



# FLOWER POWER

THE AVONDALE ESTATES  
GARDEN CLUB

January 2021

Volume VII Issue I

THE NATIVE NUDGE  
*Juniperus virginiana*  
Eastern Red Cedar



An aromatic evergreen with a conical to columnar shaped crown, it has a medium growth rate and texture. Handsome bark exfoliates into long strips. Leaves are scale-like, closely pressed and overlapping. An excellent specimen tree, it is also useful for windbreaks, hedges, and topiary. It prefers a sunny location and moist loam on well-drained subsoil. It is not shade tolerant. The mature berry-like cones are eaten by many kinds of mammals and birds, including the cedar waxwing.



## SLATE PRESENTED FOR 2021-22 VOTE TO BE AT ZOOM MEMBERSHIP MEETING FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

The nominating committee presents the 2021-2022 slate of officers. The election will take place at the January meeting. It is important that you attend the Zoom meeting so that we will have sufficient members to vote. Please remember to attend at 9:30 to socialize and 10:00 Friday January 15th for the business meeting. Here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82016643323?pwd=alNidTNpMmliQVA1NTZSZ25mMUtLdz09>

Peggy Burgess, President  
Patricia Calcagno, First Vice President  
Nancy Martin, Second Vice President  
Peg Wyse, Treasurer  
Helen Dorroh, Recording Secretary  
Kathy Delaney, Corresponding Secretary

Thank you to the nominating committee: Joan Lass, Chairman, Carole Holcomb, Jean Kingsbury, Carol Morgan and Donna Tanner.

## NOTECARD FUNDRAISER A 2020 SUCCESS

The idea to use photographs first published in *Beautiful Avondale* and turn them into notecards became a grand and financially successful venture. Thanks to the many members who supported this fundraiser. We have, to date, made a profit of over \$1700. We have several sets left for purchase and if the demand is there, we can always reprint them and can even update photos in the future.

Isn't it great when a plan comes together? Talk to Peggy Burgess to purchase.



# 2021 TREE WALK SCHEDULED

Our 2020 Tree Walk was a casualty of the pandemic. It was on the calendar for the spring but we had to cancel it for obvious reasons. Given the hope of widespread vaccination by the fall, and as it's an outdoor event, we have rescheduled it for October 23rd. We will retain the six routes and will have the granite markers we purchased in place by that time. Mark your calendar to attend or help the committee.

We have it mostly down to a science and barring a deluge, it is a rain or shine event. The question of coffee and donuts has been settled and we are all looking forward to a beautiful fall day. Of course, we have to get through a hot summer first, but I think we can manage.



## *DOLLARS EDUCATE SCHOLARS*

As we do every year, we collect donations from our members for the GCG program Dollars Educate Scholars. These funds are in addition to the line item in our budget for the Scholarship Fund. We collected \$228 in December, a record for our club. We have been the only club recognized in our District for our contribution to this worthy cause. This club has always valued the scholarship program and continues to do so. Thank you all for your generosity. If you missed the opportunity in December you can still participate. Call Alice to make it happen.

## *ZOOM TO THE NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM*

The North Georgia Native Plant Symposium, usually held at GCG headquarters in Athens, will be held via Zoom this year. The theme is "Monarch Butterfly Conservation."

It is to be held **Wednesday, February 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** This is a great opportunity to attend without even getting out of your jammies.

I have attended this symposium in the past and have found it to have excellent speakers. Sadly, there won't be the opportunity to purchase native plants, but try it anyway. Maybe next year we can attend in person. Registration fee is \$35.00

See the online registration form at:

<https://botgarden.uga.edu/event/native-plant-symposium>

# NGC AWARDS GRANT TO AEGC AND AVON GC FOR LANDSCAPE, ART AND EDUCATION PROJECT AT AVONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

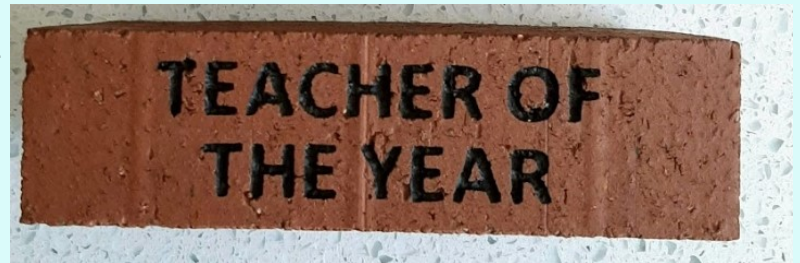
The Youth Garden Committees of Avon Garden Club and AEGC (which is headed by Joan Lass) recognized that Avondale Elementary School needed help with their landscape and their goal for a teaching opportunity to go with that landscape. Hours of planning went into the various projects that the overall plan en-



tails. The bottom line on the finance side was reached and the committee reported back to their respective clubs. Each club would contribute \$1000 and they would apply to the National Garden Club for a \$1000 grant to go forward. They applied in the name of both clubs but were told they could only apply in the name of one club. A coin was tossed and it was determined that AEGC would apply but it was made very clear that this was a project of both clubs! NGC announced recently that we have won the \$1000 grant!

In addition to refreshing the landscape at the entrance, projects include “totem” poles topped by functional birdhouses. The Arts Alliance of Avondale Estates will paint the poles which will depict children at play and perhaps a floral motif.. River rocks are being primed with two coats of paint by members of both clubs and other residents. These will be delivered to the Art Teacher at AES and when students return they will put their creative designs on the rocks. The finished rocks will be placed at the base of the totems and around the garden for decorative and colorful touches.

There will be an area around the flag plaza dedicated as a Tribute Garden with bricks engraved with the name of each Teacher of the Year and of the past Principals. Former students, friends of the school, or anyone can also purchase a brick for \$30. Each brick will have with 3 lines of 16 spaces for engraving and will be used to line beds or perhaps form a small patio effect.



There is a lot going on at AES and a lot to do. All volunteers are welcome whether affiliated with Avon or AEGC or not. Come one, come all. Invite your neighbors to help. Call or email Joan to see how you can help.

Congratulation to Avon and AEGC for this exciting and wonderful project.

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# VALENTINES FOR VETS

It's that time of the year again when we send Valentine cards to patients in the VA hospital in Decatur.

You know the drill by now, but to repeat:

1. No glitter on the cards or envelopes
2. No signature on the cards, though a message of "thanks for your service", "wishing you a special day" or "from a grateful American" would be nice.
3. Do not seal the envelope
4. Leave your cards in the basket on Faye Boyd's front porch by February 3rd.

For some patients, this is the only remembrance they will receive, so please take part in this project.

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## GCG FUNDRAISER TO BE POSTPONED.

The Garden Club of Georgia's annual fundraiser benefitting the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant program, is now in its 20th year. It was to have taken place in May, but has been postponed until October 30.

Redbud District is hosting the event which will be at Hills and Dales, home of the Callaway family. The home was designed by Neil Reed and Hal Hentz and some parts of the gardens date back to the 1840's.

More information will be coming as we near the date. It is not a difficult drive from Atlanta and will make a lovely outing. If you haven't been to Hills and Dales you won't want to miss it.

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**WALTER SAYS....**Use calcium chloride or potassium chloride instead of salt on icy sidewalks. Too much rock salt (sodium chloride) can burn nearby plant roots.

..... Amaryllis flower stems and their faded blooms can be removed now. Treat it like a houseplant for the rest of the winter then plant outdoors in a sunny bed in May.

.....Water pansies and ornamental kale after a hard freeze so they can re-hydrate their wilted leaves. Remember to regularly water window boxes and other outside plant containers.

.....Chop unwanted kudzu, English ivy and bamboo to the ground. Follow with weedkiller on the leaves in April.

.....Small, leafless shrubs and trees can be transplanted easily now. Wait for a warm day when the ground is not frozen.

.....During the last week in January: Plant pansies and English daisies in a sunny bed when the weather is mild. Use plants in three inch or larger pots to make an immediate impact in your landscape.



# AEGC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON: ALICE GUPPY



Alice was born and grew up in the very Southern town of Danville, VA (pop.50,000) where both sides of her family have lived since before the Revolutionary War. Alice's paternal grandparents lived in the "country" with lots of places to explore. Her maternal grandparents lived right down the street so she spent lots of time with them and with her grandmother (for whom she was named). Their favorite pastime was rocking on the big front porch.

Alice taught school in Newport News after graduating from the Women's College of the University of North Carolina. All grown up, she shared an apartment with one of her teacher friends and across the hall from two naval officers – one of whom was Jerry Guppy. He had graduated from the Naval Academy, Nuclear Power School, and was serving on a nuclear submarine being overhauled in the Newport News Shipyard. He was only there for 7 months but time enough for them to fall in love. They married one year after they met and have been married for 49 years and have three children, Brian, Mark and Susan.

They lived in Charleston, Virginia Beach, and Groton, Connecticut during their Navy years. Because most of a submariner's life spent on the boat and/or at sea, there was not much time with family. Jerry decided to leave the Navy after 9 ½ years but stayed in the Reserves. He eventually accepted a position with IBM where he had a mock up of a submarine which allowed him "to go to sea" but come home at night – the best of both worlds. They lived in Great Falls in Northern Virginia for 34 years.

Alice was excited to be moving back to Virginia expecting it would be similar to her hometown of Danville. It was an exciting, interesting place to live with lots of museums, art galleries, national monuments, professional sports, great parks, and close to the nation's capital. They enjoyed their life there but it wasn't like warm friendly Danville. Alice thought their children would stay in Northern Virginia after they graduated from college but it turned out they all wanted to see the world ...without joining the Navy! One son and his family are in Fort Collins, one is in San Diego, and their daughter, Susan, moved to Georgia and eventually to Avondale Estates.

Susan convinced her parents that moving to Georgia would be a good choice for their retirement– lots of good medical facilities for them as they get older, and closer to Susan and her husband. The Guppys made the decision to move to Atlanta and after Susan described Atlanta traffic and the accompanying difficulty of visiting unless they lived close by, they sought a home in AE or Decatur. In 2014, Alice spent the day looking at houses and found their home at 93 Berkeley Road.

Living in Avondale Estates Alice feels that she has come full circle and found her way back home .... just in a different state. She and Jerry like their house, their friendly neighbors, and everything about AE but she had always wanted a front porch remembering those times with her grandmother so they added a beautiful wide front porch to their house. On July 8, 2015 their granddaughter Allison was born, (10 year old grandson, Jack lives in Fort Collins). Allison lives right up the street from her grandmother (for whom she was named) and there's a lot of walking back and forth and rocking on the front porch. Danville Redux!



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# WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



Have you ever planted a tulip, crocus, iris or potato? They each grow from a bulb, corm, tuber or rhizome. The umbrella term for these is geophyte from the Greek words for earth and plant.

Daffodils, onions and tulips grow from bulbs. Bulb structure is layered (like an onion).

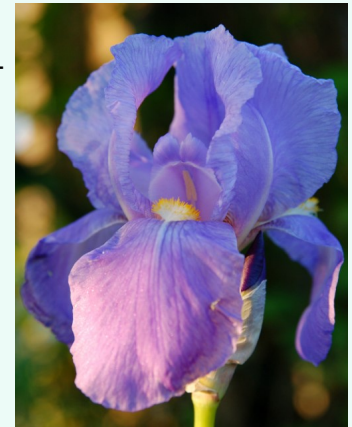


Crocus, gladiolus and freesia grow from corms which are solid structures, not layered.

Corms are usually much smaller than bulbs though there are exceptions. A corm may have several growing points, which appear as bumps or nodes.



Tubers often have roots that develop from the bottom of the tuber and have growing points called eyes at the top. Tubers do not produce offspring as bulbs, corms and rhizomes do. Dahlia, daylily and potatoes spring from tubers.



Rhizomes are similar to tubers but grow horizontally and produce offspring. Rhizomes you may

know and love are iris, lily of the valley, canna and calla lily.

*Information gathered from [pediaa.com](http://pediaa.com) and [thespruce.com](http://thespruce.com).*



Although it's not time to plant those summer and fall blooming geophytes now, though you can start them indoors to give them a head start, it is time to be thinking about which ones to plant. They are wonderful to have because when you have completely forgotten what you planted and where you put them, they spring forth from the soil and bless you with the most wonderful flowers. A boon for the pandemic weary soul.

Check out some of these: Lily of the Valley, Asiatic Lily, Calla Lily, Dahlia, which come in a choice of colors and sizes, Agapanthus (Lily of the Nile image to the

right) or Tuberous Begonia (pictured to the left). There are many more to check out online.



## AEGC Plant Sale in April

We are looking forward to a successful plant sale but need the membership to participate by donating plants. Have you considered what you might donate? The committee needs to know so they can plan. Rene Valdes will be calling each member to get a count. Thanks to everyone!



Pssst! Dues are coming up!