

The Magnolia



Columbus Garden Club Newsletter

September, 2025



Fall Blooms In Beautiful

Colors - oranges, yellows, bronzes, golds and mixtures in between - colors that warm our hearts from the chill in the air that we expect to arrivesometime. Here in Texas near the coast we expect the hurricanes to arrive before the first

chill. But, then again, you never know.

What we do know is that it is time for another Columbus Garden Club year....2025-26. Can you believe it? And, what an exciting year it will be too.



In this garden club year we will be celebrating:



60 years of recognizing a Yard of the Month - This program began in 1965

60 years of Arbor Day tree plantings

And, in May 2026 we can all look forward to **celebrating 90 years of being Columbus Garden Club and 85 years of Federation with national and state garden clubs.**

Remember – The 2025 Youth Art Show and Contest sponsored by Keep Columbus Beautiful and Columbus Garden Club will be **September 10 – 19** in the Live Oak Art Center, 1014 Milam St. Youth art show opening and reception will be **Friday, September 12 from 5 to 7 PM.** **All garden club members are invited to the reception.** Help show your support for our youth and support Keep Columbus Beautiful, a project of Columbus Garden Club. The event features the first annual **Poster Contest and Recycled Materials Art Show.** It invites all student artists grades 1-8 to apply to the contest and exhibit and to create and showcase artwork featuring the Keep Columbus Beautiful message. Youth are invited to create posters (8-1/2 x 11) featuring a **Keep Columbus Beautiful** message ; **Please Don't Litter; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; Keep Texas Beautiful, Don't be a Litter Bug.** Youth are also invited to create Recycled Art (canvas or sculpture) utilizing recyclable materials in the Recycled Materials Sculpture Contest.

The Live Oak Art Center will also include "Adult Recycled Art" for exhibition only. This is a late addition to the show, but an exciting addition. Examples of adult items currently ready for the show include Texas Flag created from headboard of bed, a wooden box created from dead tree removed from Court House Square, YoYo Quilt created from fabric scraps and a Zebra painted created from recycled Goodwill canvas. **Sounds very interesting. Come and enjoy.**

Columbus Oaks Readies for Fall Gardening



Wanda Anglin worked with Kris Steward, Activities Director at Columbus Oaks, and Rex, a charming resident of the center and gardener extraordinaire, to evaluate the two raised bed planters' readiness for fall gardening. At their request, Wanda picked up fall seeds including greens, chard, lettuce, and carrots, from the Sprout to Share Free Seed Library and delivered them to Rex.

She also purchased soil and compost for the raised beds from Take Root and added the bags to the empty bed using the bags to line areas where there were gaps allowing soil to escape. And the second bed got a side dressing of compost as there were cantaloupes growing in it. 2 bags were left beneath the planter for them to add to the bed once the cantaloupes come out.



Rex and Kris were all smiles. Watch for pictures of the fall garden in October.

In addition to the Columbus Oaks project begun last year, the new CGC Board established a new club committee, Seniors Outreach, to expand from Columbus Oaks to other areas of Columbus that can benefit from gardening advice, a little manual labor, or an activity or program.

The next project will be with TruCare Living Centers (TLC). Bren Wyman, Seniors Outreach committee member, is talking with Niesha Evans at TLC about a gardening project for the residents. (See next page.)

If you have an interest in working with the seniors in our community on sharing the love of gardening, let Wanda know, 713 628 6545, wanda.anglin@hotmail.com.



Brenda Wyman and Niesha Evans (TLC Activities Director) – collaborating on a planting project at TLC. “We are excited to have the help of [Brenda Johnston-Wyman](#) and Columbus Garden Club for our fall garden. Our residents will be so excited. We can’t wait to be able to cook with all the vegetables we grow this fall.”



TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Bluebonnet

2025 AUSTIN COUNTY

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

LUNCH N LEARN SERIES-FALL

HOSTED BY: BLUEBONNET MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

AUSTIN COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE
800 E WENDT ST BELLVILLE, TX 77418

REGISTRATION: 11:50AM - 12PM
PROGRAM: 12PM -12:55PM

FREE/OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



October 21st
Native Fall Wildflower Planting
Alyssa Harmon, Sycamore Hill Nursery



November 18th
Study of Herbs Thyme & Mint
Madeline Johnson, Horticulture Study Group of the Pioneer Unit of the Herb Society of America

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED BUT IS ENCOURAGED. TO REGISTER CALL THE OFFICE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [HTTP://AUSTIN.AGRILIFE.ORG](http://austin.agrilife.org)

SCAN TO REGISTER



QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL:
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
SERVICE OF AUSTIN COUNTY AT
979-865-2072

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO REQUIRE AN AUXILIARY AID, SERVICE OR ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTIVITY ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THE EXTENSION OFFICE IN AUSTIN COUNTY AT LEAST EIGHT DAYS PRIOR TO THE PROGRAM FOR ASSISTANCE.

THE MEMBERS OF TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE WILL PROVIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES, EDUCATION, AND EMPLOYMENT TO ALL PERSONS REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, SEX, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, DISABILITY, GENETIC INFORMATION, VETERAN STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY AND WILL STRIVE TO ACHIEVE FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY THROUGHOUT TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE.

Help Columbus Garden Club earn funds by recycling your HP and Canon printer cartridges.

Keep HP and Canon inkjet cartridges out of the landfill.

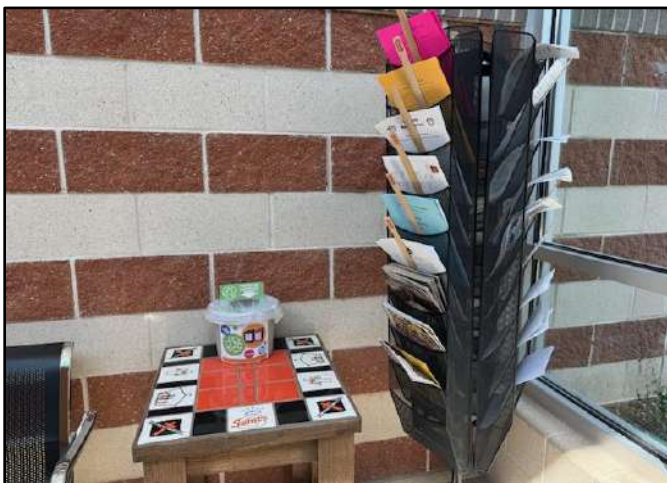
The club earns funds to support beautification and wildlife habitat projects around town. Bring them to a garden club member or drop them off in one of the following Columbus drop-off locations:



- Nesbitt Memorial Library
- US Post Office



- Saint Anthony's Catholic School
- Chamber of Commerce



Keep in mind:

- Only HP and Canon brands
- Only INKJET cartridges for printers

- Toner cartridges NOT accepted.



Learn more: <https://www.columbusgardenclub.org/recycling>

September CGC Meeting – Wednesday, Sept. 10



Place: The Lighthouse – St. Paul's Lutheran Church
201 Veterans. Dr. St., Columbus, TX 78934

Date: Wednesday, 9/10/2025

Time: Social – 9:30 am, Program – 10:00 am

Program: Get Horticulture Ready for a Flower Show

Speaker:

Sherrill Burge is a Houston Area Flower Show Judge, member of Heritage Gardeners in Friendswood, past Board member of Houston Federation of Garden Clubs, and creator and instructor of flower show design and horticulture workshops.

Hostesses: All Board Members –

Regena Williamson, Nancy Galloway, Cheryl Rose, Jennie Pritchett, Ann Pavliska, Wanda Anglin, and Velma Harrington





HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PRESENTS

Fall Fest September 27

SCARECROW CONTEST - Sept-Oct!

Show your creative side and enter our
countywide scarecrow contest!

Prizes Awarded! Business + Individual Entries Welcome



PUMPKIN PATCH PLAY DAY - Sat Sept 27 9a-12p

Free games, popcorn and water
pumpkin sales and face painting, ring toss



ELEGANT FALL POP-UP DINNER - Sept 27 6:30pm



Join us for an intimate, outdoor farm-to-table
dinner experience, live music and wine/beer.
Limited to 50 guests - Reserve your seat today!

\$ Tickets: \$50 per person



Purchase, Enter and Sponsor



Scan Here

Every dollar raised helps
build homes and support our
Senior Repair Program,
ensuring our neighbors have safe and
healthy place to call home.



And remember, Columbus Garden Club will be
decorating with scarecrows, hay bales, and fall

wreaths and swags around the Courthouse Square and also decorating out at the County Fair gate entrance.

Nancy Galloway is in charge of decorating at the County Fair and she says they will be decorating Tuesday Sept. 9 at 6 p.m. Call her at 979-551-5559.

Watch for more information at our September Club Meeting on September 10 about decorating at County Fair and decorating around the Courthouse Square.

Share Your Garden



Janet Johnson shared photos of an Eastern Swallowtail (top left) on some lantana, a bumble bee on Salvia, and (on left) a Gulf Fritillary on a Turks Cap.



Janet loves sharing her gardens and pollinators with garden club members

Cheryl Rose shared a picture of Antelope Milkweed she found on the side of a road.+

Texas Wildflowers

Texas is renowned for its vibrant wildflowers, particularly during the spring blooming season from March to May. Iconic species include the Texas Bluebonnet, the official state flower known for its royal blue blooms, and the fiery red-orange Texas Paintbrush. Other common Texas wildflowers include the yellow Texas Yellow Star, the delicate Pink Evening Primrose, and the conical Purple Coneflower, which attracts pollinators. You can enjoy these blooms at various locations like the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin or by visiting Wildseed Farms in Fredericksburg, which also offers wildflower seeds.



Above are: Indian Paintbrush, Texas Bluebonnet, Drummond Phlox, Spiderwort, Purple Coneflower, Indian Blanket

Wildflower seeds should be sown in late August and September. Doug Welsh says “Texas is lucky to have one of the largest wildflower seed companies in the nation. Wildseed Farms (located 7 miles east of Fredericksburg). John Thomas, founder of Wildseed Farms , has the unique perspective of a successful rice farmer who realized the many benefits of using wildflowers on roadways, commercial landscapes, and home gardens. He describes himself not as a wildflower lover but “a user of wildflowers” to create beauty, traffic stopping color, and reduced mowing requirements for road crews, landscape maintenance professionals and you, the homeowner.”

IMPORTANT DATES

District IV, HFGC, and TGC



2025

September

- 12th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10AM
- 16th HAFSJ Meeting
- 19th-21st NGC, Inc. Environmental School IV – Water Series 10, Course 4 (See brochure)
- 29th -30th NGC, Inc. Landscape Design School, Course 14, Series 28th, (See brochure)

October

- 10th HFGC General Meeting @ City Rise Church 10AM
- 16th District IV Board Meeting, Bayland, Rooms 4 & 5 Time: 10AM-12
- 21st TGC Trustees Meeting, TGC Headquarters building, @1PM
- 21st TGC Finance Meeting, A TGC Headquarters building, @3PM
- 22nd-23rd “Circle the Wagons! TGC Fall Convention (See flyer)
- 27th-30th NGC, Inc. Flower Show School

November

- 1st Deadline for Awards to be turned into judges
- 14th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10AM

December

- 5th Christmas Celebration! HFGC (More details to come!)

2026

January

9th Arbor Day (Follows HFGC Meeting- Possibly @ Bellaire HS)
15th Presidents Reports Due

February

2nd-3rd NGC, Inc. Gardening Study School (Details to follow)
13th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10 AM

March

12th District IV Convention Hosted by Area 2 (Details to come)
13th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10 AM

April

7th – 9th TGC, Inc. State Spring Convention, District IV Hosting, Marriott Houston
North Hotel, 255 N. Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston, Tx 77060
10th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10 AM

May

8th HFGC General Meeting, @City Rise Church, 10 AM



Columbus Garden Club members at last April's **District IV Spring Convention:**

Area 7 Coordinator – Wanda Anglin
Area 9 Coordinator – Marian Schonenberg
Scholarship Chairman – Marian Schonenberg
Life Membership Chairman – Marian Schonenberg
Debbie Braden served as secretary for both the District IV Board of Director's meeting which was held before the General Assembly as well as the General Assembly
District IV Director – Sharon Wegenhoft
3rd Vice Director (Newsletter) – Nancy Galloway

Member in the Spotlight



Janet Johnson – I remember all the years I had to write an “All About Me” paragraph as a student and a teacher. Why did I want to become a teacher was always the main topic I tried to zero in on. So, why did I become a teacher? Truly I guess it was from watching my mom teach elementary Sunday school all my life at our church in Houston. I was always helping her in VBS as I got older and I enjoyed working with the kids. When I went to Texas Tech University I did not go in as a teacher but I quickly changed my major to Physical Education because I loved playing sports and teaching sports to others but, it did not end

there. I took an adaptive physical ed course and got to work with kids at the Lubbock State School and I was hooked with working with special ed. kids so I added special ed. to my major. My first teaching job was for Alief ISD in Houston teaching students in resource for two years. I transitioned to a self-contained emotional disturbed unit within the same school for nine years. The days were long and hard at times but to see your students work on their behaviors and learn was a huge reward. My love for gardening started during this time as a mental break from what I dealt with at school on a daily basis. I left Alief ISD and became a stay-at-home mom for my son who was starting Kindergarten. That lasted all of four years and I started teaching again but in Katy ISD. This time around I taught 4th grade math/science/social studies/compensatory ed. and PE throughout my many years. I even went back for four more years as a supplemental math teacher and long term substitute after I retired in 2015.

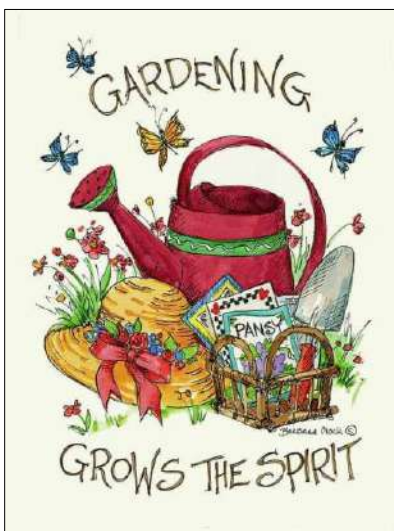
I loved teaching math but my favorite was science where I could do hands on lessons and watch the excitement on their faces especially when I would bring my Monarch butterfly habitat in full of caterpillars and eggs from my butterfly gardens and they would daily see the transformation they go through. We would have butterfly release day on Fridays and from this experience I had parents ask about how to start butterfly gardens with their kids! God blessed me with 35 years of teaching that I will never regret and now our son is a Jr. High history teacher in Huntsville so he and I talk teacher talk all the time! (my poor husband)

When we retired and moved to Columbus in 2015 my love for gardening just exploded because I had so much space to work with! I joined the garden club and started learning more about gardening which led me to become a Master Gardener and now I’m just out of control and learning and applying what I can from plants to pollinators etc.

When 2020 hit and I came down with Transverse Myelitis I ended up in the hospital for five weeks and a wheelchair. It was a very difficult time for my family but God always has a plan. I was able to share with the doctors, nurses and physical therapists about my gardens, plants, experiences and several new gardens were started with them. Our Columbus Garden club members were a huge blessing for me when they would come and work on my gardens until my husband could catch his breath. As my body was healing God kept my love for gardening as my anchor for not giving up. I still had a goal to garden but I had to figure out how to redo my butterfly gardens so I could become independent and garden again. With the help of my husband, son and his friends I expanded my garden and put in raised beds and off I went again! Gardening is my therapy both mentally and physically. I have to walk to and in my garden and my new greenhouse. I'm doing more with seeds and propagation techniques and really enjoying it. I may not be able to physically do the work I once did but I try to do all I can and enjoy the life I have. --In HIS Garden, Janet Johnson



Some of Janet's
butterflies and
caterpillars in
her gardens.



**We need your help watering the
planters around the courthouse
square in October and November.**

**Please let Patti Schindler (979-732-0142) or Karen
Payne (281-797-6238) know if you can help.**



Sage Advice From a Very Special Hummingbird –

- Sip the Sweet Memories
- Let your colors glow
- Be a nectar collector
- Don't get your feathers ruffled over the little things
- Some days are just a humdinger
- Just wing it
- Keep your visits short and sweet

--- from Choose Your Path & Make a Difference, Promote Harmony

A booklet by Lee Taylor, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. President 2023-2025

We have all been enjoying the hummingbirds in our yards and we marvel that they ever get a sip of sweet nectar with all of the darting and swooping they do to shoo away every other hummingbird around. Sandy Barrett has showed us videos of her feeders and the crowd of hummingbirds darting around in her yard.

A Reminder: SMART GARDENING

2025 Victoria County Master Gardeners Symposium

Sat, Sept 13, 2025 ~ 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Registration Deadline was Aug 29! Contact Bea @ 361-676-114

9:30	Charlie Agar—Bees and More
10:45	Andrea DeLong-Amaya—Making the Most of Native Plants in Cultivated Spaces
12:45	Gail Smith—Choosing Vegetable Varieties for TX Gardens
2:00	Wyatt Page—Sustainable Gardening

Getting Club Emails? Want to Send an Email to the Entire Club?

Get Emails

Are you receiving emails from the Club? About 4, sometimes 6 are sent monthly including meeting announcements and reminders, the newsletters, and information about upcoming events. If you are NOT receiving emails from the Club, go to this website: <https://tinyurl.com/cgc-emails> . Enter your email address there and you will begin receiving all emails sent out by the Club.

Send an Email to the Entire Club

FYI...in the past, there was confusion about our Club email address which is hello@columbusgardenclub.org . Please note that when someone sends an email to this address, the Website/Social Media committee and some Board members get the email. It is NOT an email that sends out announcements or information to the entire Club.

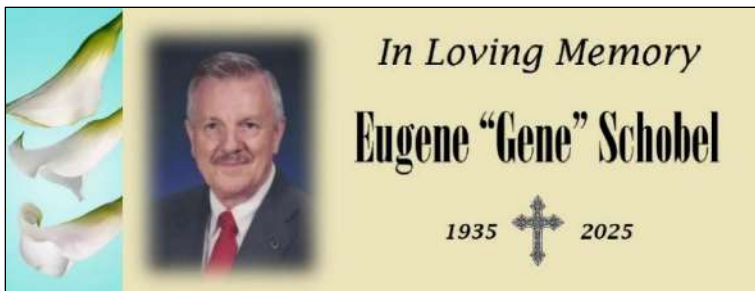
The way to send an email to the entire club is to prepare what you want to say and send it along with any images to both Wanda Anglin (wanda.anglin@hotmail.com) and her backup, Cheryl Rose (cherylscgc@gmail.com). They will coordinate putting your club-wide email information in our tool called MailChip that will send out to the entire Club. Let Wanda, 713 628 6545 know if you have questions.

Joys, Love and Concerns



Continue to remember all of our Gardeners Emeritus: Shirley Allmon, Shirley Barfield, Lyn Buescher, Sharon Heimann, Neva Lou Hubenek, Martha Jordan, Charlene Morrison, Joann Sebesta, Katy Seymour, Helen Strich, and Dell Szymkowski and so many of our members who are in need of our thoughts and prayers.

Remember **Chris Schobel and family** in your prayers. Her husband Gene's Celebration of Life



service was held Thursday, August 28 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Private internment followed at Odd Fellows Rest in Columbus. Memorials may be sent to St. Paul Christian Learning Academy, P.O. Box 267, Columbus, Texas 78934.



Mary Kathryn "Katy" Hinkle Seymour of Columbus, Texas, passed away on September 3, 2025. She is a treasured Gardener Emeritus. The date for a memorial service in Columbus will be announced later.

So that we can better communicate and express our love and concern for each other, if you know of a **garden club member or family of a garden club member who is ill or has had a death in the family** please contact:

Regena Williamson – She will notify the appropriate members to communicate with the club.
Cheryl Rose – She is the person in charge of notifying the club.



It's time to celebrate September Birthdays:

September 06	Charlene Morrison
25	Patti Schindler
30	Dell Szymkowski

Yard of the Month – September

Home of: Donna Hartman
823 Milam



September Yard of the Month was awarded to 823 Milam. This striking L-shaped Folk Victorian with center porch makes the most of its corner lot.



Bordered by brick and ornate wrought iron fencing, the structured garden dresses both fronts of the home. Though formal with impressive hardscaping such as a bricked walkway with planted borders set off by natural stone, the garden's native and near-native plants lend a welcoming, casual feel. The use of drought and heat

tolerant flowering plants has this yard shining with color in late summer when other landscapes fail to thrive. Plus, the bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are very happy. The smart choices include salvias, lantanas in gold, reds, and oranges as well as lavender trailing lantana, angelonia sporting whites, lavenders, and purple blooms. An eastern redbud, though no longer blooming, offers an interesting focal point for the front.

Community Beautification Award – September

Grand Oaks Antiques & Gifts

1034 Milam Street

The September Community Beautification Award was awarded to Grand Oaks Antiques & Gifts at 1034 Milam St. A small galvanized tub adorns the front sidewalk of this antiques and gifts mall featuring many local vendors. The bright pink and rose pink periwinkles and fern trailing over the tub bring a fresh welcoming appeal to the hot days of late summer. A cute ladybug decorative ornament adds whimsy.

Use of upturned glass bottles keeps the soil moist in the heat...clever! Simple, but very effective use of refreshing color on the sidewalk creates a welcoming entrance.



