



# FLOWER POWER

## The Avondale Estates Garden Club

*Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Deep South Garden Clubs and the Garden Club of Georgia*

May/June 2022

Volume VIII Issue V

### THE NATIVE NUDGE *Phlox pulchra*



Also known as Alabama Phlox it is native to the Appalachian Mountains and works nicely in our zone. It can be planted summer through fall and comes in various shades of pink to lavender and white.

It is lovely planted next to a silver leaf. Artemesia comes to mind. It may have to be staked at its ultimate height but is resistant to powdery mildew. It will form a bushy upright clump of fresh green leaves, topped in early summer by clusters of fragrant lilac-blue flowers. This is one of the best Phlox selections for hot, humid summer climate areas.



Avondale Estates Garden Club celebrated National Garden Week with the second Secret Gardens of Avondale Tour. Once again, it was a complete success. Every ticket was sold, each garden was different from the others, there were docents in each garden and artists at work in plein aire. All that and the weather acted as if we had ordered it. The attendees were impressed with the gardens as well as with the organization of the tour. We even hosted a party for the home owners who offered their curated gardens. Many compliments were accorded to AEGC.

This was all thanks to the leadership of Nancy Martin and the committee members who were dedicated to turning out the best garden tour since our last one. Members who planned and accomplished all those tasks that add up to success were: Tyler Weaver, Melba Castillo, Betty Britton, Sandy Sirmans, Dianne Nelson, Regina Verani, Helen Dorroh, Alice Guppy, Julie Martinez, Beth Langhorst, Patricia Calcagno, Susan Merritt, Jill Burnett, Carol Reimer, Jean Kingsbury and Judy Coffey. Peggy Burgess who is an ex-officio member of every AEGC committee was an active committee member as well.

Thanks to all who participated in any way including buying tickets and bringing friends. This is a biennial fundraiser for AEGC, but also a great public relations opportunity for us in the community and for Avondale Estates in the public eye.

# A Note from the President . . .

It is hot in Avondale Estates right now but I am looking forward to a cool AEGC Fall!

Welcome to all our new members. We are very excited that you have joined us this Spring. September will give us an opportunity to get acquainted and ready for a busy and exciting club year!

Thank you to all our “old members” for working so very hard these last six months. We have accomplished so much. The Board is now looking for opportunities to disburse the proceeds from your hard work in meaningful ways.

See You In September!

Peggy



## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

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## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DEFENDED OUR COUNTRY

The Blue Star Memorial Highway markers that you see all over the country are a project of local garden clubs accomplished through the National Garden Club. Several years ago AEGC, along with Avon Garden Club, had this Blue Star Marker erected in front of City Hall. It is of considerable cost in financial terms, but cannot hold a candle to the cost of lives and the sacrifice of families of those who have chosen to stand between us and whatever may threaten our homeland.

Each Memorial Day weekend, we hold a small ceremony at the site with both garden clubs participating. Everyone in the community and any veterans are invited to take part in this service of gratitude and memorial.





## MAY YARD OF THE MONTH

### 6 CLARENDON PLACE

### HOME OF LISA AND GREG SHORTELL

Lisa and Greg Shortell's garden has been a labor of love over many years. Greg takes care of the grass, the pond, and the bird feeders, while Lisa cares for the shrubs and flowers. In addition to hydrangea, abelia, hosta, lenten rose, camelias, and gardenias, springtime brings re-seeding columbine and forget-me-nots. Summer color displays largely through heat/drought tolerant lantana, shrub roses, and buddleia.

Environmentally conscious, they use very few chemicals or non-organic fertilizers choosing instead to compost and use the resulting organically rich soil. In recent years, to speed up the composting process, they have been shredding leaves with their lawnmower prior to composting.

Their garden is a lovely view throughout the seasons as the varied plants bloom and grow and as the garden conditions and plants change over time.





## JUNE YARD OF THE MONTH LOCUST LOFTS LOCUST AND WASHINGTON STREET

Locust Lofts is a collective of 13 townhouses at the corner of Locust and Washington Street. The rear building is a former broom factory, and facing Washington Street stands a newer Santa Fe group of townhomes.

Marghe Means, the owner of Little Tree Art Studio and Brian McKnight, who has a background in native plants and habitat restoration, co-coordinate the gardens at this artful property. It is largely maintained by Marghe and Brian, along with volunteer residents.

The property gardens enjoy both sun and shade, with a focus on pollinator and bird supportive plants. Ironweed, golden alexander, New England aster, bottle brush grass, swamp sunflower, and comfrey are among the many plantings in the sun garden. A more tropical portion of the lofts include banana, hostas, sweet bay magnolia, trumpet vine, and many more to complete the lush feeling there.

Found marble is used as edging in the shady back with a collection of spring ephemerals that includes celandine poppy and native ginger. A composting center in the rear of the property contributes to the soil quality of the gardens.

All in all, a remarkable achievement.





# From the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs



Genndolyn Hallman,  
Federation President

Glennholyn's theme as President of Federation is **"Regroup, Revisit, and Recycle"**. Working through the challenges of a pandemic, Federation will **"Regroup"** meeting in person at Callanwolde, will **"Revisit"** all projects and will have two new projects involving **"Recycling."**

The first asks the question – **"Is Your Recycling Being Recycled?"** There will be a monthly recycling suggestion to help make sure we are following the rules of the DeKalb County Sanitation Department.

The second is titled **"Recycling Outside the Box"** and will look for ways to take items that are discarded every day and find organizations that will recycle or reuse them. Most monthly meetings will feature an item to recycle that is not collected at curbside. These items will be collected and delivered to appropriate organizations.

Federation meetings are always enjoyable and a place to meet members of other clubs in DeKalb County. Programs coming up will cover varied topics: Snakes, Gardening As We Age, Daylilies and Conifers. Something for everyone! Every member is invited and several AEGC members routinely go to the meetings.

A carpool from AECC to Callanwolde is always easy to find.

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## *Sharpen your hand pruners, it's almost July!*



Bigleaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) set flower buds on old wood, which develop in late summer and fall; therefore, pruning should be done immediately after flowering. Be sure to remove only a third of the total growth of the plant. The cultivars in the Endless Summer® series are an exception to this rule. The first flush of flowers of these cultivars usually bloom on old wood; therefore, any necessary pruning should be done immediately after blooming. Flower buds will then form on new wood, and the Endless Summer® hydrangeas will repeat bloom throughout the summer. Pruning in July will give the plants time to put up healthy stems that will give you blooms for next year on *Hydrangea macrophylla*. Be sure not to prune after August 1st!

~~ Information from Clemson and Walter Reeves

# HAVE YOU SEEN THESE?

These lovely signs are popping up in the front yards of many Avondale Estates citizens.

Elaine Sacks (a former member of AEGC) had an idea to raise some funds for the beleaguered people of Ukraine and give residents an opportunity to show solidarity with them in a meaningful way. You are asked to donate \$30 for each sign, but certainly you may donate more than that. The proceeds of the purchase go to C.A.R.E. which is helping women, children and families who are suffering in Ukraine. C.A.R.E.'s Ukraine Crisis Fund is aiming to reach four million people with aid and recovery. This will include food, water, hygiene kits, psychosocial support and cash assistance prioritizing the needs of women and girls, families and the elderly.

The original artwork for the sign is the work of artist Karen Ku of Decatur. She is an illustrator and art instructor who was moved to create this piece to express support for the people of Ukraine.

The graphic design for the poster was donated by Connelly Design of Avondale Estates. Many of you know Don Connelly, a local resident who is not new to donating his talents for many causes in Avondale Estates.

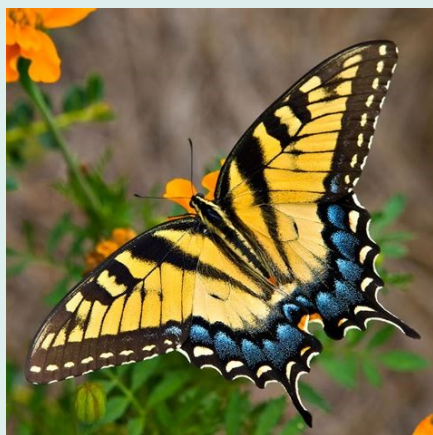
Martha McDermott and other residents underwrote the first printing of this wonderful project. It has all come together now and Avondale Estates residents can participate.

To donate/purchase a sign please contact:

Elaine Sacks at (678) 792-9620 or  
Martha McDermott at (770) 354-4738



**Walter Says . . .** Big green caterpillars on parsley and fennel are the precursors to beautiful swallowtail butterflies. Try not to kill them if you can help it. . . Tree roots are almost bone dry! Give them 15 gallons per inch of trunk thickness once each week if regulations allow. . . Prune back your big leaf hydrangeas when most of the blooms have faded. You'll quickly



get lots of new branches, which may give more flowers this fall. . . Regularly remove faded flowers from salvia, zinnia, coneflower and especially petunia. This will encourage bushiness and the production of more flowers. . . Mid July Cut back by half herbs like basil, mint and oregano. This prevents them from producing seed and promotes more fragrant leaves. Don't forget your asters and mums as well; cut them back by half to avoid leggy, floppy syndrome





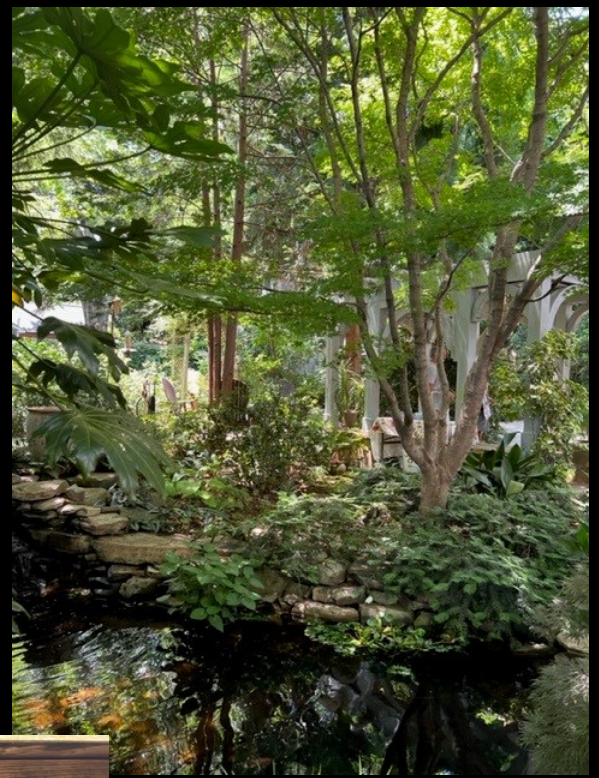
## ***THE SECRET GARDENS OF 2022 . . .***

A Sell Out, one garden more beautiful than then next, nothing but blue sky, and gentle breezes all day long, bees were buzzing, bird were singing. One magic moment after another!

To each and every member, thank you for supporting our Secret GardenTour 2022!













# AEGC Scores a Record Number of Federation Awards at Late April Meeting

**Tucker Garden Club Program Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Place and \$50**  
For our excellent programs at meetings

**Lilian Ferguson Yearbook Award: 3rd Place**

**Beautification Project Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Place and \$50**  
Our plantings at Carl's Corner

**Winding Woods Community Service Award: 2nd Place**  
Included Children's Little Free Library, DeKalb Women's Shelter, Holidays for Heroes, Wreath Ceremony at our City's Blue Star Marker, Fig Leaf Project, Road Trip Rodeo, Bonnie Phelps Tree Walk, and the Avondale Arboretum:

**Pine Island Garden Club Environmental Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Place**  
The two Road Trip Rodeos to CHaRM and our October program "Recycling: Everything You Want to Know (but were afraid to ask)"

**The Wilma Coney Shade Gardening Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Place**  
Julie Martinez's beautiful shade garden - Highest Scoring Entry received 100 points!

**Smoke Rise Morning Glories Special Achievement Award: 1st Place and \$50**  
Our 2021 Plant Sale

**Lullwater GC National Garden Week Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Place**  
Members Only Garden Tour, Placement of NGC Banner, and Proclamation read by our Mayor

**DeKalb Federation Website Award: 1st Place and \$50**

**Dunwoody GC Newsletter Award: *Flower Power* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

**Berna Spencer Horticulture in a Public Place Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Place and \$50**  
Totem Garden at Avondale Elementary School, Plantings at the Blue Star Marker, Bonnie's Tree and the Bonnie Phelps Tree Walk, and Plantings at Carl's Corner

**Jackie Payne Gavel Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

**Valley Hill Garden Club Calyx Chapter Attendance: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**  
Awarded to the club having the highest percentage of their members in attendance at the Federation General Meetings

**100% Attendance Award:** one or more of our members attended all the Federation General Meetings

**Avondale Estates Garden Club received a Certificate for Standard of Excellence on the President's Club Activity Report!**





# Photos from the Awards Ceremony at Federation

Not only do award winners have to execute their projects and programs to the degree that would earn an award, but the application for each award category must be written in such a way to highlight the planning and achieving of the goals for the endeavor. This requires a certain talent for vocabulary, wordsmithing and knowing how to illuminate the fact that our projects are in sync with the definition and requirements of each award. Christi and Alice are the talented authors of our applications and work together to make all this happen.

Awards are an important way of keeping score on how well AEGC is fulfilling it's goals.



Awards Chair Joy Zaidan announcing winners. Nancy Martin accepting award for outstanding Programs at our meetings. President Glenndolyn Hallman dispensing the silver and certificates.



Former Presidents Alice Guppy and Christi Granger discussing whose job it is to polish the silver



Julie Martinez accepting the award for her outstanding shade garden



President Peggy Burgess accepting another certificate and yet more silver (which we don't get to keep).