



Redbud Reporter

Fall 2023

From the District Director

On The Wings of a Dilemma

Redbud District sponsored the beautiful 50th Anniversary of the Yellow Daisy Flower Show – “Decades of Daisy” – held on September 20-21 at the Callanwolde Fine Art Center. With over 438 horticulture specimens and 40 judged flower designs as well as many youth design entries, it was a lovely event and great time with the Redbud Community and Beyond. Many, many thanks to Daisy Chairmen—Joy Zaidan and Gale Thomas. Read more about it in this Reporter.

Garden Club members are so easy to talk to. All I have to do is say is “Tell me about your garden”. I am a little envious of my fellow gardeners who have been working on their gardens for a long time and have it just the way they want it. I moved into my current home in Stone Mountain about 10 years ago. The yard was a mess. It had been “leveled off” with some earth moving equipment and that dirt was in a big pile in the back of the yard. The red clay that was left required a pickaxe to plant.

Fast forward to many improvements later and I finally hired Pike’s Nursery to till and amend and plant according to my and Christine from Pike’s design this January. Everything was going great and then the weeds began to appear—ones I had never seen before. I spent a lot of time pulling them—even in the terrible heat. But it is a large area, and one area got the best of me. The “weeds” bloomed, and the pollinators appeared – more than I have ever had before! There were orange ones and black ones

and yellow ones and so many bees of every kind. The “weed” turned out to be *Bidens pilosa* – Spanish Needle – and is used as a medicinal and beauty treatment in some cultures. If my goal is to support pollinators – how can I pull these out? Many plants we embrace in our gardens today were once weeds – Joe Pye, Ironweed, Goldenrod, etc. Certainly, Doug Tallamy started a gardening revolution – insisting we keep “nature” in mind. I’m thinking perhaps another revolution is on the horizon—another level of “natural”. What do you think?

Kim Fair
Redbud District Director





CHEERS TO 50 YEARS OF DAISY!

What a memorable flower show celebrating Redbud District’s 50th Show! Daisy dazzled us at 50 in her showstopping, gold sequined dress as she welcomed more than 180 visitors to “Decades of Daisy.” Eighty-six percent of garden club members all across the District gathered to participate in this golden celebration. Some of you volunteered to set up and tear down the show, while others clerked, judged, painted, prepared food, constructed staging, entered designs and horticulture, transported properties, classified and placed horticulture, had workshops for youth and the sponsored group, and so much more. We thank each and every one of you for your part in making this show a success.

The opening of “Decades of Daisy” was launched with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Honored Guests Lisa Hall, Garden Club of Georgia President, and Andrew Keenan, Executive Director of Callanwolde Fine Arts Center. The ribbon cutting was captured by Champion News of DeKalb County and was followed by a celebratory reception with cake and punch.



When the doors to the flower show opened, the Courtyard Room at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center had been transformed into an art museum for the 40 inspiring floral designs interpreting show and class titles from years past, with titles such as “Picasso’s Cube”, “Monet’s Garden”, “Hall of Mirrors”, “Meet the Artist” and “Picture Perfect”. Patsy Jo Adams of Spade and Trowel GC swept the Design Division with her outstanding Traditional

Mass Design, winning the Blue Ribbon, Designer’s Choice Award, Award of Design Excellence and the Mickie Holton Inspirational Award.



An incredible 438 horticulture entries (100 more than 2022), strategically placed around the perimeter of the room, attracted visitors to the beautiful specimens. Specimens were all labeled with botanical names for educational purposes.

Five collections of hostas (Lynn Boyd; Bonnie Pennington), ferns (Deborah Fleming), herbs (Quill Duncan) and aroids (Lynn Malone) amazed attendees with their cultural perfection. They were all blue ribbon winners. Congratulations to Deborah Fleming of Redbud’s newest club, Stonecrest, for winning the blue ribbon, Collector’s Showcase Award, the coveted Award of Horticultural Excellence and the Redbud District Elinore Wilson Trophy for her fern collection.



The winner of the NGC Sweepstakes Award and the Redbud Hallie Brown Memorial Trophy was Michéle Spears of Avon GC as the **INDIVIDUAL** winning the most blue ribbons in the entire Horticulture Division. Spade and Trowel Garden Club of Thomaston was the recipient of the Blue Ribbon Sweepstakes Award and a \$50.00 cash award presented to the **CLUB** winning the most blue ribbons in the entire flower show (including Horticulture, Design, Education). Congratulations to these big winners.

Three informative and well-done educational exhibits focused on Recycling and Saving the Planet, Protecting our Pollinators and the 50-Year History of the Yellow Daisy Flower Show. Winner of the top Exhibitor Award was Joy Zaidan of Smoke Rise Morning Glories and Designers Clubs for her exhibit recounting the history of the flower show as told by Daisy.



This year brought a record-breaking 61 youth design entries. Susan Turner and Ann Weisz held workshops with the youth, and Dian Goldwire and Gale Thomas worked with their grandchildren, encouraging their design efforts and creativity. Visitors were welcomed to the Youth Section, entitled “Ring the School Bell,” with an old wooden school desk displaying youth designs. Stacked books



wrapped in brown kraft paper were used to elevate the school designs. Youth, ages 5 through 17, created imaginative designs representative of “Art Class”, “Sounds of Music” and “Geometry”.

Top Youth Awards went to Maximus Schorr, age 7 (Smoke Rise GC), Nevaeh Goldwire, age 10 (Iris GC) and Sarah Goldwire, age 14 (Iris GC). In addition to the three Top NGC Youth Awards, the recipient in each age category received a handblown glass ornament that related to the class title: an artist’s palette ornament for the “Art Class” winner, a guitar for “Sounds of Music” and a triangular piece of cake for “Geometry”.

New to the Flower Show this year were Sponsored Group Design entries from members of the Olivia Haydel Senior Center in Conyers. Susan Turner and Gale Thomas pitched the idea of participating in the flower show to members of the Senior Center, presenting them with examples of designs and specifics for each of the class titles. Eight members signed up to participate, and in September Gale led a hands-on workshop with these ladies. After Gale’s demonstration of design basics, the ladies created eight designs interpreting class titles “Fun Times” (games of times past), “Footloose and Fancy Free” (design in footwear) and “Hands of Time” (incorporating clock parts). The blue ribbon winner in each of the three classes in this Section was

awarded a Special Achievement purple rosette and a cash award of \$20.00. The Local Rosettes were awarded to Jenny Giron, Sharon Harrison and Jackie Ensley. The addition of Sponsored Groups to the flower show was Redbud’s effort to involve the community in expressing creativity through design.



We consider ourselves blessed to be amongst garden club ladies and gentlemen who are always willing to pitch in and get the work done. You all deserve an A+ for a stellar job!

Gratefully,
Joy Zaidan, Show Chairman
Gale Thomas, Show Co-Chairman



Thanks and congratulations to all who entered designs, horticulture and education!

Yellow Daisy Flower Show Winners for 2023

Horticulture Awards

Award of Horticultural Excellence – Fern Collection, Deborah Fleming, Stonecrest

Arboreal Award, Shrubs – *Hydrangea macrophylla*, Dianne Smith, Shenandoah Rose

Arboreal Award, Trees – *Magnolia grandiflora* ‘Little Gem’, Patsy Jo Adams, Spade & Trowel

Collector’s Showcase Award – Ferns, Deborah Fleming, Stonecrest

Award of Merit, Ferns – *Dryopteris erythrasora* (autumn fern), Christi Granger, Avondale Estates

Award of Merit, *Hosta*– *Hosta* ‘Heavenly Tiara’, Patsy Jo Adams, Spade & Trowel

Award of Merit, *Rosa* – *Rosa* ‘First Prize’, Faye Bridges, Spade & Trowel

Award of Merit, Flowering Annuals – *Celosia cristata* (cockscomb), Dian Goldwire, Iris

Award of Merit, Foliage Annuals – *Solenostemon scutellaroides* ‘Rainbow’ (coleus), Angie Moore, Spade & Trowel

Award of Merit, Flowering Perennials—*Dendrobium* hybrid ‘Aredung Green’, Lynn Malone, Mountain Mums

Award of Merit, Flowering bulbs – *Helianthus tuberosus* (Jerusalem artichoke sunflower), Carolyn Adams, Avondale Estates

Award of Merit, Foliage bulbs – *Colocasia esculenta* (elephant ear), Margo Collin, Smoke Rise

Award of Merit, Fruit and Vegetables – *Lagenaria siceraria* (bottle gourd), Courney Denny, Avon

NGC Sweepstakes Award, individual with most blue ribbons in Horticulture – Michele Spears, Avon

Local Award, Blue Ribbon Sweepstakes Award, \$50 to the club winning the most blue ribbons in entire show (hort, design, education) – Spade & Trowel

Education Award

Educational Award – Joy Zaidan, Smoke Rise Morning Glories & Designers, “Daisy Tells Her Story”

Design Awards

Award of Design Excellence, Designers Choice, Mickie Holton Inspirational Award, Patsy Jo Adams, Spade & Trowel

Petite Award, Marci Wilcox, Designers

Designers Choice Award, Patsy Jo Adams, Spade & Trowel

Blue Ribbon Winners in Design

Marci Wilcox, Designers, Petite and Floor Design

Shirley Porterfield, Designers, Petite Design

Bonnie Campbell, Designers, Petite Design

Gale Thomas, Conyers, Stonecrest and Designers, Exhibition Table

Lynn Fronk, Designers, Reflective Design

Patsy Jo Adams, Spade & Trowel, Traditional Mass

Ellen Nichol, Creative Study, Functional Table

JoAnn Jones, Roswell GC, Creative Design

Ginger Cloud, North GA Council of Flower Show Judges, Creative Design

Youth Top Design Awards

Juniors, Maximus Schorr, Smoke Rise, age 7
Intermediates, Navaeh Goldwire, Iris, age 10
High School, Sarah Goldwire, Iris, age 14

Sponsored Group Design Awards

Jenny Giron, Olivia Haydel Sr. Center, "Fun Times", Blue Ribbon, Best in Class, Special Achievement Rosette and \$20 cash award, Conyers GC
Sharon Harrison, Olivia Haydel Sr. Center, "Footloose and Fancy Free", Blue Ribbon, Best in Class, Special Achievement Rosette and \$20 cash award, Conyers GC
Jackie Ensley, Olivia Haydel Sr. Center, "Hands of Time", Blue Ribbon, Best in Class, Special Achievement Rosette and \$20 cash award, Conyers GC

Monet's Garden



"If these flowers could talk..." I thought as I stood in Monet's garden at his country home in Giverny. What would be their story? Would they tell of Monet strolling through the garden carefully selecting and placing them in his basket? Or would they fondly reminisce on the loving care they received from Monet and Gustave Caillebotte? Flowers hold memories, and the incredibly vast beauty of Monet's garden was an unforgettable sight. Seven years later, the Decades of Daisy Flower Show gave me the opportunity to revisit the inspiration I felt on that summer day in France.

I wanted my floral design to give others the feeling of strolling alongside Monet through his garden. Inspired by the pink exterior and green shutters of his home and the repeated occurrence of blue delphiniums and deep pink roses in his garden, I began to set the color scheme for the composition. Adding leather leaf, sprengeri fern, and curly willow gave the near-finished design a more whimsical and informal look. To complete the arrangement, I placed the flower basket on a pebble-covered base to represent the path Monet would have taken through his treasured garden.

From Patsy Jo Adams, Spade and Trowel Garden Club, whose entry "Monet's Garden" won the Award of Design Excellence, Designers Choice Award and Mickie Holton Inspirational Award

Redbud District

*The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
Cordially Invites you to Attend Our*

62st Annual District Meeting And Gift Basket Raffle

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

*Callanwolde Fine Arts Center
980 Briarcliff Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30306*



“Wild About Wildflowers”

*Guest Speaker Ms. Felicity N. Davis
Landscape Architect
The Georgia Department of Transportation
Roadside Wildflower Program*



*Honored Guest Lisa Hall, President
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.*

*Hosted by The DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs
Meeting Chairman Quill Duncan 770 414-4766 quillduncan@msn.com*

~ AGENDA ~

9:30 – Registration, Raffle Baskets Preview, Exhibits

10:00 – Special Guests and Presentations

11:00 – Speaker

11:45 – Door Prizes and Basket Raffles

Noon – Lunch is Served

Business Meeting

1:30 – Awards Program

Basket Raffles, 50/50 Cash Raffle and Door Prizes

2:00– Adjournment

Lodging Information

Hampton Inn and Suites Atlanta Decatur/Emory Area
116 Clairemont Ave., Decatur, GA 30030 HAMPTON 1-800-426-7866

Holiday Inn Express 2183 N. Decatur Road, Decatur, GA 30033 1-855-479-0732

University Inn at Emory. 1767 N. Decatur Road, Atlanta, GA 30307. 404-634-7327

2023 Redbud District Meeting Registration Form

Mail completed registration form and check for **\$35.00**, payable to **Redbud District**. Send to:
Rigby Duncan, 2800 Hunting Hill Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-1504
678-644-9502; rigbyduncan113@gmail.com

Luncheon Reservation Deadline: September 30, 2023 Late Fee: \$10.00

Name _____ E-Mail _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Garden Club _____ District _____ Phone _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Former State President | <input type="checkbox"/> District Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> State Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Council President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deep South Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Former District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest |

First Time Attendee at a District Meeting New Garden Club Member in 2022

Dietary Restrictions _____

I would like to reserve exhibit space for a display. I will need:

1/2 table _____ 1 table _____

Chairmanship/Name of Display _____

Save the Date!
Peachtree City 2024 Convention April 16 and 17!
The Redbud District and
The Garden Club of Georgia present
“ Bloomin’ in the Heart of Georgia...Y’all Come “
Enjoy the fellowship, the fun and festivities next Spring!



Dear Redbud Friends,

We have the honor of hosting the 96th Annual Convention of the Garden Club of Georgia. And our big surprise is that we will convening in Peachtree City at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center. This beautiful facility is in our district and offers many benefits to our guests. If you want to check out the hotel and the meeting space, go to the website.

<https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/peachtree-city/atlpa/hotel/detail>

The convention will be held April 16-17, 2024. Bonnie Dudley and I are the co-chairmen of the event and we have a great group of Redbud friends who have volunteered to chair the many committees that are involved to pull off a successful convention. Please consider volunteering to help us along the way and make plans now to attend our beautiful gathering. Gale Thomas has arranged for some exciting speakers and a unique Designers’

Challenge and a Design workshop for post-convention activities. There will be vendors for great shopping and we are working on some delightful meal selections from the hotel’s talented chef. The formal invitation and registration

will be issued early next year in the winter issue of *Garden Gateways*.

Thank you all in advance for your support. We will have a special Redbud 50/50 cash raffle to help fund the event and we will need you to sell those tickets to all your club members and friends. District Director Kim Fair will keep the party going with her ukulele and she needs you to sing along! And remember: “Y’all Come to Peachtree City Next Spring”!

See you soon!

Quill and Bonnie
 Peachtree City 2024 Convention Co-Chairs



NGC & GCG offers wonderful opportunities to become involved in educating youth as they participate in contests. Encourage entries this summer and be ahead of the upcoming December 1st & January 1st deadlines.

Email or U.S. Mail entries, as indicated, to designated chairmen early and avoid the hustle & bustle of autumn activities!

**Redbud Youth Chairman Melodie Janin 678-633-0219 melodiejanin@yahoo.com
Redbud Youth Co-Chairman Susan Turner 770-922-4411 glencree@bellsouth.net**

YOUTH POETRY CONTEST 2023-2024

THEME: "I Spy with My Little Eye, Something Green Outside – Celebrating Our Green World"

Eligibility – General Education, Special Education and English as a second language. Open to Kindergarten through Ninth Grade. [Click here](#) for details & updated guidelines. Email typed entries to Melodie Janin, Redbud Youth Chair **by Dec. 1**



SMOKEY BEAR POSTER CONTEST 2023-2024



This year we are celebrating Smokey's 80th Birthday! The 2024 NGC poster contest is dedicated to only working on Smokey Bear Posters! Smokey Bear is recognized both nationally and internationally as the symbol for wildfire prevention, with his motto being "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires"! Since 1944, Smokey Bear has taught people how to help prevent wildfires and how to be careful with campfires, barbecues, matches, and more. Children from 1st – 5th grades are invited to participate in the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest. Enjoy a fun and creative project while teaching Smokey's important message.

**Smokey Bear posters must include Smokey's wildfire prevention message:
*Only you Can Prevent Wildfires!***

[Click here](#) for Poster Rules and Tips. Entries via US Mail to Melodie Janin 809 Pine Ridge Bend, Stone Mountain. 30087
Entries are due December 1st melodiejanin@yahoo.com 678-633-0219

YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST 2024

**Encourages fun & creative ways to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.
Due date January 1 - [Click here](#) for contest rules and info.**

Judy Johnson, 31 Dogwood Dr., Baxley, GA 31513. 912-367-7779 C: 912-278-1953
judytjohnson1953@gmail.com Entries may be sent to
awardschairmangcga@gmail.com



For more information on Youth Contests, visit <https://gardenclub.org/contests-and-activities>.

Scholarships

Susan Turner, GCG Scholarship Chairman glencree@bellsouth.net
Ann Purr, Redbud District Chairman
a.purr@comcast.net



NOW is the time to support Scholarships!

2024 is just around the corner. Please make plans and do not delay in making your contribution to Scholarships!

Students will soon be gathering information and writing letters to complete their applications. Colleges, Universities, and professors have been advised to share information on the opportunity of a scholarship grant from GCG. It all comes together in February when we receive & review applications and tally the funds we have received from your generous donations to scholarships.

All contributions do add up!

General Fund; Patrons; Named Scholarships; Dollars Educate Scholars; Life Memberships; as well as designated income from our Cherokee Rose and Brown Thrasher accounts.

With the thoughtful support of many, The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. has given over 1.2 million dollars since the inception of our Scholarship Program.

Dollars Educate Scholars

\$3,959.00 was contributed from 85 GCG clubs in 2022-2023

We are amazed how \$1.00 *or more* per member can help our deserving students. Eighteen Redbud clubs participated, contributing \$991.00. This kept the crown Redbud District.

With Gale Thomas holding a two-year reign as Queen of Scholarships, this has certainly piqued the interest of Kim Fair's new Sister District Directors. It is up to us to keep the crown in 2024!

Thank you notes and letters continue to be received from students.

Each one is well written and heartfelt. Our Scholarship program helps these young people to further their education in garden and environmental fields of study to make their dreams and goals in life a reality. Our students truly appreciate your commitment to their education.

Thank you for your continued support of Scholarships!



Reminder!

Plant America Grant Applications Due **October 15th**

The Plant America Grant Applications are due by October 15, so you still have time to apply! This is a fantastic opportunity to get up to \$2,000 for your club's project. GCG needs to make sure we get our share of these fabulous grants.

PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants help enhance and beautify our public areas and community gardens. Project grants to NGC member clubs help educate adults and children about the joys of gardening and create pride throughout the community. Grants may be used for physical landscaping or environmental projects, or for horticultural or educational opportunities for the community.

Grants have been awarded to NGC member clubs since 2017. More than 250 grants have been awarded, totaling more than \$225,000. Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$2,000.

Attached to this email is the application, along with information on how to fill it out.

You may also visit NGC's website: <https://gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants>

Welcome to Stonecrest Garden Club

Welcome to Redbud District's newest club – Stonecrest Garden Club! The club consists of 27 enthusiastic members and meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Browns Mill Recreation Center in Stonecrest. Gale Thomas (photo, front left) of Conyers and Designers Garden Clubs serves as President and mentor.

Stonecrest members have already been busy getting involved with Redbud District activities. Several members won blue awards for their horticulture entries at Yellow Daisy. Stonecrest member Deborah Fleming walked away with the Collector's Showcase Award, the coveted Award of Horticultural Excellence and the Redbud District Elinore Wilson Trophy for her collection of ferns! Way to go Stonecrest!!



DeKalb Federation Remembers

On Patriot Day, DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs was honored to participate in the Memorial Remembrance Ceremony of the attack on the Twin Towers. DeKalb Federation again provided a beautiful wreath for the Remember 9/11 Ceremony held annually at the DeKalb County Public Safety Complex in Tucker. The First Responders unit was very grateful for our generosity, participation, and support. The ceremony began at 8:46 am, to commemorate the time the first plane struck the Twin Towers. This year, we were honored to have a very special reading by Victoria R. Crosby as a part of this ceremony, an original poem, entitled "A Tribute to Heroes." Members from all branches of Public Safety participated in this moving ceremony. Metal from the Twin Towers site was used in creating the memorial sculpture where we placed the wreath. It is a beautiful tribute to those who gave and lost so much.

DeKalb Federation Members who attended the Ceremony on September 11: (from left) Gaye Auman, Ann Purr, Victoria Crosby, Denise Finley, Quill Duncan, Dee Montgomery, Susan Turner, Lucy White, Lynn Malone, Sherri Williams.



Garden Therapy – Nurturing with Nature

The Georgia Regional Hospital had a great summer with their vegetable garden. The garden was filled with many types of vegetables, fruits, and herbs. They also included flowering plants such as marigolds, sunflowers, and zinnias to add color and beauty to the garden.

We learned this summer that one of the residents who is part of the gardening team trained as a chef. He is often the one who prepares the meals from the veggies that they raise. These gardens have been a wonderful addition to the lives of the residents. Our support is really meaningful to them and they are very appreciative.



Focus on Natives

When we think of vines in our gardens, we often think of the invasive weeds – kudzu, English ivy, Chinese and Japanese wisteria, Japanese honeysuckle and others. But there are a lot of beautiful native vines that won't take over your garden overnight! Many are native relatives of the well-known exotic invasives.

Honeysuckle

We all know Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). Its lovely fragrance almost, but not totally, makes up for its invasive nature. There are a couple of well-behaved native species that, while not as fragrant, produce beautiful flowers. Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) is a semi-evergreen vine native to the Southeastern U.S. that grows 10 to 20 feet tall and 3 to 6 feet wide. It produces clusters of red, tubular flowers in mid-spring. Coral honeysuckle grows best in moist, well-drained soils in full sun. It will grow in some shade, but best flowering is in full sun. It flowers on new growth, so avoid pruning until after flowering.

Some superior selections of coral honeysuckle include 'Clay Hills', 'Major Wheeler' and 'Cedar Lane'. 'John Clayton' is a yellow-flowered selection of *L. sempervirens*.

Caution! Coral honeysuckle is extremely flammable and should not be grown next to your house.

Lonicera flava, also known as yellow or pale-yellow honeysuckle, is a deciduous vine that grows 10-20 feet long. It produces pale to bright yellow flowers, which are similar in form to those of Japanese honeysuckle, in mid- to late-spring. Flowers have a light fragrance. This native grows best in full to partial sun.



Left: coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*);
Right: yellow honeysuckle (*L. flava*)

Wisteria

No one can deny that the long clusters of purple Japanese (*Wisteria floribunda*) and Chinese (*W. sinensis*) wisteria are beautiful! But no one wants their whole garden covered up by this invasive vine. If you love wisteria flowers, consider growing American (*W. frutescens*) or Kentucky wisteria (*W. macrostachya*), both of which are native to the Southeastern U.S. and have fragrant flowers. Both species flower on new wood meaning they can be pruned back each winter, which helps in controlling size. American wisteria produces racemes of flowers 2 to 6 inches in length, while those of Kentucky wisteria are, at 6 to 12 inches long, similar in length to those of its invasive Asian relatives. Both species should be grown in full to partial sun.

'Amethyst Falls' is a superior selection of American wisteria that has flower heads 4 to 6 inches in length. 'Blue Moon' is a selection of Kentucky wisteria that produces racemes of flowers up to a foot in length.



Left: 'Amethyst Falls' American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*)
 Below: 'Blue Moon' Kentucky wisteria (*Wisteria macrostachya*)



flower in full shade. Make sure you get a male plant, which has showier flowers and does not re-seed.

Other native clematis species that you might want to consider for your garden include: *C. crispa* (blue jasmine); *C. viorna* (vasevine); and, *C. texensis* (scarlet clematis). These three species all produce bell-shaped flowers. Like other clematis, they attract pollinators.

Caution! Clematis has severe poison characteristics. It can cause several mouth pain and ulcers if eaten. Toxic to pets. Contact dermatitis results in skin redness and burning sensation for some people. Gardening gloves are recommended.

Clematis

The only widely grown clematis that is invasive is the sweet autumn clematis (*Clematis terniflora*; synonym: *C. paniculata*). This fragrant, fall-flowering species is known to be invasive in most Southern states. In addition to rampant growth, it spreads by self-seeding. As an alternative to this species, consider growing woodbine (*C. virginiana*). Woodbine, which is native to the Central and Southern U.S., produces showy, fragrant flowers in the fall. It attracts a variety of pollinators, including hummingbirds. It can be grown in full sun to full shade and, in fact, is one of the few plants that will



Clockwise from top left: *Clematis virginiana*; *C. crispa*; *C. texensis*; *C. viorna*

To be continued . . . Check in the next issue for information on more native vines, including passionflower, crossvine, and others.

News from the Clubs

Avondale Estates Garden Club

Notecards Capture Local Flowers and Pollinators

Popular notecards photographed and designed by members of the Avondale Estates Garden Club return for this year's holiday season.

Club members created six sets of six unique cards this year. Each features a photograph of a local scene of flowers, plants, or pollinators. Images include fall leaves beside Lake Avondale, a field of daffodils in full bloom, and closeups of bees and butterflies pollinating flowers.

"These are beautiful cards and would make lovely gifts," Club President Patricia Calcagno said. "I personally ordered all six sets and plan to send to family and friends this Christmas."



Cost of each boxed set is \$18. The deadline to order is Oct. 28. Cards will be available for pick up Nov. 15 at the Lake House in Avondale Estates. Order online at <https://avondaleestatesgc.square.site/>

For more information, email Susan Stewart at sjhstewart@icloud.com.



9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Avondale Estates Garden Club President Patricia Calcagno, left, was mistress of ceremonies at the city's annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 8:30 a.m. She is pictured at the ceremony with Avondale Estates Mayor Jonathan Elmore.

Club member Ann Umbaugh rang a bell in memory of the thousands killed on Sept. 11, 2011, in New York, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon. Club members worked with Ms. Calcagno in advance of the ceremony to cover the grounds of the city's Dewey Plaza with hundreds of flags to honor those lost. Club member Tyler Weaver created the wreath in the photo.

'Nature Time' Video Stars Kickoff Bonnie Phelps Memorial Tree Walk Oct. 28

Look for an orange puppet named Garbanzo from the YouTube Video series "Nature Time," along with his friends Mr. Michael, Elise Potts, and Alan Melling, who will open the Bonnie Phelps Memorial Tree Walk Saturday, October 28, at the Gazebo beside Lake Avondale.

"Nature Time" began during the Pandemic as a way three Decatur friends could share their love of teaching children about nature. Since first posting videos on YouTube in July 2022, the group has 42 videos on their channel with subjects ranging from the difference between living and non-living things to birdwatching for kids.

"The mission of Nature Time is to help children feel connected and understand that nothing in nature stands alone. People, plants, animals, insects — we all play a role in helping nature work," according to the group's web site, naturetimekids.com.

Starting at 9 a.m. at the Gazebo at Lake Avondale, the event will include Children's Activities from 9:15 until 10, an address by Avondale Estates resident and landscape architect Steve Sanchez, and five walks through the historic part of the city led by area arborists.

Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes and get into the spirit of the season with games and crafts led by club members.

Hosted biannually by the Avondale Estates Garden Club, the Bonnie Phelps Memorial Tree Walk is named in honor of long-time Avondale Estates Garden Club member, the late Bonnie Phelps. The event is held in the fall every odd numbered year (2023). On even numbered years, the club hosts a tour of the city's Secret Gardens — beautifully landscaped gardens behind homes and out of public view. The next Secret Garden Tour will be June 1, 2024.

The tree walks will begin at 10:30 a.m. They each leave from the shore of Lake Avondale near the Gazebo and continue on routes within the historic portion of Avondale Estates where there are sidewalks.

Avondale Estates club member Carolyn Adams is chairing the event.

Each member of the "Nature Time" video team has a unique skill set to bring to the series. Dr. Michael Martin, who hosts the shows as "Mr. Michael," is a college biology teacher with two young children. Elise Potts, who writes the scripts and runs the camera, has a professional background in designing social-emotional learning curriculum, and her husband, Alan Melling, is an engineer and a cinematographer who brings the puppet Garbanzo to life.



Creators of the children's nature series 'Nature Time' will be bringing their puppet show to the Avondale Estates Garden Club Tree Walk Oct. 28. Pictured are Michael Martin (left), a college biology professor; learning designer Elise Potts (center); and cinematographer Alan Melling (right), who also brings the puppet Garbanzo to life.

AEGC Members Go Back to School in Support of Avondale Elementary

Whether it's weeding gardens or collecting school supplies, the Avondale Estates Garden Club maintains a close relationship with its neighborhood elementary school, and is "on call whenever they need anything," according to club member Karen Liebert.

Ms. Liebert and club President Patricia Calcagno work with school principal Dr. Dontae Andrews to help out throughout the school. Recent projects include collecting school supplies in August and September and delivering them to the school.

Donations in September included pencils, erasers, glue sticks, crayons, pens, pocket folders, colored pencils, glue, composition notebooks, scissors, wipes, binder dividers, reams of copy paper, and more.

Ms. Liebert also weeded the school garden in September. Club members and a local all-girls Scout BSA troop spread mulch in the spring. Boy Scouts of America Troop 4475 members helped spread a pickup truck load of mulch in the school's Totem Garden in May. The Totem Garden, located just outside the school's main entrance, is maintained year-round by members of the club.

Pictured: Avondale Estates Garden Club President Patricia Calcagno, left, is pictured donating a wagon full of school supplies to Avondale Elementary Principal Dontae Andrews, center. Club member Karen Liebert, who coordinates work with the school, is at right.



Conyers Garden Club

After the summer hiatus, Conyers Garden Club was happy to come together for its first meeting of the 2023-2024 club year on September 12th. Filling in for President Gale Thomas, First Vice President Jessica Warren welcomed everyone and introduced Kim Toall, County Extension Agent for Fayette County. Kim treated the club to a beautiful presentation about native wildflowers and shrubs found in Georgia and their usefulness as pollinator plants in gardens. The many pictures she shared helped club members consider additions to their gardens. Ms. Toal's extensive experiences and expertise made her visit a very noteworthy one for the Conyers Club. Pictured in the photo on the right, First Vice President Jessica Warren (left) presented Kim with a beautiful succulent on behalf of the club.



In the absence of club Chaplain Juanita Barron, Social Media Chairman Carlee Miller shared a beautiful inspiration called "Gardening God's Way". Carlee reminded members how to serve others and work effectively together as we begin the new club year. The significance of the words were met with sincere gratitude as the members present listened attentively.

Serving as both a centerpiece and raffle item for the first meeting, was a beautiful arrangement prepared by hostess and longtime member, Kathy Williams. Kathy used cuttings from her garden to create the magnificent fall design.

The club's efforts and enthusiasm made September's meeting a very special one as the club began plans for the year. Members left the meeting excited about the year including the 75th celebration of the club with magnificent prospects for the future!



Mountain Mums Garden Club

Mountain Mums member Ann Purr Wins Top Honors!

The Mountain Mums Garden Club is thrilled to celebrate that Ann Purr was presented with the 2022 “Top of the Hill Garden Club Outstanding Club Member of the Year Award” at the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs annual awards luncheon held recently at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center. Ann’s unparalleled accomplishments within our club, the DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., the Redbud District, and the State Garden Club of Georgia made her an easy choice for the Federation’s highest individual honor.

Ann currently serves as the Recording Secretary, Awards Chairman and DeKalb Federation Representative for the Mountain Mums. In addition to her participation in meetings and events, her home acts as a warehouse for pull tabs, purses, jewelry, underwear, Christmas cards and whatever else can be collected and distributed in accordance with the philanthropic goals of the club, Federation, District and Garden Club of Georgia.

More importantly, she has acted as a sounding board and provided much needed guidance to a fairly new group of officers and members in the world of garden clubs.

Along with other duties, Ann supports the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs as Treasurer, Chairman of the Finance Committee and is a member of the Life Membership, Awards, and Leading Lights planning committees. Ann also serves as the Callanwolde Garden Center Director.

Ann loves flower shows and personally submits horticulture and design entries whenever she has time. Most notably, Ann served as Clerks Chairman for the national American Daffodil Society Flower Show held in Atlanta this year.

Ann continues to hold various roles in her church and is now a very active Grandmother to two wonderful boys. Beyond all of this she tries to work in her own yard and, while proud of her efforts, doubts it will ever be called a true garden.



Mountain Mums member Ann Purr (left) receives the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs’ 2022 Top of the Hill Garden Club Outstanding Club Member of the Year Award from Award Chairman Glenndolyn Hallman (right).

Shenandoah Rose Garden Club

For the second year in a row, Shenandoah Rose Garden Club created a scarecrow for the Atlanta Botanical Garden's "Scarecrows in the Garden" contest. Members Deanna McFarlan, Karen Fishman, Sandy Reed and Dianne Smith worked on their entry at their September meeting. Dianne Smith (the creative mind behind the entry) and her husband Buz put the finishing touches on Rosie and delivered her to the ABG.

Named "Rosie the Glam Scarecrow", Rosie is wearing "glamorous" attire found at Goodwill: full length black jumpsuit, black boots with silver studs, black wide-brimmed hat, and costume jewelry. Bright pink deco mesh was used as a bow for Rosie's hat and a sash at her waist. Her face was decorated with silk flower petals. Rosie holds flowers recently picked from her garden.

This is the 21st anniversary of "Scarecrows in the Garden". Over 100 entries, from both amateurs and professionals, are spread throughout the garden. The talent and imagination that goes into these scarecrows is amazing! If you've never been before, try to attend – with grandkids, garden club friends or even by yourself! It's a great way to spend some time on a beautiful fall afternoon! The exhibit runs from October 6 – 31.

