In 2016, Douglas County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) were asked by the editor of the local newspaper to write a bi-weekly article series for the Douglas County Sentinel to address community interest in gardening. Several MGEVs answered the call, and in 2017, wrote 27 articles on various horticulture topics, such as trees, native plants, insects, vegetables, and herbs. The articles have been well-received in the community.

When researching and writing these newspaper articles, MGEVs start with plant and garden issues relevant to the current season. They also address issues they encounter in their home gardens or observe in MGEV projects, like the Douglas nature trail or butterfly trail. Writers also take the opportunity to share details of upcoming MGEV events and share activities about which they are passionate, like composting and providing wildlife habitats. By sharing personal garden experiences and researching topics using UGA publications and other reputable sources, MGEVs are able to connect to the public through their writing. Preparing and sharing these articles gives Douglas MGEVs an outlet to spread unbiased research-based information while extending horticulture education into the community.

Douglas County MGEVs consistently receive compliments on the articles they have written, including comments from gardening club groups, church members, neighborhood friends, and attendees of presentations given by MGEVs. Master Gardeners enjoy the learning experience of preparing content for the everyday reader and meeting the community’s need and want for horticulture education. Douglas County MGEVs hope the knowledge they share encourages others to be healthier, more productive, and better stewards of their environment.

27 articles written
2017 Article List

Composting: The Quest for Black Gold Camellias
Tiny May Be Better: Sprouts and Microgreens
Harbingers of Spring Pass the Peas, Please
Mother's Spring Shrubs Shade Plants for Year-Round Interest
Foresting for Food Those Who Come Before Us: Frederick Law Olmsted
Lovely Lavenders Beetles in the Garden – Yeah, Yeah, Yeah!
LSUMC Community Demonstration Garden Report
Hosta Classification
The Savvy Gardener: Evidence-based Gardening!
Made in the Shade: All-Day Sun Not Required
If a Tree Falls in the Forest A Few Flowers That Can Take the Heat
Plants and Fungi: A Partnership of Great Importance
Fall Gardening Roundup
Okra: An Edible Mallow
A Rose by Any Other Name
The Magical World of Lichens
The Need for Seeds
A Walk in the Woods
The Garden Slows But Does Not Sleep
Spring Blooming Bulbs We Love
Trees: An American Legacy
The Ghost of Christmas Past
The Red Berries of Winter

The Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program prepares volunteers to support UGA Cooperative Extension in delivering gardening information to Georgia’s citizens and communities. Since 1979, Master Gardeners and UGA Extension have helped Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.