



# Gwinnett County Master Gardeners Association (GCMGA)



*Continuing to grow through a pandemic*

November 16, 2020

## Strategies that kept our association abloom in 2020


- Creative ideas
- Teamwork
- Perseverance
- Passion for Gardening
- Commitment to our mission







# Mission Statement



Our Mission is to serve as stewards of the environment, voluntarily educating the public of Gwinnett County, Georgia, about horticultural practices that will foster both beautiful gardens and a healthy environment.



## Ways GCMGA educates the public:

- Garden Tours
- Public Speaking
- Volunteering in schools
- Adopting existing gardens
- Continuing education for GCMGA members through meetings, field trips, etc.
- GCMGA website



**Speakers who supported our continued  
education during monthly meetings...**



# January and February Meetings

**Scott McMahan** talked about *Plant Exploration with a Purpose*

**Barbara Dorfman** encouraged us to *Feel Empowered to Prune*

## June and July Meetings

**Melanie Furr** of the Audubon Society spoke to us on **Common Birds of Atlanta**



**Becky Griffin**, MPPPM, Community and School Garden Coordinator, Georgia Certified Beekeeper/Pollinator Health Program Associate, spoke on **Our Native Pollinators**





## August and September Meetings

Cobb County MGEV Crystal Force spoke on *Building Healthy Soil*

**Lynda Pollock**, MGEV, shared her experiences at the *International Master Gardeners Conference in Philadelphia in 2019*



## October Meeting

Bestselling author and horticulturist  
**Brie Arthur** shared a presentation  
on *Foodscaping*





# **Fundraising Events to support GCMGA activities**



# Garden Tour

Despite pandemic confines, the Garden Tour was a huge financial success thanks to the efforts of co-chairs **Susan Varlamoff** and **Linda Bolton**



# Varlamoff Garden





# Wolary Garden







# Bush Garden





# Ryan Garden





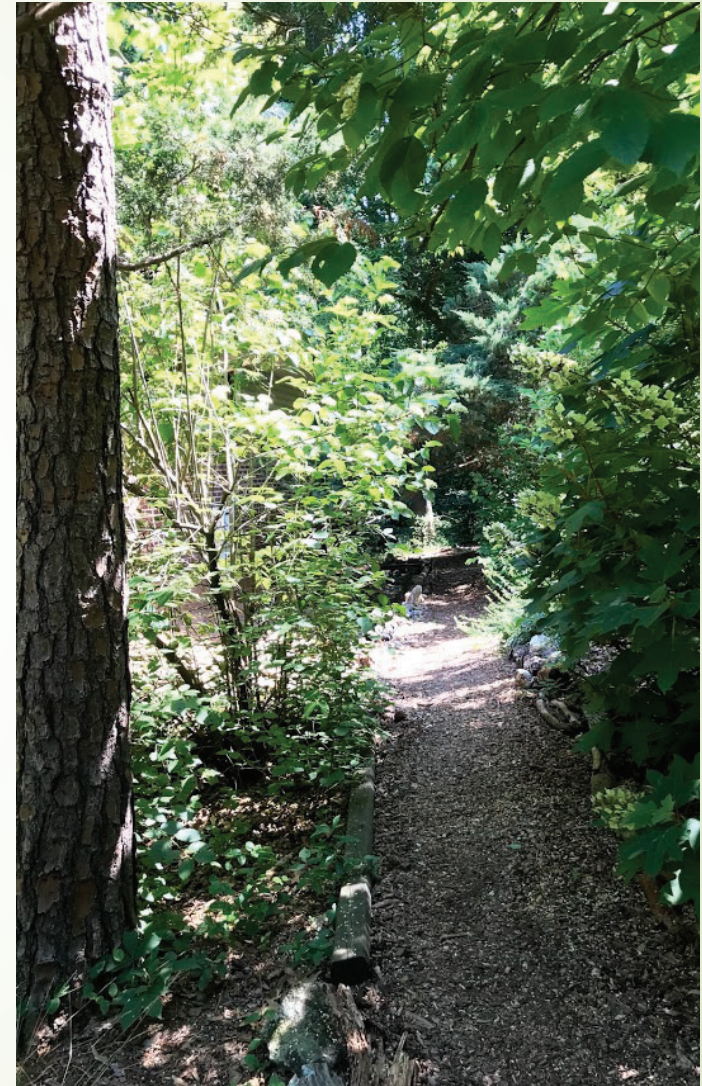


# Jones Garden





# Krause Garden







# Brandt Garden







## Community Garden @ Snellville Plant Sales

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a significant change in plans as the GCMGA April Plant Sale and Snellville Days Festival were cancelled

**Wes Nettleton**, Lead MGEV  
(Master Gardener Extension Volunteer)

## Community Garden @ Snellville Plant Sales (cont'd)

However, we were able to partner with the Snellville Farmers Market and participate in a series of four drive-through markets held on Saturday mornings April 4 - May 2 at Snellville City Hall





## Community Garden @ Snellville Plant Sales (cont'd)

We received good support from GCMGA members and also hosted the GCMGA drive-through plant sale at the Community Garden @ Snellville on May 30



Community Garden  
@ Snellville  
Plant Sales (cont'd)

We held a fall plant sale  
on September 12 at the  
Snellville Farmers Market







# **Gardens tended by GCMGA Members**



# Don Freidus Memorial Garden

Sonia Freidus, Lead MGEV





# Norcross Clubhouse Cottage Garden

Leanne Penman, Lead MGEV





# AI Weeks Sculpture Garden, Hudgens Center for Art

Leanne Penman,  
Lead MGEV







## Mary Kistner Nature Center

This site is an ongoing GCMGA and MGEV garden restoration project which is also supported by a 2020 grant

**Carol Hassell**, Lead MGEV



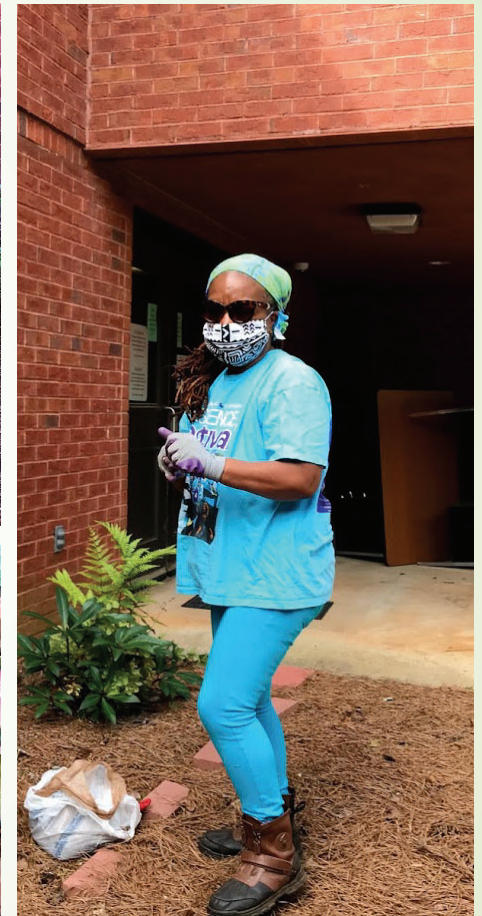
# Projects at Schools



# Hopkins Elementary Courtyard Garden

The clearing and beautification of this space was funded by a GCMGA grant in 2018. The first few months of the pandemic we were not allowed at the school. We missed early blooms, but fortunately were greeted by later bloomers – and weeds.

**Freda Steward**, Lead MGEV







# McConnell Middle School's Learning Garden

*Kristin Fuqua & Kim Fritz  
Lead MGEVs*



## McConnell Middle School's Learning Garden (cont'd)





# Bay Creek Middle School

*Deputy James Wilson,*  
Lead MGEV







# Couch Middle School

**Dick Kennedy**, Lead MGEV





# Meeting photos before the pandemic

Courtesy of **Becky  
Panetta**

The good ole days when  
we could sit next to each  
other, share a meal...





## Meeting photos before the pandemic (cont'd)

Courtesy of **Becky Panetta**







# Many thanks to all our MGEVs and Friends

**YOU** make our association thrive even  
during difficult times

## Tim Daly

Congratulations on being the first  
GMGA recipient of the *Award of  
Excellence in Consumer  
Horticulture*

*We're very proud of Tim and  
all he does for Gwinnett  
County and our organization*







# Thank you!





Thank  
you!





# Thank you!







Thank you!



# Thank you!





# Thank you!





Thank  
you!





# Thank you!





**Thank you!**



Thank  
you!





# Thank you!







Thank you!







## 2020 Board of Directors, Executive Committee

- **Virginia Schofield**, President
- **Lynda Pollock**, Vice President
- **Ann Langley**, Secretary
- **Jack Bolton**, Treasurer
- **Wes Nettleton**, Past President



## 2020 Board of Directors, Committee Chairs

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- Intern Breakfast/Lunch - **Robert Ayer**
  - Field Trips - **Gervasio Cubenas**
  - Seed Library and Weed 'n' Feed - **Jackie Kujawa**
  - Website - **Aaron Tulin and Becky Wolary**
  - Grants - **Martha Whitman**
  - Publicity - **Tixie Fowler**
  - Historian - **Freda Steward and Becky Panetta**
  - Workshops - **Deborah DeSalvo**
  - Plant Sale - **Susan Kosenka and Lynda Pollock**
  - Newsletter - **Shirley Bohm**
  - Photography Contest - **Ann Langley and Lori Prosser**
  - Garden Tour - **Susan Varlamoff and Linda Bolton**
  - Hospitality - **Alice Verner**





## Virginia Schofield

**GCMGA President 2019 &  
2020**

**Thank you for your gentle  
leadership, inspirational  
ideas, and calm in the  
storms especially in 2020.**





I grow plants for many reasons: to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty, or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow.

– David Hobson

Better  
Homes  
and Gardens



Until we meet again, wishing you  
and yours...

- Happy Thanksgiving
- Merry Christmas
- Happy Chanukah
- Happy Kwanza
- Happy New Year

