

FLOWER POWER

Avondale Estates Garden Club

Member of the National Garden Club &
The Garden Club of Georgia

October 2024

Volume X Issue VII

Meeting Thursday Evening October 17

THE NATIVE NUDGE

Viburnum nudum
Smooth withered



A beautiful native viburnum with multi-colored fruits often with four colors at the same time.

It is happy as an understory shrub or as part of an informal woodland.

The leaves turn a deep red-purple in the fall. Flowers are small but showy, in clusters 2-5" and are white with yellow stamens. The plant can grow 6 to 9 feet tall with arching branches. Fruit goes from green to pink to red and blue over a long period. Birds love the berries. Two good selections are 'Pink Beauty' and 'Winterthur'. It likes a moist soil and sun to part sun.



Grasslands in Georgia have been lost to our collective memory. They disappeared because of fire suppression across the state, lack of disturbance historically by elk, intense land use history and reforestation with closely placed trees creating a lack of sunlight in woodlands. A few precious examples do exist. Help find small, relict sites along roadsides and rights of way, in old fields and mature woods. You can help by joining the State Botanical Garden's [Georgia Grasslands Initiative](#) project on iNaturalist.

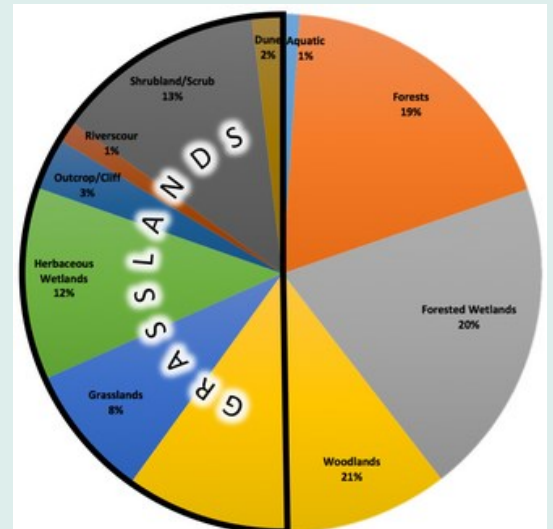
This initiative is prioritizing identification, restoration, management, education and connection to grasslands in the northern third of Georgia, the Piedmont, mountains, ridge and valley and Cumberland plateau.

Our speaker on Thursday evening is Will Rogers, a Conservation Research Professional at the State Botanical Garden. He specializes in growing and studying rare and endangered plants species.

His topic will address the Georgia Grasslands Initiative and how ordinary citizens can join the Initiative to help UGA and the US Forest Service document native grasses and wildflowers.

Half of all rare plant communities in the southeastern U.S. are grasslands or related communities.

- 2/3 of all rare plants in the Southeast require or prefer grasslands.
- 60% of the nearly 6,000 native plant species of the Southeast require or prefer grasslands.
- >600 of the 1,213 rare habitats of the Southeast are rare grassland types,
- The South's native grasslands provide ecosystem services such as reducing topsoil erosion and runoff, improving water quality, and carbon sequestration.



AEGC MISSION STATEMENT

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



October Yard of the Month

Home of Alan and Camille Harvey

1051 Lakeshore Drive

Alan and Camille Harvey have lived in their home in Avondale and worked in their garden for almost 40 years. Camille has many favorite plants including the Mealycup sage in front of the house along the street, the Juniper procumbens nana, and their collection of Japanese maples scattered around their property. That is just to name a few because their gardens hold an enormous variety of beautiful plants. The Harveys enjoy developing paths and creating garden rooms especially in the back portion of their property. What the garden gives throughout the seasons means a great deal to Camille and she loves working in the garden as it changes over time. Their front garden is a gift to the neighborhood.

~ Beth Wielage

**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.**



Don't Stop Feeding the Hummingbirds Just Yet

Although most Ruby-throats have mostly migrated south for winter, some late stragglers are still moving through. Keep your feeders going until at least **November 1st**, or better yet, leave one or two up for possible western species like Rufous, Calliope, Black-chinned and more. Thirteen hummingbird species have been documented overwintering in Georgia. While you can't prevent Ruby-throats from migrating, you might host a special visitor and provide a critical nectar source for them.

In summer, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are the most frequently spotted hummingbirds in Georgia and appear in 21% of checklists submitted by bird watchers for the state. They spend the breeding season in the state and are commonly seen from March to November. Many of them migrate south for the winter, but some will stay in the state all year. The tiny birds zip from one nectar source to the next or catch insects in midair or from spider webs. They occasionally stop on a small twig, but their legs are so short they cannot walk, only shuffle along a perch. In summer, flowering gardens or woodland edges are the best places to find them. They are also common in neighborhoods, especially at nectar feeders.



Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are bright green on the back and crown, with a gray-white underside. The males have an iridescent red throat. Female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are green on the back and white underneath with brownish crowns and sides. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only breeding hummingbird in eastern North America. They then migrate further south to Central America for winter. Some migrate over the Gulf of Mexico, others migrate through Texas around the coast.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds start arriving in the United States in February and may not arrive in northern states and Canada until May for breeding. In spring, males usually arrive first up to one or two weeks before the females. The males begin to migrate south in August and are followed later by juveniles and females. They gather in September along the Gulf Coast of Texas before making the final push south for winter.

1. **Migration Route and Timing:** Ruby-throated hummingbirds travel over 2,000 miles annually between North America and Central America. Their migrations align with seasonal changes.
2. **Factors Influencing Migration:** Migration is determined by food availability, weather, and daylight. They use landmarks, stars, and magnetic fields for navigation.
3. **Preparation and Challenges:** Before migrating, Ruby-Throats build fat reserves and undergo physiological changes. They face obstacles like food scarcity, predators, and severe weather.
4. **Support and Monitoring:** We can aid their migration by offering nectar shelter and planting native flowers. Monitoring techniques help track their migration patterns.

Holidays for Heroes!

DEADLINE FOR CARDS IS OCTOBER 22ND

The annual project of DeKalb Federation, Holiday for Heroes, gives us an opportunity to thank those who are on active duty in the military and deployed around the world. We send holiday cards and thank them for their service.

These cards will be delivered to Dobbins Air Force Base in October and will be distributed to our troops.

Please check in your Holiday supplies for cards you can send and deliver them to Peg Wyse. The deadline to have

them to Federation is OCTOBER 22nd. Amazon is a decent resource for packages of Holiday cards.

GUIDELINES FOR CARDS:

- Do not seal envelopes
- Do not sign cards, instead say Thank you for your service, or A Grateful American etc.
- No postage, no personal information, no political statements
- NO GLITTER!!! Many cards are delivered to wounded soldiers. Glitter can get into a wound.

Also, as we all know, glitter is forever.



A Little AEGC Business Information:

To receive reimbursement from AEGC you will need to go to our website: avondaleestatesgardenclub.org and **sign in**. On the left side you will see a column. Find the heading MEMBERS. Under that heading you see the subject: **Disbursement Request**. Click on that and fill out your request online. Easy as pie.



DeKalb County
GEORGIA

Public Works Department • Sanitation Division

DeKalb

single-stream recycling
A Sanitation Division Initiative

Fall 2024 Paper Shredding Event

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, October 19, 2024

8 AM - NOON

Sanitation Division's Central Transfer Station
3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur, GA 30032

Participation is **FREE** and open only to DeKalb County residents

PREVENT identity theft

PROTECT the environment

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF personal sensitive documents

Proof of residency is required • No commercial participation

Limited to 10 standard-size boxes of documents per vehicle

Shredding services provided by A1 Shredding & Recycling

For more information, please call (404) 294-2900, visit www.dekalbsanitation.com,
or follow us on Twitter @DKalbSanitation

iNaturalist is an online social network of people sharing biodiversity information to help each other learn about nature

An independent nonprofit organization iNaturalist partners with several international organizations through the [iNaturalist Network](#) to provide a localized experience along with greater reach and impact. It's also a *crowdsourced species identification system* and an *organism occurrence recording tool*. Using their app you can record your own observations, get help with identifications, collaborate with others to collect this kind of information for a common purpose, or access the observational data collected by iNaturalist users.



iNaturalist

iNaturalist helps you identify the plants and animals around you while generating data for science and conservation. By recording and sharing your observations, you'll create research-quality data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature.

iNaturalist's Vision is a world where everyone can understand and sustain biodiversity through the practice of observing wild organisms and sharing information about them.

iNaturalist's Mission is to connect people to nature and advance biodiversity science and conservation.

iNaturalist has been awarded the prestigious the Heinz Award for the Environment. This award celebrates innovative solutions to environmental challenges. iNaturalist's community science platform mobilizes millions of people to engage with nature and has **contributed over 200 million records for science**. These contributions have helped document species, inform conservation strategies, and enhance our collective understanding of the natural world.

Since its inception in 2008, iNaturalist has played a critical role in driving conservation efforts worldwide. **Observations from its global community have been used in more than 5,000 scientific publications**, contributing to the discovery of new species, tracking the impact of climate change, and shaping biodiversity policies globally. Since becoming an independent nonprofit in July 2023, the number of verifiable observations has grown by over 50%.

“There are over a million species at risk of extinction this century, and the solution hinges upon two critical factors: an engaged public that cares and a robust data set to drive smart conservation decisions. That’s why our team is passionate about this work,” Executive Director Scott Loarie states. Ken-ichi Ueda, Co-Founder agrees.

Dr. Carrie Seltzer, Head of Engagement, remarks, “The iNaturalist team set out to create a tool that would make exploring nature more accessible for everyone, and today we’re proud to see how this community has become essential to understanding the current state of biodiversity. I like to call us a ‘force for nature’ and this recognition from the Heinz Family Foundation fuels our ambition to continue growing this movement.”

The power of iNaturalist lies in its diverse and generous community. With members ranging from high school students and retirees to scientists and land managers, the platform thrives on participation from people of all walks of life.

Information from iNaturalist.org

Door Prizes, Lunch, A Fashion Show, Raffles & Shopping What's Not to Like?

The DeKalb Federation hosts its annual Leading Lights Luncheon on November 14th at Callanwolde.

Our Club always has a big presence at this event, so whether you are a new member or have never attended, this is a good time to join our group. We will, as always have a carpool or two or three leaving from the LakeHouse. The following pages have the particulars.

Let Patricia know if you wish to attend.

See you there!

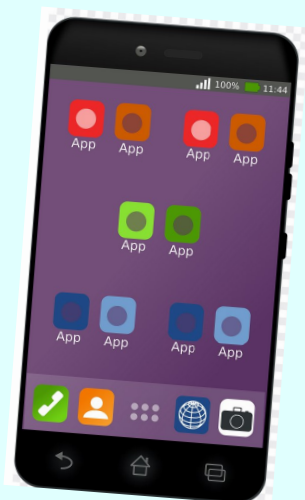


THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

“Ultimately the apps’ greatest breakthrough may not be technological at all. It may be raising our awareness. We are nearly blind to entire categories of living creatures.”

For a brief review of four FREE Apps that will identify Birds, Bees, Flowers, Trees and Critters, check out this article published last year in the Washington Post.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/04/25/aipowersplantidentifierapps/>



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**You Are Cordially Invited to Attend
The Twentieth Annual**

***Leading Lights Luncheon
Fashion Show and Raffle***

Sponsored by The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

**Thursday, November 14, 2024
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Shopping begins at 10:00 a.m. ■ Luncheon Seating at Noon
Fashion Show at 12:30 p.m.
Followed by Raffle Drawings**

Fashions by Carolee's

Come Early and Shop With Our Vendors

**Callanwolde Fine Arts Center
980 Briarcliff Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30306**

**\$40 Per Person Includes a Catered Lunch
Door Prizes Will Be Awarded Throughout the Event**

**Reservations Are Due By November 2, 2024
(Please Include the Attached Form)**

**For Further Information, Please Contact
Rigby Duncan 678-644-9502; rigbyduncan113@gmail.com**



2024 Leading Lights Luncheon Reservation Form

Mail Completed Reservation Form and Check for \$40 Per Person
(payable to DeKalb Federation) by **November 2, 2024** to:

Rigby Duncan, 2800 Hunting Hill Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-1504
(678) 644-9502 • rigbyduncan113@gmail.com

Name

Address

E-Mail

Phone

Dietary Restrictions

I Want To Be Seated With the Following Friends
