



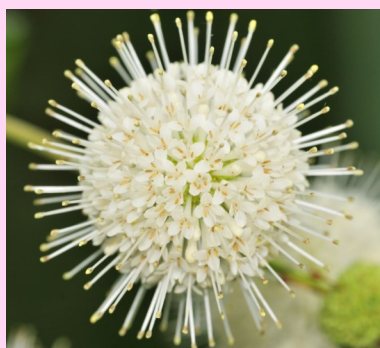
September 2020

FLOWER POWER

THE AVONDALE ESTATES
GARDEN CLUB

Volume VI Issue VI

Cephalanthus occidentalis
'Button Bush'



This interesting plant is native to Georgia as well as to most of the eastern United States. Although it grows happily in its native state along stream beds and lakes, it can do well in the landscape in full sun to part shade though it flowers best in full sun.

It is a four season plant blooming all summer with fragrant flowers attracting hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. The flowers mature into red button-like balls that stay on the plant all winter as it loses its leaves. It cannot tolerate dry soil, so it will need irrigation if not planted in a moist area.

It may be pruned in early spring to keep its shape. It has an open form and will reach 8-10' in a natural setting though nurseries have a cultivar that only reaches 4'.



Does it look like something you've seen lately?

A message from the President

LATCH ON TO THE AFFIRMATIVE

September is the first month of our garden club year but certainly not the beginning we were hoping it would be. What a year 2020 has been and continues to be!

Do you remember the song "Accentuate the Positive, Eliminate the Negative?" The talented members of the Avondale Estates Garden Club have certainly stepped up to "accentuate the positive."

In the midst of lots of negative and frightening news, our creative members have found ways to keep us involved and celebrate the beauty that surrounds us. Red, white, and blue plantings were added around the Blue Star Marker in May in time for Memorial Day. AEGC hosted our first ever "Up Front and Not-So-Personal Driving Garden Tour" and we invited our fellow gardeners to drop by our gardens to view the beautiful plantings. Thanks to so many who sent in photos of their gardens, we published eight volumes of *Beautiful Avondale* for all of us to enjoy.

Since we couldn't take homemade baked goods to the public works building, the fire house, or the police department, we instead opted to have pizza, iced tea, and cookies delivered during National Garden Week to thank our city employees for their support and help on our landscaping projects.

Some of our annual projects and programs will continue but some had to be canceled or postponed. Our committees are already meeting to make plans for the rest of the year but know we have to be flexible. There are some new projects being discussed so stay tuned to find out how we can be involved.

Even though Zoom may not be our preferred way to meet and there may be some technology glitches, we will get to visit and enjoy our fabulous programs. I am so proud of all we have accomplished and I am confident that we will support each other, focus on our goals, and continue to "accentuate the positive!" ~ Alice



Virtual meeting of AEGC Thursday the 17th at 6:00. Drop by early to visit with friends. Business meeting to begin at 6:15 followed by an interesting program starring an Avondale Estates resident. See you there! Check the email from Alice for the Zoom link.

NEWS FROM DEKALB FEDERATION:

The Yellow Daisy Flower Show Goes On (virtually)

We know you've been gardening (as well as eating!) during our COVID break. But, without the Yellow Daisy Flower Show, you haven't been able to show off your efforts. So we propose an online show. No awards, just lots of pretty pictures!

To make things easier, we've set up a Facebook page. You need to have a Facebook logon to see the page but you needn't create your own page. Just click on the following link to post or view:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1238530506507076>



Don't want to go to that fuss? **Just email your information directly to Diane Hunter** at drmchunter@yahoo.com and I'll put it on the page. We suggest posting your pictures by September 20.

Make sure to identify your specimens like this:

Example:

Botanic name: *Lantana camara* 'Luscious Marmalade'

Common name: Lantana

Grower: Suzy Queue

Club: Green Thumb Garden Club

Your specimens can be in bottles, in pots, in the ground, on the wall....Just have fun!

WALTER SAYS . . . Divide daylily, iris and monkey grass while you still have several weeks of warm weather to encourage root growth. . . Fertilize salvia and chrysanthemums with liquid plant food. They will reward you with lots of blooms later this fall. . . It's a great time to plant peony roots. A good, old-time favorite is 'Festiva Maxima'. For real excitement, plant a tree peony and get huge blooms next May. . . Spring-flowering bulbs are on sale now. You can buy them – **but don't put them in the ground until soil temperatures are in the 60's** or cooler in early October . . . Examine patio plants for insects if you intend to bring them indoors. Treat with insecticide if necessary . . . Propagate limber-limbed hydrangea, grape and forsythia plants by placing a thin branch on the ground and partially covering it with soil and a brick. . . **Replace** all of the mulch under roses, red tip photinia and crabapples. You'll prevent diseases on next year's leaves.



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YARD OF THE MONTH 91 DARTMOUTH HOME OF TOM AND CHRISTI GRANGER

With banners of red, white and blue adorning a welcoming porch, Tom and Christi Granger's home is a true celebration!

A cinnamon bark Natchez Crape Myrtle under planted with Lorapetalum 'Crimson Fire' provides just the right amount of shade for the host of plantings atop a beautiful stone retaining wall. A pair of Japanese maples, *Acer palmatum dissectum* 'Spring Delight' hold center court with *Camellia* 'Shishi Geshira' and Japanese Star Anise in the forefront. The row of Limelight hydrangea in the side yard are in full bloom with *Carex* 'Evergold' and roof iris at the base.

Japanese Star Flower 'Scorpio' grows behind a manicured low boxwood hedge at the front porch. Numerous boxwood dot the yard providing a traditional Southern flourish. A collection of blue hued pottery throughout the yard and flanking the front door hold bold displays of seasonal color and interest.

The woodland garden along the drive is thriving; specimen Japanese maple, oak leaf hydrangea, lorapetalum, mature camellia, viburnum, and roses are woven with colorful perennials and herbs. *Vitex* 'Shoal Creek' with it's blue blooms set off lovely drifts of black-eyed Susan, golden coreopsis, Shasta daisies and Cranesbill geranium. At the bottom of the garden, the hydrangea 'Merritt's Supreme' in purple bloom are icing on the cake! ~ Donna Tanner



AUGUST YARD OF THE MONTH 42 DARTMOUTH AVENUE HOME OF TRACY LENAHAN AND GIANLUCA SACCONI

Tracy and Gianluca hired Patrick at City Garden Co. last year to design and install the new garden space. If you have driven or walked by their home, you will have noticed the beautiful transformation with the addition of Boxwoods, Hostas, and Hydrangeas to their landscape.

Tracy's favorite garden feature is the beautiful Magnolia in the backyard which can be seen from the street as their home is located on the corner of Dartmouth and Kingstone. Before moving to Avondale they lived in Southern California. Gian is originally from Italy and they wanted to duplicate the feel of both places. The result is evident in the manner of making their garden an extension of their home. The sod lawn in front is meant to feel like a sitting area where they can relax. Over time the Boxwoods will form a hedge to give them some privacy.

More changes are to come to their yard with the addition of a pool in the back along with some palm trees which will give them the resort feel they are seeking. With a yard like this you only need to step outside to feel like you are on a holiday. ~ Patricia Calcagno



SEPTEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH
36 DARTMOUTH AVENUE
HOME OF DANIELLE SANSONE AND MATT PHILLIPS

After renovating the interior of their new home, Danielle Sansone and Matt Phillips decided to start with a clean canvas for their landscape. That called for strategic and careful plant removal from the area where it felt crowded and unruly and obscured much of the beautiful stone wall in front. The front, back, and side yards were graded and zoysia sod was laid. In addition, they built a backyard porch with bluestone flooring, stone walls, a fireplace and pergola.

Danielle and Matt are empty-nesters as of this fall with two daughters in college. Danielle is a piano teacher and singer/songwriter and Matt is a luthier (he restores vintage stringed instruments) and plays early jazz cornet and various fretted instruments. The outdoor living spaces are often accompanied by music.

Danielle received a graduate degree in horticulture and has a natural gift and feel for beautifying her surroundings. Many of the plants they added to the property were transplanted from previous homes and Danielle's childhood home in Meridian, Mississippi. With an affinity for boxwoods, Japanese maples, hydrangeas, hostas and azaleas, Danielle relies on Matt as her go-to hole-digger. ~ *Patricia Calcagno*

POLLINATOR FACTS AND BEE HOTEL INFO FROM UGA

One third of ALL food and fiber plants REQUIRE insects to pollinate them. (see why we don't like pesticides?)

The annual value of pollination to agriculture in Georgia is \$360,000,000. (yes, that's millions)

Bees are the top pollinators because of their dietary needs for pollen and nectar. Honey bees can be managed, unlike other pollinators. Honey bees can be packed up in their hives and transported across the country if necessary.

Pollination is key to seed production, and without pollinators like hummingbirds, bees, ants, butterflies, wasps, and many others, our favorite fruits and vegetables would never make it to our tables.

Honey bees get the best press, but are far outstripped by the volume of pollination provided gratis by the hundreds of species of wild bees.

Although wasps, ants, and bees don't yield warm and fuzzy feelings for most people, that doesn't mean they should be ignored. Pollinator populations are decreasing. Not only in population, but also in diversity. Research from UGA is helping to identify not only the reasons behind the decline, but also what homeowners can do to help them.

Anyone can play a major role in pollinator conservation. One way is to plant your garden with a succession of flowers that bloom early spring into the fall when the bees are still hungry.

Adding nesting sites and nesting materials is another important measure in creating sustainable habitats, especially for native bees.

If you want to help pollinators while maintaining a neat yard, there is good news. Many of the resources that pollinators need, including nesting locations, can be attractive additions to your landscape. In Europe, nesting boxes can host over 15% of native bee species. When bees have access to a diversity of nesting materials, their numbers are positively affected, so providing nesting resources in your landscape is very beneficial to bees.



To find out how to get in the Bee Hotel biz, check out this website:

<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C1125>



AEGC Awards 2019-2020

The awards season was successful for our club. We apply to our state organization, Garden Club of Georgia as well as to our local DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs. GCG announces awards at the Annual Convention, usually. This year the convention was cancelled and the awards were announced with little pomp and ceremony. We are still pleased to have placed in two of the three awards we entered.

At the Federation level, we entered ten applications and placed first in five, second in two, third in one and Honorable Mention in one. Three of those Awards came with a monetary award of \$50. All together a wonderful awards season for AEGC. The Secret Garden event won the Special Achievement Award for AEGC and it was the undertaking involving the most members.

Furthermore, we were recognized for Attendance at Federation meetings (which are always interesting) and the Pull A Tab Award coming in second behind our sister club, Avon Garden Club.



Federation Awards Applied for

Awards Received

# 5, Programs Award.....	First Place + \$50
# 9, Yearbook Award.....	Honorable Mention
# 12, Community Service Award.....	Third Place
# 25, Butterfly Award (Member Pam Mable).....	First Place
# 28, Shade Gardening Award (Member Patricia Calcagno).....	First Place
# 33, Special Achievement Award (Secret Garden Tour).....	First Place + \$50
# 35, Website Award.....	First Place
# 36, Newsletter Award.....	Second Place
# 39, Horticulture in Public Places Award.....	Second Place (No First Awarded)
# 2 Attendance Award (Large Club).....	Second Place + \$50
#3 100 % Attendance at Federation Meetings	
#24 Gavel Award (Club with most award applications).....	First Place + \$50
#38 Pull A Tab Award (Large Club).....	Second Place

GCG Awards

Awards Received

#37 Publications Award (Medium Club).....	Second Place
#53 Website Award (Medium Club).....	Second Place



Children's Garden Boxes Needs



Projects Chairman Jean Kingsbury asked Barbara Gibson, Director of the Women's Shelter, what was needed for the children at the Shelter. Our club provides large photo-size boxes filled with toys and games and things age appropriate for the children of the women who have taken shelter from abusive situations. There is a small budget for the "Garden Boxes" and we ask the membership to donate some inexpensive items to fill in the rest.

"As to the boxes, Ms Gibson responded, "we would love to have (if possible) supplies for gardening such as small tools, herb and lettuce seeds, fidget spinners, bubbles, fun pencils, small stones that can be painted (the children will paint an encouraging word on them), school themed posters, uno cards, jacks, sidewalk chalk. Honestly, we would love to have anything that supports virtual learning and time at home." Barbara Gibson

Jean tells us that we currently have quite a few boxes for now as well as some coloring books, markers and the like. In the old days, before Covid19, members could bring items to the meetings. Today, when you have things to donate, please call Jean and she'll make arrangements to have someone from her committee pick them up. Boxes go to the Shelter twice a year. The next one will be before the Holidays. If you find anything else you'd like to donate that would help them with virtual learning or school themed posters, we will have a group of volunteers going out to the Shelter to plant their large planters on their deck. We can take them at that time.

ALUMINUM TAB TOPS—WHAT TO DO WITH THEM?

Great news! You can make a necklace or bracelet or even a bowl with those pull-tabs on beer cans, soda cans and cat food! Or . . . you can donate them to the Ronald McDonald house—one source of fundraising for them.

At AEGC we make it easy for you. Your job is to ask your family, friends and neighbors to save them for you. Then, you just call Susan Stewart, our chairperson for that job and make arrangements for the transfer. Much easier than making a bowl.



Redbud Annual District Meeting to be a Virtual Gathering via Zoom on October 7.

In the past, our District Meeting was the venue where we conducted our annual fundraiser; i.e., Basket Raffle, Redbud Boutique, *Share the Joy* Holiday Bazaar, etc. Obviously, we can't do any in-place fundraising, so we are going virtual!!

We will be playing **Gift Card Canasta** at our Virtual Gathering, and we are asking for help from our clubs, councils and individuals to purchase the gift cards that will be given away as door prizes, as well as providing much needed funds to support our District budget..

Redbud District

Is offering you a **FUN-D-RAISING**

Opportunity and a chance to win at *Gift Card Canasta!*

Support Redbud and play at our October 7th Virtual Gathering

Redbud District is gratefully accepting monetary donations from clubs and individuals in lieu of the normal expenses for attendees (registration fee, donating to a club raffle basket and purchasing tickets for raffle baskets chances).

All contributions are truly appreciated!

Contributions will supplement our annual budget.
Gift cards will be purchased with a portion of these donations from places that members will find useful and easily accessible.

**Mail your contribution payable to Redbud District to
Rigby Duncan, Treasurer
2800 Hunting Hill Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-1504**

Gift Card Door Prizes to be drawn and mailed to the winners.
Your virtual attendance will be noted and
automatically entered for a chance to win!



**Join the FUN via Zoom at the
Redbud District Virtual Gathering**

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 Meeting begins at 10:30

**Honored Guest, Barbara Bourque,
President, The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.**

**A Zoom link to this *Virtual Gathering* will be sent via the
GCG and Redbud District Listserv closer to meeting date.**

Enjoy a Virtual Luncheon, from the AEGC Luncheon Committee

Just because we can't meet in person doesn't mean that Luncheon Committee isn't busy with some plans for you to enjoy, though you'll be preparing the meal yourself. They have come up with a menu and will share it each month with the membership. Today's repast is presented by Peg Wyse, Kathy Delaney, Susan Stewart, Natalie DuPree and Southern Living.

Tomango Salad — Peg Wyse

Ingredients:

One ripe mango

One pint red or yellow cherry tomatoes

Peel and cut mango into bite-sized chunks;

Cut the tomatoes in half and combine in a bowl

Dressing: 1/2 cup olive oil; 1/4 cup red wine vinegar

Optional: garlic powder, chopped parsley, or chopped cilantro to taste.

Chicken Bacon Ranch Casserole

From Southern Living

Ingredients:

8 ounces uncooked mini penne

4 bacon slices, chopped

1 tablespoon minced garlic (about 3 garlic cloves)

3/4 cup heavy whipping cream

1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, cubed and softened

2 ounces Parmesan cheese, grated (about 1/2 cup)

2 tablespoons ranch dressing and seasoning mix (from 1 [1-oz.] pkg.)

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

3 cups shredded, cooked chicken (from 1 rotisserie chicken)

8 ounces low-moisture part skim mozzarella cheese, shredded (about 2 cups) divided

Cooking spray

2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

Directions

Preheat oven to 375°F. Cook penne according to package directions; drain, reserving 1 cup cooking water. Place pasta in a large bowl and set aside.

Heat a large skillet over medium. Add bacon, and cook, stirring often, until crisp, about 5 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer bacon to a plate lined with paper towels. Reserve drippings in skillet.

Add garlic to hot drippings in skillet over medium, and cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Whisk in whipping cream and cream cheese; cook, whisking often, until cream cheese is melted and mixture is smooth, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat, and stir in Parmesan, ranch dressing mix, pepper, and reserved 1 cup cooking water. Pour over pasta. Fold in chicken and 1 cup of the mozzarella cheese. Pour mixture into a lightly greased (with cooking spray) 13- x 9-inch baking dish. Top with bacon and remaining 1 cup cheese. Bake in preheated oven until golden and bubbly, about 20 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley, serve hot.

