



March 2020

FLOWER POWER

THE AVONDALE ESTATES
GARDEN CLUB

Volume VI Issue III

THE NATIVE NUDGE

Amsonia ciliata
Fringed Bluestar



A long-lived perennial, Fringed Bluestar is grown for its handsome foliage and spring flowers. The multi-stemmed clumps, up to 3' tall, are crowded with smooth narrow light-green leaves giving the plant a fine textured appearance. It wants to be in part shade.

Steel blue flowers flaring to a star shape, appear in loosely congested clusters at the tips of the stems. The Bluestar blooms March, April, May and June. It should be cut back when finished flowering.

The foliage turns golden in the fall and is another reason to plant this lovely native.



March Madness

Beware the Ides of March and look out for the March Hare (described as nerve wracked and deliriously confused). There will be no March Madness to watch this month as we march to the beat of headlines shouting about a new virus. Schools are closed, entertainment venues are closed and meetings have been cancelled, including the March meeting of the Avondale Estates Garden Club. Better safe than sorry as we watch the statistics from home and abroad.

We will save our speaker, Donna Tanner, for another meeting and probably the menu for lunch as well.

Installation of officers was to take place at the March meeting. Instead, the new officers were installed at the Board meeting on Friday the 13th of March. It was unprecedented, as was cancelling a membership meeting. An interesting way to begin our new Administrative year, however club business will progress as usual and the membership will be kept informed. Alice Guppy is our new president.

President	Alice Guppy
1st Vice President	Peggy Burgess
2nd Vice President	Nancy Martin
Treasurer	Peg Wyse
Recording Secretary	Helen Dorroh
Corresponding Secretary	Kathy Delaney

From Christi

It's hard for me to believe that my two years as President of the Avondale Estates Garden Club has come to an end. As I reflect on my time as your president, I know that I couldn't have done it and survived without all your support. You were all there for me whenever I had a question or needed help with something. As I reflect on the past twenty-four months, I am so proud of all that we have done – our many beautification, education, and community service projects. None of these would be possible without our fundraising efforts. We have had two very successful Holiday Bazaars and our first ever "Secret Garden Tour" thanks to all of your hard work.

As Alice picks up the reins, I know that she will be tremendously successful because she has Team AEGC behind her. I just want to thank each of you from the bottom of my heart for all the help you have given me on this journey. Christi



Tree Walk Postponed



At the March 13th meeting, the AEGC Board voted to postpone the Tree Walk indefinitely given the uncertainty of the effects of the corona virus. The Tree Walk Committee has had a number of meetings and had nailed down most of the details. The arborists who would lead the walks on six different tours had been engaged, the number of volunteers needed had been ascertained, pine cones had been collected, tables, chairs and canopies had been arranged for from the City and, importantly, the decision about donut holes had been made. We were ready to go. When it will be a go we don't know for sure. Perhaps it will proceed in the fall. When it does, the committee is ready to implement all their plans.

New Officers Installed at March Board Meeting

The year 2020 will have an asterisk by it in almost everyone's life. For this group of new officers 2020 was the year they were installed without pomp or ceremony at a Board meeting. Each officer was asked if she was willingly taking on the duties of her particular office. When all answered in the affirmative, they were declared duly installed. Kinda sad. Alice had some lovely words to say about her experience in the garden club, I hope you will have a chance to hear them at our next meeting, whenever that may be.

From left to right:

Peggy Burgess	First Vice President
Alice Guppy	President
Nancy Martin	Second Vice President
Peg Wyse	Treasurer
Helen Dorroh	Recording Secretary
Kathy Delaney	Corresponding Secretary



*"Hope" is the thing with feathers—
That perches in the soul—
And sings the tune without the words—
And never stops—at all—*

- Emily Dickinson



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March Yard of the Month Home of David Black and Elizabeth Gregory 1054 Lakeshore Drive

The home and yard of David Black and Elizabeth Gregory provide tasteful pleasure to the eye with symmetry, smooth lines, and impressive curb appeal. Framed by stately magnolias that have been well-groomed and limbed up just enough, you might have a hard time finding a more welcoming entrance.

The manicured and edged lawn echoes the richness of the home, and evergreen shrubbery of hollies and cypresses provides just enough texture to keep things interesting. Seasonal plantings of Dusty Miller and Pansies are staples in the southern winter landscape, and they truly catch the eye with the wide scope of the beds and variety of color and height. This “Yard of the Month” is classic, traditional, and easy on the eyes! ~ *Tyler Weaver*



Here’s a pretty one for sun, part shade or shade!

Heuchera NORTHERN EXPOSURE™ Sienna

Crisp, fresh green leaves in the spring and fall blending to a beautiful sienna orange in the summer. Stays happy-looking longer in the season than other Heuchera. 24” spread.

Fern Valley at the National Arboretum is a Jewel Thanks to Garden Clubs

Could one 80 something year old garden club lady make a difference on a grand scale? The answer is absolutely!

The National Arboretum in Washington, DC opened to the public in 1933. It contains more than 13,000 labelled plants of over 2,500 types and covers 175 acres.

In the 1959, Francis de Vos, then director of the Chicago Botanic Garden, was teaching a workshop on woody plants at the National Arboretum. In the class there was a lady in her early 80's, Mrs Edith Bittinger, a member of the National Capital

Area Federation of Garden Clubs. Mr. de Vos mentioned there was interest in developing a certain little ravine on the property. Mrs. Bittinger insisted on seeing the site immediately. "From that moment," wrote Mr. de Vos, "we had the leadership we were looking for."

The little ravine had undoubtedly seen better days. The scarred streambed told of past struggles with flash floods. The forest floor was now inhospitably carpeted with poison ivy. Remnants of a finer flora struggled with that naturalized alien, Japanese honeysuckle, but it was the hand of man that most defiled this ravine. The trash of his living was everywhere, scattered among the undergrowth—bottles, cans, and all kinds of ugly things resisting decay.

Mrs. Bittinger provided inspirational leadership. Her chief lieutenant was Margaret Donald who provided the drive and persistence to bring plans into reality. Working methodically, they defined the scope of the project on the 3 ½ acre site and established guidelines for its development. They would leave the natural vegetation (except poison ivy), get rid of the rest and plant fern and wild flower species of eastern North America. Western plants and exotic species were to be excluded. Finally, they determined how much labor could be enlisted for the project. Arboretum representatives indicated they could provide little help aside from building trails, a small dam and a lime rock retaining wall for lime loving ferns. The women found a core of dedicated volunteers to work on the enterprise. There was a high level of interest and that attracted financial support totaling \$3700, which, in today's dollars equals over \$30,000.



The formula for the eventual success was leadership, simple objectives and a hard core of devoted workers. No surprise. One garden club lady made it happen with the help of lots of other garden club ladies. We can still enjoy it today. The National Arboretum welcomes everyone and there is no admission fee.

