



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION

## Dougherty County

### OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

#### Volunteering for the Earth



On September 20<sup>th</sup> we participated in the annual Water, Wings and Wildlife Festival hosted by Flint RiverQuarium. Our display featured insects that call our area home. Pollinators, such as bees and butterflies are critical to sustain agriculture and native plants. This complemented the highlighting of birds, fish, snakes, and various amphibians that thrive along the Flint River.

#### *Tending to our Native Plants (photos in the circles)*

One of our prized gardens is at Chehaw Park in front of the Creekside Education Center. We are preparing for the Coastal Plains Chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society annual meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Weeding, trimming, mulching and watering are routine activities but we also refreshed signage and removed any dead leaves and branches. Master Gardeners continue to add native plants to enhance and complement the park's location along a waterway and to attract pollinators. We are excited to welcome this group to the area.

GO TO NEXT PAGE FOR MORE .....



#### IN THIS ISSUE...

+ FUN FACTS

+ PROJECT REPORTS

+ UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

++ MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNTY  
EXTENSION AGENT - VIVEK BIST

#### Master Gardeners at work



Extension.uga.edu



229-436-7216



125 Pine Avenue-Suite 100, Albany, GA 31701

An Equal Opportunity Institution

## **OCTOBER Calendar of activities**

**10/8 - HIVE TO TABLE: HOW BEES CONNECT GARDENING, COOKING AND HEALTHY LIVING**

**9 to 10:30 AM @ UGA Extension Office, 125 Pine Ave**

**10/14 THROUGH 10/16 - MASTER GARDENERS AT SUNBELT EXPO IN MOULTRIE, GA**



### **GREAT DISCOVERY AT CHEHAW NATIVE PLANT GARDEN**

**We found lots of MONARCH BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS feasting on our milkweed. This is the type of success that is a sheer delight to see. It validates the Mantra, 'IF YOU FOSTER NATIVE PLANTS, BUTTERFLIES AND POLLINATORS WILL COME !!'**

**\* \* \* G O O D T O K N O W \* \* \***

***WHILE AT CHEHAW VIVEK USED HAND CLIPPERS TO 'OPEN UP' A WAX MYRTLE. OPENING UP IS DELIBERATE PRUNING TO ALLOW MORE AIR FLOW AND SUNLIGHT TO PENETRATE THE PLANT. THIS HELPS PRODUCE A HEALTHIER, BETTER SHAPED SHRUB.***



### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT - VIVEK BIST**

***I would like to thank all SOWEGA Master Gardeners for their incredible service in educating our local communities about the importance of gardening and environmental stewardship. I also encourage the plant enthusiasts in Albany and surrounding towns to consider joining hands with us. If you would like to be a master gardener extension volunteer (MGEV), please call our UGA Dougherty County Extension office at 229-436-7216 or email at uge4095@uga.edu. Applications for the next SOWEGA MGEV training will open in November 2025.***

### **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**FACEBOOK: sowega Master Gardeners**

**INSTAGRAM: sowega\_mastergardeners**

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (working cooperatively with Fort Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the counties of Georgia) offers its educational programs, assistance, and materials to all people without regard to age, color, disability, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, or veteran status, and is an Equal Opportunity Institution.