



November 2020

# FLOWER POWER

THE AVONDALE ESTATES  
GARDEN CLUB

Volume VI Issue VII

*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*  
BLUE-EYED GRASS



Not a true grass, this perennial is great for borders or at the corner of a bed. It reaches 4-16" tall with pale blue, ½ inch wide flowers with a yellow center.

'Lucerne' forms attractive upright rosettes of narrow iris-like foliage. Leaves are pointed with parallel veins and are 6-8" long and ¼" wide.

The semi-evergreen leaves are arranged in overlapping fans like those of iris.

Flattened flower stalks arise from the leafy tufts. Each branched stem terminates in umbels of starry blue florets that emerge from leaf-like bracts. Blooming begins in late spring or early summer and continues for two months or more.



## National Garden Club Youth Sculpture Contest



The Garden Club of Georgia sponsored this contest in Georgia on behalf of National Garden Clubs, Inc. The children were to build a sculpture from recycled materials. Pictured above is Edwin Philip Sobel, grandson of Peggy and Bob Burgess.

Edwin, a fifth grader, describes his sculpture as one to "look like R2D2, a moving robot machine. On the back is a jet pack to help R2D2 fly. I added the letter B to the front of my sculpture for my grandfather whose name is Burgess. I made the sculpture with my G.G. Peggy (my grandmother)".

We wish Edwin good luck in the contest and we think it's a winner!

# Miss Minnie's Porch

Miss Minnie was a hometown girl,  
Hometown hair with silver curl.  
Hometown dress with cotton bow,  
Gingham print with button row.

She was poor as poor could be  
All alone and childless she.  
Lived within a three room shack,  
painted white a long time back.

But folks would come from all around  
To see those plants Miss Minnie found.  
Growing wild on porch and rail,  
Trellised up with winding trail.

Creeping Jenny, purple phlox,  
Jasmine twirling, fluffy stock,  
Petunia faces smiling down,  
Hung from rafters, swirling round!

Rooftop roses sprung in June,  
Morning glories, morn 'til noon.  
Lilies lining dirt-swept trails,  
Misty boughs of bridal veils!

Zinnias, vinca, marigolds!  
Clematis climbing spindled poles.  
Penta bursts, pineapple sage,  
Orchids still in blooming stage!

Yellow, pink and purple hued  
Were the blooms Miss Minnie wooed.  
All were orphans, once alone,  
Left in piles near larger homes.

Miss Minnie came in dead of night  
To save them from their hapless plight!  
Rejected by the wealthy crew  
To fall in hands they barely knew!

Carried tenderly away  
In a cart with new mown hay.  
Placed with love in broken pots  
And cleared of all their ugly spots!

Their tiny roots so deftly laid  
In magic dirt Miss Minnie made.  
Black and warm and full of peat,  
Made from things she didn't eat:

Peelings from bananas bared,  
pear and apple cores were spared.  
Hulls from beans Miss Minnie grew  
And cabbage leaves the rabbits knew.

But deep inside that magic dirt  
A secret dwelled. ('Twas born of hurt.)  
Miss Minnie took her lonely days  
To turn the dirt with spirits raised!

So in each morsel grew a spark  
Where human touch had left a mark-  
A little cry that said "I'll be!"  
"I'll keep you and you'll keep me!"

And so they lived together tied  
Upon that rattled porch they thrived.  
Rain and sun poured from above  
And flowers bloomed from pure love.

Miss Minnie had no worldly things  
Her flowers were her diamond rings.  
Discarded gems she polished bright,  
To shine again in strands of light.

*By Lynn Boyd*





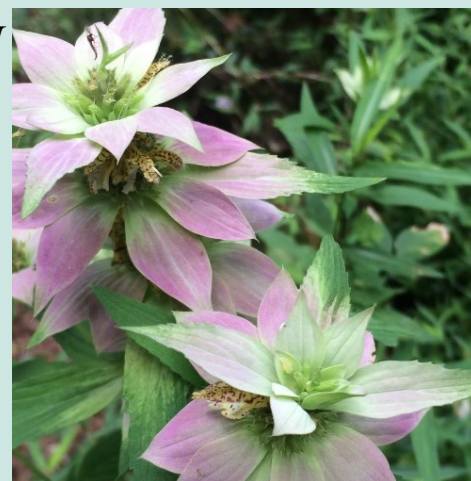
## YARD OF THE MONTH 6 KENSINGTON ROAD HOME OF KEITH AND JILL BURNETT

With a desire to celebrate the architecture of their 1926 Craftsman Bungalow at 6 Kensington Road, the Burnetts, Keith and Jill, went up the hill... with a ground cover studded rock garden. Thyme, Asiatic jasmine, sedum, morning glory, creeping fig and jenny weave a tapestry of color that draws the eye up to the beautiful and welcoming front porch.

Baskets still lush and green hang from the eaves, reminiscent of summer, as a row of planters filled with bright gold chrysanthemum remind of us the short days and cool nights upon us. What a lovely vantage point to enjoy the fruits of their labor! ~ Donna Tanner

### ***REDBUD MEMBERS SWEEP TOP PRIZES IN GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA PHOTO CONTEST***

The top three winners of the 2020 GCG Wildflower Digital Photo Contest are all Redbuds! Dianne Smith with Shenandoah Rose Garden Club won 1st and 2nd place and Jennifer Candler with Driftwood Garden Club won 3rd place and two honorable mentions. Their photos are featured in the fall Garden Gateways issue, but you really need to see them in color to appreciate their special and unique beauty. They will be featured in the upcoming new Redbud website. To see the many stunning entries in full color, go to: <http://gardenclub.uga.edu/pdfs/2020entries.pdf> To participate in 2021's Wildflower Digital Photo contest, go to the GCG website for forms and guidelines or contact Evelyn Rogers at [rogers2767@bellsouth.net](mailto:rogers2767@bellsouth.net).





## Reminders from the Horticulture Committee:

Shorter days and cooler temperatures bring a certain urgency to our gardening in November. This is the month of our average first frost, and the Beaver Full Moon or Frost Moon. Autumn is a fantastic time to plant trees, shrubs and hardy perennials. The cooler weather is less stressful for establishing transplants, allowing superior root growth and making our efforts to meet watering needs easier.

Dividing herbaceous perennials such as geraniums, sedums, phlox, asters and daylilies continues this month. Make sure the ground is moist, perhaps water the evening before you dig and divide. It is also time to plant spring

flowering bulbs of tulips, daffodils, bluebells, and crocus. It isn't too late to add garlic to your gardens, perhaps around a rose bush.

Keep weeding, and rake those beautiful leaves to add to your compost piles and shred for mulching. Don't forget the birds! Leave some of the seed heads on flowering perennials to provide food and shelter for wildlife and interest for the winter's landscape.



## From DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs:

“Restoring The Beauty” chair Quill Duncan tells us of the new pollinator garden that was planted on the Federation Garden Center grounds at Callanwolde on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. Native and non-native plants were installed with the help of eight volunteers including two husbands who tilled the garden. Further planting will continue this fall. . . Another volunteer opportunity!



## Fig Leaf Project Report:

The Fig Leaf Project is an ongoing endeavor of the Garden Club of Georgia. AEGC has been participating in it for many years providing items of clothing for patients at Georgia Regional Hospital. Faye Boyd heads up this effort for AEGC. Our most recent gift was delivered to the hospital which serves Atlanta metro counties . Included were under garments for both men and women, t-shirts, sweatshirts and pants and socks. This is an often forgotten population and we are proud to continue this project.



## Don't Forget!

The year is rapidly coming to an end. Don't forget to get your aluminum pull tabs to Susan Stewart. The tabs benefit The Ronald McDonald House. You may drop them off at Susan's front door at 63 Wiltshire.



## Flower Power Staff

*Editor..... Susan Barton*  
*Contributing editors.....Donna Tanner*  
*Tyler Weaver*  
*Helen Dorroh*  
*Renee Valdes*

## Project Highlight: The Women's Shelter

Twice a year we install plants in a series of 18 large planters on the deck of The **Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence**, a shelter for women and their children escaping domestic violence. We also fill boxes with small things the children can enjoy. On Nov 2 Jean Kingsbury, AEGC Projects



Chair and Peggy Burgess, First Vice President, delivered the boxes and gifts along with some evergreen shrubs for the planters. Not the usual way we do business, but Projects in the Time of Covid must be flexible. The shelter Director requested that we limit contact with staff and residents, thus only two members went to the shelter.



To support these women and their families, Peggy and Jean took fourteen beautiful storage boxes and 13 Holiday Stockings with a large assortment of items used to fill these boxes. The staff at the shelter fill these boxes and present them to each new family as they move to the shelter. In most cases they have left everything behind in their effort to escape.

In addition, Peggy and Patricia Calcagno purchased 4 large holly plants that will adorn the deck of the shelter where families congregate.

Our members provide the boxes, garden items and other gifts. Thank you to all who donated. We need boxes at present. You can purchase these to donate at JoAnn's, Michaels and Hobby Lobby.

## HISTORY OF THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

In June of 1985, Gwendolyn Grimmette, a social worker, was working with the DeKalb County District Attorney to protect herself from an abusive ex-husband. Upon his release from jail, her former husband immediately tracked her down. One morning as she was leaving for work, he shot and killed her in the presence of their eleven-year-old son. That same month, Commissioner Sherry Schulman established the DeKalb County Domestic Violence Task Force to investigate the issue in our county. After several months of study, the Task Force determined a need for additional domestic violence resources, system changes, and a greater emphasis on community education. To meet that need, the county granted \$10,000 to create a victim service agency and the Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence was born.

Gwendolyn's daughter from her first marriage later grew up to be Pulitzer Prize-winner and former US Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey, who writes extensively about her mother's life. A memoir of her mother was written years after the tragic event entitled *Memorial Drive*. **It is one of NY Times Ten Best Books of 2020**



Gwendolyn and Natasha pictured above.



## This is what AEGC sent to the shelter—impressive isn't it?

14 – Storage Boxes  
13 – Christmas Stockings  
3 – star war figures  
2 - sidewalk chalk  
2 – magnifying glasses  
2 – Elmer's Glue  
2 – sticker sets  
10 coloring



books  
7 -small stuffed animals  
2 – small dolls  
2 – magnetic drawing boards  
4 – stencil books  
2 – Christmas crafts  
1 – Rubiks Cube  
1- Set pencils and erasers  
6 – puzzle books



2- flower rub on tattoo books  
3 – watercolor sets  
6 – glue sticks  
5 – gardening trowels  
6 – gardening gloves for kids  
4 – winter gloves for kids  
2 -winter gloves for adults  
1- scarf  
1 – knit hat  
6 – fidget Ninjas



**From the Shelter Project Committee to members:** Please remember to buy a **photo storage box** for the Women's Shelter. We will be filling boxes for delivery in the spring and need additional boxes. They are available at Michaels, JoAnns and Hobby Lobby. Look for them on sale or with a coupon. Try to get **nature themed boxes if possible**, but any are welcome.

## A note from the Director of the Women's Resource Center:

*Hello Jean,*

*I hope this message finds you safe and well. This is just a note to let you know how much we appreciate the kindness the Avondale Garden Club has always shown the safehouse. Your thoughtfulness is especially meaningful now. Thank you so much for the lovely plants. They will be perfect for year round greenery on the patio. It was especially sweet that you delivered them with ribbons. The boxes are also delightful. You choose great colors. I know the kids will enjoy them. Thank you again for your kindness.*



*With gratitude,  
Barbara*



## CALENDAR CHECK:

**Monday, November 23rd** - last day to drop off holiday cards in the basket on Faye Boyd's porch, 23 Dartmouth

**Friday, December 4th** - Zoom Holiday Celebration followed by social distanced visits from AEGC elves

**Pull Tabs** for Ronald McDonald House - please deliver your tabs **soon and often** to Susan Stewart's porch, 63 Wiltshire. They only count for the (awful) year 2020.



# **ZOOM MEMBERSHIP GATHERING**

## **10:00 FRIDAY DECEMBER 4th**



*You are cordially invited to join fellow members in what will take the place of our Holiday Luncheon. The get-together will last about thirty minutes. After that, some AEGC elves will come to your door with a small gift and a request for a donation to Dollars Educate Scholars, a fundraiser for the Garden Club of Georgia scholarship fund. In non-pandemic times we have had a stocking to fill at the Holiday Luncheon. Let's hope that next year we can be together in person and Zoom meetings will be a thing of the past.*

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### **ADVENTURES IN RECYCLING**

Alice made the appointments for CHaRM, a center for hard to recycle materials. Peg Wyse, Alice Guppy, Christi Granger, Peggy Burgess, Jackie McCumber and Linda Coatsworth (pictured below) met at the Club at 9:00. Nancy Martin was also with the group. Jean Kingsbury was there too, but someone has to be the photographer. After a period of chatting live in person with each other they made their way to the recycle center off Hill Street.

There were lightbulbs and paint cans and chemicals and batteries and paper and glass and lots more that CHaRM accepts, though there is a charge for some of that. This is a great way to clear out the stuff in the garage that seems to be multiplying on its own.

**NOTE FROM ALICE:** It is interesting and a "blast from the past" to read the list of clutter we delivered – princess telephone, TV with tubes (remember those???), computer towers, irons, hair dryers, hot rollers, stereo speakers, tuner-receiver, DVD player, cassette players, headsets, remotes, VCR, fire extinguishers, printer, coffee maker, aluminum, corks, printer cartridges, Styrofoam, glass, fluorescent bulbs, thousands of plastic bags, and **328 pounds of paint and chemicals.**



Masked Recycler Gang—tough looking crowd

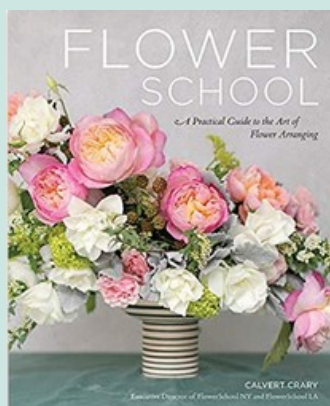






**THINGS TO BE GRATEFUL FOR DURING A PANDEMIC . . .** The grocery and paper products supply chain is still working. . . Someone came up with Zoom and made it user friendly-ish. . . Publix and Kroger will deliver. . . restaurants have learned how to make carry-out easy. . .there is a hospital practically in the neighborhood. . . getting to really know the dog, cat, goldfish. . . taking walks in this beautiful neighborhood. . . the sock drawer is finally sorted. . . you can watch old tv shows you loved the first time and you now have time to watch a movie with popcorn on your sofa. . .you can read during the day and not be judged. . . scientists all over the world are working for a cure and a vaccine. . . we still have each other. Thank you.

## ***BOOKS TO WHILE AWAY THE WINTER HOURS***



Create the flower arrangements of your dreams using the simple tips and tricks and masterful techniques taught by Executive Director Calvert Crary and the master florists at the Flower School of New York.



Whether you love exploring faraway places or creating your own landscape haven at home, *Adventures in Eden* is the ideal armchair getaway—glimpses into personal garden artistry of 50 European gardens are sure to spark inspiration.



World-renowned flower farmer and floral designer Erin Benzakein reveals all the secrets to growing, cultivating, and arranging gorgeous dahlias. These coveted floral treasures come in a dazzling range of colors, sizes, and forms. A variety for virtually every garden space and personal preference,





**Walter Says. . .** Divide your hanging basket of Boston fern into thirds and plant into three new baskets. Hang in a sunny window. By spring they'll be big enough to put outside. . . Tie up loose canes of climbing roses so they don't slap against the arbor or each other on windy days. . . Water weekly the pansies and other cool-season flowers you planted earlier.

And in **December POINSETTIAS!** Here's how to care for them: Keep your Poinsettia in bright light and **water only when the soil is dry to the touch**. If foil surrounds the pot, re-move it and place the pot on a saucer. (Editor's note: you can poke holes in the foil so it will drain into the saucer and still look festive).

Cut off the red bracts in January, leaving only the green leaves. When it is warm enough to set them outside on a shady patio in April, cut the stems back to six inches tall.

As the plants resprout move them gradually to even more sunshine. You may need to move them to larger pots so they don't wilt on hot days outdoors. Fertilize in April, June and August using houseplant fertilizer.

As they grow bigger, shorten the longest branches a couple of times to make the plants nice and compact.

On October 1st you can start the "fourteen hours of darkness, ten hours of bright light" regimen that will cause them to form colored bracts for the winter holidays once again. OR . . (Editor's note #2—you can just buy new ones).

## ***AEGC NOTE CARDS IN TIME FOR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING***

The Ways & Means Committee is preparing beautiful note cards that will be a fundraiser for this Fall. These note cards feature photos from the fabulous gardens of Avondale Estates. You may recognize photos featured in earlier editions of *Beautiful Avondale*.

We are fortunate to have two wonderful artists as members. Jean Kingsbury and Linda Coatsworth worked together to select the photos and Linda worked her magic on the photos to present them at their loveliest. They will be a wonderful gift idea for anyone you know who appreciates lovely gardens – including yourself!

Expect an email soon from Julie Martinez that will include pictures of the note cards and details regarding how to order, pickup date and time, and payment information.

Please reach out to Julie Martinez [martinezjw@comcast.net](mailto:martinezjw@comcast.net) or Peggy Burgess [burgess\\_bob@hotmail.com](mailto:burgess_bob@hotmail.com) with any questions you may have.



# Caring for Boston Ferns Over the Winter

If you have Boston ferns on your porch, you'll have to bring them indoors for the winter. They can not survive temperatures below 40 degrees F.

Bring your ferns indoors and hang them where they get the most light possible. Keep a pair of scissors handy to prune fronds which inevitably turn brown during the winter.

Next spring, pull the ferns from their baskets and saw each root ball into eight equal pieces. Buy eight new hanging baskets and fill with potting soil. Plant each of the baskets with two fern divisions and hang them on your porch again. A month later you'll have eight baskets filled with greenery!

