

# The Magnolia

## Columbus Garden Club Newsletter



May, 2021

### Words from Club President



April showers bring May flowers. How true that is. Blossoms are sprouting all over our town. Trees are blooming. And the Garden Club is in business again. Projects are getting a lot of attention. How wonderful the smell is soil and flowers.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. My love of the organization has grown deeply. We met our challenges with robust loyalty and love.

Congratulations and best wishes to Joann Obenhaus as she assumes her role as President.

God bless you all and have a wonderful summer.

*Debbie*

Deborah (Debbie) Braden, President  
Columbus Garden Club  
Bluebonnet Master Gardener

### Maintaining Gardens Around Town - At the Courthouse Square

Patti Schindler, Sharon Wegenhoft, Sharon Roensch, Janet Johnson (and Keith), Debbie Braden, and Velma Harrington rolled up their sleeves, pulled out their gardening tools and replanted the 13 planters on the courthouse square on the last week in April. Additional potting soil was added to the pots. Red head coleuses, pink and red spreading petunias were planted, and mulch was spread on top to help hold in some of



the moisture during the expected hot days of summer. Janet and Keith (above left) planted coleuses and petunias. Patti trimmed back the knockout roses (above right) in the historic horse trough. Sandy Barrett and "Sunshine" (below left) came by to give a happy smile and support. (right) Sharon Wegenhof waters plants after being planted.



## Blue Star Memorial Garden



Yellow and gold daylilies have been blooming among the brightly colored petunias in this garden. Sandy Barrett does a fine job maintaining this corner on the courthouse square.

## Visitors Center Workday Spring Cleaning

Monday **CANCELLED** 10:30

Help get our Butterfly Garden ready for the  
Magnolia Days Festival

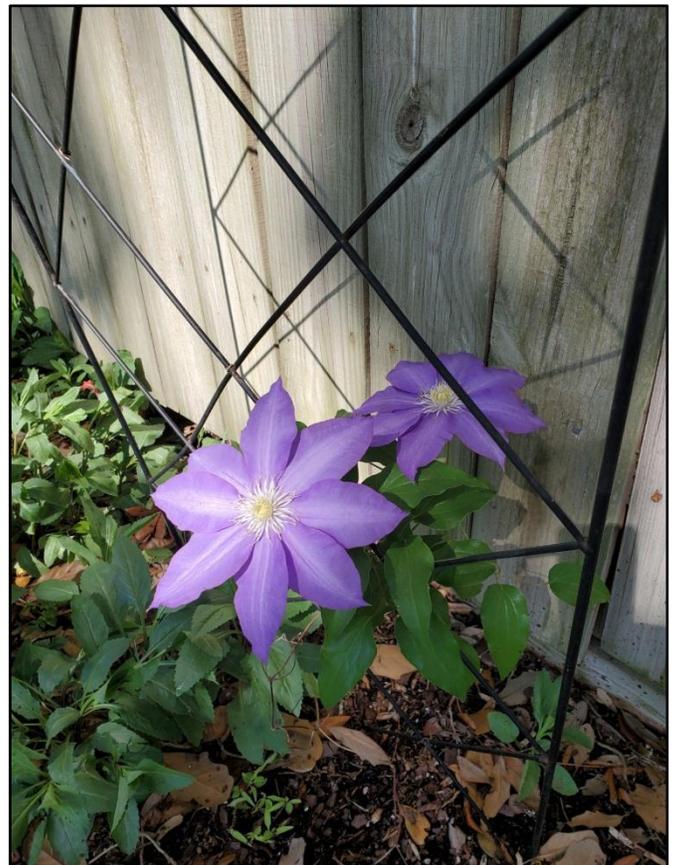
**Please join us.**

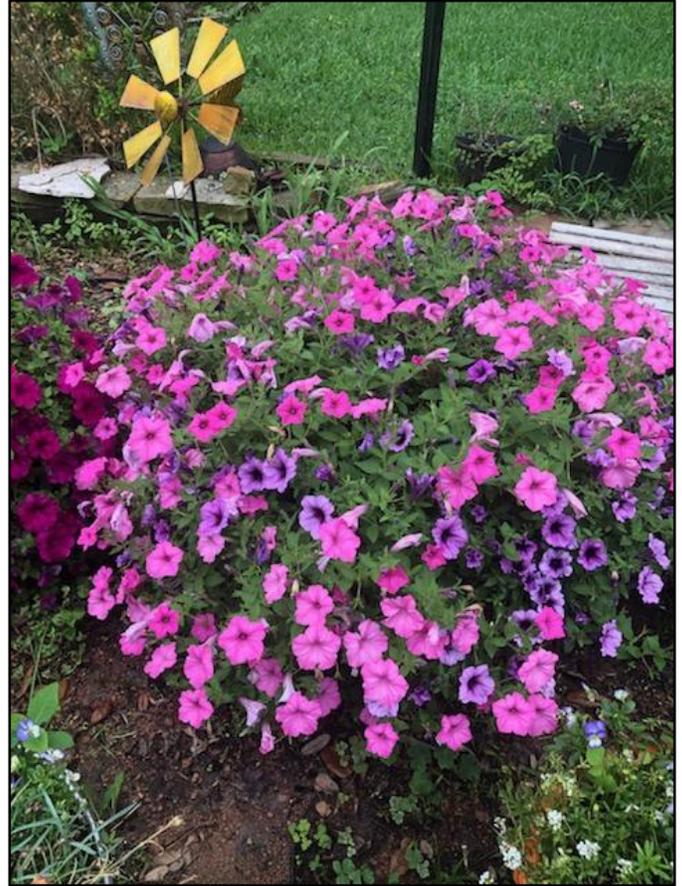
## Keeping in Touch Through Pictures

Janet Johnson shared picture (below left) of her beautiful Monarch butterfly on a red penta.



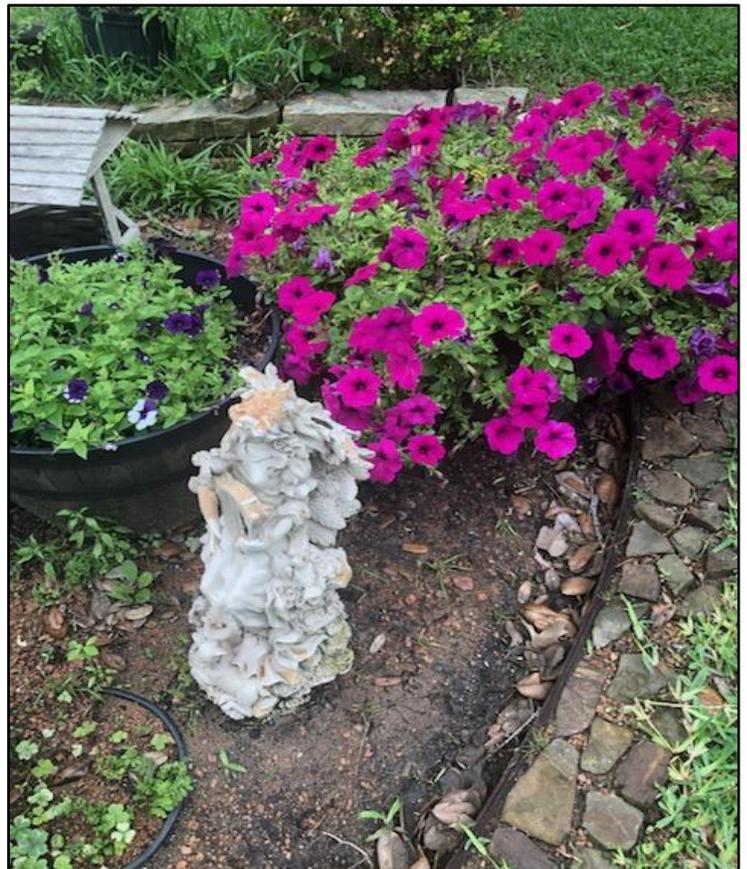
Patti Schindler shared a picture (right) of her heirloom Veilchenblau climbing rose, pink clematis (below left), and purple clematis (below right).





Patti's yellow and orange canna (above left).

Sandy Barrett shared pictures of her petunia plantings (right). Below left is Sandy's coleuses and a potato vine and on the right (below) are more beautiful petunias.





Sharon Roensch shared a picture of her beautiful red poppy blooming in her vegetable garden.

## Education Corner



Regena Williamson, Sharon Wegenhoft, Cheryl Rose, and Marian Schonenberg were recently installed as interns in the Bluebonnet Master Gardeners program. After completing 50 volunteer hours they will be elevated to Master Gardeners. They are active in developing a Master Gardeners project at the Colorado County Fairgrounds. We are proud of you ladies and your knowledge will enhance Columbus Garden Club. (Also pictured are Patti Schindler and Debbie Braden who are Master Gardeners. Marian was not able to attend the day of the picture.)

## Janet Johnson is busy growing butterflies...



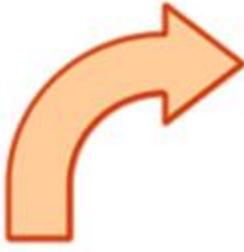
# Monarch Butterfly Biology

United States Department of Agriculture, U. S. Forest Service

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## Life Cycle

The monarch butterfly, like other insects, has several life forms and stages prior to reaching adulthood. The monarch has four distinct life stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult.



**Egg**

Adult Monarchs lay one small egg on an individual milkweed plant. The egg is about the size of the period at the end of this sentence.

Progressing from egg to adult takes about one month depending on temperature. Larvae consume a lot of milkweed and grow very rapidly. They grow so fast, they need to shed their skin five times before they pupate.



**Adult**

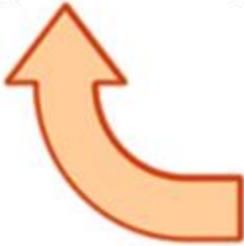
Monarch wings are folded in the chrysalis. The Monarch must pump up its wings using fluid stored in its abdomen. Monarchs live from 2-5 weeks before reproducing and laying eggs of the next generation.

**Larva**



Monarch larvae transform into pupa, also known as a *chrysalis*. The pupa turns to a jade color with gold markings. The chrysalis becomes clear just prior to emergence.

**Pupa**



Photos: Egg by [William Zittrich](#); Larva by USDA; Pupa by [William Zittrich](#); Adult by Tanya Harvey.

### Life Cycle Notes

- A female Monarch butterfly lays from 100 to 300 eggs during her life. The eggs hatch about four days after they are laid.
- When larvae first hatch they are less than 1 centimeter (cm) and grow to be about 5 cm. The stages between larval molts are called instars.
- In as few as five days, the monarch develops from a pupa to an adult. The completion of the four life-stage process is called complete metamorphosis.
- The emergence of the butterfly from the pupal stage to an adult is called eclosion.

## The Migrating Generation

During the summer breeding season, monarchs live from 2-5 weeks during which they mate and lay the eggs that become the next generation. The last generation of the year does not become reproductive and is said to be in “reproductive diapause”. These butterflies are the ones that migrate to Mexico where they overwinter. These butterflies become reproductive in February and March as they move north, laying eggs on milkweeds as they progress northward into the United States. Some of these butterflies can live as long as 9 months!

The migratory generation has an enormous task ahead of them. Weighing less than a gram, these unique butterflies will fly between 2,000 to 3,000 miles to an overwintering location in Mexico.

*Monarchs have up to four generations each summer, each one traveling a little further north than the last. The last generation of the year migrates south.*



Pictures from Janet Johnson.





Thank you Janet for sharing your pictures of your butterflies and their life cycles. It is always a joy to receive the first pictures and for you to let us go through the cycles with you.

### April Happenings - Club Meeting and Hostesses

Jay White from Texas Gardener Magazine spoke to the group about gardening pest free organically. Onions, leeks, and garlic help keep garden pests away.



He had an interesting question...Do bugs smell? He said when plants die they put out a smell that attracts pests. Some aphids can be washed off plants with a heavy spray of water. Horticulture Acetic Acid (vinegar) can be used to spray weeds but will not kill poison ivy.



Hostesses for the April meeting were: (left) Chris Schobel, Neva Lou Hubenak, Donnie Hyde, Andrea Utz and Debbie Braden.

Brenda Boehm had the scholarship wagon at the meeting for members to see and to add items to it. Proceeds from the wagon will go toward the club's scholarship fund.

Picture on right – (from left to right) Sandy Chaloupka, Joann Obenhaus, Sandy Barrett, Sharon Wegenhoft, Cheryl Rose, Dell Szymkowski, Chris Schobel, Neva Lou Hubenak, Brenda Boehm, Andrea Utz, Regena Williamson, Donnie Hyde, Janet Johnson, Debbie Braden, Patti Schindler, and Martha Jordan



## Garden Club Plant and Bake Sale

– The club came together on Saturday, April 24 for another plant and bake sale at Brookshire Bros. It was a great event that allowed us to get together once again to offer plants and plant education to our community. This year after dealing with a year long shut down because of the virus and then being hit hard by a terrible ice storm, club members were delighted to talk about plants



(Above) Patti Schindler and Cheryl Rose helped plant sale customers check out and receive education about plants they bought. Patti is club treasurer and Cheryl helped organize plant education.



with other plant enthusiasts. Available also were all kinds of cakes, pies, cookies, cupcakes and many casseroles. Regena Williamson won the scholarship cart and Debbie Braden won the second prize. Thanks to all who worked hard to make this event happen and thanks to all who supported it.



(Above right) Andrew Cooper (Velma Harrington's grandson) helped load up trees, set up and cleanup. George Prucha of Home Growers Nursery donated the trees for the sale. George has been donating trees to the club for many years.

(Left) Neva Lou Hubenak and Sharon Roensch greeted customers at the bake sale. Brenda Boehm helped organize the bake sale, acquired the scholarship garden cart. Thanks to everyone for all the baked goods.

Regena Williamson (below left) won the scholarship garden cart. Regena organized the plant sale, helped

acquire plants from nurseries and shared gardening knowledge with customers. Shawn Schubert (right) helped with plant sale setup, loading plants during sale, and clean up. Thanks also to Curtiss Schonenberg and Travis Wegenhoft for helping acquire trailers, helping with setting up and taking down. We are so thankful for the men in our lives who help and support us and do the heavy lifting for us.



Thanks to **all garden club members for your support**, for your help, for baking, for being at the sale and **helping in so many ways, big and small**, to make it a success.

**Dates to Remember:**

**May 12, 2021** – Installation of Officers, Columbus Garden Club Luncheon, 11:00 am, Los Cabos Mexican Grill, 2543 Hwy. 71, Columbus, Texas 78934

**May 17—20, 2021** National Garden Clubs Convention Rutherford, NJ

**May 24** - 9am - Picture for National Garden Week. Commissioners Court

**June 8** - 9am - Assemble flowers for community for National Garden Week - Ag bldg.

**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



## Remember our May Birthdays:

02 Ann Moore

## Yard of the Month – May



Donna Hartman  
823 Milam Street

## Community Beautification - May



Shell Timewise Station  
2215 Hwy 71S