

# The Seedling

## 2ND ANNUAL PLANT SALE

SEED has settled on a date for the 2nd Annual Pine lake Plant Sale: Saturday, May 4th, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM . The sale will take place at Fleeman Park, the greenspace across from City Hall. Last year's sale raised \$300 for a Monarch waystation, which was installed by gracious volunteers below the art wall in August, 2018. The goal this year is to raise even more funds for a second waystation, set for a June 1st planting at the entrance to the Eastern Wetlands. Monarch waystations not only attract everyday pollinators to Pine Lake, but most importantly offer a much-needed pit stop for migrating Monarch butterflies. Milkweed provides food for developing caterpillars, and the variety of flowers provides nectar for full-grown butterflies. Our current waystation is certified by Monarch Watch.

Here's how the plant sale works: you donate your time and energy by digging, propagating, or sprouting seeds. Your neighbors then buy the plants, and 100% of the money goes back to the community. You can divide plants with bulbs, tubers, rhizomes, or corms that have spread too far in your yard. You might propagate trees or woody ornamentals when you see new spring growth. You can sprout store-bought or saved flower or vegetable seeds in small pots. You can even give up houseplants that just aren't doing it for you anymore. If you need pots for your plants, you can pick some up in the blue bin at the corner of Olive and Park, and you can also donate used pots there for others to use. On the day of the sale, bring your plants to Fleeman Park at 9:30 AM and hang around to buy what your neighbors bring. Easy peasy!

If you're struggling to do any tasks related to the sale, such as IDing what you have, knowing where to dig, understanding propagation, etc., you can email [PineLakePlants@gmail.com](mailto:PineLakePlants@gmail.com) and request some help from a volunteer.

We know that with your help, we can make this a fantastic plant sale!



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## INVASION OF THE LANDSCAPE STEALERS

Spring is finally here, and the longer days and warm weather beckon us into our yards, where we catch the itch to plant one of everything. But before your trip to the nursery, SEED implores you to take a few minutes to educate yourself about your gorgeous green purchases, understanding that just because they'll sell it to you doesn't mean it belongs in the Georgia landscape.

One of the greatest threats to our collective ecosystem is the introduction of non-native species. These plants are often sold at big-budget home and garden stores and are prized for their show-stopping foliage or flowers, how quickly they grow and flourish, and how well they seem to tolerate stressful conditions like heat or drought. It's important to note, however, that the qualities that attract us to new trends in landscaping are also the qualities that can cause a new species to quickly spiral out of control and become invasive. A plant is considered invasive when it begins to spread aggressively and choke out the native species that are gifted with natural controls to keep a balanced presence in our ecosystem.

We can look to Japanese honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica* for an example of the danger of planting non-native species.

Introduced to the US in the early 1900s as an easy to maintain ground cover with fragrant, edible flowers, it's popularity spread as quickly as kudzu climbs a loblolly pine in south Georgia. Well-meaning home gardeners have planted it for decades, and since it has very few natural enemies and adores our mild winters and long, humid summers, *Lonicera japonica* has gone haywire and now covers over 920,000 acres of Georgia soil, to the detriment of the myriad species strangled by these vines year after year. Conversely, Trumpet honeysuckle *Lonicera sempervirens* is considered a native plant to Georgia, meaning that it was introduced to this region by natural processes, not modern cultivation. Since it is best suited for our soil, weather, and predators, it stays in its lane and is easily maintained.

When you install non-native, invasive plants into your landscape, the species easily spread when birds disperse the seeds or when runners dip underground into neighboring areas. Choosing native over non-native can make a positive impact on not only your yard, but the yards of your neighbors and the entire city of Pine Lake.

### IF YOU SEE IT, PULL IT!

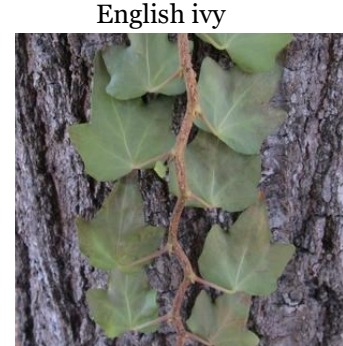
The plants pictured below are considered by the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council to be severe or significant threats to the health of our ecosystem. They are a particular nuisance in Pine lake. If you see them in your yard or while you're on a walk in the wetlands, pull them up and safely dispose of them in a closed trash bag. You can also inform your neighbors.



Chinese wisteria



Privet



English ivy



Japanese climbing fern



Chinese yam





# The 2nd Annual Pine Lake Plant Sale

Saturday, May 4th

10 AM- 1PM at Fleeman Park  
across from City Hall

Plants provided by your neighbors

A variety of indoor and outdoor plants priced \$3-\$10

## WHERE WILL YOUR PLANT SALE DOLLARS GO?



Last year's plant sale raised over \$300, and every penny went to purchase plants and supplies needed for the certified Monarch waystation installed by 25 gracious volunteers beneath Pine Lake's art wall. The plant sale on May 4th will serve the same purpose. The next Monarch waystation will be planted on June 1st in the Eastern Wetlands. What does a Monarch waystation do? It serves not only to attract beneficial pollinators, but also to provide much-needed food, shelter, and nectar for Monarch butterflies as they complete their 2,500 mile migration.

## IDEAS FOR DONATING TO THE PLANT SALE:

Divide up plants that spread by tubers, rhizomes, or runners, like irises or lilies.

Get rid of overcrowding by digging up bulbs.

Buy seed packets while they're on sale now and sprout some vegetable or flower plants in small pots.

Drill holes in round plastic containers you would normally throw away, add some soil, and put a plant in!

If you have a houseplant that you're just not thrilled with anymore, donate it. What's not working for you may work well for someone else!

While your small trees and shrubs are putting on new growth, snip a branch off and follow instructions provided by your local Extension office for propagating woody ornamentals. A bottle of rooting hormone helps!

When you see a sad, neglected plant on clearance at Kroger or Home Depot, snatch it up, nurse it back to health, and donate it!

## PLANT SALE DON'TS



Nope!

Sorry, these plants are considered invasive and cannot be donated:

- ◇ Japanese spirea
- ◇ Tropical milkweed
- ◇ Any kind of ivy (unless for indoors only)
- ◇ Wisteria
- ◇ Mahonia
- ◇ Japanese barberry
- ◇ Nandina
- ◇ Mimosa tree
- ◇ Rose of Sharon
- ◇ Morning glory
- ◇ Japanese honeysuckle
- ◇ Thorny Olive



Questions? Need help with digging, plant ID, propagation, or general ideas? Email [PineLakePlants@gmail.com!](mailto:PineLakePlants@gmail.com)

## LANDSCAPE DESIGNATION

With a brief certification process and the purchase of an attractive yard sign, Susan Ahl has become the first participant in a new SEED initiative that aims to outfit homes in Pine Lake with ecosystem designations ranging from butterfly gardens and bird sanctuaries to native plant habitats. Susan's designation is that of Certified Wildlife Habitat from the National Wildlife Federation, and your yard could have one, too! What would you like to see more of outside your window? Butterflies? There are eco designations from the North American Butterfly Association or Monarch Watch. Care about the plight of pollinators? Take the Million Pollinators Challenge or the Pollinator Protection Pledge. Want more kingfishers at your feeder? The Atlanta Audubon Society can tell you how to certify your yard as a sanctuary. There are myriad ways for you to provide food, water, cover, and places to raise young for wildlife like hummingbirds, opossums, bats, frogs, butterflies, and other species that live with us in Pine Lake. The value of doing so would be immeasurable to maintaining the integrity of a healthy environment. If you're interested in fostering biodiversity in our city, or if you have a passion for a particular plant, animal, or insect, contact Jennifer Bridges at [jenniferbridges1214@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferbridges1214@gmail.com).





## BUTTERFLY FEEDERS

*Reprinted with permission from Monarchs Over Georgia*

Some butterflies, especially the brush-footed nymphalids (Family *Nymphalidae*) feed on sugary/yeasty foods like sap and rotting fruit, rather than nectar from flowers. The common fruit-feeding butterflies include anglewings (commas and question marks), hackberry emperor, tawny emperor, the viceroy, orange-spotted purple, red admiral, and the mourning cloak. Many of these butterflies are typically



found in forests or edges of forests. If you have these habitats around your garden, you might attract some of the fruit-feeding butterflies to your feeder. They are likely to be attracted to the feeder mainly in early spring and in fall. During some very dry periods, the feeders may even attract butterflies that normally feed on flowers.

The only problem with feeders is that other animals will also want the fruit. Ants and fruit-eating mammals such as raccoons may also be attracted to the feeder. Yellowjacket wasps and bald-faced hornets also enjoy fruit in the fall, and they sometimes chase the butterflies to claim the food. Hanging the feeder can keep it away from some mammals.

### WHAT KIND OF FOOD TO PLACE IN A FEEDER

Many types of fruit will be good for the butterflies - such as melons (watermelons, cantaloupe, and honeydew), banana, apple, orange, and mango. The butterflies prefer overripe fruit, so this might be a great way to use rotting fruit. Rinds of fruit can also be placed in a feeder.

### HOW TO MAKE A FEEDER

Making a feeder is an easy task – we just need a container that can hold fruit and is accessible to butterflies. A plate or pie tin will work, or a feeder with a bottom that drains may be preferable to facilitate easy cleaning. A hanging feeder that's limited to approximately 1 sq. ft. will be light and easy to handle. The steps to make a basic hanging feeder are as follows:

**Make a frame out of 1"x 1" wood.**

**Staple or tack window screening to the bottom of the frame.**

**To hang the feeder, use some screw eyes in each corner of the frame and attach wire or string to the eyes.**

**Bring the four wires or strings together and form a single connection point that you can use to hang from a hook, a shepherd's crook, or similar structure.**

### WHERE TO LOCATE THE FEEDER

Butterflies like to be out in the sun and don't like windy areas, so areas in your yard or garden that are sunny but without wind are best for hanging the feeder. If you hang the feeder in a place that is easily visible from your house or office might work in case you want to keep track of the butterflies that visit. If hungry butterflies are in the area, they will be able to find the feeder by the scent of fruits. When the fruits dry out or become too moldy, replace them with another batch.

Pine Lake Municipal Arts Panel presents the

# Pollination Celebration



Saturday, April 27th  
12:00 PM-4:30 PM

On the beach in  
beautiful Pine Lake

## For your listening pleasure...

12:00-1:00 >> Adult Co-Created  
Meditation Soundscape by Melissa  
Junebug (in the beach house)

2:00 >> Welcome by Mayor Hammet  
Songs by Elise Witt

2:30 >> Diane Durrett & Soul Suga

4:00 >> Pine Lake Choir

Let's celebrate the hard work  
pollinators do to keep 90% of  
earth's plant species producing!

## For your enjoyment...

Activities begin at 1:00

- Kids crafts from  
Monarchs Over  
Georgia
- Artist market
- Honey and mead  
tasting from Bee City
- Eco-friendly insect  
repellent demos
- Paper pot demo

-PLUS-

Gastro Dawg food truck

## MISSION STATEMENT

*SEED is dedicated to raising the stature of Pine Lake as an environment and arts-first city. SEED will create education, economic, and community development opportunities through programming, policy, and events— establishing enduring appreciation, protection, and nurturing of the natural world that contains the city.*

## MEMBERS OF SEED



Jennifer  
Bridges, Chair



Carrie  
Lindblad



Aaron  
Pincus



Irene  
Turner