## FLOWER POWER

The Avondale Estates Garden Club

Member of the National Garden Club &

The Garden Club of Georgia

June 2025 Volume XI Issue V

# THE NATIVE NUDGE Wisteria frutescens American Wisteria



We have not gone mad. This wisteria is different from its aggressive Chinese and Japanese cousins (which are known to strangle whole forests). It is a kinder version. A climbing plant, this one has smaller leaves and shorter and denser flower clusters.

Three good cultivars are 'Amethyst falls' with bluer flowers, 'Longwood Purple' with purple flowers, and 'Alba' with white flowers.

It wants humus-rich, moderately fertile, moist, well-drained soils in full sun and should be pruned in late winter.



### Last Meeting of the (fiscal) Year for AEGC

Thursday June 19th at 6:00 will be our final meeting for fiscal 2024-25. We will begin our new year on July 1. That means dues are on deadline, and the last day to pay without penalty is June 30. Just an FYI.

The program for our last meeting is titled Profile on an Intown Perennial Grower. Our speaker is Eric Mack who owns a 'pop-up' nursery in East Lake. Eric, as a child, gardened with his father in Charleston . Years and career transitions have brought him from barber to artist to art teacher to nursery owner. His nursery is called Kai's Garden and is on the property of his home.

Eric said, "I've never even had another person cut the grass, "I dug every

hole, repotted every plant myself, and it has never felt like work."

When Covid came and his classes were closed he became even more involved in growing things. He went beyond what local nurseries offered and began buying by mail order. He has a basement that is a below grade green house and during the winter he began propagating and growing from seed.

He didn't really intend to sell plants, but as with many gardeners, he was running out of space. He has monthly pop up sales that he says are "like yard sales, but for plants." His plants are unusual and



worth the trip to see what is growing in Kai's Garden. Eric has a Bachelor of Fine Arts/Illustration. You can imagine what he sees in nature in his garden.

#### **AEGC MISSION STATEMENT**

The Avondale Estates Garden Club offers education and service opportunities to inspire the appreciation of the various horticultural arts and to promote the awareness of environmental responsibility.

#### A Note from Patricia

June 2025 is my last month as President of the Avondale Estates Garden Club. I can't believe it has been two

years (plus a couple of months) since you elected me to be your President. Time has surely flown by.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as President of the Avondale Estates Garden Club. I am so proud to have been your President. Avondale Estates Garden Club is a wonderful Club thanks to its members. You are a fantastic group of women and men. I appreciate the time and talent you bring to AEGC. I have made many friends within this Club, and I am grateful for that.

Avondale Estates Garden Club is well respected within our City, County and State. This is because of you – each of you play a part in the Club's success. Thank you for your hard work and dedication these last two years.



I want to especially thank my Board who I could not have done this job without – they are the best:

Julie Martinez, 1st Vice President (2023-2025)

Susan Hawkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (2023-2024)

Nancy Martin, Corresponding Secretary (2023-2024), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (2024-2025)

Federation Liaison (2023-2024)

Dianne Nelson, Recording Secretary (2023-2024) and Ways & Means Chairperson (2024-2025)

Susan Ragsdale, Treasurer and Finance Chairperson (2023-2025)

Susan Barton, Parliamentarian, Bylaws and Newsletter (2023-2025)

Christi Granger, Awards Chairperson (2023-2024), Yearbook Chairperson (2023-2024) and Federation Liaison (2024-2025)

Helen Dorroh, Environmental Responsibility Chairperson (2023-2024)

Scott Legg, Horticulture Chairperson (2023-2025)

Beth Langhorst, Membership Chairperson (2023-2024)

Kathy Hatfield, Projects Chairperson (2023-2025)

Alice Murray, Publicity Chairperson (2023-2025)

Carolyn Adams, Refreshment Chairperson (2023-2025)

Jean Kingsbury, Scrapbook Chairperson (2023-2025)

Susan Stewart, Ways & Means Chairperson (2023-2024) and Youth Gardening Chairperson (2024-2025)

Nancy Darden, Recording Secretary (2024-2025)

Donna Ailion, Corresponding Secretary (2024-2025)

Dawn Diedrich, Assistant Treasurer (2024-2025)

Karen Liebert, Youth Gardening Chairperson (2023-2024) and Awards Chairperson (2024-2025)

Peg Wyse, Environmental Responsibility Chairperson (2025)

Cheryl Sims, Yearbook Chairperson (2025)

I also want to thank my mentors Peggy Burgess and Alice Guppy. They were always there to answer my questions and give me sound advice. I also appreciate the encouragement I received from Jan Rochman and from Beth Wielage.

If I don't see you at the June meeting, I look forward to seeing you in September and hopefully in the hood this summer. Have a great one and thank you again for all you do in making the Avondale Estates Garden Club a wonderful club to belong to.

Patricia Calcagno

President – Avondale Estates Garden Club (2023-2025)



# June Yard of the Month 11 Kingstone Road Home of Anthony and Patricia Calcagno

When they first moved in the yard was overgrown. During the last 31 ½ years it has been transformed a couple of times as a garden is everchanging. Although the backyard has remained pretty much a shade garden all these years, they have added to it with many ferns, hostas, heuchera, and many Japanese Maple trees, Patricia's favorite tree.

The front yard went from a shady garden to a sunny garden when they had to take down their beloved Japanese Magnolia. The stump still remains in honor of the tree, but four more Japanese Maples have been planted along with several Mr. Bowling Ball Arborvitaes, Radiance Abelias, Barberries, Camillias and Hinokis. Now that the front yard is a sunny, it is filled with perennials mostly purchased by Patricia at the Avondale Estates Garden Club annual plant sale.

The Calcagno's now enjoy the best of both worlds in the garden with having both shade and sun to enjoy their favorite plants. They have been on a number of Garden Tours and have even hosted a wedding in their backyard.

Avondale Estates Garden Club is proud to be a Member of National Garden Club, Inc., Deep South Garden Club, Inc., The Garden Club of Georgia, Red Bud District and The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.













#### The Garden Center at Callanwolde

Headquarters for the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, the Garden Center at Callanwolde depends on volunteers. Garden club members are the elves who appear seasonally to tidy up and replant when necessary. If you would like to volunteer they won't turn you away. In the photo below is our own Peg Wyse who was there for the spring planting on a beautiful day in May. That day they took out the pansies and planted begonias and coleus in various planters and planted zinnias in the pollinator bed.



Front Row: Glenndolyn Hallman, Sandy Reed, Dolly Moy, Kim Fair, Peg Wyse, Dee Montgomery

Back Row: Frank Mullins, Bonnie Pennington, Quill Duncan, Faye Brown

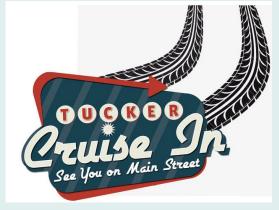
#### REDBUD DISTRICT'S ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW TO BE HELD IN TUCKER IN SEPTEMBER

This year Daisy is going to cruise in to Tucker in conjunction with a classic meet and greet car show held on Main

Street. There will be everything from antique cars to motor cycles and imports. Meanwhile, just off Main Street, the "Cruisin' with Daisy" Flower Show will be held in a slightly more sedate venue. The dates are September 11-12. Set up for the show begins September 8th. Mark your calendars.

A fund raiser to help with the expense of the flower show has been successful, but donations are always welcome and appreciated.

See you there!



## Water, Water Everywhere . . .

Well, not really. We don't live on the bank of a swiftly flowing river, but it does come, magically, through our faucets when we decide we need a glass of water. We are among the 700,000 residents served by DeKalb County Watershed Management. To accomplish the task DCWM takes in river water from the environment, treats it to produce safe, clean drinking water and distributes it to customers. No small feat, but certainly what we expect.

The water mains in our town were placed in 1948. There have been 57 water main breaks since 1989, the earliest yea

have been 57 water main breaks since 1989, the earliest year records were kept. That explains the disruption of traffic in our area for the last few months. The DCWM is replacing those old mains which measure in diameter 8, 12, and 16 inches. There are 66 valve locations and 20 proposed hydrant locations. . . and that is what is taking so long!



#### WALTER SAYS ....

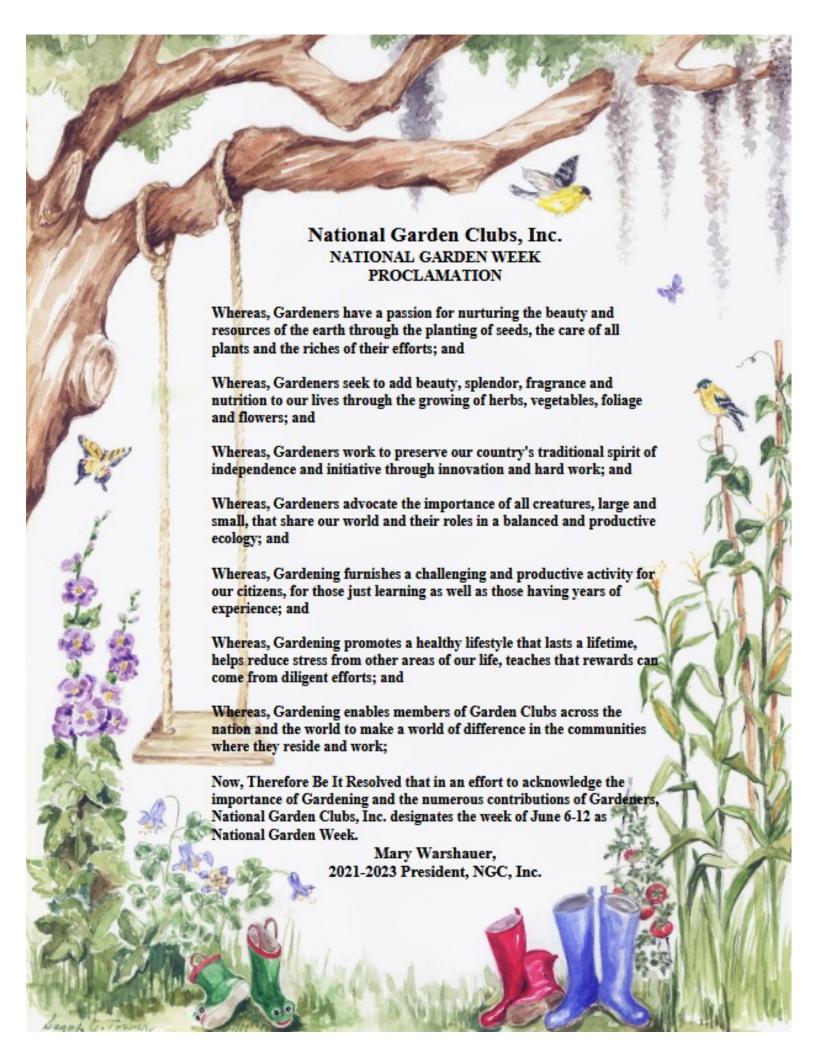
It is time to mulch your vegetable garden and to help your lawn withstand the dry June weather, raise the height of your mower and water once a week . . . Did you put any houseplants outdoors for



the warm season? Watering and rain wash nutrients out of the soil so be sure to fertilize on a regular schedule to keep them healthy and happy... Watch out for caterpillars. Big green caterpillars on parsley and fennel are precursors to beautiful swallowtail butterflies. Try not to kill then if you can help it... Water your shrubs. How much water should you apply? Each week a shrub needs one gallon per foot of height.

A Proclamation by the Mayor and presentation of a bouquet of flowers grown in our members' gardens and arranged by Dawn Dietrich brought National Garden Week to the attention of our neighborhood and city. Karen Liebert planned the enterprise and hosted members for lunch at the end of the "Members Only" Garden Tour.





# Members Garden Tour Celebrates National Garden Week Four Member's Gardens Are Featured





















Top photos: Karen's Garden

Left: Julie's Garden

Right: Liz's Garden

Bottom:

Susan's Garden



## Trends in Gardening . . . Everything Old is New Again

**Edible-Ornamental Fusion**: Gardeners are blending beauty and utility by mixing vegetables, herbs, and fruits with ornamental plants. Think rainbow chard next to zinnias, or lavender flanking tomato vines—a feast for the eyes *and* the table.



**Native Plants & "Nativars"**: There's a big push toward using native species and their cultivated cousins ("nativars") to support pollinators and local ecosystems while keeping gardens low-maintenance and climate-resilient.

Wellness Gardens: We are all exhausted from interaction with the digital world. More people are gardening and now outdoor spaces are being de-

signed as sanctuaries, with soft groundcovers, secluded

nooks, and calming greenery to promote mental well-being. It's less about perfection, more about peace. The "tune in, turn on" generation are all grandparents now and seeking peace.

**Teal & Bold Colors**: Teal is the color of the year, and it's showing up in everything from planters to hydrangeas. There are a number of grasses in this hue. Also, bright, nostalgic colors are making gardens feel joyful and expressive again.





Rock gardens are making a stylish comeback, blending rugged beauty with eco-friendly functionality. Rocks work both functionally and aesthetically. They can stabilize an area and offer seating. You can't get more of a natural feeling than with rocks. There is a certain organic chaos rock brings to an otherwise structured environment.

#### Turn off and tune out and get into the garden for your mental and physical health!

Have a wonderful summer.

See you in September!

#### Flower Power Staff