



The State of Georgia has many Master Gardeners who continually need continuing education opportunities to improve their skills. With the many developments and the complexities of horticultural science, the need for Master Gardener Extension Volunteers is essential. In partnership with the UGA Extension Henry County, Henry County Master Gardeners began Henry County Fall into Gardening Symposium in 2018 and have held it every year since except 2020 due to COVID (Figures 1 and 2). The funds raised provided scholarships for a students pursuing horticultural studies at an institution of higher education. A total of 180 people attended all the symposiums.

The Master Gardeners created a brief video promoting their program in 2022 (Figure 3). The program was also open to the public; some participants were not Master Gardener Extension Volunteers. Four horticultural experts gave informative presentations on topics of interest to the participants (Figure 4). The program also included a vendor's marketplace selling items such as plants, pet products, honey, and other related items. Additionally, the Master Gardeners held a silent auction to raise money for their programming efforts (Figure 5).

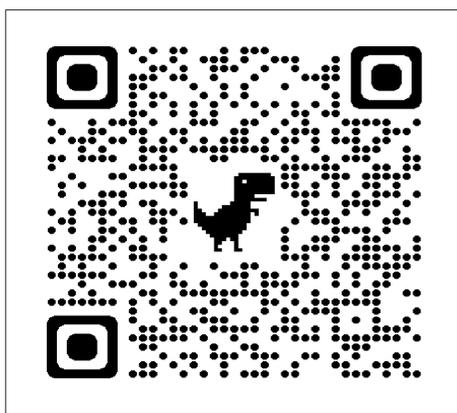


Figure 3: The QR Code to a brief video on the Master Gardener Fall Into Gardening Symposium.

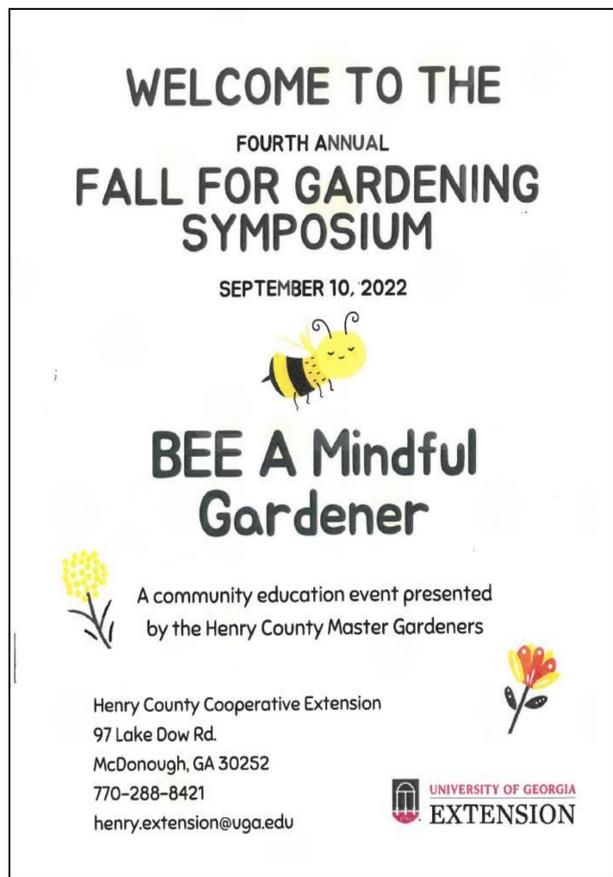


Figure 1: Information flyer on the Fall Into Gardening Symposium in Henry County, GA.



Figure 4: One of the speakers giving an informative presentation on a horticultural topic of interest to the audience.

AGENDA

9:00 AM	Registration and Coffee Marketplace Silent Auction
9:25 AM	Opening Announcements
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Speaker: Trecia Neal Myths of Native Plants and Why We Need Them
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Break Marketplace Silent Auction
11:00 AM - Noon	Speaker: Dr. Bodie Pennisi Make Your Garden a Heaven for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects
Noon - 1:00 PM	Lunch (served at your seat) Marketplace Silent Auction
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Speaker: Sara Henderson Getting the Most Out of Small Spaces
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Afternoon Break Final shopping at Marketplace Final bidding for Silent Auction
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Speaker: Kathy Henderson Engeman Mindful Winter Gardening in the South
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Silent Auction Results Evaluation Surveys & Parting Gift

Door Prize winners will be announced at various times throughout the day!

Figure 2: 2023 Master Gardener Symposium Agenda



Figure 5: The silent auction at the symposium to raise money for a scholarship for a student to pursue a degree in horticulture at an institution of higher education.

At the end of the symposium, the participants were given a program evaluation form (Figure 6). They rated the four presenters from one, being poor to five, excellent, and 80% gave all the speakers a rating of five, and 15% gave them a rating of four. For the question 'I will use something that I learned today,' 85% gave it a rating of five. The Henry County Master Gardeners with Extension support are planning to have more symposiums in the future with new speakers on subjects of interest.

Several of the participants commented, "All of the speakers were interesting. Their presentations were educational, and I have new ideas that I plan to implement in my garden. Thank you for this opportunity," and "This program has been amazing. I have learned much about the type of plants that can make a difference in improving the appearance of my landscape. Many new ideas to think about for my situation."

FALL FOR GARDENING SYMPOSIUM
SEPTEMBER 10, 2022
Program Evaluation

Thank you for attending the 2022 Fall for Gardening Symposium. We would appreciate your feedback about the event and would like to complete this survey. Return your completed survey to receive a special gift.

Using a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = Poor and 5 = Excellent), rate each aspect of the symposium by circling your response:

Speakers and Presentations

Trecia Neal – Myths of Native Plants and Why We Need them	1	2	3	4	5
Dr. Bodie Pennisi – Make Your Garden Heaven for Pollinators and beneficial insects	1	2	3	4	5
Sara Henderson – Getting the Most Out of Small Spaces	1	2	3	4	5
Kathy Henderson Engeman – Mindful Winter Gardening in the South	1	2	3	4	5
I will use something that I learned today.	1	2	3	4	5

How did you learn about our symposium?

Did you follow our Facebook page, Henry County Master Gardeners?

Do you have any comments on this year's event, including topics, speakers, length of the day, or suggestions for future programs.

Figure 6: Post program survey given out to the participants to rate the quality of the symposium.