



FLOWER POWER

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

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THE NATIVE NUDGE *Ilex verticillate* Winterberry



Winterberry holly leaves are dark green, about two to three inches long. Greenish-white flowers appear on female plants in spring, which, if properly pollinated by a male plant, produce a dense crop of bright red berries in the fall. A slow-growing shrub with a rounded upright growth habit, winterberry typically grows 3 to 15 feet tall and readily suckers and spreads to form large thickets. Berries provide critical food for birds in winter, and the shrubs provide cover for nesting during summer.



Whether you light a menorah, cook special foods and give gifts during Hanukkah or sing Christmas carols, cook special foods and leave presents under a tree, the Holiday Season is upon us. Though we often feel there is no time for reflection, it may be the best time to think about the past 12 months.

Our garden club has accomplished a great deal this third year of a pandemic. We have not ignored these circumstances but have, with care, carried on with service to our community, our projects, meetings and fundraisers.

We have welcomed many new members, held three events which raised funds and involved the community as a whole. Our spring plant sale after only two years has become an annual event happily anticipated by the many gardeners in our city and, by word of mouth, to a larger audience. The Secret Garden Tour, a biennial event was another success offering attendees a peek at the back gardens which are so often a lovely surprise and which inspire those who visit. Our long standing Holiday Bazaar, which had been suspended for two years, was another social and financial triumph.



The Chairmen of these events did the strategic planning, but nothing would have been accomplished without the work put in by the membership. The committees met and assigned tasks, but many members volunteered to work these events and that was key to success. It was also an opportunity to get to know each other a little better and to meet new members. Many members worked on all three of these events and enjoyed the camaraderie as well as the endorphins occasioned by a job well done! Not of little note is these successes allowed AEGC to fund various projects that improve and educate our community. See page 3 for further AEGC accomplishments.



AEGC MISSION STATEMENT

The Avondale Estates Garden Club offers education and service opportunities to inspire the appreciation of various horticulture arts and to promote the awareness of environmental responsibility.



NOVEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH

64 DARTMOUTH AVENUE

HOME OF ANN KRUGER

In 2014, when Ann moved in she had her work cut out! She explained that there were some good plants in the landscape, including a beautiful old specimen Japanese Maple at the front corner, but the yard needed help. After eight years, it's finally something she feels proud to show off. Her favorite (and one of ours) are her Shi Shi camellias that delight with rich pink hues. These are used as a short hedge along with dwarf loropetalum, backed by hydrangeas and filled in with a variety of hellebores. The front patch of annuals is changed out seasonally for color, and always includes beautiful Parrot tulips in the spring.

~Tyler Weaver

**AVONDALE ESTATES GARDEN CLUB IS PROUD
TO BE A MEMBER OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS**



Donations made by Avondale Estates Garden Club:

With our treasury overflowing, AEGC's Executive Board established a Disbursement Committee to propose outright gifts to organizations which worked towards the goals of our Club as well as the National Garden Club, Deep South, the Garden Club of Georgia, Redbud District, and the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs.

Following the Committee's extensive research, the AEGC membership set aside \$10,000 and approved the eight initial donations to these worthy recipients. These one-time donations were given in November 2022. AEGC will be donating an additional \$3,000 to other worthy organizations in 2023.



\$1,500 to the Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship Fund –

AEGC donates \$400 annually to this scholarship fund but increased our giving in 2022 with a named scholarship. Susan Turner accepts for the GCG Scholarship committee.



\$1,500 to the Avondale Elementary School Foundation (AESF) – Continuing our Mission and Vision that education is core, we believe there is no better time to start than in the beginning stages of a child's scholastic career. AESF works directly with AES administration, teachers, and staff to ensure their needs are supported so that every student receives the necessary resources to thrive. Receiving the donation is Alex Robinson, Foundation chair and AES Principal, Dontae Andrews.



\$1,000 to Atlanta's Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM) – This is a permanent drop-off facility that aims to improve our environmental health by encouraging reuse and diverting thousands of pounds of household hazardous waste and other hard to recycle items from Metro-Atlanta landfills and water systems. Accepting the donation is Peggy Whitlow Ratcliffe, Founder and Director of CHaRM.

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A large contingent of our members attended each of these ceremonial donations. It further illustrates commitment we have to our community. We will be delivering the rest of these checks in the next few days by December 1st. If you would like to come along to see us spread the cheer, look for an email from Peggy.

Here are the rest of the donations for this year:

\$1,000 to the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History Center



—In addition to our annual donation of \$100 to the library the membership added an additional donation in 2022. The library located at the Atlanta History Center holds over 33,000 books, photographs, manuscripts, seed catalogs, and landscape drawings. These valuable resources tell the story

of horticulture and botanical history in the Southeastern U.S. Their collection also includes our Club's scrapbooks that are being carefully preserved. In addition to being a valuable research resource, the library holds author talks and generates a publication called "Gardens Citings" that shares stories from their collection.



State Botanical Garden of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

\$500 to the Georgia State Botanical Gardens –

We Education is one of the cornerstones of AETC. So what would be more fitting than a donation to the State Botanical Gardens. This garden creates an environment that stimulates and encourages learning at all ages and stages of life.



\$500 to Decatur City Cemetery -- This historic cemetery next door to Avondale Estates is an important 54 acre garden significant in many ways to our community and the local ecosystem. Regular horticultural tours of the cemetery focus on plants and trees found in our area.



\$500 to Historic Oakland Cemetery – This historic cemetery is Atlanta's oldest public park and the City's largest greenspace which boasts arboretum status. The Historic Oakland Foundation regularly supports environmental projects and restoration and maintenance of one of the best examples of a Victorian garden cemetery in the country.



\$500 to the Dunwoody Nature Center – This Nature Center located right here in our own DeKalb County supports our mission for education and environmental responsibility.

The center inspires the love of nature and cultivates environmental understanding and stewardship by conserving and enhancing Dunwoody Park; educating children, families, and adults of all ages about the natural world and our place in it; and motivating environmental awareness and responsible action.

AEGC 2022 HOLIDAY BAZAAR



The Friday Set-up Crew

From left: Nancy Martin, Patricia Calcagno, Jean Kingsbury, Sandy Sirmans, Julie Martinez, Peg Wyse, Peggy Burgess, Donna Tanner, Arlene Eifrid, Alice Murray, Susan Barton, Lynn Boyd, Christi Granger

photo by crew member Beth Langhorst



Baked treats to entice everyone



Bazaar Chairman Julie Martinez with a final word before we open the door.



AEGC event without plants? Unthinkable!



Wanda Belline and Julie Martinez with the Top Hat Raffle basket



Alice Murray and Arlene Eifrid staging merchandise



President Peggy Burgess selling raffle tickets

Callanwolde Presents . . .

A few years ago, attendance at the traditional “Christmas at Callanwolde” began to wane. Then came the pandemic which gave the Board time to re-evaluate the event. Wishing to continue with a holiday event, they began to plan something a bit different. Callanwolde’s **Winter House** is the result.

From November 25-27, December 1-4 and 8-10, there will be a lot going on for children and adults. Many activities are free or low cost. There will be workshops, tours, games, holiday décor, dances, concerts (ticket only) in the evenings and, of course, Santa will be there and you’ll have opportunity for a photo with the jolly old elf. The hours are 12:00-10:00, Sundays 12:00-9:00. It sounds like a lovely activity for you and yours.

From the Callanwolde website: *Imagine twinkling lights, laughter, and delicious treats all in one place in our 27,000 square foot historic mansion filled with holiday magic, activities and workshops for all. Friends sit by a blazing fire in the Wine Bar and Beer Garden, as families gather by the outdoor fire pits and make s’mores. Jazzy holiday sounds will fill the air while you peruse our holiday artist market, play classic board games in the Library with a glass of wine, or learn how to build and decorate your very own gingerbread house. Santa will be making a special trip to the mansion from up north for photo sessions with furry friends and families.*



Holidays for Heroes



This year DeKalb Federation was able, through the participation of member clubs, to send 3282 cards to our military personnel serving overseas. AEGC participated and sent a record number of 600 cards to the campaign. This was an increase from last year when we sent 475 and the total number for Federation was 2857.

Congratulations and thanks to all members who participated. Last year we were 16% of the total. This year we were over 18%.

JANUARY FEDERATION SPEAKER

Our nearby neighbor, Dottie Myers, will be the speaker at the January DeKalb Federation meeting. Her subject will be “**Gardening As We Age.**” She will share things she learned as she re-landscaped her parents’ garden. She’ll suggest ways to modify a landscape plan and to learn how to adjust our way of gardening.

(Our suggestion would be to put lots of benches in the garden!)



Homemade Suet Recipe for Winter Hungry Birds

In the cold months of winter food sources for many birds are depleted. Giving them energy rich suet is a good alternative. Suet attracts many different kinds of birds. Putting a twig through the suet cage offers larger birds better purchase. Here are some recipes from the website Birds and Blooms. One is baked and one is just chilled. Easiest tweet ever.



Homemade Bird Suet Cakes

- 1 cup lard
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 1 cup honey
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup oats

Mix all ingredients and pour into a greased 9-inch square pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.



Suet Treat Recipe

“Attract woodpeckers, as well as chickadees and nuthatches, with this homemade suet recipe. The best part is this suet mix won’t melt when it’s warm outside,” says Rebecca Beiler, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

- 1 cup lard
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 2 ½ cups oats
- 2 ½ cups cornmeal
- Raisins, nuts or birdseed, optional
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Melt lard and peanut butter. Stir in oats and cornmeal. Chill and cut into 4” squares or to fit your suet feeder



December 3 ...AEGC Holiday Luncheon

11:00 Community Club

January 12 ... Board meeting 10:00

January 20 ... Membership meeting 10:00

January 26 ... Federation Meeting 10:30 Callanwolde

Walter Says ... Divide your hanging basket of Boston fern into thirds and plant into

three new baskets. Hang in a sunny window; by spring they'll be big enough to put outside.. . Continue to plant shrubs and trees. Even though its chilly outdoors, the soil is still warm enough to encourage root growth. Remove all of the twine, wire or paper trunk cover on each one. . . Tie up loose canes of climbing roses so they don't slap against the arbor or each other on windy days.

. . Water weekly the pansies and other cool-season flowers you planted earlier. . . Spot-spray or dig out chickweed, violets and wild onions you find in your lawn. ...Sprinkle pine straw over

bulb foliage that has emerged too soon. The green leaves won't be hurt by the cold but the straw will help hide them. . . Prune your evergreen shrubbery and bring the cuttings indoors. Juniper, holly and magnolia foliage is quite decorative. Use holly and nandina berries for a red accent in table centerpieces. . . Poinsettias do not need fertilizing now but they do need watering. Check the dryness of the soil daily to keep them looking their brilliant best. . . Prune short stubs and dead limbs from trees now that all the leaves are gone.



LEADING LIGHTS FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON



Leading Lights was another success this year, after a two year pandemic hiatus. Sixteen AEGC members attended and had a wonderful time. A fundraiser for DeKalb Federation it was well attended, not an extra place at a table. The fashions were from Chico's and member Christi Granger was a model.



Live Oaks Garden Club of St. Simons Island and Brunswick Dreamed of an Elegant Butterfly Garden

Demere Park had been neglected for many years. When Glynn County decided to update the park in 2008, the Live Oaks Garden Club asked that an area be set aside for a butterfly garden. Live Oaks made a commitment to the county to design, install and maintain the garden. After a year of planning and hard work the garden was officially opened in June of 2009. In 2010 it was designated a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

Landscape Designer Roger Steffens designed the garden that is butterfly shaped. The garden is entered through a custom designed arbor. The crushed brick pathway winds through the garden past the butterfly bath to a restored bench that was discovered in the park during construction. Large topiary bottle brush trees separate the garden from a children's play area. Inside the garden nectar and larval plants are lushly planted. Some days there are literally hundreds of butterflies in the garden.

The club initially committed \$3,000 to the project. Friends of Demere Park contributed another \$2,100. Donations were received from local merchants and civic groups. The total cost for design and construction was \$4,000. Each year Live Oaks estimates the cost of maintenance and allocates from their budget the needed amount. That amount was approximately \$1,500 for 2010.



The club holds quarterly clean-up days in the garden which are always well attended. Live Oaks has "officially" adopted Demere Park which means that they are responsible for quarterly clean-up of the entire park area which includes a large ball field, a children's play area, a small skate pad and a wooded area. Live Oaks has already received a number of awards for their garden. They are very excited about the impact the garden has had on the community. Many people have complimented the club on the garden and have changed their daily walk and running routes to include the garden. This is a very satisfying project for the club.

