

TROUP COUNTY

MGEV REVIEW

The latest Master Gardener news and announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Private Greenhouse Tour

Coweta Co. Master Gardeners will lead a private tour for Troup County Master Gardeners

OCTOBER 9 @ 10 a.m.

Coweta Co. Extension Office

Newnan, GA



Risk Management Training

Mandatory to remain “active”

Link found in MGLOG

Food Handling at Meetings

No refreshments may be served at meetings until MGEVs sign off on the Food Handling video in MGLOG

Fall is in the air and it feels great outside! T

With such nice weather and seasonal atmosphere, it’s a great time to get in some volunteer hours with projects!

A group of dedicated MGEVs met via Zoom earlier this month. These individuals compiled a list of potential Troup Co MGEV Projects, including:

- ActiveLife projects
- Government Building—Downtown
- Biblical History Museum
- Educational videos
- Virtual workshops
- Answering horticulture phone calls and emails



Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program

Look for projects to be entered into MGLOG by mid-October. Contact Laura with any questions at laura.mirarchi@uga.edu or 706.302.8784.

EDUCATION CORNER

Milkweed pests can be a problem for monarch lovers

By Becky Griffin, UGA Educational Program Specialist

With the fall migration underway for monarch butterflies through November, gardeners should soon start seeing the colorful creatures on their travels south. It's also time to be on the lookout for pests of common milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), the most popular milkweed plant grown in Georgia butterfly gardens.

The larval plant of the monarch butterfly is grown by gardeners across the state to assist in monarch conservation, but milkweed can also attract insects that are less welcome.

The oleander aphid (*Aphis nerii* Boyer de Fonscolombe) uses piercing-sucking mouthparts to suck the juices out of the plant. Often called milkweed aphid, this pest can be a problem for young milkweed plants — older plants are more equipped to handle the damage.



If aphids are damaging the milkweed in your garden, simply use a wet paper towel to remove them. Wipe the insects off the plant and smash them inside the paper towel. You can also use sticky tape or packing tape to pull the aphids off of the plant. Smash the aphids by folding the tape onto itself.

Luckily, pollinator gardens attract other beneficial insects, like parasitic wasps, that can assist in aphid control.

Another pest to look out for is the large milkweed bug (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*). This insect is easy to identify with its dark orange and black coloration. Many gardeners choose to leave this insect alone, as it is part of the ecosystem. Unfortunately, milkweed bugs interrupt seed production by attacking the seed pods. If producing viable seed is important to you, you can remove these insects simply by picking them off the plant and dropping them into a cup of soapy water.

It is important to remember that any insecticide that you use will also affect the wonderful pollinators that you work hard to conserve. The monarch migration is coming in a few weeks, so watch for pests, reap the



Thank You!

Thank you to Romona Hollis, Terri Doyle, and Patricia Striplin for participating in the Project Planning Session.

Up-Coming Opportunities

Statewide Strategic Planning Sessions

-October 27th, 10 am —12 pm

-November 4th, 2pm-4pm

Thoughtful Thursdays Webinar for MGEVs

-October 8th, 2—2:30 pm

November 12th, 2-2:20 pm

-Register in MGLOG-

Public Park Spaces Survey

On behalf of Greg Huber's at the UGA Center of Urban Agriculture, we will be sending the invitation to participate in his study beginning Friday, 9/18. **MGEVs may record volunteer service hours under the "**SPO Support" project.**