



March 2025

# FLOWER POWER

The Avondale Estates Garden Club  
*Member of the National Garden Club &  
The Garden Club of Georgia*

Volume XI Issue II

## THE NATIVE NUDGE

*Chrysogonum virginianum*  
Green and Gold

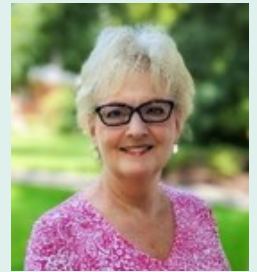


An evergreen plant through heat and cold, this lovely forms on rhizomes and is about 3- 4" tall and 18" wide and makes a shady groundcover. Blooms in spring and may re-bloom in fall but has difficulty in our hot summers. Deciduous in winter, it makes a lovely living mulch under trees, shrubs and even perennials. It is perennial and spreads like strawberries with new plants forming at the ends of above ground stems. Performs best in part shade with average acidic moist soil. This is definitely one to try in your part shade garden.



## Speaking of Butterflies. . .

At the March meeting AEGC member Karen Liebert will be discussing everyone's favorite subject: butterflies in our gardens. How do we attract them and how do we feed them and their offspring? How do we make a safe place for them to go from egg to adult? Karen is well suited to this topic as she won the butterfly award at Federation last year. This award has many requirements that must be met and documented about your backyard butterfly garden. Karen is an excellent photographer as well and will use her photos to illustrate what goes on in her butterfly haven.



## . . . and Women in Botanical History



AEGC member Beth Langhorst will be the speaker at the March DeKalb Federation meeting discussing the historic impact women have had in the world of nature and botany in particular. Beth has won many accolades for her native plant garden and been on several garden tours. She re-wilded her garden by first taking out all the invasive species and replacing them with native plants. Her interest was piqued and her research led her to her topic as the speaker at the March Federation meeting.

She will tell us about several women who have made contributions of lasting value in the area of botany. The first woman to make a difference was Maria Sibylla Merian born in 1647 in Frankfurt, Germany. She was the first woman to travel to the new world for scientific purposes. She had observed insects on plants and began to see a cause and effect not noticed by others. Years later, the first Black woman to attain a PhD in Botany and the first woman to attain a PhD in science from Fordham University was Marie Clark Taylor whose research focused on [photomorphogenesis](#), the influence of light on plant growth. Beatrix Potter (1866-1943) purchased the beautiful Hill Top Farm in the Lake District of England. At her death the farm was 250 acres and fully operational. She bequeathed it to the National Trust. Lady Bird Johnson (1912-2007) as First Lady made the country aware of the need to bring the modern world into harmony with the natural world.

### 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.

# The Plant Sale is Almost Upon Us!



Saturday, April 19th is the date for our fifth annual Plant Sale and it is coming fast. This is the time to be dividing those perennials that have gotten a bit out of hand. Pot some up for Plant Sale. While there is a budget to purchase plants for the sale, when net proceeds are counted, we have to subtract the cost of the plant. Donated plants are pure profit and you are part of the success.

House plants are also great sellers, so remember to check to see if you are full up with those and can spare some. . . And don't even get me started on herbs. Boy, do those ever sell well. They are usually pretty much gone by 11:00 on the day of the sale. If you have started any tomatoes or peppers from seed and have some to spare, those are welcome too.

Here's an idea if you really don't have any to share, you could take a fun trip out to Grower's Outlet (where the prices are great) and pick up some herbs, annuals, perennials, shrubs, vines, natives, blueberry plants and whatever else they have the day you go out there. Then, donate some of what you purchased to the Sale. The inventory changes, but they publish a weekly notice of what's available and it's

mostly correct. Go with a friend and have lunch on the way back!

The Chairs of the Plant Sale, Susan Carney, Deborah Levine, Anne Umbaugh and Peg Wyse have begun work already. Peg's house at 1 Lakeshore Plaza is Plant Sale Central. That is where potting will take place and most of the plants will be stored until the day before the sale. You can drop plants off there and if no one is around, leave a note with the offering to let them know who donated what.

If you have plant stands or such to lend for the day so we can stage the sale more beautifully, that would be greatly appreciated. We'll tag it Not for Sale and put your name on it and thank you extravagantly (with words).

This is a great project. Not only is it a successful fund raiser, but it is also a community service. We always keep our prices below retail, offer a wide variety of plants, and have it at an optimum time to plant in the spring. On top of that, it is smack in the middle of the neighborhood. We always receive positive and grateful comments from our neighbor-customers.







## March Yard of the Month 8 Lakeview Place Home of Dee and Tom Merriam

The March yard of the month is the home of Dee and Tom Merriam at 8 Lakeview Place. Dee takes considerable pride in landscaping the yard around their home. Daffodils that she has planted cover the verge and many of the landscaping islands around the house. These provide early spring beauty that is hard to beat during the bleak end of February and early March. Come by and see their beautiful early spring display in their front yard! Congratulations Dee and Tom!

**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.**





Dunwoody Garden Club's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Card Party, Chico's of Northpoint Fashion Show  
Luncheon & Silent Auction**

**Dunwoody United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall  
Friday, April 11, 2025  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**TICKET ORDER FORM**

\_\_\_\_ Tickets at \$35.00 each \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Plus Additional donation (optional) \$\_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Please pay as a group if you want to sit together.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Will your group need a 4-person card table? **Yes / No**

**Note:** DGC supplies bridge cards; please bring any other games you plan to play.

Mail completed form and check payable to Dunwoody Garden Club to:

**Dunwoody Garden Club  
4983 Lakeland Woods Ct  
Dunwoody, GA 30338**

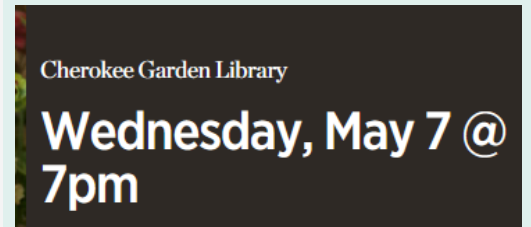


**Thank you for your continued support!**



# The Cherokee Garden Library

## Celebrates 50 Years & Growing with Charlotte Moss



The AEGC scrapbooks, which date from 1931, are housed at the Cherokee Garden Library which is part of the Atlanta History Center. We have been able to contribute \$2000 to the Library in the last two years. It is a fascinating research library and when you go, you can call ahead and ask to see some of our scrapbooks. The Library celebrates 50 years this year.

### Invitation to the Event

Please join us on **Wednesday evening, May 7, 2025**, to celebrate the Cherokee Garden Library—a growing collection of 40,000 rare and contemporary works telling the diverse and meaningful stories of people and plants that have shaped the Southeastern United States and beyond. There will be a lively lecture, followed by an author's book signing and a festive cocktail reception. All net proceeds of the event will support the acquisition of a seminal rare book for the Cherokee Garden Library, further advancing our nationally recognized collection.

**6:30 pm:** Doors open at the Atlanta History Museum/valet available

**7:00 pm:** Lecture begins promptly in the Grand Overlook

Book signing and cocktail reception to follow, featuring music by Joe Gransden in the Allen Atrium

Renowned interior designer Charlotte Moss will lead us on a fascinating journey as we travel the world through her eyes and explore the small intimate gestures of gardens near and far. From her home in Virginia to Italian villas, French chateaus, and through the Irish countryside, Moss will share her musings, influences, and inspirations. Charlotte Moss is a lover of beauty, gardening, flowers, history, and books. This summer, she had an opportunity to visit the Garden Library to explore historic volumes written by iconic writers and designers whom she admires—Gertrude Jekyll, Elizabeth Lawrence, and Vita Sackville-West, among others. In her book, *Charlotte Moss Flowers*, she writes: “It doesn’t matter what I am doing in the library—reading the newspaper or a book or writing a letter—there is a magnetic force imploring me to rediscover something that I have not visited in a long time. That is what libraries do.”

We are delighted to welcome Charlotte Moss as a member of the Cherokee Garden Library National Council, and as our special guest, when we celebrate 50 years of collecting, conserving and presenting our resources, and serving our communities.

***In 2017 there were 200,000 Monarch butterflies that gathered in California. In 2020, less than 2,000 were counted.***

### Flower Power Staff

Editor..... Susan Barton  
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Beth Langhorst



# Besler and Conrad A Dynamic Duo

Basilus Besler (1561–1629) was a botanist, an apothecary and a draftsman. He managed the spectacular and widely known gardens of Prince Bishop Johann Conrad von Gemmingen (ca. 1561–1612) of Eichstätt in the southern area of what is now Germany. Besler presented to his boss an idea for a book which would bring further renown to the gardens and fame and fortune to Besler.

Conrad was smitten with the idea of a book of botanical drawings featuring the plants in his gardens and commissioned Besler to produce copperplates for that purpose. They agreed to print on the largest paper available which was 22" x 18" making the book the largest botanical book ever printed. As there was not yet a classification system in place (Linnaeus was not born until almost 100 years later) Besler divided the book into the four seasons in which the plants bloomed.

The book is called *Florilegium, The Book of Plants* and surprise, surprise, it's available on Amazon, but in a much smaller format. The Besler Florilegium depicts plants in 90 plant families in 340 genera, presenting almost 1,100 plants in 367 copperplate engravings.







*As We Recognize the Winners at  
The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Annual Awards Luncheon*

*In the Courtyard at Callanwolde  
Thursday, April 17, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.*

*A Catered Lunch Will Be Served*

*\$25.00 Per Person*

*Please Send Your Reservation by April 10, 2025\*\*  
to Registrar Rigby Duncan at the address listed on  
the Attached Reservation Form*

*Please do not mail reservations and checks to the Garden Center.*

*\*\*Final reservations must be given to the caterer on Saturday, April 12,  
so please comply with the due date.*



## 2025 Awards Luncheon Reservation Form

*Send Completed Reservation Form and Check for **\$25.00** Per Person  
(payable to DeKalb Federation) by **April 10 2025** to:*

**Rigby Duncan, 2800 Hunting Hill Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-1504**  
**[rigbyduncan113@gmail.com](mailto:rigbyduncan113@gmail.com); 678-644-9502**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions

\_\_\_\_\_

Names of additional individuals included with this reservation (attach extra sheet if necessary):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____