



FLOWER POWER

The Avondale Estates Garden Club

Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Deep South Garden Clubs and the Garden Club of Georgia

September 2025

Volume XI Issue VIII

**THE NATIVE NUDGE
AMSONIA CILIATA
'Georgia Pancake'**



There are many Amsonia native to Georgia, but this one has a prostrate growth form making a lovely groundcover. It has small flowers which look like stars, thus the common name Blue Star. You must know the botanical name to get the correct Amsonia. Arkansas Blue Star is a large upright variety named Amsonia hubrechtii. With soft needle like leaves on both forms, they become golden in the fall and come back in the spring with clusters of blue flowers.

Georgia Pancake is wonderful in the rock garden, each plant forming a 2' wide mat of bright green.



September 18 Meeting

A Get-to-Know-Your-Garden-Club Event

With so many new members in the last few years, we would like to take this opportunity to educate our members on the history and structure of the Avondale Estates Garden Club. You will have the chance to get to know our Board members and Committee Chairs at our September meeting as well as hear our plans for the upcoming year. In addition, we will have the opportunity to get to know some of our newer members as well.

This will also be your opportunity to sign up to serve on our various committees. There will be hors d'oeuvres before the meeting and about an hour to socialize. Please come early to see old friends and meet new ones.

September 25 DeKalb Federation Meeting

Features GCG President Diane Hunter

Diane Hunter was installed as Garden Club of Georgia President at the Annual Convention in April. We feel as if she were one of our own because she has always been active in DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs and as Director of Redbud District in the past.

Diane will present a GCG Update at the September meeting of Federation, discussing her theme vision, and goals for her two year term. She will also share plans for upcoming GCG events, including those for our 100th anniversary celebration in 2028.



Federation meets at 10:30 Thursday the 25th at Callanwolde. We will have a carpool from LakeHouse.

AEGC MISSION STATEMENT

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

A Message from the President

Hello Everyone!



I'm delighted to welcome you to another exciting year with the Avondale Estates Garden Club. Whether you're a seasoned member or a new face eager to dig in, your curiosity and enthusiasm help cultivate the vibrant spirit that defines our group. The Garden Club is more than just a gathering of passionate gardeners—it's a community dedicated to learning, sharing, and growing together.

Mother Nature has given us a foretaste of autumn and I'm looking forward to our September and October events. **On September 11**, we will remember our fellow Americans who perished in the World Trade Center Towers. Our own Peg Wyse will ring the bell for the victims at a deeply moving ceremony at the Dewey Brown Plaza. Please join us early that morning for the city event.

Later that same day we will prepare our specimens for the Redbud District Flower Show. Join us anytime at Patricia Calcagno's Dining Barn at 11 Kingstone from 9:45am-2:00pm to bring your specimens, learn how to prep them for a judged flower show, or generally pitch in and have fun with members. The show, Cruisin' with Daisy, will be held September 12 and 13 in Tucker.

Our first General Meeting of the year will be held on September 18 at 6:00pm at the LakeHouse. We will have refreshments and a program about "All Things Garden Club". We will discuss our past successes and future plans with an amazing slide show. We hope you will be inspired to reach out to the Committee Chairs about ways you can become more involved in the Garden Club.

Our biannual Bonnie Phelps Tree Walk will be held on October 25 and its usually fantastic weather for a walk in the neighborhood with our invited arborists. We will have children's activities and our friends from Nature Time will join us with Garbanzo to talk about the importance of trees. It's a great way to spend a Saturday morning.

Each Garden Club gathering is a chance to deepen friendships, gain new skills, and celebrate the joys that gardening brings to our lives. I look forward to seeing you in the neighborhood!

Julie





SEPTEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH

902 STRATFORD ROAD

HOME OF ALICE MURRAY & KATHERINE WRIGHT

Alice and her daughter Katherine bought their house in the fall of 2020 moving from Decatur. They share the home with Katherine's daughter, Allison Bombardier who is a high school freshman, two Shih Tzus and a Havanese.

Alice and Katherine have been working on one garden project each season, starting with a path along the south side of the house featuring a cutting garden and raised beds for vegetables. Katherine oversees the vegetables while Alice tends the flowers. They jointly select shrubs and work together on design of the beds.

In the summer of 2024, they expanded the bed to the right of the front door with Annabelle hydrangeas, phlox, gardenias, Shasta Daisies, and pots of ornamental blueberries. A concrete angel sculpture is a focal point. This spring, they added apricot Drift roses and Mexican Heather to the front garden next to the street, as well as additional border stones and a vintage round sprinkler. The bed also features lilies, knockout roses, a flowering dogwood, and broadleaf hydrangeas. There is a shade garden to the left of the driveway filled with Solomon's Seal, cast iron plants, Lenten roses, and native ferns. A lovely garden to fill the senses. Photos don't express the beauty of this home and garden. Take a walk by to fully appreciate the work these ladies have put into this lovely garden.

Register Now for the Doug Tallamy Presentation in October

Register now for the Doug Tallamy presentation *Nature's Best Hope* to be held October 25 at Dunwoody High School auditorium at 5035 Vermack Road Dunwoody, GA 30338 . There are approximately 600 seats. Admission is free, but you must register in advance. To register, go to Dunwoodygardenclub.com. You will be able to print out a ticket. Dr. Douglas Tallamy is an American entomologist, ecologist and conservationist. He is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. Tallamy has written and co-authored several books as well as papers. He is also one of the founders of Homegrown National Park, a nonprofit organization promoting habitat restoration and biodiversity on public and private lands through the planting of native plants and removal of invasive species.



Doug's presentation will cover the importance of native plants for pollinators, what plants support the most pollinators, small steps homeowners can make to improve the health of our ecosystem, and much more. Guests can visit with representatives from the Dunwoody Garden Club, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Georgia Native Plant Society, Dunwoody Nature Center and Monarchs Across Georgia. Doug's presentation will cover the importance of native plants for pollinators, what plants support the most pollinators, small steps homeowners can make to improve the health of our ecosystem, and much more. There will be a question and answer session with Dr. Tallamy.

This is well worth your time, even if you are participating in the Tree Walk in the morning. Doors open at 3:00. We are fortunate to have this opportunity.

To Avoid Explosions, Read Seed, Bulb and Flower Catalogs Closely



“Note what the catalogue says about color and height and time of flowering, choose the appropriate shade of crayon and mark position of plant on plan. You will soon see what would make good neighbors and what would be fatal. Last year I dumped a lot of seeds haphazardly in a hurry and got mesembryanthemums and a new ‘electric orange’ calendula mingled with a scarlet eschscholtzia and even the thought of it makes me shudder yet. The conjunction of paralytic pink, blinding blood-orange and genuine clear scarlet was practically un-lookable at. I expected it to blow up at any moment, ...”

— Ethelind Fearon British Author of *Flower Growing for Ungardeners* (1963)

The Shoulder Season in the Garden

September is considered the shoulder season for travel and tourism. The children have gone back to school, the tourists are fewer, the weather is milder and for those who can travel, it is a great time to pack those suitcases and take off. It is also the shoulder season in the garden. The big push of emerging plants in the spring and when those are fading, brightly colored flowers make their summer debut. September is a bit quieter, still alive with healthy plants, but fall is in the air. That means only a few plants help the garden to remember the spring. Think asters and chrysanthemums.

In our area September can still be pretty warm, but the plants know the hours of light are beginning to wane. It is a good time to reflect on how our gardens looked this year and perhaps to plan for a few different looks for next year.

September is ideal for dividing perennials. Look at what you have and whether you'd like those coneflowers in another part of the garden as well. Iris look pretty dreadful at this point, but dividing them will give them new life where they are and the new location you choose. Penstemon are easy to divide as are Daisies. When you decide to divide and replant, please remember to pot up a few things for

the Plant Sale in April. You can put them in a nice size pot, water well and place them in a protected area. They will do well on their own and emerge in time for April 2026.

In addition to dividing, there is also collecting seeds from whatever was spectacular in your garden this year. Coneflowers produce seeds that will travel with the wind or in the belly of a finch and find a new home somewhere else in your

garden or in a neighbor's patch. Seeds from your coneflowers would be welcome by anyone with a sunny location. If you have other native plants that set seed you will do the planet a favor by sharing those with your friends.

Here's another thought for September. Start a garden journal. I wish I'd done that 30 years ago. It is hard to remember year to year what

worked and what didn't. It is of great value to have that information at your fingertips. A spiral notebook for each year is ideal. You can go back to see what happened in your garden and use that information to plan for next year.



Enjoy the September shoulder season.

~ Susan Barton

AEGC Calendar



- September 10.....AEGC Board meeting
11.....City 9/11 Memorial Service
11.....Bring horticulture samples for the Flower Show
12-13....Redbud District Flower Show
18.....6:00 at the LakeHouse AEGC Membership Meeting
24.....GCG Club Treasurer Workshops
25DeKalb Federation Meeting
- October 9.....AEGC Board Meeting @ LakeHouse
16.....Membership Meeting at 6:00 @LakeHouse
23.....DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs meeting
At Callanwolde 10:30
25.....AEGC TreeWalk
25.....Doug Tallamy Presentation Nature's Best Hope

For further information about these most of these events,
check your Yearbook yearbook