In this issue:

Dates to Remember...............2
Garden Updates..................3

MG of the Year ...............4
Potting Crepe Myrtles....... 5
MG’s at Teen Summit ........6

In Bloom ......................7
Volunteers Needed.........8
Fall Plant Sale.............9
GMGA Annual Conference Dates Announced

The Georgia Master Gardeners Association Annual Conference is being held October 1st and 2nd at the Riverfront Marriott and Convention Center in Augusta. Speakers include author Stan Byrde; Susan Myers, Co-Chair of Monarchs Across Georgia; Andy Cabe, the Botanical Garden Director at Riverbanks Zoo and Garden; and Ted Stephens, founder of Nurseries Caroliniana.

Tours being offered as part of the conference include an Augusta Canal Tour and Meadow Garden Tour, a historic home which belonged to George Walton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. There are also self-guided tours at the gardens of Augusta Area Master Gardeners, Debra and Tom Allison and Sharyn Altman. To see the schedule, speaker information, tour information, and to register go to www.georgiamastergardeners.org.

Risk Management Training

As of the publication of this newsletter, the Risk Management Training has not been updated on MGlog. Please keep an eye out for an email from your extension agent for when it has been updated.

Registration Open for Online Advanced Training

Registration is open for the Georgia First Detector Training Program as part of Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Advanced Training. The course is fully online, and assignments can be completed at the trainee’s convenience each week.

The First Detector training focuses on the identification and reporting of invasive species. The fall session, which is the last of its cohort, is being held September 11 through October 23, 2021. The deadline to register is August 13th, and the fee to register is $15.

For more information and to register, click here.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>Houston County Update: Oliver Farms Artisanal Oils, 10 AM</td>
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<td>August 1</td>
<td>Applications accepted for fall MGCG grant cycle</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>South Chapter meeting via Zoom, 6 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 9</td>
<td>North Chapter meeting. Tentative; check your emails</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 11</td>
<td>Executive Board Meeting. Contact Eleanor Sykes if you would like to attend.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12-17</td>
<td>Virtual International Master Gardener Conference. Register at:</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.internationalmastergardener.com">www.internationalmastergardener.com</a></td>
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Garden Update: Rose Hill Garden Project

*Courtesy of Becca Gay*

Master Gardener, Alan Youngblood, is heading up the revitalization at Rose Hill Garden, located at Rose Hill Cemetery in Macon. It took several working sessions and the help of many, including the Macon/Bibb Parks Department, but significant progress has been made this summer. The beds were completely cleaned out, a weed barrier was installed, new soil was added, and new plants are in the ground for visitors to enjoy. This is an ongoing project to include native plants and pollinator plants in the public areas of Macon to promote conservation and public awareness.
Garden Update:

H.O.P.E. Gardens

*Courtesy of Donna Hunt*

H.O.P.E. Gardens now has a Sproftacchel thanks to Jonanne Beckman. You may be familiar with the sproftacchel's common name, “painted board with face hole.” The bee and flower themed sproftacchel sets off the Military Child raised bed area. The two beds are marked into one-foot square sections so children can have their own mini gardens. There are over sixty plots which the children planted flowers in and decorated rocks with their names.

The Military Child Garden is part of H.O.P.E. Gardens which is part of the H.O.P.E initiative. According to defense.gov, "while military members serve around the world, we often forget the challenges faced by their children. Military families move on average of every two to three years impacting military children through changing schools and support networks."

The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) reported that Children ages 3 to 5 with a deployed parent exhibited greater behavioral symptoms than did peers without a deployed parent, and military children ages 11 to 17 were found to have a higher prevalence of emotional and behavioral difficulties than children in the general population. Some studies this can be as high as 70%. The long term plan is to host more programs for children that will emphasize both social and education aspects of gardening.

Author's note: as a recently certified horticulture therapist I am planning several hort therapy programs, if you would like to help please let me know.

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**Master Gardener of the Year**

*Courtesy of Emily Heath*

If you have not already, now is the time to start thinking about who to nominate for Master Gardener of the Year. Do not forget that you can nominate yourself, and the deadline for nominations is Oct 31st.

When deciding who to nominate, keep in mind that the selection criteria includes the member being in good standing according to the MGCG bylaws, the number and variety of volunteer hours that are put in, Continuing Education and/or Advanced Training hours and evidence on the nomination form that the nominee supports the goals and vision of MGCG. An individual may not be selected as Master Gardener of the Year in two consecutive years.

Nomination forms can be submitted to Chapter Chairs or any Executive Board member. The nomination form can be downloaded from [MGCG.org](http://MGCG.org) on the MGCG Members page or by clicking HERE.
Potting Myrtles at Myrtle’s

MGCG members potted up trees at Myrtle Russell’s house last month for the fall plant sale. The group was able to finish before a large rain storm came through.

Billie Cook received 100 bare root crape myrtles which were donated for MGCG plant sales. These plants were donated in the Spring of 2020 from Keep Warner Robins Beautiful. They will be a great addition to the Fall Plant Sale.

Master Gardeners Participate in Teen Summit at Robins Air Force Base

Courtesy of Donna Hunt

Master Gardeners, Jonanne Beckman, Ann Reynolds and Donna Hunt were part of the Teen Summit at Robins Air Force Base. The summit was for teens to help prepare for life after graduation. The teens became safeTALK certified in recognizing signs of possible suicidal thoughts and connecting with helping agencies. Teens also had talks in healthy dating relationships, leadership and goal setting.

The Master Gardeners tapped into the teens creative side with a unique gardening experience. Using old shoes, donated from the MGCG community (thank you) and plants propagated by Randy West and Marilyn Mashburn (thank you), the teens painted the shoes to reflect their personalities and planted the plants in the their creations. Members have been asked to offer this activity to the Base Youth Center in the near future.
In Bloom
At Hafley Park

Courtesy of Christine Kelly

...and the Museum

Courtesy of Donna English

Lobelia and Bee Balm
Orange Cone Flower
Vitex
Phlox
Stokes Aster
American Beautyberry
Aster
Red, White and Blue blooms from Becca Gay’s garden this month:
Left to right, in rows: Red Gerber daisies, white phlox, blue hydrangea;
Blue My Mind dwarf morning glory, bottle brush bush bloom, Black and Blue Salvia;
Spider lily, oleander, iceberg rose

Volunteers Needed

- We still need someone to volunteer for webmaster.
- New officers will be needed for our chapter chairs.
Reminder

The Fall Plant Sale will be held

September 25, 2021

Hybrid Format with Online Sales and In-Person Sale.
Ann Amis is chairing sales and Teddy Berry publicity.
Location TBD.

More details to come about the sale and volunteer opportunities soon.

Get started planning what you will contribute to the sale.

Thank you for your donations!
MASTER GARDENERS OF CENTRAL GEORGIA

Our Mission is to provide horticulture-related information and training to our communities through the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. MGCG is a nonprofit, exclusively volunteer, service-oriented educational organization operating within the bounds of 26 USC § 501(c)(3). We support the University of Georgia Extension in five areas: Environmental Stewardship, Home Food Production, Gardening with Youth, Value of Landscapes and Health Benefits of Gardening.

2021 Contact Information

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Find out more about what MGCG is doing at:

www.mgcg.org
www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersOfCentralGeorgia

The Weeder’s Digest is a publication of Master Gardeners of Central Georgia (MGCG).
It is edited by a Master Gardener Extension Volunteer.