

# The Magnolia

Columbus Garden Club Newsletter



February, 2021



Bonnie Halkett shared pictures of her beautiful roses for February, the month of Hearts and Roses.



**“Everything’s coming up Roses”**

## Education Corner

### February - Janet Johnson

Our favorite month, for many reasons, but for gardeners it is the perfect month to get your roses ready for springtime blooming! By mid-February, after Valentine’s Day, is the best time to start or when the danger of frost is over.

Pruning roses is one of the most important steps for good health and prevention of diseases which allows the rose bush to focus on blooming better and longer. You need good sharp pruners to get a clean cut and start by removing dead or damaged canes that look brown in color. Healthy white centers are what you are looking for in a healthy cane. Prune down to ½ the height of the bush for a hard prune but anything above that is fine also. You can keep doing light pruning throughout the season because it is almost impossible to kill rose bushes by pruning them too much.

Climbing roses are mainly pruned the same way except they have two types of canes. The main cane comes directly from the base and should never be pruned but the lateral canes that are off shoots from the main canes, that produce the flowers, should be pruned to encourage more blooms throughout the season.

When the new leaves start to come out, it is time to start your fertilizing program. Roses like high nitrogen fertilizers and there are many selections of fertilizers on the market that can help with proper food and disease needs. Some roses are more disease resistant than others, but they still need help with our humid and rainy weather to prevent problems like Black Spot to name one. A fertilizer with a systemic combination helps with the diseases that are common. Roses also like magnesium which they can get through Epsom salt. Epsom salt can help with better cane growth and lush green leaves. Mix ½ cup of Epsom salt into the soil around the rose bush roots and water in very well or mix as a soil drench 1/2 cup into a watering can and water around the base of the bush. With either method do not let the Epsom salt touch or remain on the leaves or new growth, it will burn them. If you are planting new rose bushes add 1 tbs of Epsom salt to the hole before putting your new rose bush in.

## Maintaining Gardens Around Town

**Courthouse Square** – The ornamental cabbages are showing beautiful color and the rosemary is blooming (much to the delight of the honey bees). Joann Obenhaus, Sharon Wegenhoft, and Velma Harrington are keeping pots watered and trimming plants as needed during month of February.

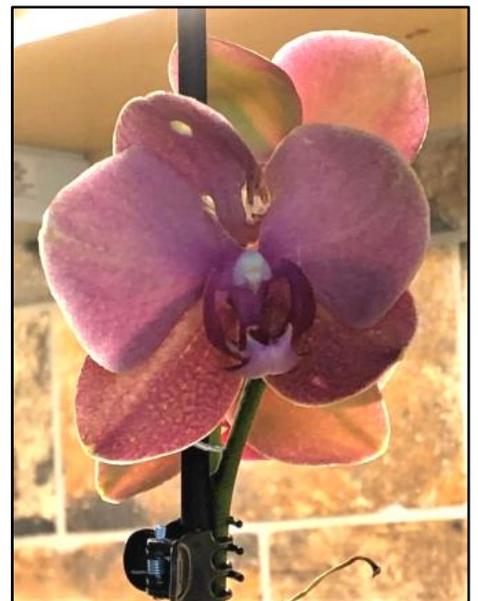


## Keeping in Touch through Pictures

**Janet Johnson's** Phalaenopsis orchid (right) is blooming and with more buds coming on.

**Brenda Boehm's** fox tail fern ( below left next page) is looking good!

**Velma Harrington's** red Camelia (below on next page) is blooming and her Black Jewel Orchid is full of buds.





## Program on Trees

Daniel Lewis (below left), Staff Forester III, Texas A&M Forest Service, LaGrange presented a program at the January meeting about trees in Texas and some of the diseases that affect the trees. He allowed for questions from the members and the session was very informative. He also brought with him a box of loblolly pines. Members were encouraged to take however many they wanted. Afterwards a planting day was planned.



However, Regena tested positive for Covid. So the plan changed. Patti picked up potting soil and Cheryl brought some other soil and delivered to Regena.



Then Regena planted the **216 Loblolly pines to be sold at Columbus Garden Club Plant Sale** in April. **Thank you ladies. You are wonderful.**



(Sharon Wegenhoft, Brenda Boehm and Sharon Roensch enjoyed the January program about trees.)

**Important Reminder – Patti Schindler, club Treasurer, reminds everyone to please get in your club dues (\$25) to her by March 31. You can mail to: P.O. Box 1222, Columbus, TX 78934.**

**Master Gardeners** - Regena Williamson, Cheryl Rose, Marian Schonenberg and Sharon Wegenhoft are taking the Master Gardener Course being offered through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. It is educational in nature as opposed to service or maintenance focused. They will be members of The Bluebonnet Master Gardeners upon completion of the internship program which consists of the course and completion of 50 hours of volunteer service. They are learning a lot and building bonds of friendship related to horticulture. They are also sharing a few laughs together... Cheryl shares the story about getting her soil samples for her class homework. She needed about 15 or 20 samples and while doing this all of the cows (50 plus calves) decided that they needed to follow her and watch intently while she was digging the samples.

Debbie Braden, Janet Johnson, Patti Schindler are some of our CGC members currently in Bluebonnet Master Gardeners. Joann Obenhaus has completed and is considering renewing her hours and class work. CGC is a separate organization, however, our club will certainly benefit from members gaining knowledge of horticulture.

## February Yard of the Month



**Mrs. Jo Ann Bunge, 1031/2 Becica Street**

There are many beautiful landscaping shrubs including about ten moonlit lace viburnums with white blooms and many coleuses lined in front of the viburnum.

## February Community Beautification

**Carriage Step, 118 Prairie Street**

There are beautiful and very old large dark rose and light pink camellias along with other greenery and plants in front of this unique house.



## District IV News

*At this time we all have to be flexible due to the current conditions, so do watch for any further updates. Also, keep in mind that many meetings, although listed will likely be held virtually.*

**February 22-23, 2021** Landscape Design School Course II George Bush Library, College Station, TX

**February 25-27, 2021** Garden School: Course III San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels, San Antonio, TX 78209. Chairman: Cal Lussen: 830-837-5262. [lussen@att.net](mailto:lussen@att.net)

**March 24, 2021 District IV Spring Convention:** Bellaire UMC, 4417 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, TX. The Theme will be "Hats Off to Gardeners". Meda Wogan, Convention Chairman, 281-469-0261: [tomandmeda@aol.com](mailto:tomandmeda@aol.com)

### **CANCELLED**

**April 5—9, 2021** TGC Spring Convention. San Antonio

**April 22—23, 2021** SCR 91st Annual Convention, Little Rock, AR. May 17—20, 2021 National Garden Clubs Convention Rutherford, NJ

**September 27-28, 2021** Landscape Design School: Course III George Bush Library, College Station.

**October 4-7, 2021** Flower Show School II. Bayland Community Center, Houston. Chairman: Mary Vacek. Regena Williamson, Registrar. 316-550-1485

**PLEASE NOTE:** Texas Garden Club Landscape Design School Course 2 will be offered Feb. 22-23, 2021 at the George Bush Library in College Station

## KEEP THESE GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS AND FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS:



Regena Williamson has recovered from the Covid virus. Martha Jordan spent some time at hospital in Austin but is at home and doing fine.

**Remember all of our members and gardeners emeritus.** A cheery card or phone call might brighten their day. If you know of anyone that needs our thoughts, please let Susan Peletz know so she can send a card and let Velma know so she can put it in the newsletter. Let's keep in touch.



### **Remember our February Birthdays:**

- 07** Sandy Barrett
- 20** Neva Lou Hubenak
- 21** Arlene Johnsey



- "Do not watch the petals fall from the rose with sadness, know that, like life, things sometimes must fade, before they can bloom again." —Unknown Author
- "The splendor of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not rob the little violet of its scent nor the daisy of its simple charm. If every tiny flower wanted to be a rose, spring would lose its loveliness." —Therese of Lisieux
- "Life is a mosaic of pleasure and pain—grief is an interval between two moments of joy. Peace is the interlude between two wars. You have no rose without a thorn; the diligent picker will avoid the pricks and gather the flower. There is no bee without the sting; cleverness consists in gathering the honey nevertheless." —Sri Sathya Sai Baba

**(Picture shared by Bonnie Halkett)**

*Father, kindle in our hearts an increasing love for creatures of our garden. Quicken our minds to a keener appreciation of Thy lovely gifts. Use our hands as instruments to work Thy divine plan. Teach us that what Thou has given in love is ours to cultivate in Faith. Amen*