



Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Garden *served by Dougherty County Extension and MGEVs*

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Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program

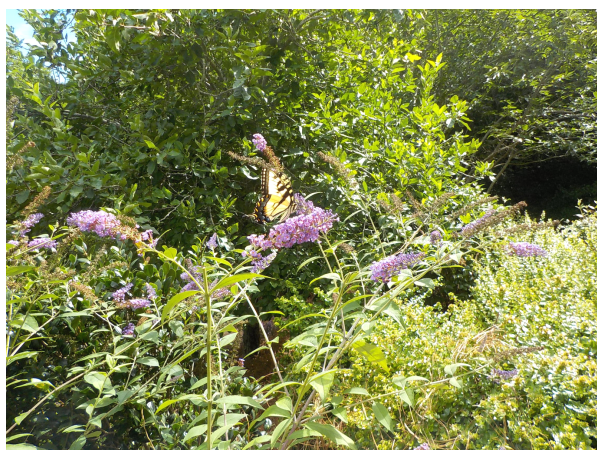
In 2017, representatives for former First Lady Rosalynn Carter sought help from UGA Extension in restoring the butterfly garden at former President Jimmy Carter's home in Plains, Georgia. The butterfly garden is part of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail that was established by Annette Wise and the Georgia Department of Education in 2013. UGA Extension, Dougherty County and Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) answered the call.

In May 2017, Dougherty County Extension Coordinator, James Morgan, worked with MGEVs to revive the existing butterfly garden. After meeting with Rosalynn Carter and representatives from the National Park Service responsible for the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site to discuss plans, exchange ideas and visit the site, a group of five Master Gardeners began redesigning the garden. The garden initially focused on

providing food and habitat for Monarch butterflies, and it contains well-established milkweed.

Referring to a list of Mrs. Carter's favorite plants, native plants and pollinator-friendly plants were rejuvenated while others were removed. MGEVs applied fresh mulch, pruned existing plants, and installed new plantings. In addition to these improvements, MGEVs worked with the grounds maintenance crew to establish an action plan for caring for the garden, and MGEVs return monthly to help with necessary maintenance tasks.

MGEVs will continue to work hard to make the garden even more attractive to butterflies and other pollinators this spring and summer. Currently, MGEVs are in the process of linking this butterfly garden to the Connect to Protect program sponsored by the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. This program combines displays of native plants with educational materials that outline the important role native plants play in maintaining diversity in Georgia landscapes. Science & Conservation staff and Education staff from the State Botanical Garden of Georgia have worked with MGEVs to



Connect to Protect objective: **support** wildlife by providing nectar, pollen, food, and shelter

customize Connect to Protect signage materials for this garden site. Future plans for the garden include the addition of wildflowers grown from seed, anise hyssop, and continued support of the National Park Services in maintaining the butterfly garden and memorial garden.

MGEVs were honored to provide their expertise and volunteer time to support the restoration efforts and continued maintenance of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Garden. Mrs. Carter expressed her deep gratitude for their efforts to bring the garden back to the vibrancy she had hoped for. The garden will be the resting place of President and Mrs. Carter. While Mrs. Carter's butterfly garden is not currently open to the public, it still serves as an example of pollinator stewardship.



113
volunteer service
hours in 2017

5
MGEVs
contributed to
this project



“The Master Gardeners did a superb job of restoring our butterfly garden, and I am deeply grateful to them.”
–Rosalynn Carter



The Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program prepares volunteers to support UGA Cooperative Extension in delivering gardening information to Georgia's citizens and communities. Since 1979, Master Gardeners and UGA Extension have helped Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.

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