



# FLOWER POWER

THE AVONDALE ESTATES  
GARDEN CLUB

April 2020

Volume VI Issue IV

## From the President . . . I never

thought the April Newsletter would be my first opportunity to address the AEGC members as the newly installed president. I assumed the first time would be at our General Membership Meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> after the annual installation of officers. I imagined all the people I would thank and the things I might say after Christi passed the gavel to me. I had no idea I would receive the gavel at a Board meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> – unprecedented! None of us had any idea how our lives would be impacted or the scope of what it would mean to be quarantined for weeks and so concerned about our health and safety.

You have been hearing from me but usually via emails with alerts, cancellations, and postponements - certainly not what I had in mind! As I reflect on these past 4 weeks of devastating news, I understand how easy it is to become overwhelmed by it all. There are so many questions but no one seems to know the answers.

There are some things I do know. I am honored and excited to serve as the new president of the Avondale Estates Garden Club. I have never worked with such a wonderful group of talented, dedicated, and energetic members! I know it will be challenging and sometimes daunting but I've learned so much by watching Mary, Faye, Jan, Ruth, Susan, and Christi. I promise to work hard and do my very best to follow their impressive example. I am so fortunate and grateful to have such a supportive and experienced Executive Board who have agreed to serve in the same positions for another year or two or longer. Peggy Burgess is our new First Vice-President and will be phenomenal and my right hand. Since we can't meet in person right now, I thought it would be a good idea if we conducted the April Board meeting by emailing each other. I have witnessed how diligent the Executive Board is! My goodness, I was surprised by how many emails 15 Board members could generate! They are thorough, careful, and creative! You will be proud to know that the Board members are getting things done in spite of the adversity and are conducting AEGC business!

I know working in our gardens has kept us busy and has been a welcome distraction. This has been one of the most beautiful springs I can remember! Spending time with family and friends at a distance has been so difficult but it has reminded us how important our family and friendships are and how much we miss spending time together.

*Continued on page 2*





## President's message continued . . .

I look forward to the day we will be at an AEGC meeting at the Community Club picking up our name tags, greeting each other face-to-face, signing up for projects, buying raffle tickets, getting back into the swing of things and the best part of all - being with friends!

See you soon, friends! Alice



## From Alice's garden: Gorgeous Clematis and from Joan Lass a (be still my heart) Peony!





## EDITOR'S NOTE:

My son and his family live in Chatham, New Jersey. The next town (you can't tell where one starts and the other stops) is Madison. Three weeks ago, a friend of my son and daughter-in-law in Chatham and her friend in Madison formed an organization called FLAG. **Front Line Appreciation Group**. They decided to support local restaurants and show appreciation to the front line health workers in the hospital serving both communities. They only ask for monetary donations with which they purchase fifty meals twice a day. Those meals are delivered to the hospital by the restaurants in individually wrapped packages for lunch and late dinner. They have raised \$119,000.00 in three weeks. FLAG chapters have popped up across the country in this short time and there are now over 66 in 18 states. What an easy way to show gratitude and support local businesses. There is a FLAG Atlanta. Perhaps there should be one for Avondale Estates/Decatur to support our local hospital? For more information: [www.FLAG2020.org](http://www.FLAG2020.org)



## THE REAL FLOWER POWER

In the UK, 40% of the population participates in hobby gardening. In the US it's 33+% and in Japan, 25%. We all know that gardening is good for us. Studies have shown! Here is an excerpt from an article by scientists who did a meta-analysis of a number of studies from several countries, compiled the findings and drew conclusions.

### Drum Roll, Please

Our [meta-analysis](#) has provided **robust** evidence for the positive effects of gardening on health. With an increasing demand for reduction of health care costs worldwide, our findings have important policy implications. The results presented here suggest that gardening can improve physical, psychological, and social health, which can, from a long-term perspective, alleviate and prevent various health issues facing today's society.

(I'm not a scientist so when scientists use the words "robust evidence", I will buy what they're selling!)

To read the article: go to: [sciencedirect.com](http://sciencedirect.com), the article is titled *Gardening is beneficial for health: A meta-analysis*.







Photograph by Linda Coatsworth

## Spectacular Chinese Fringe Tree At the Home of Mick and Sally Mann 1 Lakeview Place

**WHO KNEW?** . . . Important information from *The Elements of Eloquence: How to Turn the Perfect English Phrase*. “Adjectives”, writes the author, Mark Forsyth, “absolutely have to be in this order: ***Opinion-size-age-shape-color-origin-material-purpose Noun***.”

So you can have a lovely little old rectangular green French silver whittling knife. But if you mess with that order in the slightest you’ll sound like a maniac.”

Mixing up the above phrase does, as Forsyth writes, feel inexplicably wrong (a rectangular silver French old little lovely whittling green knife...), though nobody can say why. It’s almost like secret knowledge we all share.



*(Graphic added as homage to those who are working on jigsaw puzzles for the first time since 8th grade)*

### Flower Power Staff

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# *Gardens at the Atlanta History Center*

While we were unable to participate in our April field trip to the gardens at the Atlanta History Center, Nancy Martin, who arranged the trip for us, thought you would enjoy seeing some photos from those various gardens.





# A Creative Take on Staying at Home

Four art loving roommates in New York City are spending their mandated at home time re-creating classic works of art. Using only what they have in their home they have made some remarkable photos to enjoy. If you have an Instagram account, go to <https://www.instagram.com/covidclassics/> to see more of these entertaining vignettes.

(you will have to cut and paste this link into your browser)





# *The Royal Gardens at Highgrove*



“A garden which delights the eye warms the heart and feeds the soul”

— HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

## **From the April 2019 Newsletter, it bears repeating:**

**Hmmm.....**“A daffodil bulb will divide and re-divide endlessly. That's why, like the peony, it is one of the few flowers you can find around abandoned farmhouses, still blooming and increasing in numbers fifty years after the farmer and his wife have moved to heaven, or the other place, Boca Raton. If you dig up a clump when no one is nearby and there is no danger of being shot, you'll find that there are scores of little bulbs in each clump, the progeny of a dozen or so planted by the farmer's wife in 1942. If you take these home, separate them, and plant them in your own yard, within a couple of years, you'll have a hundred daffodils for the mere price of a trespassing fine or imprisonment or both. I had this adventure once, and I consider it one of the great cheap thrills of my gardening career. I am not advocating trespassing, especially on my property, but there is no law against having a shovel in the trunk of your car.”



— Cassandra Danz, *Mrs. Greenthumbs: How I Turned a Boring Yard into a Glorious Garden and How You Can, Too*



# Garden Tours We Can Take Today

Need some anxiety relief? If you had a choice to tour a beautiful garden in perfect weather with a knowledgeable guide, would you choose the Chicago Botanic Garden? The Rothchild's garden at Waddesdon, England? Kew Gardens in Sussex? Hawaii? Or Giverny outside Paris? The gardens of the innovative Prince of Wales? Good news! You can visit all of them on these wonderful tours.

Paste this website into your browser for the trip of a lifetime. Enjoy!

<https://www.housebeautiful.com/lifestyle/gardening/g31746949/gardens-you-can-virtually-tour/>

For a tour of Highgrove, Prince Charles' home in the Cotswolds, treat yourself to an hour tour at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEwmPdYBNFI>





# NICE NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I received a note from Tim Echols, vice chair of the Georgia PSC today announcing the following of interest to consumers in Georgia:

**First**, Georgia Power has suspended disconnects temporarily in order to ease pressure on ratepayers.



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**Second**, the gas company has done something similar. In addition the Salvation Army has special funds available for qualified low-income customers whose gas bill exceeds \$500 at this time. That money can be accessed once per year and is paid directly to the marketer. Direct low-income customers to <https://projectshareinfo.com/>

**Third**, as a part of the rate case, I was able to add solar net metering for solar customers on the Georgia Power system. This modification will impact energy measurement and compensation practices for existing and new RNR customers selling renewable energy to Georgia Power. Energy delivered to the grid from customers through the RNR tariff will now be totaled on a monthly basis and then netted against customers' monthly consumption. This calculation effectively provides credit at the retail rate for all of the energy delivered, up to the amount consumed at the customer premises on a monthly basis, and may result in an increased financial benefit to RNR participants.

If you know of people in a position to consider adding solar to their home, I suggest they reach out to <https://www.gasolar.org/> for a member company that can assist them.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that starting **in June, the per kilowatt rate will be dropping around 4%** due to lower fuel costs that have been negotiated. **This is a permanent decrease.**

## *Blooming in my garden in Sarasota: Birds*

Sand Hill Cranes are raising their babies who are large and cannot yet fly. There are always two adults with the young, usually just one or two little ones. At the feeder are some motley looking goldfinch whose bright yellow summer color is just coming in. ~ Susan Barton





# WHAT IS BLOOMING IN YOUR GARDEN?\*

At Home with Lynn Boyd and Harry Vann



Carolina Jessamine along the drive way at Susan Barton's



\*What's blooming in your garden? Send photos to [susan@sbarton.com](mailto:susan@sbarton.com). We'll publish them for everyone to enjoy.



**Christi Granger planted this beauty 2 or 3 years ago.**

Christi tells us it is a Noisette rose called 'Reve d'Or'. It has finally come into it's own. It's covered with blooms and buds. It is on the arbor entrance to their back garden. You are welcome to have a look as long as you 'social distance'. Just walk up the driveway. It was ordered from Roses Unlimited in Laurens, SC.



This Tulip Poplar flower was picked up by Don Coatsworth while walking Percy the pup and photographed beautifully by Linda. *(with apologies to Lynn Boyd).*

