast.

As always, a big thank you to the super ladies that provide the refreshments.



## OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

- Prepare composting areas for fall leaves.
- Move patio plants into shade for two weeks before bringing indoors.
- Cut brown flower stems of Hosta back to ground level.
- Leave some seed heads of coneflowers and black-eyed Susan for the birds.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs. Divide bulbs in old beds and replant.
- Add native shrubs and trees.
- Supply garden with irrigation as needed. Newly planted shrubs and trees will need to be watered until established.

## OCTOBER PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

**ANNUALS:** Remove summer annuals as they deteriorate. It's usually easier to remove everything all at once from the bed, even though some annuals are still blooming. Rototill the soil and add organic amendments before planting any winter annuals.

**BULBS:** There is no pruning required at this time.

**EDIBLES:** *Do Not Prune* (except for dead limbs) during this time of the year. Pruning causes plants to delay going dormant and can increase their susceptibility to cold damage.

**HOUSEPLANTS:** Divide your hanging basket of Boston Fern into thirds, and plant into three new baskets. Hang in a sunny window, and by spring they'll be big enough to plant outside. The plants may shed. Do not divide if only low light is available, in that case, it's better to simply clip back the fronds.

**LAWNS:** Mow warm season grasses as needed while the weather cools. You can stop mowing after the first frost. Continue to mow fescue as needed.

**PERENNIALS and ORNAMENTAL GRASSES:** Cut back spring blooming perennials now but wait until early spring to cut back full-blooming types as well as certain perennials like artemisias, which overwinter better when you leave them unpruned. Cut back lantana but just enough to keep them from blowing around in the wind. Any hard pruning should be done in early spring.

**ROSES:** Take time to examine each rose plant individually. Prune out any dead branches or weak limbs.

**SHRUBS:** Prune dead or diseased wood from established shrubs. If there are any wild shoots or suckers, you can also remove them. (Suckers are shoots that arise from roots or underground stems.)

**TREES:** Prune out any dead or diseased wood from newly planted trees.

**VINES and GROUND COVERS:** Limit your pruning to removing dead or diseased wood from vines. And as always, many thanks and full credit to Reeves & Glasener in their book, *Month-By-Month GARDENING in GEORGIA*.



“I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.”

— L. M. Montgomery, [Anne of Green Gables](#)



**GREENHOUSE WORKDAYS:**

In order to get set for the Fall Plant Sale, the following October dates will be Greenhouse work days:

**Oct. 5th, 10 am - 12 pm**

**Oct. 12th, 10 am - 12 pm**

**Oct. 13th, 9 am - 12 pm**

Please remember to bring your gloves, snips, and drinking water.

We have over 2,000 plants to spruce up and get ready for the sale. Come for an hour or stay for two.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*The Greenhouse Team*



**Master Gardener Extension Volunteers**  
**Fall Plant Sale**  
 Greenhouse, Behind Extension Office  
 255 Pine Road, Newnan, GA

- Perennials
- Shrubs
- Trees

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

**Saturday, October 14**  
**8:30am–12:00noon**  
**Questions? Call 770.254.2620**

   
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"October's the month  
 When the smallest breez  
 Gives us a shower  
 Of autumn leaves.  
 Bonfires and pumpkins,  
 Leaves sailing down -  
 October is red!"



## WHAT HAVE WE HERE?



Ed and Melanie Atkinson,  
Vicki Sewell, and Cathy  
LeBar all identified  
Stephanie's mystery plant.

### *Clitoria mariana*

butterfly pea (also called  
pigeonwing).

See the links below for more  
information:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/clitoria\\_mariana.shtml](https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/clitoria_mariana.shtml)

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=clma4](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=clma4)

Who can identify this tree? It is native to the Southeastern United States, has rugged bark, dark thick leaves, and bears fruit in the early fall.

SEND answers to:  
Patfarmer100@gmail.com





## HELP DESK

Submitted by Deberah Williams

### Work the Help Desk: Volunteer and Learn

As a fellow Master Gardener in Coweta County, I have been working the Help Desk since Lana Jones was the former Agricultural and Natural Resource (ANR) Program Assistant. She once told me that she thought every Master Gardener could and probably should work the Help Desk. After years of working the Help Desk, and now the Remote Help Desk, I think it's one of the most important volunteer activities a Master Gardener can do.

Now, there are probably more than 149,000 residents (*from 2021 census*), residing in our county and many of those people are struggling, *much like I did before I trained to be a Master Gardener*. I feel so strongly that Help Desk, Ask the Master Gardener, BYA, and workshops should be available to give good gardening advise and help residents solve gardening problems.

As 2023 is nearing the final few months, I want to challenge all of you to consider volunteering, especially for Help Desk and Ask the Master Gardener in 2024.

From Sheri Dorn, State Coordinator for MGEV programs, *"Working a help desk or clinic makes you quickly aware of what you don't know."*

It's like getting a bit of advanced training in little bits, and it makes you aware of the problems homeowners are facing, happening in real time.





## 2023 Master Gardener Coweta County Committee Chairs

**Ask MG/Market Day**  
**Backyard Association**  
**Boys & Girls Club/Youth Ed.**  
**Demonstration Garden**  
**Education**  
**Ext. Landscape**  
**Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk**  
**Fall Plant Sale**  
**Finance**  
**Fundraising**  
**Garden Tour**  
**Greenhouse**  
**Hospitality**  
**Communications**  
**Nature Trail**  
**Scholarship**  
**Speakers Bureau**  
**Spring Plant Sale**  
**Sunshine**  
**The New Leaf**  
**Volunteer Awards**  
**Volunteer Management/Support**

Harley Stewart  
 Melanie Landrum, Deberah Williams  
 Rebecca Gibson  
 Kathy Olmsted, Amy Keller  
 Cathy LeBar, Paula Hyatt  
 Cathy LeBar  
 Susan Mills (library), Patty Ellis, Deberah Williams  
 Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted  
 Colleen Stephens  
 Diane Cook, Cathy LeBar  
 Diane Cook  
 Barbara Schwartz (lead), Cathy LeBar, Marge Cox  
 Colleen Stephens, Amy Sharpe  
 Jerry Allen  
 Ed Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson, Audrey Harrelson  
 Jennie Adcock  
 Dan Gentry  
 Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted  
 Sara Hanson  
 Pat Farmer  
 Patty Ellis  
 Patty Ellis, CR Phillips

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