

FLOWER POWER

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

April/May 2023

Volume IX Issue IV

THE NATIVE NUDGE *Xanthorhiza simplicissima* 'Yellow Root'



Found on edges of streams or damp woods in sandy soil under a canopy of dappled sunlight. It is also found in the mountains and Piedmont areas. It grows 1-3 feet tall and spreads by suckers. Flowers appear in spring in drooping panicles and fall color is yellow to reds.

Provides understory habitat and food for upland game birds, songbirds, and small animals that feed on the fruit.

Use this plant as a ground cover on banks of streams, woodland gardens and naturalized areas. Its common name, Yellowroot, comes from the roots of the plant. The roots and stems can be used in dye making. Stems have also been used in basket weaving.



WHAT MAKES AEGC SO SPECIAL?

Our members dig in the dirt to beautify locations in the City, recycle, encourage and inform about recycling, work on the yearbook, newsletter, social media and publicity, bring us great programs, collect aluminum tabs, work on fundraisers that allow us to “spread the wealth” in our community, participate in events that bring focus and horticultural education about our neighborhood’s canopy and spectacular gardens, share their gardening knowledge, encourage and educate neighbors about environmental concerns, provide plant entries to flower shows, celebrate National Garden Week and Garden Week in Georgia, encourage planting natives and gardens for butterflies and other pollinators, and because we do all that and more, we have been recognized for our excellence and awarded the

***Garden Club of Georgia Trophy . . .and
DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs
Club of the Year***



Former AEGC President Peggy Burgess at the state convention in April accepting the Garden Club of Georgia Trophy.



Peggy accepting the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs award for Club of the Year

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.

Accepting the award on the behalf of Avondale Estates Garden Club . . .



Nancy Martin accepting Horticulture Activity award (for Secret Garden tour) from Former President of DeKalb Federation, Glenn Hallman



Christi Granger accepting website award



Beth Langhorst accepting 3 awards for Native Plant, Butterfly garden and highest score on application -100 points!



Donna Tanner with Gail Thomas (a member of AEGC and Conyers GC) Tie with Conyers for the Beautification Award



President Patricia Calcagno accepting Designers Award



Julie Martinez accepts the award for our efforts during National Garden Week

See last page of newsletter for complete list of awards



April Yard of the Month

Home of Adam Barton and Scott Legg

40 Dartmouth Avenue

Adam Barton and Scott Legg moved to Avondale over 11 years ago and set out to create an English cottage garden for their 1926 Leila Ross Wilburn home. They wanted to create an outdoor space with multiple areas to meander through and enjoy.

They have been successful beyond words and have included five garden areas . There is a rose garden in the backyard, a pet memorial garden with Solomon seal, foam flower, and azaleas, and a pergola patio with a fire pit and surrounded by ferns and shade loving plants. On the Kensington side is a lovely area with roses, peonies, irises, baptisia, and black-eyed susans, and in the front yard, overlooked by a front porch, there is a border of azaleas, roses, peonies, rhododendrons, cast iron, hydrangeas and hosta.

The entire garden contains plants hardy to the South that do not require chemicals to maintain. Currently, the strip garden visible from Kingstone Road is beginning it's blooming season and will be in peak in the next few weeks. Please come by and enjoy the blooms!"



May Yard of the Month

Home of Melitta and George Brandt

7 Fairfield Avenue

George and Melitta Brandt, re-made the backyard when George moved into Melitta's home in 2004. Soon, that turned into taking out their lawn in the front yard to create a non-manicured, woodland type garden for them to enjoy. The garden is fully planted with a mixture of fruit trees, flowering plants, and wonderful shrubs.

George works in the garden every day, has a potters shed in the backyard and multiple compost bins to support the lush landscape. He grows many things from seed and is constantly dividing and moving plants around to find where they do best.

Currently, many of the acanthus are beginning to bloom and the roses on the strip by their driveway are in full bloom. Please come by, say hi to George if he's tending the garden, and enjoy this wonderful display of sustainable gardening!"

Thank you, Gracias, Merci, Danke, Arigatou, Mahalo, Köszönöm , Tak, Obrigada, Bedankt and Grazie to all those who helped make the Plant Sale in April such a grand success.

Those who dug up and separated plants from your gardens, thank you.

Those who purchased plants, gave a donation, or gave us the critically needed soil, thank you.

Those who watered the plants, potted up the plants, tidied the plants and talked to the plants, thank you.

Those of you who worked on publicity, created signs, and dressed up the house plants, thank you.

Those of you who came and picked up plants and drove them to the site, thank you.

Those who set up the show and those who struck the show and hauled plants away for a pop-up sale, thank you.

Those who served as cashiers and financial wizards, thank you.

Anne Kerner for hosting the pop-up sale, thank you.

Donna Tanner, Christi Granger, Susan Barton, Co-Chairs of the Plant Sale



CONTROL MOSQUITOS WITHOUT NASTY SPRAYS?

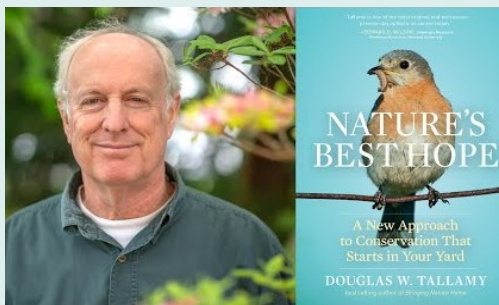


YES, WE CAN!

The most efficient way to control mosquitos in your yard is to clobber them at the larva stage. It's simple and it worked for us last summer though we used one on each side of the yard. This news and technique comes from Doug Tallamy a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. Doug has a great trick for controlling mosquitos in your yard without spraying poison. It is simple and it works. Quoting from his book, *Nature's Best Hope*, here is the formula:

“Put a five gallon bucket of water in a sunny place in your yard and add a handful of hay or straw. After a few days, the resulting brew is irresistible to gravid (egg filled) female mosquitos. After the mosquitos have laid their eggs, add a commercially available mosquito dunk to your bucket. The eggs will hatch and the larvae will die. This way, you control mosquitos, and only mosquitos, without the use of harmful insecticides.”

Shallow containers work too and keep small wildlife (think chipmunks) from drowning. Think about dogs too. They won't drown, but they might get into it. Doug uses six in his yard and puts them under a step or deck. Shallow containers fit under a shrub. Refresh with water, watch the shallow ones, they dry out quicker. Chicken wire on top to keep Fido out. You can get a small bag of hay for guinea pigs at pet stores. Some people have success with grass and dead leaves instead of hay.



DeKalb Federation 2023-2025 Officers

Celebrating 75 Years



The new slate of officers for the coming two years are:

President -	Quill Duncan , Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club
First Vice President -	Nan Loftis , Lullwater Garden Club
Second Vice President -	Bonnie Pennington , Smoke Rise Morning Glories Garden Club
Third Vice President -	Nancy Martin , Avondale Estates Garden Club
Recording Secretary -	Gale Thomas , Conyers Garden Club (and AEGC)
Corresponding Secretary -	Allison Metheny , Dunwoody Garden Club
Treasurer -	Ann Purr , Mountain Mums Garden Club
Parliamentarian—	Sandy Reed , Shenandoah Rose Garden Club

President's Letter:



The 2023-2024 DeKalb Federation year will be filled with opportunities to gather with friends and fellow garden club members and rejoice in the anniversary. At each gathering we will be noting the milestone and spotlighting our history and our current projects with special programs and some surprises.

DeKalb Federation has a legacy of community service that extends across the county, the Redbud District and to the State of Georgia. We encourage beautification, education and conservation within the county. From plantings in front of firehouses to supporting STEM teachers in our schools to donating underwear to patients at Georgia Regional Hospital, we provide many levels of service to others. We will continue these projects and the 9/11 Memorial Service in 2023 and include many additional ways to add value to our fellow citizens for my entire term of service.

We also support the Cherokee Garden Library, contribute to the Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship program each year and celebrate our partnership with Callanwolde Fine Arts Center where our headquarters are located. The grounds around our garden center are an active beautification project that has the energetic support of workers from four garden clubs. In these and other projects we are dedicated to serving our fellow citizens.

Come join us as we celebrate 75 wonderful years as the DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs!

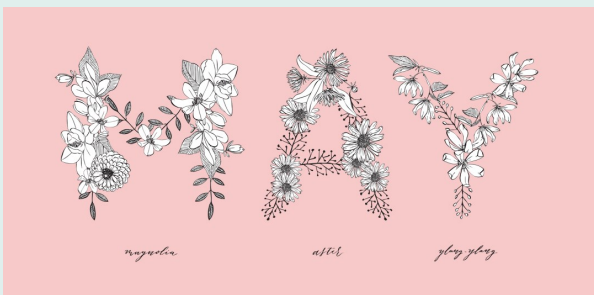
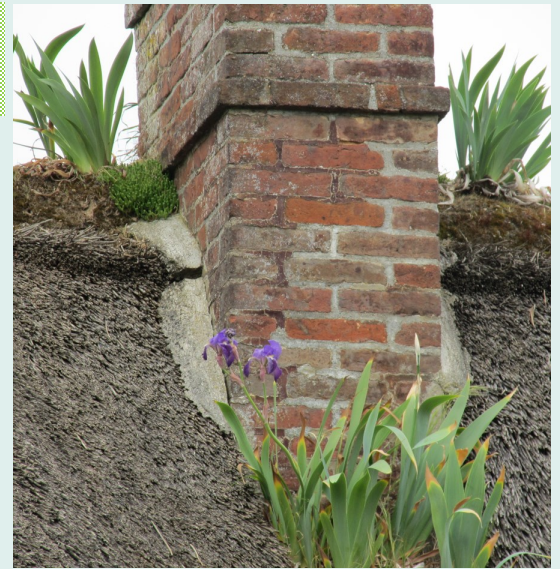
Quill Duncan
President
The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Roof Iris

You saw them at our Plant Sale. They have an interesting history.

This Chinese native was first observed in the mid-1800's in Japan, where a Russian scientist found it growing in the thatched roofs of farm homes. At some point in history during a period of war, a Japanese Emperor decreed that land was not to be wasted by growing flowers, so they grew iris on their roofs. The Japanese farmers weren't growing it for the flowers but for the roots, which were ground to a white powder that geisha girls used for their traditional make-up.

The photos to the right show that the tradition translates beautifully to homes in the Normandy area of France. They make a great ground cover here as well sun or shade, doesn't matter.



OUR NEXT MEETING

features a presentation on water features in the garden. Have your questions ready, there will be an expert to answer everything you wanted to know about water in your yard — the good kind!

Remember, it's a Thursday evening meeting. May 25th.

Calendar 2023 ...

- May 6 Paper Shredding event (see following pages)**
- 11 AEGC Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.**
- 18 AEGC General Membership Meeting, (evening) 6:00 p.m.**
- 25 DeKalb Federation General Meeting and Club Presidents Recognition 10:30 Callanwolde**
- June 4-10 National Garden Week**

Flower Power Staff

- Editor..... Susan Barton*
- Contributors..... Donna Tanner*
- Tyler Weaver*
- Renee Valdes*
- Christi Granger*
- Patricia Calcagno*
- Helen Dorroh*
- Adam Barton*
- Scott Legg*
- Jean Kingsbury*

The Odd Life of a Cowbird, a Tell-All



Shiftless tramps, opportunists, ne'er do wells. Brown Headed Cowbirds have been called a lot of not-so-nice names. They have a somewhat bizarre method of ensuring future generations of Cowbirds. They lay 8-10 eggs a season yet never build a nest. They make sure their young are fed and well cared for, but they do none of the caring-for themselves.

Cowbirds were so named for the habit of following buffalo herds which loosened the soil and made the insects in it available to the flock of followers. They are plain as a vicar. Brown and black with no contrasting wing bars. They find each other attractive though, and in the spring the female will lay eggs one at a time in someone else's nest. She isn't too picky. Cowbird eggs have been found in the nests of 200 different species of birds.

Cowbird eggs hatch a day or two sooner than the eggs that will join it in the nest, so the foster parents begin feeding it immediately. Often in the case of a small wren, the hatchling is larger than the foster mother. She feeds it anyway. Some birds have gotten wise to this egg dumping practice and, if they are large enough, will dump the foreign egg out of the nest.

The Cowbird's eggs are deposited in 8-10 different nests. The biological parents will hang around the neighborhood checking to see that their children are being raised well. When the fledglings leave the nest, they seek out their Cowbird extended families.

Nature is endlessly fascinating.

Information gathered from various sites on World Wide Web

**Avondale Estates Garden Club is proud to be a Member
of National Garden Club, Inc., Deep South Garden Club, Inc., The Garden Club of**





Glass recycling container



Acceptable glass colors

Parks & Recreation Centers

- Blackburn Park
- Mason Mill Park
- Brook Run Park
- Wade Walker Park
- Redan Recreation Center
- Tucker Recreation Center
- Porter Sanford Performing Arts Center
- Exchange Park Recreation Center

Libraries

- Dunwoody Library
- Stonecrest Library
- Flat Shoals Library
- Salem-Panola Library

GREEN, BLUE, BROWN AND CLEAR GLASS CAN BE RECYCLED IN DEKALB

Usually a pain to recycle, here is a list how where to recycle those pesky bottles and jars. There are specific bins for each color of glass. Blue and Green can be recycled together and tossed (gently) into the same bin. Clear glass has it's own bin as well as brown glass, so you can sort before you leave home to make the trip more efficient.

WHY BOTHER?

Glass can be melted down and made into many different forms from drinking glasses to glass fiber. When the glass is taken to a manufacturing or recycling plant, it is broken up into smaller pieces called cullet.

Cullet melts at a lower temperature thus saving on energy needed to melt the glass.

Glass produced from recycled glass reduces related air pollution by 20% and related water pollution by 50%.

Recycling glass reduces the space in landfills that would otherwise be taken up by used bottles and jars.

For every glass that is recycled there is calculable saving made in raw materials, energy costs, reduction in disposal cost, and the benefit to landfills.

At the left is a list of Recycle Centers in DeKalb County that accept glass. In Avondale we are fortunate to have a glass recycle location at the DeKalb Farmer's Market, just a few minutes drive from home.

~~*The Environmental Responsibility Committee*



Paper Shredding Event - 2023

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, May 6, 2023

8 AM - NOON

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

Participation is **FREE** and open only to residents in the DeKalb County
Sanitation Division service area

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

AWARDS SEASON IN THE GARDEN CLUB WORLD



At the state convention in April, AEGC won top awards from the Garden Club of Georgia and at the annual awards luncheon two weeks later, from DeKalb Federation. Here is a rundown on how we were recognized for our efforts of the past year.

From the GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA (GCG):

FIRST PLACE for our plantings at the Blue Star Marker

FIRST PLACE for our planting at the City entrance, clock tower, AES totem tending and the Blue Star Marker

FIRST PLACE for our recycling efforts (tabs, Recycle Rodeo to CHaRM, Environmental Speaker Series)

FIRST PLACE for our social media efforts

SECOND PLACE for our Yearbook

SECOND PLACE for our newsletter

SECOND PLACE for the National Garden Week Award (Secret Garden Tour, Mayor's Reading of the Proclamation and placing a banner announcing National Garden Week)

SECOND PLACE for Garden Week in Georgia (Mayor's reading proclamation, Plant Sale)

HONORABLE MENTION for Special Achievement (Secret Garden Tour)

From The DEKALB FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS:

FIRST PLACE for Horticultural study/activity (Secret Garden Tour)

FIRST PLACE for Butterfly award (Beth Langhorst butterfly garden)

FIRST PLACE for National Garden Week Award (see GCG award description)

FIRST PLACE for our website

FIRST PLACE for our newsletter

FIRST PLACE for Native Plant Award (Beth Langhorst's Native Plant garden)

FIRST PLACE for a design entry in the Mini-Flower Show (Tyler Weaver –two awards given to Tyler)

FIRST PLACE to Beth Langhorst for highest score (100 points) on her Native Plant Award write up

SECOND PLACE for Special Achievement (for our Environmental Speaker Series)

SECOND PLACE for programs

SECOND PLACE for Yearbook

SECOND PLACE for Beautification (tie with Conyers Garden Club)

SECOND PLACE for Community Service

We are good and we are blessed!

