

The New Leaf

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

APRIL 2024

DIANE COOK
MGEV PRESIDENT



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring has officially sprung and we are a busy group! First, a big welcome to our new MGEV graduates. All the hours of studying and test taking anxiety are behind you. Congratulations! One thing that is not behind you is the continued learning we, as a group of MGEVs, share every time we get together. So, everyone please be sure to wear your name badges at upcoming workdays, and introduce yourself to our new MGEVs!

It is already April and everyone knows what that means - Plant Sale, Plant Sale, Plant Sale! Just to give us some perspective of how much work goes into the Plant Sale, as of March 24th MGEVs have logged 268.85 volunteer hours in the Greenhouse and 214.5 volunteer hours for the Spring Plant Sale. This is a combined total of 483.35 hours. Bravo MGEVs! But wait, there's more. If you have not already done so, please remember to volunteer for the week of the actual plant sale through the "Sign-Up Genius" that Dana recently sent out. As you know, this is our biggest fundraiser of the year which helps all our endeavors from scholarships to BYA speakers, and so much more.

After the Spring Plant Sale, we will be working on putting together our Social Committee. We will come up with some fun outings we can do as a group. Also coming up, our very own Inspiration Garden is participating in the statewide MGEV Garden Tour on June 1st. So be on the lookout for workdays leading up to that big event. Also be sure to check out the great lineup of speakers our BYA Committee has put together for the year and save the dates to attend. Our continuing education requirement can be fulfilled simply by attending the BYA events.

“If you are not killing plants, you are not really stretching yourself as a gardener.” —J.C. Raulston

GREENHOUSE

Submitted by Barb Schwartz



Over 700 tomatoes were transferred into larger pots on MGEV Graduation Day. New graduates worked side by side with veteran MGEVs to get ready for the plant sale.

Pictured: Liz Volz, Barbara France, Norbert Snyder, Amy Barnes, Dick Viall, Becky Lee and Sonjia Lambeck.

Even though we had to brave the rain, mud, and downed trees we had a successful day preparing vegetables for the Plant Sale.



NEW MGEV CLASS VISITS THE MCGUFFY NATURE TRAIL



Ed and Melanie Atkinson did a wonderful job of taking the new MGEVs for a tour of the Nature Trail and newly named Inspiration Garden.

LOVE IT or LOVE TO HATE IT

Submitted by Dale Senko

Barbara France, Class of 2002, loves muhly grass and loves to hate spiderworts in her beautiful lakeside garden. Muhly is a native grass that becomes a pink haze in late season. Planted in mass, they are a showstopper from a distance or close up. Later they fade to tan and are beautiful all winter. An added bonus.... deer are not interested! She loves the beautiful range of colors in the spring when spiderworts bloom. During the summer they pop up in unexpected places. They add so much to my garden, but they are unruly and mingle in the middle of my gorgeous Japanese Iris, making them difficult to remove.



BYA

Submitted by Lyn Matthews



Backyard Association
A Presentation by Coweta Master Gardener Extension Volunteers



Mike Cunningham
Country Gardens Farm, Newnan, Ga.
Tuesday April 9, 2024
at 7:00pm




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

FREE to attend, but you must register to be entered into the drawing for door prizes.



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If you are an individual with a disability who may require assistance or accommodation in order to participate in or receive the benefit of a service, program, or activity of UGA, or if you desire more information, please contact us.

The regular nighttime BYA with Teddy and Jenny Meeks from Wild Daisy Farm in Molena, GA, was a huge success. Just a perfect topic for March. Can't you still smell the wonderful lavender? Then the Morning Glory with Abra Lee was equally educational and inspiring and so appropriate for Women's History Month.

“Blooming With Benefits- The Power of Pollinators and Beneficial Insects in the Garden”, will be presented by our local farmer and educator from Country Gardens Farm, Mike Cunningham. You may be expecting Mike to talk about early seed starting or his book, but not this time. This is a new topic that will be much appreciated by every gardener who strives for more natural ways of controlling insects and pests. This is important, so please register and come early. Mike always draws a crowd.

SPRING PLANT SALE

Submitted by Kim Magyar

Coweta Master Gardeners' Spring Plant Sale
 Coweta County Fairgrounds, AG Building
 275 Pine Road, Newnan, GA

- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Flowers
- Herbs
- Annuals
- Shrubs
- Perennials
- Trees

Saturday, April 13, 2024
 8:30AM until 12:00 Noon
 Questions? Call 770.254.2620

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

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The Spring Plant Sale (SPS) is rapidly approaching! Dana has sent out the SPS Sign Up Genius, so sign up and earn some hours. We have over 5,000 plants in our inventory. Thanks to all who contributed plants for our sale, and thanks to the Greenhouse team for all of their horticultural achievements. Hope to see everyone April 10-13, 2024!



"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul." - Alfred Austin

"Life begins the day you start a garden." - Unknown

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

On February 24th Dale Senko led the Boys and Girls Club in a program on "How to Plant Potatoes." The children planted potatoes in grow bags and will harvest them later.



On March 13 Dana Selementi led a program on "Vertical Gardening."



NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Ed Atkinson & Nancy Harrelson



The hope for a controlled burn that the Nature Trail Team was working towards, will need to be reassessed due to the recent intensive tree clearing near the outdoor classroom area. As many of you have seen, there were a number of pines damaged by the Pine Bark Beetles and many of these trees had to be removed. Unfortunately, much of the work done in 2023 was destroyed as the trees were removed. We're waiting for the job to be completed so that the damage can be assessed.

Trilliums and May Apples are in full bloom, with some of the native azaleas beginning to bud out, so there's some good news, and time will tell.

WHAT'S BLOOMING AT THE NATURE CENTER



Native Pachysandra



Devil's Walking Stick

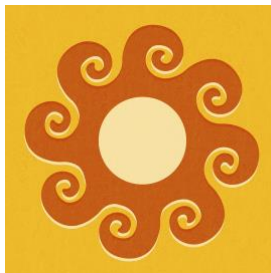


Red Anise

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Sara Hanson

**Please spread some sunshine to these MGEVs:
Judy Lippmann, Rhett McCorkle, Rebecca Gibson, Dianne Teer, and
Lyn Matthews.**



APRIL IN THE GARDEN

- The last frost for Coweta County can be between mid-March to mid-April. Check soil temperatures before planting summer plants and vegetables.

[Georgiaweather.net](http://georgiaweather.net) <http://georgiaweather.net/?content=calculator&variable=CC&site=WANSL>
[EY](#)

- Let the foliage of spring blooming bulbs turn brown before removing.
- Plant summer annuals after the danger of frost has passed.
- Spread 3-4 inches of mulch around plants, trees, and shrubs to discourage weeds and conserve moisture.
- Monitor landscape plants weekly for aphids on new growth and blast them off with a water hose.

APRIL PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

ANNUALS: To develop a good root system, remove all blossoms at time of planting as blooms take the energy needed for root growth, especially plants purchased in 6 packs, as their root systems are small compared to their foliage.

BULBS: Remove faded blooms of daffodils before they set seed, leaving the stems to help with photosynthesis. This process stores food for next year's blossoms.

EDIBLES: Remove the thin sucker sprouts as they arise from the lower trunks of apple, pear, and peach.

HOUSE PLANTS: To prolong their blooming, regularly remove the withered flowers from *azaleas* you receive for Easter.

LAWNS: You're going to start mowing your lawns this month, and there are two types of mowers to consider: rotary and reel. The rotary types are easy to find, easy to use, lower in cost, easy to repair, and easier to replace the blade. They may, however, leave an uneven cut as their wheels will conform to the possibly uneven surface of the lawn.

The reel types yield an even manicured look especially on Bermuda and Zoysia turf grass. They are, however, more expensive, harder to find, and their blades must be sharpened by an expert.

PERENNIALS and ORNAMENTAL GRASSES: Prune back lantana. Even if these plants were overgrown last fall, it is best to prune them now in early spring when they are actively growing. You may cut back 1/3 to 1/2 of the total plant, and they will quickly recover.

ROSES: Many rose plants are produced by grafting a desirable rose onto the stem of a vigorous but possibly unattractive rose (the rootstock). The area where the two join is called the graft union. It looks like a swollen knob a few inches above ground level. Don't leave stubs on the graft union when pruning. Suckers may appear here and must be removed.

SHRUBS: Prune flowering shrubs like forsythia, flowering quince, early blooming spireas, and azaleas as soon as they finish blooming. If the shrubs are overgrown and lack vigor with very few blooms, pruning can help rejuvenate them. Remove 1/3 of the oldest wood and cut the rest to 12" from the ground. Repeat this process for the next few years to create a vigorous plant.

TREES: There is still time to prune or shear candles on evergreens. Restrict your pruning of deciduous trees to removing dead and diseased branches. Wait until winter to remove large branches.

VINES and GROUND COVERS: If they need tidying up, prune vines like spring flowering jasmine as soon as they finish blooming.

And as always, many thanks to Reeves and Glasner in their Month-by-Month GARDENING in GEORGIA.

HOT TOPICS FROM THE HELP DESK

Submitted by Patty Ellis

Spring has officially sprung, and everyone is anxious to get out and work in the garden. That means soil tests and soil test follow ups! One of the most important things that we do at the help desk is follow up on homeowner soil test results. We make sure our neighbors understand the test and how to turn the information into garden success. There are some common questions people have when reading their reports, and we have the answers.

Q: Why didn't they measure nitrogen?

A: Nitrogen is a very volatile element in the soil and the levels are affected by many factors, most importantly soil clay content, density, organic matter content, pH, temperature, and rainfall. If the lab were to measure the nitrogen level by the time you got the results the level would be different. The recommendations given in the soil test report are based on field studies of different plants/crops and what they require for optimum growth and development. Learn more about soil test FAQs here: [Soil Test FAQs](#).

Q: I don't understand the bar graph! What do I need to do?

A: Many people freak out when they see the bar graph, but the most important thing to do is look at the recommendations section below the graph. This section will tell you what kind of fertilizer to apply and when. The fertilizer recommendations are based on one year, so generally they are split out and give you different times and amounts to apply. These recommendations are also based on what you are growing and will be different depending on what sort of crop, turf, or plant you are maintaining. Learn more about soil test interpretation here: [Interpreting your soil test results](#).

Q: I can't find the fertilizer recommended for my garden. Help!

A: This is a common dilemma we hear, but easy to solve. You don't have to get the exact N-P-K ratio but try to find the closest thing you can. Common fertilizers like 34-0-0 and 10-10-10 are generally easy to find and can be sourced at most local nurseries and big box stores. Others may be a little more difficult to find and you will have to substitute. A quick online search can be helpful to see what is available. You can always use the UGA NPK Fertilizer Calculator to help you determine what to buy and how to apply it. You can see the calculator here: [Fertilizer calculator](#).

If you haven't done your soil test yet this year, grab a kit the next time you are at the Extension office. The basic test costs \$9 and the results come back in about 7-10 days. You can also just collect a specimen at home by following the instructions in this publication: [Home soil testing](#). Happy spring everyone!

"Fertilizer does no good in a heap, but a little spread around works miracles all over. "

Richard Brinsley Sheridan

"A failure is like fertilizer, it stinks to be sure, but it makes things grow faster in the future."

Denis Waitley

VOLUNTEER HOURS AND AWARDS

Submitted by Patty Ellis

If you've been to a volunteer meeting over the last couple of years, you've probably heard me ask everyone to log their hours in 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 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:

1. If you have a recurring activity that you do, for example weekly watering, you can log all 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.
2. For the activity description, it does not have to be exhaustive. A simple sentence or two will suffice!
3. 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 only initials.
4. While you are in MGLOG, please check to make sure that your address, phone, and email information is up to date.
5. Don't worry too much about the specific category you are logging. If it's for a specific committee and that's one of the choices, great! Use that. If that specific item isn't listed just choose committees. For attendance at volunteer meetings choose Extension/4H assistance or SPO support.
6. If you have any questions, concerns, or problems, ask! Dana and I are happy to help.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart.”

Elizabeth Andrew.

MGEV 2024 Calendar

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

DATE/Time	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
03/25 – 10:00	Landscape Extension Team Workday	Extension Office
04/01 – 1:00	Nature Trail Workday	Nature Trail
04/02 – 1:00	Inspiration Garden Work Day (f/k/a Demo Garden)	Inspiration Garden
04/03 – 10:00	Landscape Extension Team Workday	Extension Office
04/08 – 10:00	Landscape Extension Team Workday	Extension Office
04/10 – 9:30	SPS Set Up	AG Building
04/11 – 8:45	Move Plants for SPS All day event – lunch will be served	Greenhouse & AG Building
04/12 – 9:00	SPS Plant Spa Day – MG's can purchase 3 plants at end of workday	AG Building
4/13 – 7:30	Spring Plant Sale!!	Fairgrounds
4/15 – 1:00	Nature Trail Workday	Nature Trail
4/16 – 1:00	Inspiration Garden Workday	Inspiration Garden
4/17 – 10:00	Landscape Extension Team Workday	Extension Office
4/14 – 10:00	Landscape Extension Team Workday	Extension Office
4/29 – 1:00	Nature Trail Workday	Nature Trail
4/30 – 1:00	Inspiration Garden Workday	Inspiration Garden

Upcoming BYA/Morning Glory Meetings

DATE/Time	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
04/09 – 7:00 p.m.	April BYA – Mike Cunningham – Country Gardens Farm "Beneficial Insects"	DMMR
05/14 – 7:00 p.m.	May BYA – Sara Henderson – "TBD"	DMMR
06/11 – 7:00 p.m.	June BYA – Rose Guerra – Hummingbirds	DMMR
07/09 – 7:00 p.m.	July BYA – David Brown* - Floral Arrangements	DMMR
07/23 – 10:00 a.m.	Morning Glories – Josh Fuder* – Growing Fruits	
08/13 – 7:00 p.m.	August BYA - Gabriella LaToya - Pollinators	DMMR
09/10 – 7:00 p.m.	Clint Waltz – "All Things Turf Grass"	DMMR
10/08 – 7:00 p.m.	October BYA - TBD	DMMR
10/22 – 10:00 a.m.	Morning Glories – Party with Petals & Just Dig It Farms Jason Powell – Petals from the Past – "Fall Gardening" Tracy Potager – TBD Plus – Petals from the Past Plant Sale	Exhibit Hall Fairgrounds
11/12 – 7:00 p.m.	November BYA – Sally Bethea, author "Keeping the Chattahoochee"	DMMR

** Speakers are tentative – waiting for confirmation*

Upcoming MGEV Volunteer Meetings

Always at 10:00 a.m. in the DMMR

- May 9th
- July 11th
- September 12th
- November 14th
- December Awards Dinner December 18th

Dates are subject to change – be sure to check the online calendar at our [MGEV Volunteer Resources page](#)

2024 Master Gardener Coweta County Board and Committee Chairs

2024 MASTER GARDENER COWETY COUNTY BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MGEV BOARD:

President	Diane Cook
Vice President	Kathy Olmsted
Past President	Patty Ellis
President Elect	Jennie Adcock
Treasurer	Chuck Olmsted
Secretary	Stephanie Odom

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Ask MG/Market Day	Harley Stewart
Backyard Association	Melanie Landrum, Deberah Williams
Boys & Girls Club/Youth Ed.	Rebecca Gibson
Communications	Jerry Allen
Demonstration Garden	Kathy Olmsted, Amy Keller
Education/Speakers Bureau	Cathy LeBar, Nan Van Patten, Patty Ellis
Extension Landscape	Cathy LeBar
Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk	Susan Mills (Library), Patty Ellis
Fundraising	Open
Garden Tour	Open – no Tour planned until 2026
Greenhouse	Barbara Schwartz (lead), Cathy LeBar, Marge Cox
Hospitality	Amy Sharpe, Susan Mills
Nature Trail	Ed & Melanie Atkinson, Audrey Harrelson
New Leaf	Pat Farmer
Plant Sales (Fall/Spring)	Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted
Scholarship	Jennie Adcock
Spring Plant Sale	Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted
Sunshine	Sara Hanson
Volunteer Awards	Patty Ellis

Photos: Pat Farmer, Dale Senko, Barb Schwartz, Barbara France, Ed Atkinson, Kim Magyar
 Editors: Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, Connie Gilliam



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



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