The Community Council

The Community Council was founded in 2003 to compliment the mission of the GMRE Center in service to the region. Working through three program committees, the Council provides educational enrichment experiences for students, seminars and workshops for adults and preservation projects important to our beautiful mountain region. Its primary service area is Fannin, Towns and Union Counties in Georgia, and Cherokee and Clay Counties in North Carolina.

The Council has an impressive track record of service. In 2014-15, its Outreach Committee provided seminars, workshops and tours for over 550 adults, and the Education Committee served over 4,000 students. The Preservation Committee now offers tours of the Ethnobotanic Gardens. As of December 2015, over 900 acres in our five county area have been certified as part of the Preservation Committee’s Appalachian Native Botanical Sanctuaries Project. In eleven years of operation, the Council has served over 44,000 students and adults. The Council is assisted by 200 volunteers.

Seminars, lectures, field trips, projects and special events provide educational enrichment opportunities for youth and adults in Fannin, Towns, Union, Cherokee and Clay Counties. The Community Council utilizes the expertise of The University of Georgia faculty and other resource persons in the region in its programs.

Visit our website: www.gmrec.uga.edu
2016 Outreach Committee Calendar of Events For Adults

January 2016
1/22, 10 am - Managing the Backyard Flock. Seminar- No need to register. Kolt Owenby, USDA Animal Health Technician, and Dr. Casey Ritz, Professor, UGA Department of Poultry Science. Poultry management issues such as appropriate breed selection, nutrition, housing and biosecurity will be discussed. GMRE Center auditorium.

February 2016
2/26, 10 am - Grafting Workshop
Dr. David Lockwood, UGA Extension Fruit Crops and University of Tennessee Extension Fruit & Nut Crops Specialist. Supplies will be provided for each participant to graft several apple scions with appropriate rootstock to take home. $15 fee. Limited to 50 participants. Registrations accepted after Jan. 26th. No early registrations. To register for the Grafting Workshop, please send us your name, phone number, email address and a non-refundable check for $15.00 made payable to “The UGA Foundation” to: Community Council GMRE Center 195 GA Mtn. Experiment Station Road Blairsville, GA 30512

March 2016
3/25, 10 am - Lawn Renovation. Seminar- No need to register. Dr. Tim Murphy, UGA Professor, Crop & Soil Sciences, retired. Spring is a great time to rejuvenate your lawn. Warm and cool season turfgrass establishment, growth and maintenance will be discussed. GMRE Center auditorium.

April 2016
4/13, 8 am until noon - Mountain Beef Cattle Field Day. Various speakers. Annual Field Day highlighting the latest research on beef cattle production. Snacks provided for this morning event. GMRE Center auditorium, Picnic Pavilion and Beef Cattle unit.

June 2016
6/4, 10 am until 1 pm - Nature Inspires Garden Tour- No need to register. GMREC Preservation Committee. Learn how to use native plants in your landscape, through seeing the plants at work in our gardens. Follow the signs to the parking area on the GMRE Center grounds. Walking out doors on hills and uneven surfaces will be required. Children are welcome at this event.

July 2016
7/8, 10 am - Is There an Apothecary in Your Garden? Seminar- No need to register. Patricia Kyritsi Howell, Registered Herbalist and director of BotanoLogos School of Herbal Studies. Learn about the uses of many native and garden plants with a long history of medicinal use that continue to be an important source of healing, along with some tips about how to incorporate them into your garden, and your medicine chest! GMRE Center auditorium.

August 2016
8/5, 10 am - Plant Pathogens in Your Veggie Garden Seminar- No need to register. Paul Pugliese, UGA Extension Coordinator, Bartow County. It’s August, your tomatoes are blighted, your beans are rusted and you are downright wilted! Come to this seminar to find out how to remedy the most common pathogens in your vegetable garden. Bring your sick vegetable samples for a Q&A discussion. GMRE Center auditorium.

October 2016
10/14, 10 am - Southern Living Plants Seminar- No need to register. Mark Maher, Flowerwood Nursery. Learn about the re-blooming Encore Azaleas that love the sun, Rhododendrons, Camellias and a full palate of other cold hardy shrubs in the Southern Living Plant Collection. Then tour the collection on site and see how they perform here at the GMRE Center.

Please note: Seminars do not require registration, but are limited to the first one hundred in attendance. The February and November Workshops do require registration. These seminars and workshops are provided for ages 16 years and up, and are not suitable for children. Our Education Committee provides age-appropriate programs for children. Please contact us for more information.

November 2016
11/18, 10:00 am Holiday Make & Take Workshop. Freya Browning and Donna Cates, local artisans. Supplies will be provided for each participant to embellish one grapevine wreath. $15 fee. Limited to 15 participants. Registrations accepted after Oct. 18th. No early registrations. To register for the Holiday Workshop, please send us your name, phone number, email address and a non-refundable check for $15.00 made payable to “Donna Cates” to: Community Council GMRE Center 195 GA Mtn. Experiment Station Road Blairsville, GA 30512

This workshop will take place in the GMRE Center auditorium.

To receive our monthly reminders via email, please send your name, phone number and email address to: gmrec@uga.edu

In addition to the Outreach Committee’s monthly seminars, our Preservation Committee offers Guided Tours of the Ethnobotanic Gardens and Woodland Medicine Trail. These garden tours are offered on Mondays, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., May through September, excluding federal holidays. Please arrive for your tour no later than 12:30 p.m. Once on the property, follow signs to the Gardens.