

The Magnolia

Columbus Garden Club Newsletter



August, 2022

We're so excited! And we just can't hide it!



CGC President Joann Obenhaus, 2nd Vice President Sharon Wegenhoft, 1st Vice President Regena Williamson, Corresponding Secretary Cheryl Rose, Treasurer Patricia Schindler and in the front row Publicity person Velma Harrington, and Parliamentarian Deborah Braden are looking forward to the new garden club year 2022-23.

Columbus Garden Club officers met August 3 at Schobels to continue work on the new yearbook, to discuss ideas for the coming garden club year to make the meetings even more fun and educational, and to encourage all of our members and new members to participate and feel welcome.

Our theme this coming year will continue to be "Pollinators." Plans have been made for some very interesting speakers, a fun Pilgrimage next April and a fall Flower Show titled "Let's Be Thankful". We are planning a "plant exchange" and "plant chats". So everyone, let's get excited!

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Three CGC members, Jennie Pritchett, Joann Obenhaus and Sharon Wegenhoft attended the Environmental Studies School July 15-17 sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc. that we mentioned in last month's newsletter. The topic was "The Living Earth: Water and Related Issues."

The school was held at Old Ft. Parker located near Groesbeck, Texas. Old Ft. Parker is a preserved historic frontier fort. It also is the site of barracks which housed German War

Prisoners during World War II. American Indian artifacts are exhibited in the room where classes were held.

Classes began the first night with a lecture on water resources, worldwide supply, the hydrological cycle, and sustainability.



Sharon Wegenhoft, Joann Obenhaus and Jennie Pritchett on field trip tour of the Waco Wetlands.

The next morning students went on a field trip tour of the Waco Wetlands, which are located above Lake Waco. It supplies water for the city of Waco. Lectures were presented on wildlife and aquatic animals of the area, the special functions of wetlands, and the importance of preserving wetlands. There was a rainwater capture system and wetland grass experiment to observe. Baylor University operates a research facility

there. Students do experiments and studies on the site. The grounds are considered an educational area and the public is welcome. There is a room with displays of the wildlife and relics of the area. There was a "Bug House" which had bamboo and wood with holes drilled through and other spaces that creatures could claim as their house. We saw bird houses, bat houses and enjoyed the nature trail. There was a rainwater capture system and wetland grass experiment to observe. This is an interesting place to tour if ever in the Waco area.

Upon return from the field trip, classes were held on water in the home landscape (different ways to use and conserve water at home), earth stewardship and citizenship (review of opportunities to protect earth



Jennie Pritchett at the "Bug House"

systems and resources in the home, community, and higher through personal actions and political involvement), and environmental sustainability.

Environmental School is one of four schools offered by the National Garden Club. The others are Garden School, Landscape Design School, and Flower Show Design School. Each school consists of four sessions. Extensive information is presented. Students are given tests. A member can increase their knowledge and meet interesting people, forming lasting friendships.



Environmental school at Fort Parker is loaded with history, information and friendship. We even bottle-fed baby kittens whose mother was accidentally killed. There is always something going on around Sarah McReynolds who keeps Ft. Parker open. She is the director of this school. Also, Sarah is a Past TGC President.

Please consider attending Environmental School when we go back next January!

---Written by Sharon Wegenhoft

Pictured is Lee Taylor. Lee helped judge the CGC flower show last April and she will be the next TGC President.

Columbus Garden Club would like to thank Schneider Machine and Welding for making the black stands for our Monarch Butterfly signs at the Visitor Center and Midtown Butterfly Garden. He did a great job and also donated them to the garden club. Thanks also to Sandy Barrett for helping this happen and for the picture of the completed sign.

Velma Harrington took some pictures of some of the butterfly friendly plants at the Visitors Center.

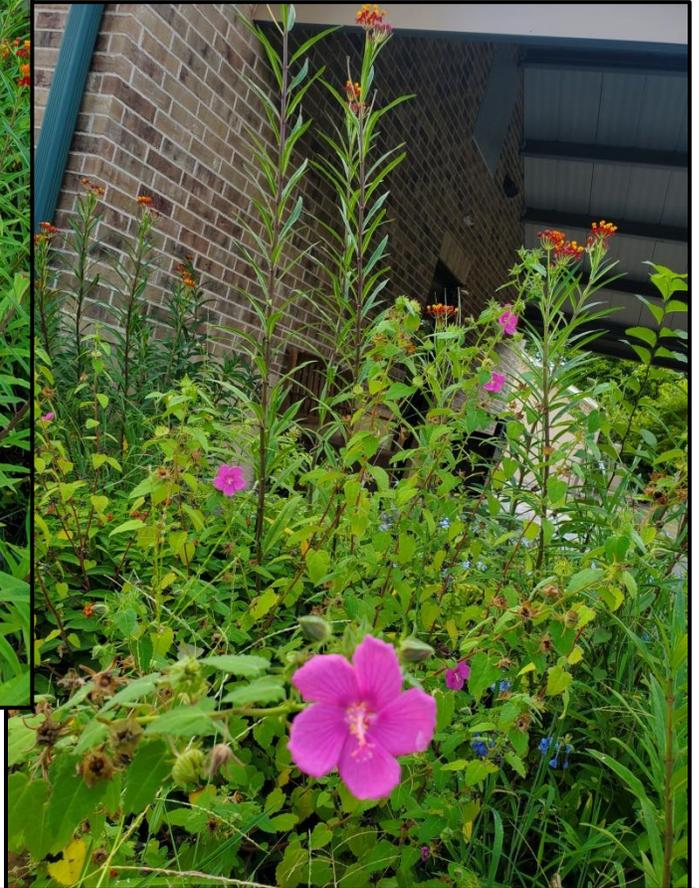
The wonderful thing about the butterfly friendly plants is that they tend to be sun friendly and drought hardy too.





Tropical Milkweed (left)

Rock Rose (below right)



Salvia (on right)

The hardy coleuses in the planters at the courthouse have varying response to the hot weather. Those that are getting some shade are tolerating the heat well. Those that are in full sun are suffering.

The Live Oak Street garden is looking good! Weeds have been pulled and mulch spread. **Thanks** to everyone who worked on this. Sandy Barrett was able to get some plants from Alexanders.





(on left, Live Oak Street Garden is weeded and mulched.)

Thanks to everyone who has worked during these very hot and dry days of summer to keep all of our garden areas alive and looking good. Even with barrier cloth and mulch those pesky weeds will find a way to pop up.

Thanks to our “resident computer guru” Cheryl Rose for all of her work this summer on the club’s yearbook. Other board members and members contributed by updating information, offering input and proofreading. **Thanks** to all members who have volunteered or graciously accepted being put on committees. **Thanks** to members who go the extra

mile to participate and hold offices in District IV and in Texas Garden Club. **Thanks** to those who study to become Master Gardeners, and those who continue their education by attending Landscape Design courses. **It takes a lot of volunteers to get all of the work done. But just look at what you do! Look at all of the wonderful projects that happen because of Columbus Garden Club. [We are all a part of making Columbus a more beautiful community.](#)**

And, one of the wonderful things that happen because of our club’s fundraising projects is **giving scholarships to Columbus high school students.**

Pictured (left to right) Patti Schindler CGC Treasurer, Will Hauerland, Madison Daniel, Jagar Rau, Joann Obenhaus CGC President, and Sharon Heimann

Columbus Garden Club established a scholarship fund in the year 2000 and has since awarded one or more scholarships annually to Columbus High School students. One of the fundraising projects for the scholarship is a drawing for the scholarship quilt. Sharon Heimann has made quilts for the drawing for over 20 years. This year the



scholarship recipients are:

Madison Daniel who will attend **Blinn College** and major in **Agribusiness** with a minor in **horticulture or floriculture**. She maintained a 4.5 GPA, was a member of NHS, FFA and CIA (Cardinals in Action), was a 4 year honor roll student, competed and succeeded in floral CTEs and aspires to be an Ag Teacher and own her own floral shop.

Will Hauerland who will attend **West Texas A&M** and major in **Agricultural Business and Economics**. He maintained a 4.34 GPA, voted Mr. FFA, member of FFA and 4-H judging teams and was a decorated exhibitor in Colorado County Fair, Houston Livestock Show, San Antonio Junior Commercial Steer contest, and Texas Cattle Feeders Junior Fed Beef Challenge. Community involvement includes presenting for and being a tour guide for the Texas Farm Bureau and volunteering with the Colorado County Fair and Columbus FFA show.

Jagar Rau who will attend **Texas A&M** and major in **Biochemistry**. He maintained a 5.3 GPA, 4-H Gold Star Award recipient, numerous FFA awards and honors, Principal's Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance, member of FFA, 4-H, NHS, Swim Team, UIL, CIA (Cardinals in Action), Youth Group, Prayer Squad and FCA.

(Jagar also is a recipient of a scholarship from The Bluebonnet Master Gardeners)

Colorado County Lunch - N - Learn Series

Bring your lunch and learn.
Light refreshments; coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.

Registration:
11:50am - 12:05pm
Program:
12:05pm - 12:55pm
No Pre-Registration Required

County Services Building
305 Radio Lane
Columbus, Texas 78934

July 20, 2022
Firewise Landscaping

August 17, 2022
Fall Vegetable Gardening

September 21, 2022
Berries Blue & Black

October 19, 2022
Tree Care

November 16, 2022
Soil Biology & Compost Tea

Questions?
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service of Colorado County
P: (979) 732-2082

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

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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, The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 732-2082 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.



August Yard of the Month

Home of:

Leroy and Sandra Frnka
119 Creek Bend Lane

This is a very manicured yard with shooting star agapanthus and apricot drift roses, fire bush and many other plants.



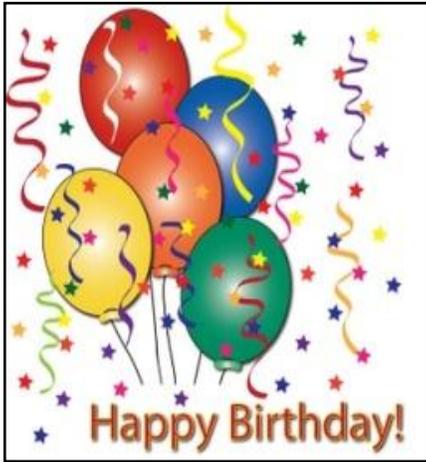
August Community Beautification

FSC Inc.
2205 Walnut

Landscaped with Texas Honey Mesquite trees, Lantana and other plants



Remember our Birthdays:



August

- 04 Patsy Hodge
- 06 Nell Turner
- 06 Martha Jordan
- 09 Lana Miller
- 18 Margaret Miller
- 20 Rebecca LaCourse
- 20 Robbie Thomas
- 31 Chris Schobel

Update on Velma's Voodoo Plant



It had seeds. (left)

The seeds are now blue. (right)

