



February 2022

FLOWER POWER

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

Volume VIII Issue II

THE NATIVE NUDGE AMSONIA CILIATA 'Georgia Pancake'



There are many Amsonia native to Georgia, but this one has a prostrate growth form making a lovely groundcover. It has little flowers which look like stars, thus the common name Blue Star. You must know the botanical name to get the correct Amsonia. Arkansas Blue Star is a large upright variety named Amsonia hubrechtii.

With soft needle-like leaves on both forms, they turn golden in the fall and come back in the spring with clusters of blue flowers.

Georgia Pancake is wonderful in the rock garden, each plant forming a 2' wide mat of bright green.



LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN DEKALB FEDERATION AWARDED TO JOAN LASS AND TYLER WEAVER

Two of our members were nominated for Life Membership in the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs for 2022. Joan Lass and Tyler Weaver are clearly deserving of the recognition. They have both been members of type who just don't say "no" to any AEGC job they have been asked to do and both have gone many extra miles and generated outstanding ideas. Get to know them better on pages 6 and 7 where you will read about their many accomplishments.



Photo by Jean Kingsbury

From left: Patricia Calcagno, AEGC First Vice President, **Tyler Weaver**, Alice Guppy, former AEGC President, Peggy Burgess, AEGC President and **Joan Lass** at the DeKalb Federation Life Member Recognition Ceremony February 24th.

The Plant Sale is coming, the Plant Sale is coming!

Members of the Plant Sale Committee will be getting in touch with each member of AEGC. They will be asking you what you will be donating for the sale. The success of this fundraiser depends on our membership. Plants that are donated make pure profit and that is where the success will lie.

As this is our major fundraiser for the year, it is not only important, but necessary that each member participate. Thanks to you all, in advance!





February Yard of the Month Home of Jennifer Smith and George Roukas 25 Wiltshire Drive

Jennifer Smith has been working to transform her home since they moved to Avondale in 2001. With her mother (who lives just down the street in Forrest Hills) as her sidekick, the two worked tirelessly to implement Jennifer's beautiful design.

In the front yard is a complimentary mix of plant materials: mature azaleas which she relocated, white azaleas, hostas, acubas, Florida Sunshine anise, hydrangeas, and winter daphnes with their fragrant blooms this time of year! There are two anchor trees—a water oak and sweet gum, with a ginkgo and dogwood (transplanted from the backyard) serving as the understory. In a smaller bed, opposite the newly installed front flagstone walkway, is a crepe myrtle surrounded by pittosporum, a nearby Christmas camellia, large and hearty indian hawthorne, and finally, midnight saliva to attract the local hummingbirds.

~Judy Coffey, Betty Britton and Susan Hawkins

Avondale Estates Garden Club is proud to be a Member of National Garden Club, Inc, The Garden Club of Georgia, Redbud District and Dekalb County Federation of Garden Clubs



Lockerly Arboretum-Historic Rose Hill Tour Luncheon and Lecture

To benefit

The Garden Club of Georgia's Historic Landscape Preservation Grant

Presented by Azalea District

May 14, 2022 from 10:00AM – 3:00PM



Lockerly Arboretum consists of 50 acres of shrubs, trees, rhododendrons, a conifer collection, an extensive camellia collection and greenhouses. Also on the property is the beautiful 1852 Greek Revival style home, Rose Hill, with its period furnishings, which will also be open for touring.

Tickets for the event are \$40 PER PERSON

Registration fee also includes a catered lunch provided by Jon Jackson using the heirloom vegetables and meats from Comfort Farms. Bottled tea and water will be furnished. Jon Jackson, former U.S. Army Ranger, is also our guest speaker and he will tell us how and why he started the farm and how he became involved in working with heirloom seeds. Lunch will be available from noon to 1:00 PM and Jon will speak at 1:30 PM.

-----REGISTRATION FORM-----

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

GARDEN CLUB _____ LOCATION _____

See you on May 14, 2022 at Lockerly Arboretum, 1534 Irwinton Road, Milledgeville, Ga 31059

See www.lockerly.org for directions and more information.

Questions? Contact Jennifer Pollard, 478-452-2112 or Jenniferpollard@lockerly.org or Betty Davis, 706-394-1667 or bettyboop2315@yahoo.com

Send check and form to Jennifer Pollard, Executive Director, Lockerly Arboretum, PO Box 310, Milledgeville, GA 31059. Checks payable to The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. A portion of the contribution is tax deductible. All proceeds benefit the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Fund of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Please, one form per attendee.

Re-Use Old Potting Soil? Yes or No?

The answer is yes, but. . . After a season of growth in new potting soil, the plants have pretty much used up the nutrients and their roots have compacted the soil. The fix is easy and less expensive than pitching the old and buying new. You will have to purchase some new soil and perhaps some slow release fertilizer and maybe some compost if you prefer that to manufactured fertilizer.



If the plant did not thrive or perhaps even died in the last year's pot, it may leave a pathogen in the soil. You can sterilize the soil for use again. You can bake the soil in your oven for 30 minutes not letting the temperature get over 200 degrees OR you can put old soil in a black plastic bag, close it tightly and leave it in the sun for four to six weeks. Passive solar sterilization. Doesn't that sound fancy? Barring that, just sprinkle it around your beds and fill in holes the squirrels left last winter.

Once the soil is sterilized and the detritus of the old plant removed, you can add it in equal parts to new soil and stir in some fertilizer or you can use three parts old soil to one part compost and four parts new soil. In any case, don't throw it away.

If you don't feel the old soil is compromised, just mix it with the new and some compost, worm castings, or fertilizer. Yum!

Planting and Pruning



PLANT Sweet Peas in a container now and leave it outdoors except on the coldest nights. Place the seeds an inch deep just inside the rim of the container and use several three foot long slender branches to make a teepee on which the vines can climb.

PRUNE Butterfly bush now even if leaves are appearing. Butterfly bush makes blooms on the tips of new branches. If you don't prune your shrub each winter it will grow tall, lanky and unattractive. Cut the bush down to twelve inches tall now, even if you remove green leaves. Use a lopper to get down in the center of the clump and remove rotten wood. In this way you'll get lots of vigorous new growth in April.



Cut the bush down to twelve inches tall now, even if you remove green leaves. Use a lopper to get down in the center of the clump and remove rotten wood. In this way you'll get lots of vigorous new growth in April. During the summer, make a habit of shortening by half one limb per month. The loss won't be noticeable but the new branch tips produced will bring forth bright new flowers as others fade.

~Walter Reeves

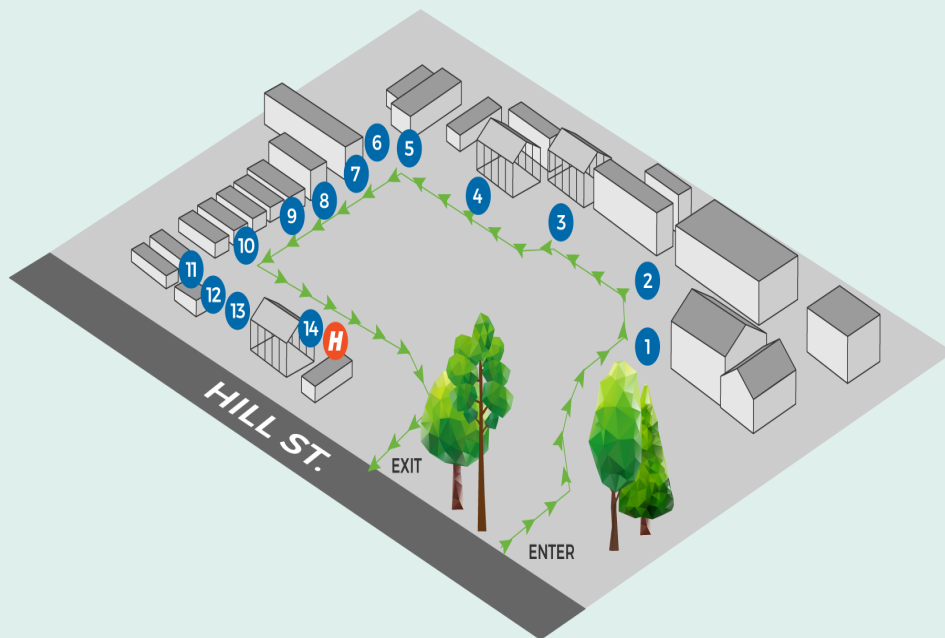
THIRD AEGC RECYCLE RODEO

We are rounding up all our recyclables and taking them to CHaRM **Thursday March 3.**

Our adventure will begin at 9:00am in the parking lot of the Community Club. This has been a fun adventure each time we have gone, so think about joining us. Pack your car with an eye to going through the stations easily.

ITEMS ACCEPTED AT ChARM and STATIONS FOR EACH

- 1 Styrofoam / Cardboard
- 2 Musical Instruments / Bikes
- 3 Electronics
- 4 Document Shredding / Paint /
Chemicals / Miscellaneous
- 5 Mattresses
- 6 Compost / Cooking Oil
- 7 Tires
- 8 Donations / Textiles
- 9 Flat Glass / Food-Grade Glass
- 10 Appliances
- 11 Metals
- 12 Paper / Books
- 13 Cigarette Butts
- 14 Cartons / Plastics
- H Hefty® Energy Bag® Program

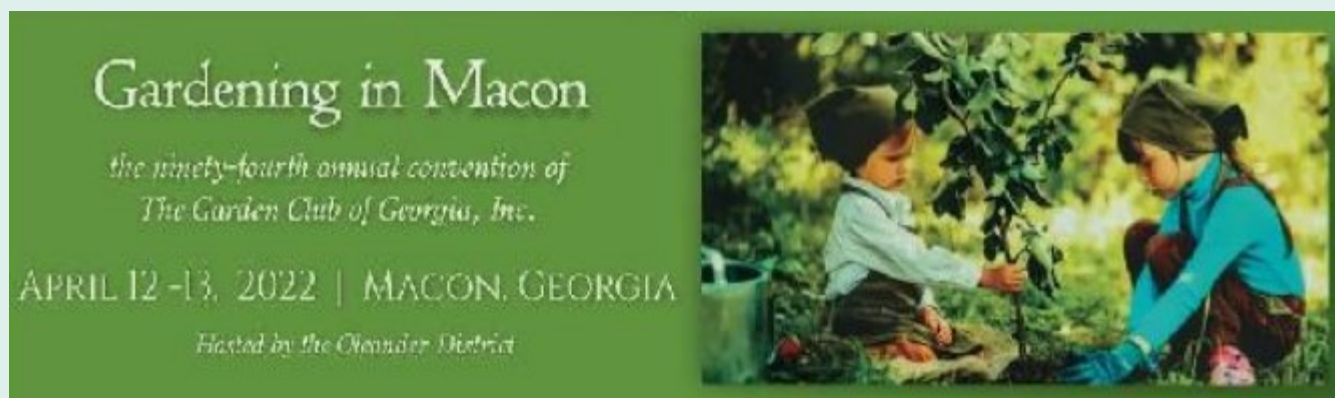


See <https://livethrive.org/charm/items-we-accept/> for more information.

See you there!

Congratulations to the Ball Ground (Anetsa-Ga-Da) Garden Club on their 70th anniversary.

And, don't forget the GCG Convention coming to Macon in April.



Tyler Weaver is something of a Renaissance man. He has interests and hobbies in a variety of areas that keep him busy most every day of the week. Gardening, decorating, shopping, table-scaping, and entertaining are just some of his leisure activities, all of which are made better by his activity in the Avondale Estates Garden Club.

Hailing from the mountains of North Georgia, Tyler grew up under the wings and close, watchful eyes of his great grandmother, Pauline, better known as Nanny. Nanny had many jobs over the years, but the most noteworthy was that of a florist in their small town. Some of Tyler's earliest memories are set in the back of an old building on Main Street that housed Jasper City Florist. In its hey-day, this business was a bustling hub of activity. Whether funeral flowers, Valentine's flowers, "I'm Sorry" flowers, or "I'm Sorry I Got Caught" flowers, just about everyone in town visited at some point. This was where Tyler learned to talk to (and sometimes about) people, where he learned the names of flowers, and where he learned how to make bows. Nanny could put a stick in dirt and grow a tree, so when they went home, it was just an extension of the flower shop. Summers were spent somewhere between rose bushes and memorizing multiplication facts, with homemade ice cream thrown in occasionally.



When Tyler graduated high school, and chose to attend Georgia State University's College of Education, Nanny was none-too-thrilled about her boy moving to the big city. He explained that this move was just what he needed to grow and spread his wings, which she had given him the courage and ability to do with grace and ease.

Fast forward ten years, and Tyler is now an accomplished special education teacher for the DeKalb County School District. He graduated from Georgia State with honors and a dual certification to teach preschool through fifth grade, and special education from kindergarten through twelfth grade. He currently teaches fourth grade at Oakcliff Traditional Theme School in Doraville where he serves as department chair, a teacher support specialist and coach, and is involved with his school's garden club.

Besides his great grandmother's love and wisdom, Tyler credits the Avondale Estates Garden Club for much of his success. Tyler serves as the club's Publicity Chair, is the Social Media Coordinator, volunteers and puts his extraordinary talents and expertise to work in the AEGC projects, and regularly contributes to monthly programs. Last fall he penned a skit for AEGC's 90th Anniversary Celebration that took the audience back in time over the club's nine decades of work and accolades.

Tyler says the garden club gals, as he fondly refers to them, have enriched his life immeasurably. As Avondale Estates Garden Club's youngest member, Tyler looks forward to growing into more leadership roles within the club and refreshing the mission and vision of this wonderful garden club.

Tyler is definitely a Renaissance Man.

Joan Lass started her career as a hairdresser in her home state of Michigan. After moving to Georgia when she was 23 years old, she became a part-time college student, attended trade school to become an instructor for two local cosmetology schools, worked in software sales for large salons, and then became a salon owner for 10 years.

After 25 years, Joan happily made a career change becoming a project manager for a window covering business working with the design trade. She managed projects that included drapery and hardware treatments for restaurants, hotels and residences throughout Atlanta and the continental U.S.

Joan has been a resident of Avondale Estates since 1998 and joined AEGC a few years ago. Shortly after moving to Avondale Estates, Joan began a crash course in landscaping. The large 2/3 acre lot was covered from the back door to the back fence line with overgrown privet, briars, ivy, and other non-natives. Ten years later the last privet was removed. As the land was cleared, the backyard was transformed into a huge field of wildflowers and a large vegetable garden. Green beans were grown from heirloom seeds, along with okra, yellow squash, tomatoes, pepper varieties, potatoes, cantaloupe, and more. Joan's love for gardening sprouted along with the new backyard.

Joan retired in 2020 and has spent most of her spare time gardening. Last year she completed a butterfly garden with two varieties of milkweed and Beauty Berry for birds and pollinators to enjoy. The front yard is a neighborhood favorite with many bees and butterflies visiting the annual and perennial flowers daily.

Although never having children of her own, Joan has always volunteered or worked with troubled children. During the 1970's she volunteered with the Cobb County Juvenile Court and also worked at the North Metro Children's Center. Joan began volunteering with the DeKalb County Juvenile Court in 1999 as a court appointed special advocate. She spent many hours reviewing cases of children in foster care, attending court hearings and offering opinions to judges and case workers about the children's care. Joan continues to work with the Dekalb Juvenile Courts by serving on citizen review panels that meet monthly to review cases and make recommendations to the Court.

With her experience working with children, Joan naturally gravitated to serving as the Youth Garden Committee Chair for AEGC. Under her leadership the committee decided to focus on a project that would benefit the neighborhood school, Avondale Estates Elementary School. Because this was going to be a large project with a community-wide impact, AEGC decided to seek collaboration with the Avon Garden Club, our sister garden club in Avondale Estates.

AEGC applied for and received a **Plant America Grant** from the National Garden Clubs. The two clubs worked together under the leadership of the Youth Committees of both clubs. Additionally, non committee members volunteered as did members of the community and two landscaping companies. The installation of the impressive Totem Garden at Avondale Elementary School was completed in the summer of 2021. Joan's love of working with children and gardening are evident each day as the students and staff experience the beauty of the Totem Garden as they enter the school.

When not gardening, Joan enjoys camping, kayaking, biking, hiking and just walking beautiful Avondale Estates! She is a woman who is happy outdoors and doing something!



Atlanta Botanical Garden Presents Orchid Daze

The annual dazzling display, one of the largest collections of orchids in the world is available now through April 10th at ABG. Along with the orchids will be sculptures by Kristine Mays, a San Francisco artist whose medium is wire. She bends the wire into shapes that give it life and motion.

"My sculptures are created from hundreds of pieces of metal wire, looped and hooked together to create a form that reveals an invisible occupant, a soul, a life. I often say that I am 'breathing life into wire.' I love the idea of creating work where the focus reveals the essence of a person and that speaks to humanity as a whole."



The photo to the left is from Mays' first outdoor installation. It took place in 2020 when only outdoor activities were appropriate. The event was at the Filoli House and Gardens, a restored Gilded Age mansion with acres of gardens.

WALTER SAYS . . . Plant sweet pea now for fragrant flowers later. Plant English peas, onions, asparagus or elephant garlic for your spring vegetable garden. . . Plant a large container for your patio. A small boxwood surrounded by variegated ivy and blooming pansies would look very nice! . . . Plant a winter daphne (*Daphne odorum*) near your home's entrance or front walkway. The scent will greet you each day when you arrive at your abode this spring. . . Prune your shrubs. . . Reduce the size of your butterfly bush by two thirds to one half to encourage new growth (and big blooms) this summer. . . Time for the first fertilization of fescue for the year. Any brand of turf fertilizer will work well. Next application: April. . . Set your mower to its highest setting and cut off the tattered leaves of liriope (monkey grass). They will quickly regrow in March. Prune boxwood – but not with shears. Use a hand pruner to make foliage “holes” in the greenery so light can penetrate to the trunk.

From the Georgia Water Coalition:



GWC Priority Legislation

Each year, the GWC membership adopts two to three priority issues addressing critical threats to Georgia's waterways. This year, the GWC is committing again to two issues we have been slowly gaining ground on for a number of years. With your advocacy and support we can continue to collect victories for the environment.

Bill Introduced to Protect The Okefenokee!

In early February, a bipartisan group of 18 legislators introduced [HB 1289](#) to protect the Okefenokee Swamp and surrounding ecosystem from mining that could cause lasting and irreversible negative impacts to the swamp, its wildlife, regional ecotourism and adjacent timberlands. We are grateful to sponsors Rep. Darlene Taylor (R, District 173-Thomasville) and Rep. Ron Stephens (R, District 164-Savannah) for leading this effort.

[Voice your support for HB 1289.](#)

Status: HB 1289 has been assigned to the House Natural Resources & Environment Committee.

Take Action: The Okefenokee is the wild heart of Georgia. Don't risk it. Protect the future of the Okefenokee today. [Ask legislators](#) to PASS HB 1289 to permanently protect the Okefenokee Swamp from this and future risky mining proposals

For more information, please contact [Megan](#) with One Hundred Miles.

Legislative and Government Affairs Report

February 17, 2022 Laurel District Board Meeting

Each year the Georgia Water Coalition membership adopts two to three priority issues addressing critical threats to Georgia's waterways. This year the GWC is committing again to two issues we have been slowly gaining ground on for a number of years. The two issues are Protecting the Okefenokee Swamp and Safe Coal Ash Disposal.

An Alabama-based company is proposing a mining operation that threatens the Okefenokee and tourism related jobs in the area. Mining next to the swamp can cause lasting and irreversible negative impacts to the swamp, its wildlife, regional ecotourism and adjacent timber lands. Industrial mining operations near the entrance of a world-renowned wilderness area threatens jobs. The Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge brings an estimated \$64.7 million in tourism dollars and local jobs.

Coal ash is the toxic waste left behind from coal-burning energy production. Coal ash contains dangerous heavy metals. More than 80 million tons of coal ash are stored in unlined pits along Georgia's major rivers. Georgia Power is currently pursuing plans to permanently leave approximately 45 million tons of this waste mixed with groundwater in unlined pits along the Coosa, Chattahoochee and Ocmulgee rivers. Bills HB 647 and HB176 would require that coal ash be disposed of in lined, permitted solid waste landfills. The Senate Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing and vote on this piece of legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mickey Carlton, Chair