



FLOWER POWER

THE AVONDALE ESTATES GARDEN CLUB
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB &
THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA

August 2021

Volume VII Issue VI

THE NATIVE NUDGE
Symphyotrichum georgianum
Georgia Aster

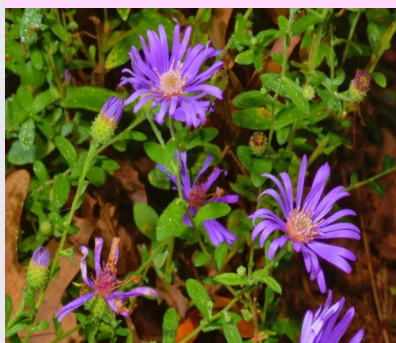


A threatened native perennial with large flower heads marked by dark purple rays encircling white to lavender disk flowers.

Threatened by herbicides, development, highway construction and fire suppression it can no longer be found in Florida. It wants acidic soil and plenty of sun.

The flower is larger and a deeper color than most aster cultivars.

Probably not sold in nurseries, we offered some at the AEGC plant sale in April. There may be a small amount at the next plant sale. Lovely plant that needs to be preserved.



Honoring Bonnie Phelps AEGC Will Plant a Native Tree by the Lake

Bonnie Phelps, who passed away last year, was an active member of AEGC for many years. She was the founder of our Tree Walk, meaning she brought the idea to the club and shepherded the project for several years. When she couldn't chair the committee, she continued to serve on it and took an active role.

To honor Bonnie, the Tree Walk will now be known as The Bonnie Phelps Tree Walk. In addition, we will be planting a tree this fall. On the morning of the Tree Walk we will have a brief ceremony dedicating that tree to her memory. A granite marker will be placed at the base of the tree. Bonnie's family will be in attendance.

The tree selected is a *Halesia diptera*, commonly known as Two Winged Silverbell. It is a small native tree that flowers in late March to late April. At maturity it will be about 25 feet tall and 15 feet wide.

The tree is pronounced **Hales'**-ee-ah named for Stephen Hales 1677-1761, English scientist and author of a famous work, *Vegetable Staticks*.



Bonnie Phelps

It will be a lovely addition to the trees around Lake Avondale.





Yard of the Month Home of Cathy Bass 1143 Banbury Cross

Thirty years of care and cultivation are joyously evident at the home of Cathy Bass. An enormous limelight hydrangea is center stage this month, calling attention to the diverse selection of plantings in this yard.

The unexpected native magnolia that thrives off the front walkway began as a whip from Stone Mountain Park, and is surrounded by chrysanthemum that will be in full bloom as the summer fades. Drifts of perennial nepeta, salvia, black and blue elephant ear, canna lily and lantana are anchored by evergreen boxwood and fatsia japonica.

A favorite sweetly scented pink rose lines the path. Multiple varieties of hydrangea are interplanted throughout the landscape providing structure and contrast. A large flowering dogwood provides shade for hosta, moss and lichen while a white crabapple centers a circular sunny bed brimming with cardoon, cosmos, white lantana, iris, yellow rose and ginger lily!

~ Donna Tanner

**Avondale Estates Garden Club is proud to be a Member
of National Garden Club, Inc and The Garden Club of Georgia**



2021 Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser



You are cordially invited to LaGrange on October 30, 2021, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm when the Redbud District hosts The Garden Club of Georgia's annual fundraiser benefitting our statewide Historic Landscape Preservation Grant program, now in its twentieth year.

How good it will be to celebrate Fall at Hills and Dales! The magnificent 13,000 square foot home, designed by Neel Reid and Hal Hentz, was completed in 1916. Today the fourth generation of the Callaway family welcomes visitors to the home, beautifully located in the sunny hills and shady dales of West Central Georgia. Plants dating back to the 1840s, 2½ acres of formal dwarf boxwood parterres, and twenty-six different varieties of deciduous magnolias are just a few of the many delights.

LaGrange is easily accessed, and a trip could be combined with a stay at Callaway Gardens! The day will feature tours of the historic home and gardens, a lecture by Jo Phillips entitled, "Heirloom Plants for Garden Fragrance," a box lunch, a welcome center with a film on Hills and Dales and a gift shop. The lecture begins at 10:30 and seating is limited to 90 attendees so plan to come early to hear this topic, or you can tour the house or gardens at your leisure upon arrival. To explore more about the property, go to [Hills & Dales Estate \(hillsanddales.org\)](http://hillsanddales.org)

To register, please complete the attached form which offers your choices for a box lunch and more details on the day. Redbud District is looking forward to welcoming you on October 30, 2021.

"Hills and Dales – A Living Legacy" Registration Form

October 30, 2021 10:00AM - 3:00PM

Come join us for a day of exploration of historic gardens and an elegant home!

Please complete this registration form and mail it with your **\$40 check**
made payable to GCG, Inc.

Mail to: **Leslie Sebaugh**
 LaGrange College Alumni Office
 601 Broad Street
 LaGrange, GA 30240

Your registration fee includes a catered box lunch offered by Creme Fraiche. It will be available from Noon to 1:30 PM. Tables with chairs will be available or you may choose to enjoy lunch seated on the grounds on a bench or a picnic table.

Please check your choice for lunch and return this form no later than October 10, 2021.

___ Option 1: Chicken Salad Croissant Sandwich, Fruit Cup-pineapple, strawberries, and cantaloupe, Potato Chip Bag, Pickle Spear, lemon bar and lace cookie

___ Option 2: Chunky Chicken Salad, Fruit Cup-pineapple, strawberries, and cantaloupe, Pasta Salad, Potato Chip Bag, lemon bar and lace cookie

___ Option 3: (VEGAN OPTION) Veggie Sandwich-tomatoes, peppers, mushrooms, and squash on French Baguette, Fruit Cup-pineapple, strawberries, and cantaloupe, Pickle, Broccoli Salad w/ vegan Mayo, Vegan chocolate chip cookie and Vegan lace cookie

All options include Callaway Blue Bottled Water.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Garden Club _____ Location _____

See you on October 30, 2021 at Hills and Dales 1916 Hills and Dales Drive, LaGrange, GA!
See <https://www.hillsanddales.org> for directions.

Questions? Contact Quill Duncan 770 414-4766 or quillduncan@msn.com or
Bonnie Dudley 706 884- 3787 bondudley@yahoo.com.

Native plants v. non-Native Plants

A Bird's Eye View

Hello. Chickadee here, I'm the little friendly guy you see first thing at the feeder. Here's some information on native plants and why they're important to us birds and ultimately to you humans. We all survive by eating sunshine. How do we manage that? Fortunately, plants manage that for us, so we either eat plants or animals that have eaten plants. So... you eat some fried chicken, that chicken ate some bugs that survived by feasting on a particular plant that photosynthesized sunshine. That is called a food chain or food web.



Native plants are most important because they draw particular insects to them which can survive on that particular plant. Oak trees are wonderful natives. Over 500 species of caterpillars can live on an oak. A non-native tree may support only 3 species. This is important to me because it takes 6000 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees!

Benefits of Native Plants:

- Natives produce showy flowers, fruits and seeds and are colorful spring and fall.
- Natives don't require fertilizer, herbicides or pesticides making for a healthier environment for humans and pets.
- Long lived native trees store carbon for up to hundreds of years releasing it slowly only as it decomposes.
- Native plants save you time, money and our very valuable resource, water.
- Natives provide habitat for birds, bees, butterflies and all manner of other critters. Native plants provide nectar for pollinators including hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, other insects and bats. Native nuts, seeds and fruits offer essential foods for wildlife as well.
- Unlike your lawn, you do not have to mow native plants! No work, no nasty fumes.

Non-natives are lovely plants and we have lots of them. Most plant nurseries sell them exclusively. But they are alien species from other countries. These exotic plants not only sever the food web, but many have become invasive pests, outcompeting native species and degrading habitat in remaining natural areas. They are from other parts of the world so no native insects are accommodated by them, therefore we birds don't come to eat in a yard full of non-natives (unless you buy us that expensive birdseed). Non-natives are pretty fussy requiring fertilizer and extra water.

The next time you think about installing new plants, please consider using something native to our area. We chickadees would appreciate it!

Check with the Georgia Native Plant Society at gnps.org for information on native plants for our area.



TREE WALK EVENT TO BE HELD SATURDAY OCTOBER 23

The latest edition of the AEGC Tree Walk, to be known now as the Bonnie Phelps Tree Walk, takes place in about eight weeks. It will feature a brief “Tree Talk”, a children’s component, six walks led by arborists, a brief ceremony at the tree we are planting in memory of Bonnie Phelps, fresh air and turning leaves. Put it on your calendar, it’s always a great event.

The committee of Patricia Calcagno, chair and members: Christi Granger, Kathy Hatfield, Nancy Martin, Deborah Timberlake, Peg Wyse, Susan Barton, George Brandt, Helen Krishna and Ray Patton are in gear and working on it. The next meeting is scheduled for September 20th.

The arborists are Ben Ackerley who will lead Walk #1 on Berkeley, Rick Barnes Walk #2 Clarendon, Neil Norton Walk #3 Dartmouth, Steve Sanchez Walk #4 Lakeshore Drive, Jay West Walk #5 Stratford and Gary Peiffer Walk #6 around Lake Avondale and perhaps into the woods!

We have won honors for this wonderful event. If you have never participated, this will be a great year to attend and invite your friends. Children love it too.



I think Hosta is my favorite plant, except for maybe Hydrangeas and Poppies and oh yes, Salvia, I love Salvia. I shouldn't try to choose, but I do love Hosta. It is such an undemanding plant and gives so much in its almost infinite variety. You can practically plant them and forget them. Fertilize when you remember, park them in the part or dappled shade and divide them in the fall. October is the best time in our area. Pot up the divisions perhaps for the AEGC Plant Sale next spring. Dividing in the fall is ideal, but second best is dividing them in the spring, so if you get busy or forget, you have a fall back opportunity. In spring wait till the “eyes” appear and do the deed at that point before the leaves begin to unfurl. During the rest of the year if you have to divide them, they'll do fine. Just give them more water if you're doing it in the summer.

Hostas reach maturity at about eight years and at that point you will absolutely have to divide them. At maturity they can begin to die off in the middle. I guess it will be trying to divide itself, so give it a little help with a shovel.

There are two methods for dividing and they both work. One is with a sharp shovel through the clump. Quick and clean, but of course you will lose a bit in the process. The other is to dig up the clump and shake the dirt off and pull apart the individual “eyes”. It takes longer and may require patience. (That's just a little warning for some folks)

Having mentioned the Plant Sale next April, October is a great time to divide most things in your garden. Pot them up and you can leave them outside but remember to water occasionally during the winter if we don't get the rainfall we had last winter.



AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1922, the non-profit American Horticultural Society (AHS) is one of the most respected and longstanding member-based national gardening organizations in North America. The Society's membership includes more than 20,000 aspiring, new, and experienced gardeners, plant enthusiasts, and horticultural professionals, as well as numerous regional and national partner organizations.

Through our educational programs, awards, and publications, AHS connects people to gardening, raises awareness of earth-friendly gardening practices, introduces children to plants, brings together leaders to address important national issues, and showcases the art and practice of horticulture. We do this in close collaboration with our programmatic partners, including the [National Pollinator Garden Network](#), [Outdoors Alliance for Kids](#), and [Seed Your Future](#).

We also have a number of horticultural partners, including [America in Bloom](#), [Bellingrath Gardens & Home](#), [The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation](#), [Cox Arboretum Metropark](#), [Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens](#), [The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America](#), [Inniswood Garden Society](#), [Perennially Yours](#), and [Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation](#).

Our corporate members include [The Care of Trees](#), [Chapel Valley Landscape Company](#), [Corona Tools](#), [The Espoma Company](#), and [Osmocote](#).

AHS's headquarters at River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia is a national showcase for gardening and horticultural practices.

Once part of George Washington's farmland, this 25-acre historic site overlooking the Potomac River features a blend of formal and naturalistic gardens, including a four-acre meadow, an orchard, a wildlife garden, and an award-winning children's garden.

AHS Membership: AHS members receive *The American Gardener* magazine, special admission privileges and discounts at more than 345 public gardens throughout North America, high quality seed, plant and book discounts, access to members-only online gardening resources, and all of the rewards of supporting AHS and gardening in America. AHS reserves the right to change benefits at any time.



Read about how to use variegated and silver foliage to light up a garden all season long, the diverse and beautiful flowers in the genus Penstemon, 10 beyond-ordinary culinary herbs to add new flavors to the garden and kitchen, how one gardener created a desert paradise in Arizona, and more.

Flower Power Staff

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Tyler Weaver
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Pruning Guidelines for five popular types of Hydrangea

(good to know for next year)

Bigleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) Flowers bloom on last year's wood. In early spring remove older, woodier branches at ground level to allow more light and air circulation. (Note: Determine whether or not a branch is dead by scratching the bark with a fingernail or small knife. If there is green directly beneath the surface, the branch is alive.) After the last frost date, around mid April, clip or pull off any frost damaged leaves.

Do major pruning and reshaping after the blooms begin to fade in July, but no later than August 1st. On a mature bush (5-6 years old) remove 1/3 of the oldest woody stems each year by cutting to the ground. Encourage further new foliage growth by deadheading (removing faded flowers).

Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) This is a large shrub that should be left to grow in its natural form. Flowers bloom on previous season's wood. Prune after flowering only to remove dead wood, old flower heads and 1/3 of the oldest wood (to increase light and air circulation). If necessary, severe pruning (back to only two buds at the base of each stem) may be done in early spring (late February to early March) to renew overgrown plants.

Peegee Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora') Flowers develop on new wood. Plants may be handled in two ways: 1). Cut back severely to leave only two buds at the base of each stem in early March. or 2). Allow plant to develop without pruning. Blooms will still appear on new growth. Severe early pruning produces a smaller plant with larger blooms; not pruning produces a larger plant with many smaller blooms.

Smooth Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle') Flowers bloom on current year's wood. Prune entire plant back to 6-12" from ground in early March.

Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea anomala petiolaris*) Little or no pruning is required. In the summer, if needed, remove unwanted shoots that have grown out of bounds. (Note: Trees are not harmed by climbing hydrangea.)

*Note: Peegee and 'Annabelle' hydrangeas, because they bloom on this year's wood, do not have their buds damaged by the late spring frosts that so often harm Bigleaf hydrangeas. This makes them especially well adapted to growing in the Atlanta area.



Annabelle



PeeGee



Climbing



Macrophylla



Oakleaf

*Thanks to: Michele Browne
Cobb County Extension Service Program Assistant*