



## Garden Articles for Douglas County Sentinel served by Douglas County Extension and MGEVs

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Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program

In 2016, Douglas County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) were asked by the editor of the local newspaper to write a bi-weekly article series for the *Douglas County Sentinel* to address community interest in gardening. Several MGEVs answered the call, and in 2017, wrote 27 articles on various horticulture topics, such as trees, native plants, insects, vegetables, and herbs. The articles have been well-received in the community.



Once soil warms to 60 degrees during the day, the seedlings are nearly ready for the garden.

Submitted

### Solving winter cabin fever

There's much preparation to be done for spring gardening season

BY GREG JONES  
DOUGLAS COUNTY  
UGA MASTER GARDENER

Winter's forbidding cold can fuel cabin fever like no other seasonal malady. You just can't go in the snow and with bitter, frigid winds, it's indoor time. Added to that is fear of the flu and see-saw hot-and-cold spells and staying home makes a lot of sense. But being cooped up



This is the season for starting plants from scratch and hardware stores and home improvement stores have their new seed shipments in now. And online seed companies are shipping, too.

Submitted

27 articles written

When researching and writing these newspaper articles, MGEVs start with plant and garden issues relevant to the current season. They also address issues they encounter in their home gardens or observe in MGEV projects, like the Douglas nature trail or butterfly trail. Writers also take the opportunity to share details of upcoming MGEV events and share activities about which they are passionate, like composting and providing wildlife habitats. By sharing personal garden experiences and researching topics using UGA publications and other reputable sources, MGEVs are able to connect to the public through their writing. Preparing and sharing these articles gives Douglas MGEVs an outlet to spread unbiased research-based information while extending horticulture education into the community.

Douglas County MGEVs consistently receive compliments on the articles they have written, including comments from gardening club groups, church members, neighborhood friends, and attendees of presentations given by MGEVs. Master Gardeners enjoy the learning experience of preparing content for the everyday reader and meeting the community's need and want for horticulture education. Douglas County MGEVs hope the knowledge they share encourages others to be healthier, more productive, and better stewards of their environment.



ENGLISH IVY

Connie Christenson/Special

# A call to action

BY CONNIE CHRISTENSEN  
UGA DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

Fernbank Forest is a 65-acre mature mixed forest in Atlanta that is one of the few remnants of the original forest vegetation in the Georgia Piedmont. In September 2016, after a four-year restoration, the forest reopened as part of the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. It happens to be one of my annual destinations during early spring to seek out wildflowers such as spring ephemerals. This year as I began planning my visit, I was surprised by the online plea to Fernbanks' neighbors throughout the Emory and Briarcliff areas to join Fernbank in an extensive ecological restoration project to restore the balance of nature in Fernbank Forest. Further investigation led me to numerous other pleas by the Georgia Exotic Plant Council, U.S. Forest Service, University of Georgia Extension Service and a whole host of



JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

Connie Christenson/Special

either purposely or by accident and have become serious environmental pests. Invasive plants threaten native species and

and chemical properties, the disrupting successional pathways that result in competitive advantages over native plants. In



Special Photo/Marjorie Stansel

The Resurrection Fern won a National Garden Club Award of Merit at last year's Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival.

## Resurrection Fern a miracle of Mother Nature

BY MARJORIE STANSEL  
UGA DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

If you attended last year's Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival, I hope you took time to visit the Standard Flower Show that is a big part of the Festival. Housed in the Atrium on the Lower or First Level, more than 500 entries are received each year. Judges award more than 500 ribbons, plus special ribbons for those in eligible categories. One such category was Ferns. We were all awestruck by the beautiful arrangement of Resurrection Ferns on an old piece of wood. The fern won a National Garden Club Award of Merit.

That show was my first experience with the Resurrection Fern, and I have come to love that fern as an example of one of the many miracles of Mother Nature. The Resurrection Fern (or Peopeltis polypodioides) is an epiphyte—a



Resurrection Ferns are pictured on bark.

Special Photo/Marjorie Stansel

tured in this article. Like many a Fairy Garden, place it along a dry stream bed or simply place

## 2017 Article List

- Composting: The Quest for Black Gold Camellias
- Tiny May Be Better: Sprouts and Microgreens Harbingers of Spring
- Pass the Peas, Please
- Mother's Spring Shrubs
- Shade Plants for Year-Round Interest
- Foresting for Food
- Those Who Come Before Us: Frederick Law Olmsted
- Lovely Lavenders
- Beetles in the Garden – Yeah, Yeah, Yeah!
- LSUMC Community Demonstration Garden Report
- Hosta Classification
- The Savvy Gardener: Evidence-based Gardening!
- Made in the Shade: All-Day Sun Not Required
- If a Tree Falls in the Forest
- A Few Flowers That Can Take the Heat
- Plants and Fungi: A Partnership of Great Importance
- Fall Gardening Roundup
- Okra: An Edible Mallow
- A Rose by Any Other Name
- The Magical World of Lichens
- The Need for Seeds
- A Walk in the Woods
- The Garden Slows But Does Not Sleep
- Spring Blooming Bulbs We Love
- Trees: An American Legacy
- The Ghost of Christmas Past
- The Red Berries of Winter

**234** volunteer service hours in 2017

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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