

The New Leaf

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

NOVEMBER
2023

PATTY ELLIS,
MGEV PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it."

-Andrew Carnegie

Contents

- *Message from the President*
- *Fall Plant Sale*
- *BYA*
- *Continuing Ed*
- *Nature Trail*
- *November in the Garden*
- *What Have We Here*
- *Save the Date*
- *In Memory*
- *Committee Chairs*

As my time as board president for the Coweta County MGEVs ends, I've been thinking about leadership; particularly two things, one, "What makes a good leader?" and two, "How can we encourage folks to step up into leadership positions?" We all can think of someone we know who would make a good leader. Maybe it was someone who helped bring a big project to a successful conclusion or got a group through a rough patch. It might have been someone who worked in the background and let team members shine. It's probably not the person who begged to be in charge so they could tell everyone what to do and get all of the recognition. The fall plant sale was a perfect demonstration of leadership in action; a small group of people leading a team toward a goal in support of a larger mission. It was a successful day despite some hiccups and challenges along the way. As I write this, I don't know our final sales numbers, but honestly, that doesn't matter. What matters is that the group came together to sell plants, in which the proceeds will support our goal of providing science-based gardening information to our neighbors.

Leading groups of people can be frustrating and time consuming, but it can also be rewarding. If there is someone in the group you think would make a great leader, let them know! Often people don't step up because they don't see themselves as someone with the qualities needed. Hearing it from someone with a different perspective can open their eyes and make them see the possibilities. The fact that you became an MGEV in the first place is a good indication that you are passionate about the work that we do. Would you be willing to devote some time and effort toward helping keep the group on track and grow our outreach to the community?

If you have any ideas about how we can cultivate more leaders in our group, I'd love to hear your thoughts! Please feel free to email or text me.

FALL PLANT SALE



JUST SO YOU KNOW, WE'VE GOT A THING FOR PLANTS!



IT'S NOT HOARDING IF IT'S PLANTS. IF A PLANT IS SAD, DO OTHER PLANTS PHOTOSYMPATHIZE WITH IT?



LET'S ROOT FOR EACH OTHER!



AH, HA, HA, HA, STAYIN' ALIVE



**HAPPINESS IS WATCHING YOUR
PLANTS GROW!**



CAN'T KEEP MY PLANTS TO MYSELF .



**ALL I NEED, IS THIS PLANT, AND THAT OTHER PLANT AND THOSE PLANTS, AND THAT
ONE OVER THERE.....**

BYA

Submitted by Lyn Matthews

Our beautiful month of October was filled with three wonderful enlightened programs. First, our Fall Plant Sale was a huge success. Second, Gabrielle LaTora, the Ag Agent from Fulton County Extension Office, gave an informative presentation on “Insect Allies, Predators and Parasitoids.” There was a lot of new information in her talk. Finally, “A Party with Petals” was a show stopper, as usual. There were plants, door prizes, questions and answers, plus so much more. It is always a treat to have Jason from Petals from the Past with us.



On November 14th at 7 pm, we will welcome Giff Beaton again. Giff has a very distinct way of presenting a program. His topic: "Bird Migration."

Many thanks to Melanie and Deberah for a year of very special speakers and programs. Also, thank you to the hospitality committee for the lovely goodies they provide at each meeting.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW

Submitted by Dale Senko



I followed up on Patty’s continuing education suggestion, and attended Cobb County’s live webinar, “Trees in the Urban Landscape.” This is part of Cobb County’s monthly virtual education program scheduled live and later posted on their YouTube channel.

Dr. Rob Trawick presented a quick recap of tree planting and care and also his list of “the good, the bad, and the ugly trees.” For each list he outlined the “goods” positive traits and the “bad’s/uglies negatives traits. It provided a good review for MGEVs and the public of which trees to plant and which to avoid. The episode was timely since the time to plant trees is now.

You can access previously taped webinars on Cobb County’s YouTube channel. Their next live webinar is **November 21st**, “Gardening on a Slope”. If your yard is like mine, you will be interested also.

NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Audrey Harrelson

A much-needed water spigot was recently installed near the Pavilion on the Nature Trail. It’s anticipated that this will make life (or plant life) much easier. To everyone who worked on making this happen, the Nature Trail team extends sincere thanks. With the arrival of cooler weather, we will be doing some planting along with the ever necessary weeding and trash pickup. If anyone wants to help, we’ll be working November 6th and 20th from 10 am - 12pm.

NOVEMBER IN THE GARDEN

- **Contact the county extension office for soil test bags.** UGA Soil tests usually take 7-10 workdays. Work lime into your soil based on pH results from soil test. It takes several months to adjust the soil pH once the lime has been applied.
- **Start a compost pile with fall leaves.**
- **Start planning next year's garden.** Continue to plant new shrubs and trees. Fall is a great time to plant perennials as well.

NOVEMBER PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

- **Annuals:** Spend a warm afternoon removing brown stems from annuals killed by frost. Accumulate your clippings in one spot and transport them to a compost pile when finished. Vacant beds can be covered with pine straw and left for winter, or you can plant winter annuals. Remove faded flowers from the pansies you planted in October.
- **Bulbs:** If there are any seeds you want to plant, cut off the pods while they are still brown and before they turn mushy.
- **Lawns:** Fall leaves are much easier to handle when they have been shredded. If you have a bagging lawnmower, simply rake up a pile of leaves and mow through them until you fill the bag. Shredded leaves can be used as mulch under trees and shrubs or can be added to your compost pile. High-performance mulching mowers can shred leaves so finely they won't be noticed on your lawn; the particles simply add organic matter to your soil.
- **Edibles:** Remove the foliage from asparagus plants now, before the red berries fall off. Otherwise, seeds will sprout, and the asparagus bed will become too crowded.
- **Houseplants:** Put houseplants close to a sunny window, but not too close. Give your house plants a half turn every month, so they don't lean toward the light, and mist leaves every day. Group plants close together to help control humidity around the leaves.
- **Perennials and Ornamental Grasses:** Once there is a frost, prune back dead stalks and leaves of perennials such as asters, chrysanthemums, salvias, and other late blooming plants. Don't cut stems all the way back, leave 3 to 4 inches to help protect the crowns. This will also help you keep track of where perennials are planted so you won't accidentally dig them up when they are dormant. Prune off stems and leaves of herbaceous peonies to minimize the chances of fungus spores over wintering.
- **Roses:** Prune out any dead branches or "in-the-way" limbs.
- **Shrubs:** Limit your pruning to dead or damaged wood. If you want to prune evergreens, wait until they are dormant, usually in December, January, and February. This is a list of shrubs that bloom on old wood and you should wait until they flower to prune :t Chaenomeles japonica, Forsythia, Fothergilla gardenii, Hydrangea macrophylla, Hydrangea quercifolia, Philadelphus coronarius, Rhododendron calendulaceum, Rhododendron catawbiense, Rhododendron maximum, Spiraea prunifolia, and Viburnum.
- **Trees:** Except for dead, diseased, or rubbing limbs, wait for the tree to become completely dormant in December to make pruning cuts. Do keep an eye out to make sure your conifers are getting sufficient water in the colder months, unless the ground is frozen, and wait for spring to fertilize.
- **Vines & Ground Covers:** Before or when you pull up annual vines that were killed by frost, collect any remaining seed pods and save the seeds for next year. Prune to remove any dead, diseased, or broken branches of vines. Cut away and dispose of any leaves or stems on ground covers that were damaged by insects or fungus. You can usually recognize fungus because the leaves or stems are black and look rotten.

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?



The mystery plant of November comes to us from Ed Atkinson. This is a native annual. It produces flowers in the late summer.

Send answers to:
Patfarmer100@gmail.com



Cathy LeBar identified this tree as a Persimmon. She has three in her yard.

Persimmon trees grow best in a slightly acid to neutral soil ranging between 6.0 and 6.5 on the pH scale. Most average garden soils fall between a pH range of 6.0 to 7.0. The best and most fruits will be produced when persimmon trees are growing in full sun. Persimmon is native to the southeastern United States. Easily recognized in winter by its unusual rugged, blocky bark, it has thick, dark green leaves that turn a yellow fall color. Female trees produce large orange-brown fleshy fruit that are edible after the first frost.

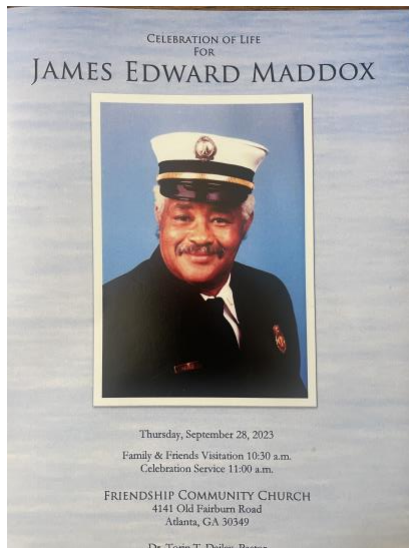
SAVE THE DATE

The final MGEV meeting of the year will be held on NOVEMBER 9 at 10am.

November Holidays and Monthly Observances

- Thanksgiving – fourth Thursday in November.
- Veterans Day – November 11th.
- U.S. General Election Day – Tuesday following the first Monday in November.
- Chemistry Week – first week of November.
- Game and Puzzle Week – third week of November.
- Book Lovers Day – first Saturday of November.

IN MEMORY



Our sincere condolences to Beverly Maddox on the loss of her husband, James.

Beverly is a member of the class of 2003 and was Master Gardener of the year in 2007.

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

Photos: Pat Farmer, Amy Keller, Dave Granroos, Marge Cox, Dale Senko, Patty Ellis

Editors: Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, Connie Gilliam

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



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION
 Master Gardener Program

An Equal Opportunity, Affirmation Action, Veteran, Disability Institution