



FLOWER POWER

The Avondale Estates Garden Club

Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Deep South Garden Clubs and the Garden Club of Georgia

September 2022

Volume VIII Issue VI

THE NATIVE NUDGE
Helianthus microcephalis
Small Woodland Sunflower



A native wildflower in the aster family, this small sunflower is found in dry woodland areas or along roadsides in the eastern U.S.A. It will grow 4-6 feet tall and 2-4 feet wide. The yellow flowers are showy in clusters with a long bloom season. Pollinators are attracted to the blooms and birds will eat the seeds. It spreads by rhizomes and re-seeding.

The Small Woodland Sunflower is easy to grow in average well-drained soils and tolerates moist to occasionally dry soil and full sun to partial shade. It is drought tolerant once established. Deadhead the blooms to stimulate re-blooming and prevent unwanted seeding. This plant is suitable for cottage gardens, naturalized and native gardens and rock gardens. It makes a great nectar plant for a butterfly garden as well.

FROM PRESIDENT PEGGY BURGESS. . .

Let's Get This Party Started!

AEGC September 15, 2022

Membership Meeting

6:00pm Avondale Community Club



That is right, let's get this party started with a Hello and Welcome! and to all our new members and a Welcome Back to our established members. Our September Meeting will give us all an opportunity to meet, greet and welcome all of the new members who have joined us since May. So during the cocktail hour please introduce yourself to any and all!!!!

AEGC Board has been busier than ever before with many plans for the Fall and beyond. Our Disbursement Committee has recommendations for us to spend a significant amount of our earnings from the Plant Sale and Secret Garden Tour.

The Conservation and Environment Committee, after your affirmation, will become the Environmental Responsibilities Committee with plans for a community-wide speaker program spotlighting environmental issues.

The Ways and Means Committee is in high gear getting ready for our final time-honored "Holiday Bazaar."

The Horticulture Committee has something special for every gardener, an opportunity to show off! We are participating in a Horticulture and Flower Show, "What's Cookin' Daisy" September 19th through 21st. So be spiffing up your plants between now and then!

Last but not least we will be helping the Tree Board plant 36 granite markers around Avondale on September 24th. This is the completion of a project started by AEGC several years ago giving Avondale Estates a total of 66 granite marked trees.

As you read this, look for opportunities to join in the Party!!

AEGC MISSION STATEMENT

The Avondale Estates Garden Club offers education and service opportunities to inspire the appreciation of various horticulture arts and to promote the awareness of environmental responsibility.



JULY YARD OF THE MONTH

31 DARTMOUTH AVENUE

HOME OF CAROLYN AND TOMMY ADAMS

Carolyn and Tom Adams contracted to have their house built at the corner of Dartmouth Avenue and Fairfield Plaza in February 2020, replacing a prior residence. They began landscaping in the fall of that year.

Gardenias were planted in sunny areas where erosion would likely occur. Along the hillside facing Fairfield Plaza they installed a rock garden using large stones as steps to facilitate planting and weeding.

Varying degrees of shade on the hillside presented an opportunity for a wider selection of plants creating a naturalized woodland garden. There the Adams installed a beautiful array of hellebores, ferns, digitalis, Cranesbill Geraniums, iris, azaleas, and Narihira mahonias along with various Juniper species and other plants. Azaleas, Japanese Maples, Aspidistra, ginger and ligustrum were planted along the house foundation. In the backyard the Adams planted an area featuring a cutting garden, a spot for annuals and space for vegetables.

~Helen Dorroh





AUGUST YARD OF THE MONTH
3170 KENSINGTON ROAD
HOME OF LAURA BINGHAM AND DAMITA BOYD

There is a lovely welcoming landscape at 3170 that may not have occurred save for a plumbing disaster in November. It turned out to be a good news-bad news situation. When the dust settled Laura and Damita saw several options they may not have thought of if their front yard hadn't been excavated.

With help from a professional designer they were able to install a charming garden incorporating the existing hydrangeas and Japanese Maples. There are now low maintenance beds along the curved stone walkway and on the verge which include Edgeworthia, native azaleas, hellebores, and sensitive ferns among the shade lovers.

A vintage garden bench was a house warming gift and is situated to best enjoy the new view.

~ Renee Valdes



SEPTEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH

3045 OAKHAM PLACE

HOME OF BILL ROBERTS

Bill Roberts has established his beautiful garden oasis with a focus on creating a pollinator-friendly habitat.

In only one year, Bill has accomplished this without the use of chemicals, relying on mulch for weed control, natural fertilizers, and thoughtful plant placement.

A mature persimmon tree anchors an edge of the garden on one side, an ornamental cherry stands at the other, and a lovely weeping cherry shelters two Adirondack chairs that make a special place to enjoy the many butterflies and pollinators who visit the border of blue salvia, California giant zinnia, daisy, black eyed susan and coneflower interspaced with Golden Fire and Ruby canna lilies.

Rose of Sharon, yellow hibiscus, BoHo hydrangea, masses of lantana and a stunning grouping of Bloodleaf coleus all contribute to this lush landscape.

Pear trees line the side drive, and sedum, lavender and sage bloom along the walkway that leads to a most charming and welcoming front porch. Bill describes his garden as a nature friendly environment where the wellbeing of the plants is always observed. Bill's advice is, "Don't be afraid to move something that doesn't seem happy to another spot. I'm always looking for the best home for every plant."

~Beth Langhorst



We cordially invite you to join us for the 61st Annual Redbud District meeting as we visit with friends from Redbud and around the state in celebration of the Remarkable Redbuds

Gale Thomas, Redbud District Director

Our Honored Guest will be Peggy Tucker, President The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

**At The First Baptist Church New Life Center
139 Church St, LaGrange, GA 30240**

Registration 9:30 a.m.

Meeting, Program & Luncheon 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Our speaker will be Abra Lee, Storyteller, Educator, and Author whose work has been featured in publications including The New York Times and Veranda Magazine.

A native Georgian and fellow garden club member, Ms. Lee is a graduate of Auburn University College of Agriculture and an alumna of the Longwood Gardens Society of Fellows, a global network of public horticulture professionals

Your hosts are the Elms and Roses Garden Club Council whose member clubs are Wisteria Garden Club, Talisman Garden Club, Pine Needle Garden Club, and Iris Garden Club

Meeting Chairman: Bonnie Dudley, 706-812-7167; bondudley@yahoo.com

**Enjoy a delicious luncheon presented by Sloppy Pig Catering
There will be Awards ~ Door Prizes ~ Raffle Baskets ~ Silent Auction ~ Fun & Fellowship**

Watch for registration form and information arriving later this summer!

WANT TO PARTICIPATE THIS FALL? LET US COUNT THE WAYS

1. **The Yellow Daisy Flower Show**—The 49th Redbud district sponsored flower show will be held this year at Callanwolde September 21st and 22nd. There are opportunities to help with the horticulture samples, to work a shift at the show and to enter your own specimens. It's easy, we promise. There is a youth component as well, see next page.
2. On September 24th we are **helping to place 34 granite markers at various locations in Avondale** in concert with the Tree Board. We will need volunteers for this event as well. Wear your most fashionable gardening outfit, there will be knees in the dirt involved.
3. November 11 and 12 are the dates for the **Holiday Bazaar**. This is our swan song for this well loved fundraiser. It offers opportunities to **rid yourself of "things."** Things that have outgrown usefulness in your family, things great Aunt Tillie gave you that have resided in attic ever since and those things on the gift shelf in your linen closet that have been there far too long. Nice things that others would be happy to have. The other opportunities are to **work the fundraiser** (which we encourage every member to do). **Set-up is Friday** and it is all hands on deck. **The event is Saturday** and we need volunteers for that too. **Take down, close up, or clear out is** immediately after the sale. Again, an all hands on deck event. We've accomplished this segment in as little as 45 minutes in the past. And, all parts of this Hoorah are fun because you will be working with others and we are a fun group.

Sadly, there is no conga line, but I guarantee there is fun to be had working together. Come join the group.



DEKALB FEDERATION PROJECTS

... WE CAN HELP

What have you been doing with all those **wine corks**? Saving them for craft project that hasn't happened? You can bring them to a Federation meeting! We will send them to an organization that repurposes them into shoe soles, carpet, etc.

And those packets of **disposable utensils** we get with take-out meals during the pandemic? Federation has found a home for them with a non-profit that distributes meals to those in need.

Important: the utensils must still be encased in their original plastic wrap.



Dear Remarkable Redbud Youth:

Mmm-Mmm! We are preparing a real treat for this year's Redbud District Standard Flower Show ***What's Cookin' Daisy?*** Daisy knows you all will enjoy being a part of this decidedly delicious event!

This year, our 49th Annual Redbud District Flower Show will be held at the Callanwolde Mansion. There is already a lot of prep and cookin' happening in those big kitchens. Come see what we are whipping up and be a part of the fun!

With your entries in Design and Horticulture, we know it will be a feast for the senses! Ages pre-school through age 18 are invited to enter in the Youth Division. All young entrants welcome! Contact Youth Chairman Susan Turner to reserve a seat at the table today! All entrants need to provide Name, Age & Sponsoring Club information.

What's Cookin' Daisy?

The Redbud District Forty-ninth Standard Flower Show
In cooperation with Callanwolde Fine Arts Center
980 Briarcliff Road, NE Atlanta, GA 30306 404-872-5338

Flower Show is open and free to the public Wednesday, September 21, 2022 - 2:00pm – 6:00pm
Thursday, September 22, 2022 - 10:00am – 5:00pm
Entries information listed below.

Visit the www.redbuddistrict.com or contact your Youth Division Chairman to find all the details!
We are ready to see the creative talents from our *Remarkable Redbud Youth!*

*Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.,
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., and Redbud District VII*

We look forward to a scrumptious show with

What's Cookin' Daisy?

Youth Consultant/Entries Chairman:
Susan Turner, Chairman 770-922-4411, glencree@bellsouth.net

THE ABELIA HEDGE, A BRIEF HISTORY

Some years ago, then AEGC President Jan Rochman asked former President Faye Boyd to research the history of the Abelia Hedge. The following is from a note written by Faye based on the minutes from an AEGC meeting in 1932.

“ In 1932 the Club acted on a motion made by Mrs. W.E. Goulder to plant a three-block stretch of Avondale Road with Abelia Hedging, this separated the residential street from the highway. We arranged for the necessary W.P.A. labor who planted the 253 small abelia bushes which cost \$40.00 at the time plus \$10.00 for early maintenance. These shrubs now reach a height of 9-10 ft. and were evaluated by a nurseryman in 1971 at \$35,000. [*Adjusted for inflation, \$35,000 in 1971 is equal to \$245,178 in 2022*]. Needless to say, they are our comfort, pride and joy. This hedge is supervised by the City of Avondale Estates and our Garden Club as to pruning and other necessary care whenever needed.”



FROM GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA . . . UPCOMING AREA PLANT SALES (MOSTLY NATIVE)

- Sept 16 - Oct 15, **Decatur**, GSU Perimeter College Native Botanical Garden Sat only from 10am-2pm – <https://sites.gsu.edu/pcnativegarden/>
- Sept 17-18 – **Decatur**, Woodlands Garden (not all native) <http://www.woodlandsgarden.org/fall-plant-sale>
- Sept 22-24 – **Roswell**, GA Chattahoochee Nature Center (22rd is member only) <https://www.chattnaturecenter.org/event/fall-native-plant-sale-2/2022-09-22/>
- Oct 8 - **Atlanta**, Trees Atlanta (not all native, do your research), 8 am – 1 pm <https://www.treesatlanta.org/support-us/tree-sale/>
- Oct 15 – **Alpharetta**, North Metro Chapter of GNPS, 10 am – 2 pm <https://gnps.org/pre-order-woody-plants-for-the-fall/>
- Oct 18-20 – **Lawrenceville**, Gwinnett Technical College, 9 am – 4 pm (not all natives)





The (maybe) Last Word on Awards for this year

It is such a joy to attend the Georgia State Convention of Garden Clubs, particularly on the special awards night when you hear your clubs's name called as the winner of an Award. In our case this past spring our name was called many times.

We are proud to have such an accomplished and involved membership.

At left is Peggy Burgess receiving one of many awards won by Avondale Estates Garden Club. To Peggy's right is National Garden Clubs, Inc President Mary Warshauer and to her left is Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. President, Peggy Tucker.

Cool to Cold Season Planters

Yes, it's still a bit warmish, but time to be thinking about designing your planters for the next season. Tired of pansies? Well, no one is tired of pansies or violas, but there is variety to be had that will give you color into almost the spring. To the left is Brassica oleracea 'Tokyo White' an ornamental cabbage. There is a wide variety of ornamental cabbages ranging from red to pink to white to combinations of those colors mixed with outside leaves of green. This one grows to only 8".

There is Cyclamen in pink, fuchsia, or or white and which lasts into the cold season but looks delicate.

Loropetalum mixed with wire vine or Creeping Jenny and Miscanthus makes a beautiful winter interest arrangement in a pot on your front steps.

Add some bulbs of snow drop or leucojum which come up just before a warm spring day. Purchase large, high-quality bulbs. Bigger bulbs contain more stored energy and will give you a stronger plant with more larger or more abundant flowers. Don't forget our spring favorite hellebores. These Lenten Roses now come in a variety of colors and exquisite variegated leaves.

So many choices, so few pots.

