

The Magnolia

Columbus Garden Club Newsletter



May, 2020

A Letter From Your Garden Club President

I hope everyone had a happy Mothers Day. It's hard to believe this garden club year is over.

Hope everyone is healthy and free of illness. With the stay at home order lifted, many are venturing out. Seems ironic that the flowers are blooming and butterflies are everywhere, that we are coming out of our own cocoons.

During April and May members were not idle. The Midtown Butterfly Garden is planted and mulched. Members worked hours on getting it ready for spring. Butterflies are everywhere.

Much work has also been put into the Visitor's Center. Weeding is completed and flowers ordered. It won't be long and this project is completed.

So now what....? So much remains on hold. The Magnolia Days Festival has been cancelled and we won't be meeting this month. Our National Garden Week celebration is on hold or cancelled. Officers will meet over the summer to begin planning next year.

Ladies, please remember, the love and spirit of the women who have loved and worked hard for our club for 84 years continues to make us strong. We will prevail.

"A woman is like a tea bag – you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water."
Eleanor Roosevelt

Debbie

Here are some pictures of garden club ladies working in the Midtown Butterfly Garden. There was a lot to be done. Some old plants needed to be removed and the "ever prevailing" nut grass had to be tackled. New plants were carefully chosen to provide for the different cycles

of butterfly life. After the bed was ready, plants were bought and placed. Sandy Chaloupka and Sandy Barrett helped plant the flowers that the butterflies will enjoy. After the plants were placed, mulch was put down to help keep the bed moist and to retard weed growth.



Patti Schindler and Andrea Utz helped put down mulch around the plants. Brenda Boehm and Sharon Wegenhoft kept filling up buckets of mulch to spread around. And when the mulch was in place Debbie Braden helped to water it all down. It took a lot of work from these ladies and Marian Schonenberg (who somehow seems to evade the camera probably because she is the one who takes the pictures while

she works) to get the job done. But it is done. And done very well. Please let these hard working members know how much you appreciate what they do. And now it is time for the butterflies to do what they do best in this North American Butterfly Association (NABA) recognized Butterfly Garden. It is also certified as a Monarch Way Station and education garden.



And now on to the next project. It was time to weed, feed, and mulch in the bed at the Visitors Center. There were three work days set up to get this work done.

The landscaping around the Visitors Center also contains plants for butterflies. It is also



certified as a Monarch Way Station and education garden. Marian Schonenberg, Addie Werland, Sharon Wegenhoft, Brenda Boehm, Patti Schindler and Joan Obenhaus worked getting the garden area spruced up and looking very good.



Some of the Texas native plants that were placed in this garden included Red Turks Cap, Texas Lantana, Asclepius Tuberosa (native milkweed), Autumn sage-cherry, Autumn sage-white, rock

rose, and pink muhly grass. Plants were purchased through a “Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas” grant of \$400 our club received from the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Sandy Barrett continues to keep the Blue Star Memorial bed in tip top shape. Marian Schonenberg has been weeding, mulching, cleaning out magnolia leaves and watering in the Court Oak Bed. Patti Schindler has been added to the volunteers helping to keep the Courthouse Planters and Historic Horse Trough watered. Some of the Red Head Coleuses have been planted in the planters around the courthouse and more will be planted soon. Some members that have been helping keep the planters watered have had health issues. If you can help, please let Velma Harrington know.

We have encouraged everyone to **keep in touch through our love of gardening.**

Sandy Chaloupka shared a picture of her begonia. Marian Schonenberg shared a picture of a



beautiful green necropia moth caterpillar eating crepe myrtle leaves when she went to

Take Root to pick up plants for the Visitors Center.

Good News – Lee Taylor, TGC Vice President of Awards has announced award winners for 2020. Columbus Garden Club received a citation for the TGC, Inc. Club Service Award; 1st Place Award for Litter/Recycling/Reclamation; 2nd Place Award for Decoration of a Historic Building; 3rd Place Award for National Garden Week; 2nd Place Award for Newsletter (1A); 1st Place Award for Landscaping and Landscape Design for Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker and 3rd Place Award for Yearbook. We have a Silver Rating.

Yard of the Month and Community Beautification For May



Mike and Stacy Griffin, 426 Front Street – The yard has red mandevillas, lilies, lantanas, and ferns



Colorado County Farm Bureau, 1480 Walnut St. – Landscaping with pink Knock Out roses and shrubbery.

KEEP THESE GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS AND FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS:

Ann Moore has been fighting a bacterial infection in her lung.

Janet Johnson came home two weeks ago on Thursday. There was a car parade of friends welcoming her home.

Joanne Cook, a gardener emeritus, had a hip replacement and is at home and doing well.

Lynda Counts is at The Delaney, 21700 Bellaire Blvd. in Richmond, Texas. She is now in her 2 bedroom apartment. Her cell phone number is the same, 979-732-1043 and she enjoys getting calls. She is scheduled for a shoulder replacement.

Marilyn Tanner, is home from having open heart surgery. Her husband is taking good care of her. Home nurses are also coming weekly. Please keep her in your prayers.

Please let us know if you or other members of our club are in need of our thoughts and prayers. Also, if you would like to share gardening pictures, please send them by email to velma.george07@gmail.com