



May/June 2021

FLOWER POWER

THE AVONDALE ESTATES
GARDEN CLUB

Volume VII Issue V

THE NATIVE NUDGE
Leucothoe fontanesiana
Drooping leucothoe



Drooping Leucothoe is an evergreen flowering shrub with medium texture and a medium to slow growth rate. It has arching branches and a weeping habit. Fragrant, urn-shaped, creamy-white flowers are borne on spikes in April and May. The foliage is leathery and glossy green. Sometimes variegated. Nice for mass plantings. It produces a good evergreen backdrop for low-growing plants. To perform well, this plant must have moist soils high in organic matter and light to dense shade. It does not like hot, dry sites.

3 to 6 feet tall with a spread of 3 to 6 feet



PANDEMIC CRAMPING OUR STYLE? NOT THE AEGC

The months of May and June have been busy ones for the Avondale Estates Garden Club. Though we didn't have a membership meeting those months, we have not let that fact slow us down! We had an interesting and entertaining field trip in May to the Trial Garden at UGA and the Founder's Garden also on the UGA campus. More than 20 members participated in the all day trip to Athens which was capped off with a luncheon at the farm-to-table restaurant Heirloom.

At the end of the month, we once again held a public ceremony honoring those serving in the military as well as veterans. We do this annually on Friday of the Memorial Day weekend at the Blue Star Marker.

The first week in June is National Garden Week and AEGC observed it by sponsoring a "members only" garden tour of four of our members' gardens. We put up a banner on North Avondale alerting the public to recognition of the week as well.



Left to right: Patricia Calcagno, Jean Kingsbury, Tyler Weaver, Donna Tanner, Linda Coatsworth, Helen Dorroh, Susan Barton, Peggy Burgess, Alice Guppy, Christi Granger, Kathy Delaney, Nancy Martin, Peg Wyse and Susan Stuart.



MAY YARD OF THE MONTH
3183 KENSINGTON ROAD
HOME OF COURTNEY DENNEY AND DOUG MULFORD

Courtney, Doug and their two young sons are serial Avondale Estates homeowners having moved from Berkeley to Kensington Road. Courtney is inspired by English cottage gardens and loves mixing edibles with flowers. In her cottage garden, you'll see vintage items from her grandfather's dairy farm in Canton.

While she had a head start with some landscaping in the front, Courtney added a garden that spans the width of the property. There you'll see kale, parsley, and bee balm along with dianthus, snapdragon, hellebore, loropetalum, azalea and black-eyed Susan.

In the back, Doug has added many touches to a garden filled with roses, foxgloves and more. An edible garden includes early spring crops like kale and lettuce.

Courtney also added a mini greenhouse to help get seed starts going early in the year. She has plans for a larger one soon and has recently included a worm farm.

Her sons Theo and James enjoy a treehouse built by Doug at the back edge of their property, pulling together a family-friendly space where everyone can relax and enjoy the view.

~Renee Valdes

Field Trip to the UGA Trial Gardens

If you missed this trip, you missed a lot. The group left the Community Club at 8:00 on Thursday morning in several cars— there were 23 members and guests in attendance.

First stop was the Trial Gardens at UGA located in the heart of the campus. The garden is renowned for new crop introductions,

the most famous of which is probably Homestead Verbena.

New crops are tested for Zone 7 with its heat and humidity and displayed for the green industry and gardeners. When a plant passes muster it receives the “Athens Select” label for sale in garden centers.

The Trial Garden is supported by landscapers, retailers and nearly all of the world’s major flower breeders.

The garden is open to all during the daylight hours.



At the Trial Gardens



This fabulous Petunia is just one of the interesting plants that maybe coming to a retail nursery in the next year or two. Each flower looks like it was hand painted by an inspired artist.



ON TO THE FOUNDER'S GARDEN



View from the terrace at
the Founder's Garden

Next Stop: The Founders Garden

A memorial to the founders of the first Garden Club



The University of Georgia was chartered in 1785. A horticulturally minded institution, it took less than 50 years to establish and maintain a botanic garden comprised of over 2000 plants from around the world. Sadly, years later the garden was abandoned and the beautiful ravine which was home to the garden was sold.

In the mid-19th century the Morrill Land-Grant Act was passed and signed in 1862 giving federal lands to each state for an institution of higher learning that would include schools of Agriculture and the Mechanical Arts (engineering). The purpose was to see that education could be accessed by more than the elite class. This would have an impact on a large population of “working people.” The school was also required to teach Military Arts and science without excluding classical studies. This was a direct response to the Industrial Revolution. The schools were funded by the sale of the federal lands, usually about 30,000 acres was granted to each school.

The interest in horticulture did not wane among the townspeople after the loss of the botanic garden. Gardens were recognized as important to a family home. In 1891 a small group of Athens women organized the Ladies Garden Club. The first meeting was held and the Club organized in the parlor of the home of Mrs. E. K. Lumpkin who, until her death, was the guiding spirit of the organization. The members were 12 in number: Mrs. Lamar Cobb, Mrs. W. B. Burnett, Mrs. John GerdiD, Mrs. R. D. Mure, Mrs. Tinsley Rucker, Mrs. G. C. Thomas, Mrs. T. P. Vincent, Mrs. Henry S. West, Mrs. S. J. Tribble, Miss Julia Carlton, Mrs. H. C. Lowrance, and Mrs. Lumpkin. It was decided that the membership would be by invitation only, but on a year later they decided to amend the Charter and open membership to any lady in Athens who was interested in growing anything from “a cabbage to a chrysanthemum.” Thus the club was transformed from a small select social group to a far larger group of purpose and value to the community.

The Founder's Garden honors the founders of the Athens Garden Club which became the prototype and impetus for garden clubs across the country.



Julie Martinez checking the time on a sundial



Listening to the Director of the Founder's Garden tell us the interesting history of the founders and of this garden



Lunch is always important to garden clubbers and this one was wonderful at Heirloom in Athens.

Plant of the Year

Since 1995 the Garden Club of America (not to be confused with our national club, National Garden Club) has identified a stellar North American native plant to receive The Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal: GCA Plant of the Year.

This year the *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, common name: buttonbush) is The Garden Club of America's 2021 Plant of the Year.

Does it look familiar to you? Photos of it grace the front and back covers of our 2020-21 yearbook. The back cover has information on the plant. The photos were selected in the summer of 2020. It appears AEGC was, once again, ahead of the curve — no surprise there.



CANADA GEESE CAN FLY UP TO
1500 MILES IN A DAY, YET THEY IN-
SIST ON WALKING ACROSS
WILTSHIRE DRIVE



WALTER SAYS . . .

When it hasn't rained in a while tree roots can be almost bone dry! Give them 15 gallons per inch of trunk thickness once each week if regulations allow. . . Prune back your hydrangeas when most of the blooms have faded. You'll quickly get lots of new branches, which may give more flowers this fall. . . If you put your houseplants outdoors for a summer vacation remember to fertilize them regularly. Constant watering in the summer washes nutrients from the soil. . . Still time to plant annuals in beds or containers for lots of color through the summer. .

Lure slugs and snails under a hollowed out half-cantaloup near your hosta. Check at noon every few days and scrape them into a bucket of soapy water. . . Look for small new seedlings under your Lenten rose. They can be transplanted now to other spots. . . Collect the seeds from foxglove stalks. Scratch the soil around the plant, scatter the seed and cover with a bit of earth. Water occasionally and the seedlings that sprout this year will bloom next year.

OUR ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

For many years we have held a wreath laying ceremony at the Blue Star Marker on Memorial Day weekend inviting the community to attend and thanking veterans for their service. For the last six years we have invited Avon Garden Club to participate with us. Last year, due to the pandemic we laid a wreath, but did not have a public ceremony. This year we were back to inviting the public to the ceremony which made everyone in attendance feel a bit more “normal”. We had a good turnout as those in attendance were there to feel part of something important.





JUNE YARD OF THE MONTH HOME OF SHAWN ORTH AND MARCIA MOORE 50 LAKESHORE DRIVE

Shawn and Marcia have lived in Avondale Estates for more than 20 years, but have been in this home for about five years. When they moved in, the yard was mostly a blank slate. Marcia recalled that there was nothing but green! Since buying their home, the couple has spent a lot of time working on the yard—in hopes of receiving Yard of the Month!

The lush lawn gives way to thoughtful shrubbery and excellently-appointed urns. This year they decided to spice up the front beds with a variety of bright, colorful annuals that seem to steal the show against the clean but austere off-white and green of their symmetrical home and hardscape. ~ *Tyler Weaver*