

FLOWER POWER

Avondale Estates Garden Club

Member of the National Garden Club &

The Garden Club of Georgia

September 2024

THE NATIVE NUDEGE

Spigelia marilandica
Indian Pink



Indian Pink is quietly spectacular, growing in naturally open woods edges and along streams. This perennial is easy to grow and is rated as a "Top 10 Hummingbird Plant." These plants form clumps of glossy lance-shaped leaves. During the summer, Indian pinks have clusters of tubular red flowers with five yellow recurved lobes at the tips. Indian pinks thrive in moist, fertile, well-draining soils but can tolerate dry spells. These perennials are happy in woodland wildflower beds.



Volume X Issue VI

September Program Highlights AEGC

In 2020 AEGC had 55 active members and two Emeritus members. Today we have 76 members, six of whom have Emeritus status. In the last four years we have added 19 active members. It's a bit hard to keep up. An organization is healthier and the members happier when they know one another and are comfortable with the mechanics and goals of the group. To that end, the program at the September meeting will speak to the history, structure, and goals of the Avondale Estates Garden Club. We will get to know our Board members and Committee Chairs and have an opportunity to meet some of our newer members as well. If you don't have a committee assignment for the coming year, you will be able to speak to members and to sign up to serve on one of our various teams.

The Yearbook is Coming, The Yearbook is Coming

It's an annual event we all look forward to, the new edition of the AEGC Yearbook. Why does this occasion engender such excitement? It is replete with information we can have at our fingertips. Better than a computer, it will never tell you that it cannot open a page. You don't need to type in a subject, there are tabs! It will never crash just when you need it and if you lose power, a tiny flashlight will light your way to programs, phone numbers, birthdays, and will tell you when you are on luncheon duty. It is your friend and can be your constant companion. As the extraordinary member that you are, when you get your hands on the new pages you will go home and insert them in the proper tabs. You will bring them to each meeting in case we need to refer to a Bylaw or Standing Rule. During the course of the year, you will update the membership list in the notes section as a new person joins us. Be the first one on your block to insert the new beautiful front and back covers so you can impress your neighbors!



**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.



July Yard of the Month

Home of Kathleen and Edwin Link

51 Wiltshire Drive

After purchasing their home in December 2015, Kathleen and Edwin hired landscape designer Laura Sanchez to develop a plan for their corner sloping lot. The result is a beautiful garden with year-round interest. An enclosed front patio and walkway of Tennessee flagstone leads to the home, surrounded by a lawn with planting beds that provide flowering interest throughout the seasons. The patio is shaded by a 'Bloodgood' Japanese Maple. There is also a cut-leaf Japanese maple at one corner of the house. Beds on either side of the front stairs feature pollinator friendly lavender, Verbe-na and lovely yellow 'Kaleidoscope' dwarf Abelia as well as deep blue green Dystilium. There are mass plantings of 'Blushing' Drift Roses, dwarf 'Limelight Hydrangeas, and Cassian Grass in several of the beds which are edged with low Boxwoods. Lorapetalum 'Crimson Fire' and Sweet Flag (Acorus Ogon) add colorful interest throughout the year. 'Limelight' Hydrangeas form a border on one side of the front garden. Another 'Limelight' anchors the end of the front bed next to the driveway. And for added interest three 'Emerald' Arborvitae anchor one corner of the house.

community.

Thanks to Kathleen and Edwin for this lovely view at the corner of Wiltshire and Clarendon.



August Yard of the Month

Home of Joelle Easlick and Wojtek Ziniewicz

1076 Clarendon Avenue

At home at 1076 Clarendon Ave are Joelle Easlick and Wojtek Ziniewicz. Three years ago, when they settled into the neighborhood, they envisioned transforming their piece of Clarendon into a reflection of historic Avondale. At the front of the yard, they added cherry trees lining the street and a garden bed with a central cypress accompanied by sweet olive bushes and stonecrop. Centrally, they planted a white oak and a black walnut to add tree cover for future generations. In the garden beds next to the house, they planted stonecrop, lavender, elephant ears, gardenias, and hydrangeas to give the garden a mix of colors, smells, and heights throughout the season. During the summer months they leave plenty of space for zinnias to help pollinators and repurpose the seeds produced for the following year.

As you pass Joelle and Wojtek's yard at 1076 Clarendon, be sure to take a look. Thank you, Joelle and Wojtek for sharing your garden with the Avondale Estates community.



September Yard of the Month

Home of Linda and Don Coatsworth

3 Lakeview Place

Linda moved into the house at 3 Lakeview Place in 1988. In 2000 she married Don and they have been gardening there together for the last 24 years. They both love digging in the dirt and watching seeds, bulbs and rootlets grow into large beautiful plants. Linda's favorite area is her front walkway. It once consisted of stepping stones but everyone's feet were getting wet by the time they got to the front door. She turned to Rich Hart for a solution. He installed hardscaping between the stepping stones which made a beautiful curved walkway bordered by two planting beds. He also turned their front stoop into a very pretty front porch with room for a bench and more plants.

The garden in the front includes four peonies (Linda's favorites along with a smoke bush), butterfly bushes, crape myrtles, tall cleyera pruned to resemble Nellie Stevens hollies, hydrangeas and many many more. . . And you should see the back yard, a woodland paradise!

Congratulations to Linda and Don on such a beautiful Yard of the Month.

Annual Redbud Standard Flower Show “Daisy’s Movie Mania” Premiered at Callanwolde

AEGC showed very well at the Flower Show this year though participation was off a bit for us. Despite that, we had two grand winners, eight first place winners and many second, third and honorable mentions. The show was well attended and fun to see people from other clubs there working as well as attending.

In the following pages you will see the results and a number of photos. If you missed it this year, there is always next year. Plan on it. It’s definitely worthwhile to enter and attend.



AEGC BEST IN CLASS PRIZE WINNERS FROM REDBUD FLOWER SHOW

Sunflower *Helianthus argophyllus*, 'Silverleaf Sunflower' grown from seed and was entered by Beth Langhorst.



The Caladium 'White Christmas' was entered by Christi Granger.

Lynn Boyd's Hosta Collection



Member Spotlight

Cheryl Sims joined AEGC in the winter of 2024. She jumped right in, volunteered for lots of events and will serve as a member of the Board for the coming year. She will be the chair the Yearbook committee for 2025 -2026.

Cheryl is a home grown Georgia native who is a GSU graduate in Film Making and Photography. She has lived in New York City, Los Angeles and Vancouver where her career as a film and television industry production accountant took her. She has worked on many projects, Law and Order and Sesame street are just two of them.



Some years ago Cheryl adopted a dog and her life took a different turn. Today her focus is on animal welfare and in particular, dogs. She is a pet parent to four rescue dogs of her own and works for the benefit of animals in many ways. Her volunteer work is varied. She works on fundraisers she believes in and sometimes is a second set of hands. Second Life and Furniture With Love are two of her current activities. She has a Youtube channel, Instagram and Facebook accounts all of which are concerned with pet welfare.

When asked where her favorite trip took her she answered it was a tour of England hosted by PBS. It was the All Creatures Great and Small Tour through the English countryside. We're so glad she took the time to visit AEGC last winter and especially that she joined us.



Redbud Flower Show AEGC Results

Best in Class

Christi Granger - Caladium 'White Christmas'
Beth Langhorst - Silver Leaf Sunflower

1st Place

Susan Barton - Hydrangea 'Shooting Star'
Helen Dorroh – Illicium (Grey Ghost)
Helen Dorroh – Achille (Yarrow)
Helen Dorroh – Shasta Daisy
Helen Dorroh – American Beautyberry
Helen Dorroh – Ilex (Golden Oakland)
Beth Langhorst - False Aster
Donna Tanner - Ironweed

2nd Place

Susan Barton – Leucanthemum (Becky)
Susan Barton – Aspidistra
Christi Granger – Hosta
Beth Langhorst - Cardinal Flower
Beth Langhorst - Turk's Cap
Beth Langhorst - Dahlia
Helen Dorroh – Balsam Impatiens
Helen Dorroh – Agastache (Anise Hyssop)
Donna Tanner – Rain Lily

Scott Legg – Elephant Ear
Scott Legg – Foxtail Fern
Helen Dorroh – Buddleia

3rd Place

Susan Barton -- Rosa 'Carefree Beauty'
Patricia Calcagno – Autumn Fern
Helen Dorroh – Salvia (Furman's Red)
Helen Dorroh – Northern Sea Oats
Scott Legg – Dragon Wing Begonia
Karen Liebert – Common Sneezeweed
Donna Tanner – Thai Basil **Honorable
Mention** Susan Barton – Rain Lily
Susan Barton – Caryopteris (Longwood) Susan
Barton – Rosa (Iceberg)
Helen Dorroh – Ternstromia (Cleyera)
Helen Dorroh – Gomphera (Globe Amaranth)
Helen Dorroh – Cornus Angustata
Helen Dorroh – Lollipop Verbena
Helen Dorroh – Drift Rose
Helen Dorroh – Butterfly Weed

Christi Granger – Fatsia (Japanese Aralia)
Christi Granger – Autumn Fern

Christi Granger - Japanese Maple (one variety)
Christi Granger - Japanese Maple variety II)
Beth Langhorst - Flamingo Feather Celosia
Scott Legg – Japanese Maple
Scott Legg – Caladium Bicolor

Donna Tanner – Cutleaf Coneflower



Donna Tanner — White Snakeroot

Photo at left: Beth Langhorst and Garden Club of Georgia First Vice President Dianne Hunter and the prize-winning sunflower.

National Park Service Turns 108 Years Old

Happy Birthday to the National Park Service, which turned 108 years old on August 25th, and a hearty thank you to the more than 20,000 National Park Service employees, who work tirelessly to care for America's 431 national park sites and work with communities across the nation to help preserve "America's Best Idea."



FACTS ABOUT OUR NATIONAL PARKS:

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is home to over 1,500 types of flowering plants that bloom year-round. A Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage takes place each year, a festival with many guided walks and hikes. There are about 100 species of trees that are native to the Smokies—more than any other national park in North America.

Bryce Canyon National Park has the largest collection of hoodoos—odd-shaped pillars of rock—in the world.

Acadia National Park is the oldest park east of the Mississippi River and the first instance where the land was donated to the federal government.

Mammoth Cave National Park is the world's longest known cave system, with more than 400 miles explored.

Information from NationalGeographic.com

**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.**



You are Cordially Invited. . .

Join us for an evening of information about
making a positive impact on global warming in
your own backyard.

Climate Change: your garden, your yard, your neighborhood, and your planet

Speaker: Mike Fillon
Founder of Tucker Orchard Guild
Master Gardener for 10 years
Author

MONDAY OCTOBER 7, 2024

6 – 8 PM

Embry Hills Library
3733 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Chamblee, GA 30341
770.270.8230

Sponsored by
Lake Ivanhoe Garden Club

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How to Build a Bee Hotel

Adding nesting sites and nesting materials is an important measure in creating sustainable habitats, especially for native bees. . . (and they make wonderful gifts for humans.)



1. Cut a block of raw wood to the size you want—pieces of log work as well (see photo on next page)



2. Nail on a roof to keep your tenants dry (old license tags are perfect)



3. Select the appropriate size drill bit, from 5/16" to 3/8". Holes can be drilled in various sizes.



4. Check the depth of the holes, which should be about the length of most drill bits.



5. The number of holes depends on the size of the nesting box, but a dozen should suffice for a small nesting box.



6. Gently sand the nesting holes. Splinters can remain after drilling, but removing splinters will make the nesting box more appealing for bees.



Your finished product may be decorated on the sides, but the bees don't seem to care if it's left "rustic".

Installing a Bee Hotel

Place bee nesting boxes in the yard during early spring so that they will be available for the first bees of the season to lay eggs. February should be appropriate for most places. Be sure that the boxes are installed at least 3 feet above the ground in a location protected from wind and rain. It is best to install the nesting boxes facing south. Secure the top and bottom of the boxes to a surface like a tree or a fence. If the bottom of the box is not secured, it will blow around in the wind. Place multiple nesting boxes throughout your yard to give bees plenty of nesting locations. The bees that use nesting boxes have one generation each year, so do not remove the nesting boxes during the winter. Leave them out and bees will exit the holes in the spring.

Nesting boxes require some maintenance. Pollinators have pesky pathogens and parasites that harm them. Once a box has been in use for a couple of years, the wood will begin to degrade and the pathogens and parasites that find the box can become a problem. Depending on your design, plan to replace nesting boxes or the wood bolts in the boxes every two years.

Once your nesting boxes are installed, it is time to relax and enjoy your pollinator visitors. Keep your eyes open for leafcutter bees and mason bees that will use the holes that you drilled in the wood. Carpenter bees may show up as well, but they will drill their own holes into the wood nesting boxes.

