



FLOWER POWER

THE AVONDALE ESTATES
GARDEN CLUB

April 2021

Volume VII Issue IV

Asclepias tuberosa
Butterfly Milkweed



Named Pollinator Plant of the Year by Garden Club of Georgia and the State Botanical Garden.

A perennial, it grows to 2-3' tall by 1 1/2 feet wide. It propagates by seed and enjoys an open sunny area. It is the host plant for Monarch butterflies and attracts other pollinators as well.

It is showy when in bloom and may rebloom later in the summer. The Monarch population is depleting. Planting an Asclepias tuberosa is a way to help.



Seed capsule opening to release the seeds

We won! We won!

In fact, we won 13 First Place Blue Ribbons between the Garden Club of Georgia and the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. That even included one for winning the most Blue Ribbons! We also won several Second and Third Place ribbons. You can't beat that. This is an accomplishment that was achieved during a pandemic when many organizations shut down for the duration. These awards serve as a testament to our leaders and our members who found a way to continue, to meet a challenge by innovating, communicating and continuing to serve our community. Congratulations to all AEGC members.



Garden Club of Georgia Awards:

- Social Media — First Place
- Newsletter — First Place
- Poem by Adult — First Place
- National Garden Week (our drive by Garden Tour) — First Place
- Website — Second Place
- Yearbook — Second Place
- Youth Sculpture — Third Place (Peggy's grandson, Edwin)

DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs:

- Programs — First Place
 - Most Awards Applied For — First Place
 - Butterfly Garden — First Place (Alice Guppy)
 - National Garden Week — First Place
 - Website — First Place
 - Newsletter — First Place
 - Pull a Tab — First Place
 - Most Blue Ribbons — First Place
 - Yearbook — Second Place
 - Community Service — Second Place
 - Environmental — Third Place
 - Highest Scoring Entry — Alice Guppy (100 points!)
- (See Christi Granger's description of Awards on the next page)

AND THE WINNER IS?

The DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs announced their 2020-2021 Awards during their April 22, 2021 Zoom meeting, and AEGC took home the “**CROWN**” with nine First Place Awards, two Second Place Awards, and one Third Place Award. The Federation’s award Year was March 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021. In addition to DeKalb Federation awards, AEGC won three Firsts, two seconds, and one third from the Garden Club of Georgia.

AEGC’s FIRST PLACE AWARDS:

1. Thanks to Nancy Martin’s interesting and varied programs, AEGC won First Place from the Federation for its outstanding programs. The Federation was especially impressed by our innovative ZOOM programs – particularly the virtual trip to Philadelphia gardens presented by Linda and Bob Pollack; Marjorie Andersson’s inspiring story of turning a love of gardening into a thriving business during the Pandemic; and Lisa Kiely’s monarch butterfly presentation.
2. Our past president Alice Guppy garnered First Place from Federation for her beautiful and welcoming butterfly garden. Using her ingenuity, Alice was able to turn the long narrow weed strip next to her driveway, which was overgrown with old hedges, ivy, weeds, a few unsightly azaleas, roses, and some unidentifiable plants, into a haven for pollinators.
3. AEGC received First Place from Federation for our innovative Pandemic inspired celebration of National Garden Week, the first week of June 2020. In addition to the Mayor’s reading of the National Garden Week Proclamation at the BOMC Zoom meeting, and delivering pizza, iced tea, and cookies to our City workers, AEGC members added a special safe and socially distanced garden tour to our celebration of the week. We had an “Upfront and not so Personal Driving Garden Tour” of 42 residential gardens throughout the City. In addition, the Garden Club of Georgia awarded us First Place for our National Garden Week celebration.
4. Our Website, designed and maintained by Christine McMahan, won First Place from the Federation. It is a wonderful resource for all of you as well as for prospective members. Visit our site at: avondaleestatesgardenclub.org. Our website also won Second Place from the Garden Club of Georgia.
5. AEGC’s beautiful Newsletter “Flower Power” edited by Susan Barton received First Place from the Federation. In addition, “Flower Power” won First Place from the Garden Club of Georgia.
6. Federation gave us the Gavel Award which is presented to the Club which submits the most award applications. We submitted eight !!!
7. We also won the “Pull-a-tab” Award for a Federation Garden Club of 21 members or more. AEGC donated 9.5 pounds of aluminum tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.
8. AEGC won the Federation Sweepstakes Award being the Garden Club winning the most First Place Awards for the current awards year.
9. And Finally, we received a Special Recognition for an award application that received a score of 100. This was for Alice Guppy’s Butterfly Award application.

AEGC's SECOND PLACE AWARDS:

1. We received Second Place for our Yearbook from both the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs and the Garden Club of Georgia.
2. AEGC also received Second Place for our Community Service from the Federation. This included the various projects we do for our community – including City plantings, supporting the DeKalb Women's Shelter, maintaining a Children's Little Free Library, and supporting our community heroes and veterans with holiday and Valentine cards, the Georgia Regional Hospital with donations of personal items, and the Ronald McDonald House.
3. We also won a Second Place from the Garden Club of Georgia for our Social Media (Facebook page). Thanks to Tyler Weaver for creating and maintaining this.

AEGC's THIRD PLACE AWARDS:

1. The Federation awarded AEGC third place in the Environmental category for our Recycling Road Trip to CHaRM where members ridded themselves of Styrofoam packing, cans of paint, old TVs, stereo equipment, radios, old phones, etc.
2. The Garden Club of Georgia gave Peggy Burgess's grandson Edwin Third Place in the Youth Sculpture Category for his robot made from recycled materials. Isn't it wonderful to get youth involved?

Christi Granger
Awards Chairman

**CONGRATULATIONS AND A BOUQUET OF
ROSES TO EVERYONE IN AEGC**





APRIL YARD OF THE MONTH
98 CLARENDON AVE
HOME OF SUSAN ROBERTSON HAWKINS & LOUIS SUAZO

Neighbors and residents of Avondale Estates have witnessed the transformation of the old red farm house at 98 Clarendon Avenue into now what is a beautiful white farm house. It is the change in the garden that passersby witnessed as a labor of love by its current homeowners, Susan Robertson Hawkins and Louis Suazo.

Susan and Lui purchased their home in December of 2018 and spent the next nine months remodeling. In December of 2019, a few months after moving in, it was time to tackle the yard. From the dense backyard overgrowth, they removed over 100 cherry laurels which had sprouted up during the twelve years that the home was vacant. They trimmed the magnolia in front to allow the home to be visible and installed zoysia grass in the front and side yards. They redesigned, installed, and nourished flowerbeds across front and north side of their home. Keeping a few of the established plants as an anchor, they added plants some of which were acquired through generous donations from neighbors who were excited to see them renovate their home. They were no stranger to driving and picking plants up from the curbside at 10:30pm from a late NextDoor post.

In their front garden you will find irises, daffodils, hellebores, weigela, alocasia, Japanese anemone, hydrangeas, deutzia nikko, roses, gardenia, edgeworthia chrysantha, aspidistras, and a cherry tree. In the wheelbarrow – a gift from Susan’s mother – you will find an assortment of seasonal plants and flowers. Susan also planted 336 tulip, hyacinth, grape hyacinth, and crocus bulbs for color this spring.

Lui built the swing out front in the magnolia tree and Susan’s daughter painted it. You can’t help but smile when you see a swing hanging from a tree. Susan welcomes adults and children alike to swing in their tree.

~Patricia Calcagno

Horticulture Tip for April:

Water houseplants more frequently with the onset of more hours of sunshine and new green leaves. Begin monthly feedings with houseplant fertilizer. Now is also the time to start moving your houseplants outdoors gradually. April winds will keep your wind chimes tinkling. ~ from the AEGC Horticulture Committee

Report from the City Plantings Group

On Tuesday, April 13, 2021, the City Plantings Group consisting of Peggy Burgess, Carol Morgan, Jean Kingsbury, Patricia Calcagno (City Plantings Liaison), and our newest members, Betty Britton and Judy Coffey, met at the Avondale Estates sign entrance located at South Avondale across from Carl's Corner. From 10am to 12noon we Installed several flats of annuals chosen by the City and paid for by a donation from the Avondale Estates Garden Club. The flowers selected by the City were Angelonia and Lantana.

The group also weeded the area and put down mulch provided by the City. It is our hope that we can come back in the Fall and remove the overgrown Liriope and plant some evergreen plants in its place.



Miss Minnie's Porch

By Lynn Boyd

First Place Award from the Garden Club of Georgia

Miss Minnie was a hometown girl,
Hometown hair with silver curl.
Hometown dress with cotton bow,
Gingham print with button row.

She was poor as poor could be
All alone and childless she.
Lived within a three room shack,
painted white a long time back.

But folks would come from all around
To see those plants Miss Minnie found.
Growing wild on porch and rail,
Trellised up with winding trail.

Creeping Jenny, purple phlox,
Jasmine twirling, fluffy stock,
Petunia faces smiling down,
Hung from rafters, swirling round!

Rooftop roses sprung in June,
Morning glories, morn 'til noon.
Lilies lining dirt-swept trails,
Misty boughs of bridal veils!

Zinnias, vinca, marigolds!
Clematis climbing spindled poles.
Penta bursts, pineapple sage,
Orchids still in blooming stage!

Yellow, pink and purple hued
Were the blooms Miss Minnie wooed.
All were orphans, once alone,
Left in piles near larger homes.

Miss Minnie came in dead of night
To save them from their hapless plight!
Rejected by the wealthy crew
To fall in hands they barely knew!

Carried tenderly away
In a cart with new mown hay.
Placed with love in broken pots
And cleared of all their ugly spots!

Their tiny roots so deftly laid
In magic dirt Miss Minnie made.
Black and warm and full of peat,
Made from things she didn't eat:

Peelings from bananas bared,
pear and apple cores were spared.
Hulls from beans Miss Minnie grew
And cabbage leaves the rabbits knew.

But deep inside that magic dirt
A secret dwelled. ('Twas born of hurt.)
Miss Minnie took her lonely days
To turn the dirt with spirits raised!

So in each morsel grew a spark
Where human touch had left a mark-
A little cry that said "I'll be!"
"I'll keep you and you'll keep me!"

And so they lived together tied
Upon that rattled porch they thrived.
Rain and sun poured from above
And flowers bloomed from pure love.

Miss Minnie had no worldly things
Her flowers were her diamond rings.
Discarded gems she polished bright,
To shine again in strands of light.



PLANT SALE UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS (AND A LOT OF FUN FOR EVERYONE)

Our first Plant Sale fundraiser was a triumph. An overwhelming number of members participated by donating plants and/or working the event. We offered over 70 varieties of plants to the public at under retail prices. It was a fund raiser for AEGC and a service to our community. Congratulations to all who participated in this project that made in excess of \$7300.

FRIDAY EVENING — LOADING UP



The Big Day



Note from Pull A Tab Committee

Do you know why you are asked each year to save the tabs from beverage cans? The Various garden clubs within the Garden Club of Georgia collect tabs for contributions to the Ronald McDonald House.

The recycled aluminum tabs are a source of revenue, which enables the charity to provide a nice place for families of very ill children to stay near their hospital. Often the children are terminally ill and others are in the hospital for an operation to correct defects, such as heart and kidney.

I am excited to tell you Avondale Estates Garden Club (AEGC) won first place in our category for collecting over 9 pounds of tabs. However, the winner in the category of small clubs (20 or fewer members) won first place by collecting over 30 (thirty) pounds of tabs! Just think what we as a large club could do if a small club collected over three times what we did.



The secret is to collect only aluminum tabs, which usually are the small tabs from soft drink, flavored water, tea and some beer cans. The larger tabs often found on soup cans are made of steel and will not count. (With the steel tabs we collected, we had a total of over 12 pounds!) The way to test whether the tab is aluminum or steel is to touch a refrigerator magnet to it. If it attaches, it is steel and should be tossed. Aluminum is not magnetic.

So please begin collecting the aluminum tabs now for next year's contribution. Thank you!

~ Susan Stewart

We Celebrated Garden Week in Georgia with our first ever outdoor meeting and the first meeting in over a year!





Wanda Belline and Jean Kingsbury greeted us and gave us our name tags and pointed to our refreshments



President Peggy Burgess calls the meeting to order



Nancy Martin presented a program on container gardening



The Voices of AEGC dedicated a song to Immediate Past President Alice Guppy to the tune of Alice Blue Gown.



President Peggy Burgess presents a gift from AEGC to Past President Alice Guppy