

GEORGIA ANREP

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Notes From the President

BY JESSICA WARREN

As I wrap up my term as president, I reflect on a year that definitely wasn't what I expected or what I had planned. If there's anything that we know as Extension professionals it's how to adapt and roll with the punches, and let's face it – this year has thrown a lot of punches! Despite the things that we haven't been able to do this year, I'm so proud of all that we were able to accomplish. Our board has created new promotional materials including an introductory video. We're in the process of building a new website. We're communicating with the membership through bi-annual newsletters. We're creating, sharing, and expanding our reach through innovative virtual programming while forming new collaborations and networks along the way. It's easy to dwell on the problems that 2020 brought, but instead let's celebrate all of the successes, lessons learned, innovations (through necessity), and silver linings that surround us. I wish you all a happy, safe, and well-deserved holiday!



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Georgia Tennessee 4-H2O Camp

BY BRENDA JACKSON

County Extension Agents from University of Georgia and University of Tennessee work collaboratively to conduct 4-H2O summer camps for youth. This year's camp was planned but due to Covid-19 was cancelled and has been rescheduled for 2021. The inaugural camp of 2019 was arranged to give Georgia and Tennessee 4-H'ers an opportunity for experiential learning to expand and enhance the science-based education they receive in the classroom.

The Conasauga River watershed is one of the most biologically diverse rivers in North America but it is also home to many threatened or endangered aquatic species. Three federally-listed fish, six federally-listed mussels, a mussel proposed for Federal listing, and 16 other State-listed aquatic species occur in the basin. It starts in the Cohutta Wilderness in northern Murray County, travels north into Polk County, Tennessee before turning south and serving as the border between Whitfield and Murray Counties in Georgia. It provides an excellent outdoor classroom due to its biodiversity.

Agents from Murray and Whitfield County Extension offices as well as Polk and McMinn County Extension offices collaborated for a three-day residential 4-H2O camp at Camp McCroy in Reliance, TN. Several curricula were combined to create a fun, experiential learning water science camp for Georgia and Tennessee 4-H'ers.

In 2019, forty-four 4-H'ers from Georgia and Tennessee attended the camp. The grade levels of the 4-H'ers ranged from 4th to 12th grade. A pre-post retrospective survey was conducted to see what 4-H'ers already knew, what they learned at the camp and what their favorite activity/lesson was.

Knowledge levels about what a watershed is and how to protect them increased from 4.7% to 59.5%. Knowledge about identifying macroinvertebrates increased from 4.7% to 47.6%. The overall camp favorite activity, other than the evening social and water games, was the water cycle bracelets.



Murray County 4-H'er, Charlseay Richards, investigates macroinvertebrate sample

Butterflies, Bees, and Bats... Oh My!

BY KASEY BOZEMAN

Through a partnership with National 4-H Council and Corteva Agriscience, Grady County 4-H was awarded a \$14,000 grant to educate about the importance of pollinators and install a pollinator garden in their community. The project was organized into three phases: training 4-H teens to be content teachers, educating youth and adults in the roles that pollinators play in the ecosystem, and installing a demonstration garden.

Grady County 4-H Agents Deron Rehberg and Lisa Pollock recruited 10 middle and high school youth to serve as 4-H Pollinator Ambassadors. These youth completed multiple virtual trainings, led by Becky Griffin, Richard Evans, and Donna Stewart. Additionally, Kasey Bozeman provided an in-person training where youth dissected flowers to learn the parts, modeled the pollination process, and created “bee bots” using mini-robotics supplies.

Under the direction of Rehberg and Pollock, these youth provided monthly lessons at all the schools in Grady County, teaching students about how pollinators affect our ecosystems and food supply. To date, 7 Pollinator Ambassadors have led 648 students in various activities such as the Honey Bee Challenge, Flowers and Pollinators – Oh My, Pollinator Jeopardy, and a Pollinator Maze. Additionally, these youth have read pollinator-related stories at the local library and provided online storytime for families at a distance.

In late November, a large pollinator garden was installed at the school. Utilizing support from Shiver School FFA and Quail Forever, over 400 students and adults participated in the planting field day – spreading seed and participating in a variety of hands-on demonstrations. Students planted native pollinators in hopes of attracting bees, butterflies, birds, moths, bats, ants, and lizards. All attendees were given wildflower seeds, a trowel, and literature about starting a pollinator garden at their place of residence. “The pollinator planting site will serve as an example of what families can plant on their property to attract various pollinators. Planting a pollinator garden doesn’t have to be complicated,” says Rehberg. Additional support for the grant program was provided by Melinda Miller and Jenna Daniel. Despite a global pandemic, the team has prevailed and easily exceeded the goals of the grant project. “I’m so excited that Grady County 4-H was selected to be part of this national agriculture educational effort. The expertise of Extension agents Deron Rehberg and Lisa Pollock shines through the pollinator habitat partnership. They are exceptional 4-H youth development professionals who embed the 4-H essential elements (independence, belonging, mastery and generosity) in their total program,” Melinda Miller, Southwest District 4-H Program Development Coordinator. The team shared their successes at the virtual Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance conference and plans to continue to share the lessons learned and promising practices at other events.



Grady County 4-H’ers dissecting flowers to learn about the pollination process



Local Corteva employees and Grady County Pollinator Ambassadors at the newly established pollinator habitat

Water Topic Survey for ANR Extension Agents

BY MARTIN WUNDERLY

Water resource use and water quality concerns change across populations and land use patterns. To assess the need for water resource programming, a survey of Agriculture and Natural Resource agents was conducted in north Georgia. Agent’s views on content delivery format, water topic relevance, irrigation systems, drinking water supplies, and water-dependent activities were investigated. The survey results show some differences across two UGA Extension districts and urban/rural delineations. Some of the most popular topics for urban counties in the Northwest District, ordered by most relevant, were landscape irrigation, water conservation, stormwater, surface water quality, home water analysis reports, and drought. Home water analysis reports, well water safety, surface water quality, drought, ponds, soil conservation, and livestock watering were more relevant to rural Northwest District counties. Well water safety, home water analysis reports, surface water quality, ponds, soil conservation, onsite wastewater treatment, and livestock watering were more relevant in the Northeast District. Education curricula, fact sheets, and bulletins were the most preferred outreach formats for well water safety/treatment, home water analysis reports, groundwater availability, groundwater quality, surface water quality, onsite wastewater treatment, stormwater runoff, flooding, soil erosion, ponds, livestock watering, irrigation scheduling/strategy, aquaculture/aqua & hydroponics, landscape irrigation, and drought water topics. Formal presentations, seminars, and trainings were strongly preferred for onsite wastewater treatment, soil erosion, ponds, aquaculture/aqua & hydroponics, and landscape irrigation topics. Social media and blogs were another type of programming format preferred for landscape irrigation, water conservation, and drought topics. There was also a noticeable signal for preference of newspaper articles and newsletters for water conservation topics. Agents were also asked with which agriculture sector they help clients with the most (Fig. 1). Each of these sectors have different water resource requirements. The survey results can help agents and specialists when planning and creating water related programming for extension.

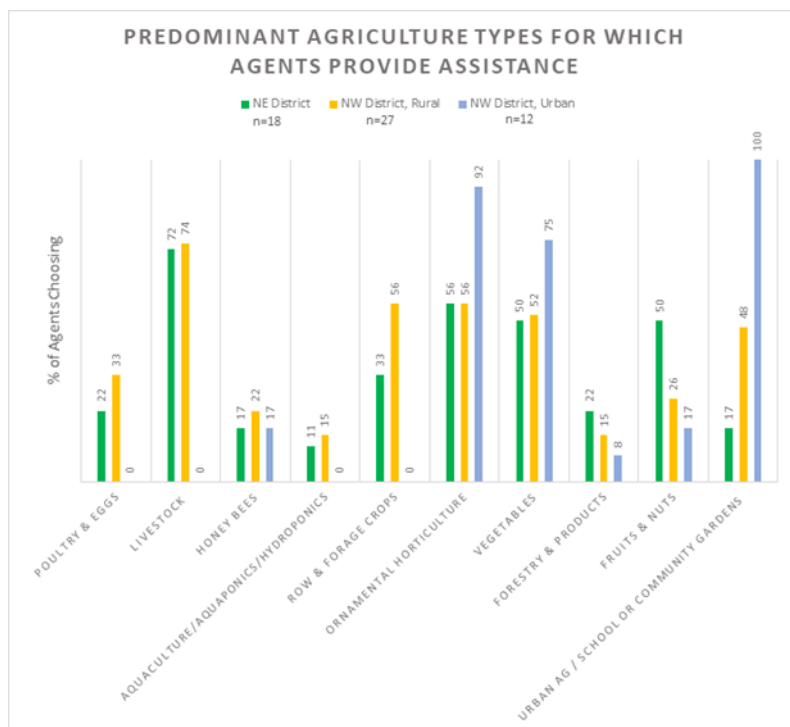
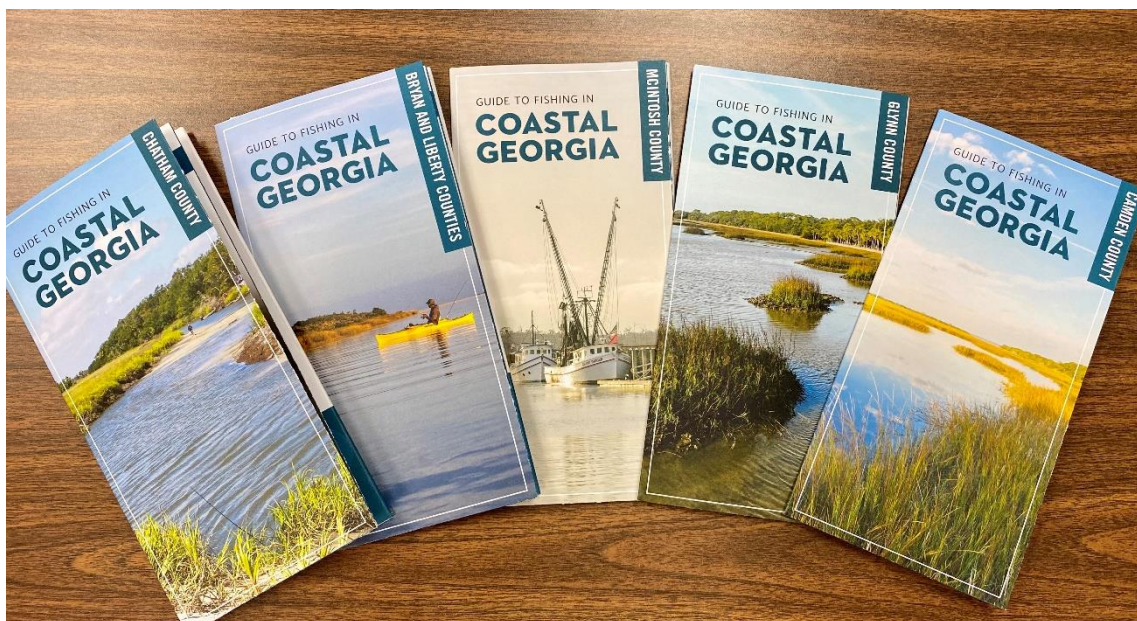


Fig.1 With which types of agriculture do you predominantly assist clients in your county? (Select all that apply) NW District Urban = Gwinnett, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Clayton, Bibb, and Muscogee County

New Coastal Georgia Fishing Guides Available

BY BRYAN FLUECH

A popular coastal Georgia fishing resource has a new look, and is now available to anglers! Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant recently revised their popular Guide to Coastal Fishing in Georgia map series thanks to a Coastal Incentive Grant awarded from the Coastal Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (CRD-DNR). The University of Georgia's Sea Grant College Program created the Guide to Coastal Fishing in Georgia series in the late 1970s to provide a concise guide to recreational saltwater fishing in coastal Georgia. The five guides are county-based and cover Georgia's six coastal counties; Chatham, Liberty and Bryan, McIntosh, Glynn and Camden. One side of the foldout guide includes a county-based map that highlights popular fishing spots for various types of fishing styles (i.e. bottom, float rig, shark, tarpon etc.) as well as public boat ramps, marina and tackle shops and public fishing locations. The other side of the guides feature educational information that over the years has focused on different topics. The revised guides focus on responsible recreational saltwater harvesting practices for finfish, blue crab, shrimp and shellfish. There is also content about coastal habitats, and stewardship practices intended to protect coastal wildlife. In addition to the revised print copies of the guides, there is also a new online Coastal Georgia Fishing Map available. The online map allows anglers to search for their favorite fishing locations from their computer, tablet or smartphone. The interactive map allows users to turn on and off various layers to locate different fishing styles (i.e. bottom rig vs shark or tarpon fishing), boat ramps and marinas, artificial reefs, and/or bait shrimp zones and recreational shellfish harvesting areas along Georgia's coasts. Users can save and print specific selections of the online map they are interested in viewing, and downloadable high-resolution PDFs of each of county-based maps are also part of the new online resource. The Coastal Georgia Online Fishing Map is accessible at CRD-DNR's website at: <https://coastalgadnr.org/fishingmaps>. The online map along with details on how to obtain physical copies of the new guides can be found at: <https://gacoast.uga.edu/outreach/resources-outreach/fishing-resources/>



County Arbor Day Events

BY PAUL PUGLIESE

The Bartow County Extension office collaborates with Keep Bartow Beautiful to provide conservation education and outreach during local Arbor Day events. Keep Bartow Beautiful purchases 2,000 bare root tree seedlings every year from the Georgia Forestry Commission nursery in Byromville, Georgia, to be handed out to Bartow County residents. This year's species selections were the ever popular native flowering dogwood, which produces clusters of red fruit that are eaten by many bird species; persimmon for fruit that attract a variety of wildlife; and crapemyrtle, both for flowers and for its attractive peeling bark, which is commonly used as a nest building material by birds. Each of these trees also support native pollinators such as hummingbirds and a variety of insects that are attracted to their flowers at different times of the year. Educational materials on each of these tree species were given to the public during the Arbor Day tree giveaway. Nearly 400 people received multiple trees during the Arbor Day events held on February 21, 2020. Trees were also donated to local schools in Bartow County. The Extension agent and Master Gardener Extension Volunteers assisted Kingston Elementary School with planting 16 persimmon trees in their outdoor classroom. The success of this annual event and other program partnerships with Keep Bartow Beautiful and the Bartow County Extension office led to a departmental merger this summer. On June 1st, Keep Bartow Beautiful was relocated to the Bartow County Extension office along with an interdepartmental transfer of two employees. Having Keep Bartow Beautiful located in the County Extension office will provide synergy for the many activities that are mutually beneficial to the organizations for many years to come.

Save the Date

**Georgia ANREP Conference
Fall TBD, 2021 Athens, GA**

**National ANREP Conference
May 24-26, 2021 Virtual**

**National ANREP Conference
June 8-10, 2022 Kalamazoo, MI**