

TROUP COUNTY

MGEV REVIEW

The latest Master Gardener news and announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Risk Management Training
Due 8/1/2020!

~ Link is found in MGLOG ~

Mandatory to remain "active"

2020 Hogansville
Hummingbird Festival
cancelled

New Extension Building

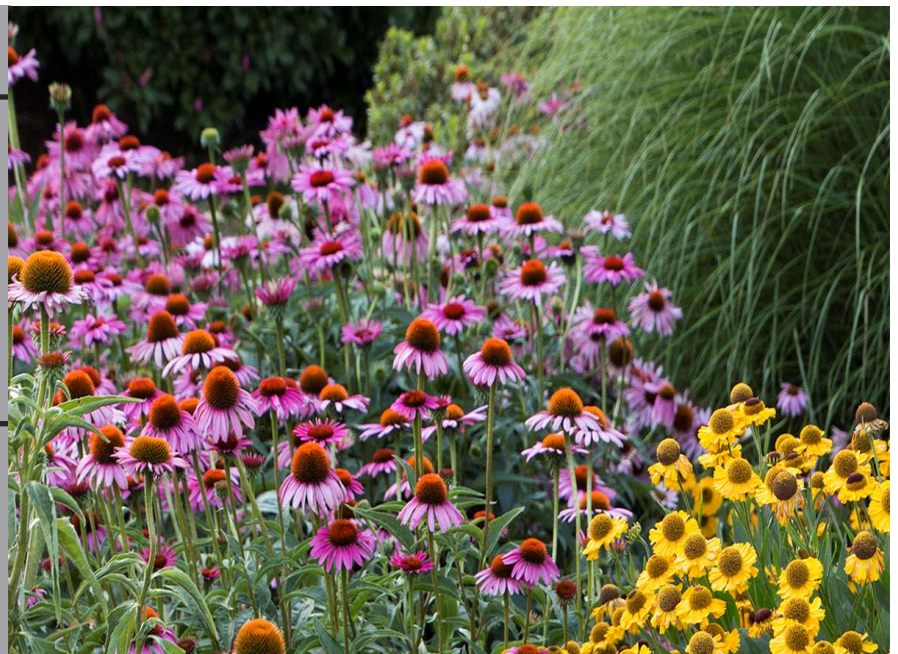
- ◇ Projected completion date: 2021
- ◇ Site-planning and building concept phases currently underway



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
EXTENSION



Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program



Welcome to the first issue of the MGEV Review, the newsletter for Troup County's Master Gardener Extension Volunteers!

Our goal in producing the newsletter is to keep our MGEVs informed and involved. Since we want the newsletter to be as relevant as possible to your program needs, we look forward to hearing your comments and feedback on the first issue.

Within each subsequent issue you will find the following sections:

- **Education Corner** - a section devoted to horticulture education and knowledge
- **Future opportunities** - up-coming projects, training events, and meetings
- **MGEV News** - news that pertains specifically to MGEVs

Want to earn some project hours? You can participate by writing an 150-word (or less) article for our Education Corner! We'd also love to

EDUCATION CORNER

By Becky Griffin, UGA Coordinator of Great GA Pollinator Census

Garden wasps – where is the love?

Bees have such a great reputation. They are the face of pollinator conservation and we know how valuable they are in our food system. But what about wasps? Where is the love? Wasps are also fascinating pollinators. Did you know that wasps are the main pollinators of figs?

Your garden is full of beneficial wasps. They dine on the pollen and nectar provided in pollinator gardens and are valuable pollinators. They also assist in controlling grubs, caterpillars, and crickets. Wasps provide important garden services!

Sadly, wasps seem to have a bad reputation. They are seen as aggressive stingers. This is not necessarily true. Most wasps are nonaggressive and will only sting when they are grabbed or threatened. These insects are beautiful and fun to watch.

One example of a wasp you may see in your garden this summer is the four toothed mason wasp. This wasp visits all types of flowers.



They are cavity nesters, laying eggs in small cavities already created by another wasp or bee. They also use holes in twigs or hollow flower stems. If you have a native bee home in your garden you probably have a mason wasp or two using those homes.

The female wasp hunts for soft-bodied caterpillars to carry back to the nest. She will lay an egg and leave a stunned caterpillar next to that egg. As the egg hatches, the emerging wasp larvae will consume the caterpillar. This is a great service to your garden as you battle caterpillars that eat your food crops.

However, mason wasps do not differentiate between pest caterpillars and the caterpillars of beloved butterflies. Gardeners do have a bit of control here. Plant milkweed, parsley and other butterfly larval plants away from plants that wasps frequently visit such as mountain mint. Otherwise, think of your garden as a whole ecosystem and thank the wasps for their help in controlling your pests!



GREAT GEORGIA Pollinator Census

August 21st & 22nd, 2020

Protecting Georgia pollinators
one count at a time!



Thank You!

Thank you to Patricia Striplin and Beverly Thomas's continued help as we work on developing greenhouse plans.



Up-Coming Opportunities

Thoughtful Thursdays Webinar for MGEVs

-August 13th , 2—2:30 pm

September 10th, 2-2:20 pm

-Register in MGLOG-

Regional Leadership Conference; A communication Series for GA MGEVs

August 21st

Email Laura for more information:

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