

# The Magnolia

Columbus Garden Club Newsletter



September, 2022

**We Are Back! They Are Back! Hummingbirds, Schoolhouse Lilies, and CGC Garden Club too!**



*Picture taken by Ken Coffman and shared by Sandy Coffman*

There are so many things that come into our lives at different times. It makes every month, every week, and every day special...something to look forward to and something for which to be grateful. We are blessed. We are blessed with many things and beginning a new garden club year is a very special blessing for us and for our community.

Janet Johnson shared a picture (right) of a hummingbird happily feeding at her home.

Ken Coffman captured a beautiful picture of one of their schoolhouse lilies (below). They have planted them all along a walkway to their front door of their wonderful country home.



Marian Schonenberg shares a tidbit with us about schoolhouse lilies. Marian, chairman of the Court Oak garden area in downtown Columbus, says that schoolhouse lilies have been planted there for 15 years and come up like clockwork. However, this year the garden area needed some serious grass and weed digging up and this obviously disturbed the lilies. There are a few that popped up but they are not presenting the spectacular display that they have in years past. However, Marian shared the picture on the right of some that were left alone on a vacant



lot and not disturbed and “Voila! A Masterpiece of Color.” Hey, another reason to be a “lazy gardener.” I will interject that we affectionately call these “schoolhouse lilies” because they tend to pop up in September when schools used to open for the fall semester in September right after Labor Day. But they are also called Oxblood Lily and if you want to be horticulturally correct they are called *Rhodophiata bifida*.



## Share Your Garden

This fun garden club activity **is back too!** Some of you may ask “What is Share Your Garden?” Well, it has also been known as **Gardening Tidbits & Information**. Since we are a garden club and there are so many knowledgeable gardeners in our club there is a wealth of knowledge and experience to be shared. And, why not!

Here is the plan. If you have seeds, bulbs, tubers, cuttings, cut flowers, or potted plants that you would like to share with other members, just bring them to the meetings. There will be a table set up for them. For seeds, bulbs, or tubers please place them in plastic baggies and include an information sheet with helpful information. A form for this will be on the table for you to fill out with information that includes **What** they are, **When** to plant, **How** to plant, etc. If you have cuttings or cut flowers you may want to put them in a can, bottle or vase with water and again include the information sheet with the helpful information. For potted plants also include the information. Some blank information sheets will be on the table for you to fill out. You can also find them on the Columbus Garden Club website. ([www.columbusgardenclub.org](http://www.columbusgardenclub.org))



## Plant Exchange

The Plant Exchange has been a popular activity in our club throughout the years and we have **brought it back** this year too. **The exchange will happen this garden club year in March.** Those members who wish to participate will bring a plant to exchange with another member. Each plant will be numbered and a drawing will be held to determine who gets which plant. This is a fun event that may introduce you to a new plant that could become your new favorite plant.

## Door Prizes

Because it is fun to win something we will be having door prizes **back again** this year. Be sure to sign in when you arrive at each monthly meeting and your name will be entered into the drawing. If you have something garden related that you would like to donate for a door prize just bring it to a meeting.

## Plant Chat

This is new for this year. At each meeting there will be a very short (five minutes or so) talk or chat after the speaker has concluded. The chat will be highlighting a specific plant or species. Regena Williamson, Janet Johnson and Stacy Renner will be bringing these little chats to us.

## It is Good to be Back Together. Longtime Members Celebrate New Members..... and our Newest Members

We celebrate together. We will welcome our new and newest members at our September 14 meeting with “flowery” introductions...mentors and new members. Come at 9:30. Sign in to be eligible for door prizes, get some coffee or something cold. Nibble on some sweets or goodies. Hugs, smiles and lots of “catching up” on friendly chatter. The club meeting begins at 10:00.

## Club Members Decorated for the Colorado County Fair

The garden club committee for decorating at the Colorado County Fair met on Wednesday morning (Sept. 7) to decorate the entrance. The theme this year was Neon Lights and Country Nights. Janet Johnson and her crew Debbie Braden, Nancy Galloway, Brenda Boehm and Suzy Purcell made a colorful display of stacks of hay, pumpkins, flowers, barnyard animals and scarecrows.

*(Debbie Braden puts the finishing touches on a scarecrow)*





*Debbie Braden, Nancy Galloway, and Janet Johnson finished decorating at the Colorado County Fair*

## **Columbus is Celebrating 200 Years and We Can Celebrate Too**

Columbus is celebrating July 2022 through May 2023. There are many opportunities to participate throughout the year in the planned events and ways that our garden club can help celebrate too.

There will be a commemorative Columbus 200 Collection Cookbook. It will be a collection of timeless and memorable recipes. It could be your favorite appetizer or beverage, soup, salad, veggie or side dish, main dish, breads and rolls, desserts, cookies or candy and maybe even a "this or that." Recipes can be dropped off at the Columbus Chamber office or submit recipes by **November 1** to [columbustx200@gmail.com](mailto:columbustx200@gmail.com) Wouldn't it be fun for garden club members to include recipes that use herbs or edible flowers?

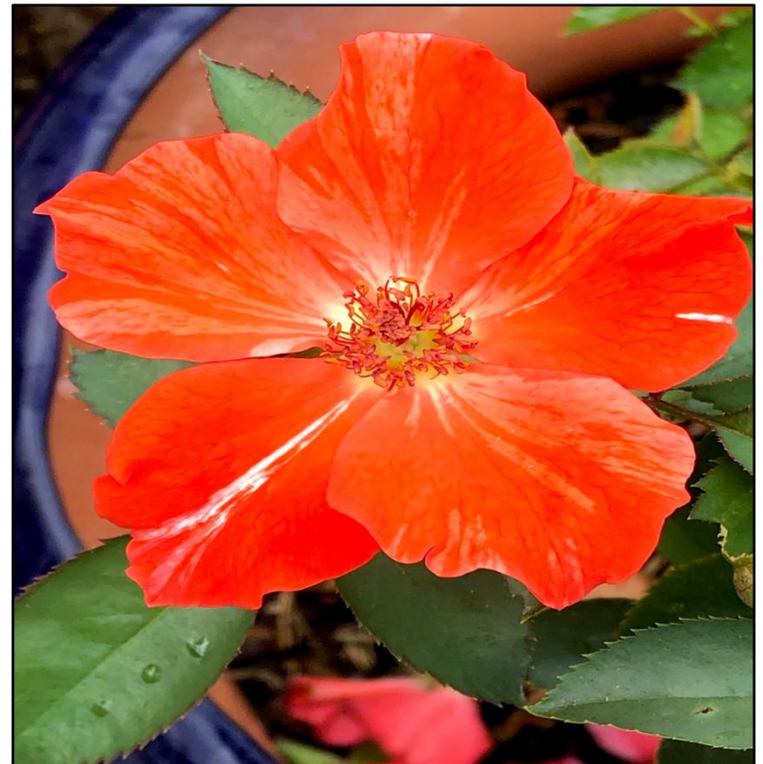
## Pictures to Share



Janet Johnson shared this picture of a Gulf Fritillary caterpillar (left) she discovered in her yard. I wondered what it was going to become so I looked it up on Google. So beautiful. (below)



Janet also wants to remind us that it is time to prune your roses for fall growth and blooms. (right)



Marian Schonenberg shared pictures of African Blue Basil (*Ocimum kilimandscharicum* x *basilicum* 'Dark Opal') (left). It is a hybrid basil variety, a cross between camphor basil and dark opal basil. It is one of a few types of basil that

are perennial. African blue basil plants are sterile, unable to produce seeds of their own, and can only be propagated by cuttings. Regena Williamson introduced us to this plant at this last plant sale in April. Marian says “it has been a fabulous performer. I did mulch. Otherwise I feel like I gave it no special treatment.”

## Our Garden Areas

Sandy Barrett sent a picture of Midtown Butterfly Garden. The black stand for the sign has now been installed. Schneider Machine and Welding made the stand for the Visitor Center and for the Midtown Butterfly Garden.

Janet Johnson says that the Courthouse Square Planters will be replanted this month.

## It is never too late to learn

When we were preparing for our plant sale last April we were repotting plants for the sale. We were putting leaves in the bottom of the pots like we have been doing for a very long time. The idea is the leaves help keep the water from draining quickly thru the pot, it eventually turns to mulch, and it keeps the pots from being real heavy. Good idea, huh! Well, guess what. One of our members found an article that says, “Just like me, you’ve probably heard that you should add small stones, gravel, pieces of broken ceramic pots, or other filler to the bottom of your containers before planting. The reasoning is that it provides better drainage for your plants as it helps the water drain faster through the pot. It sounds reasonable, right? But it turns out that stones in the bottom of the pot actually slow drainage and can harm your plants. Scientists have proven it. They actually busted this gardening myth more than 100 years ago, and many times since. Somehow this fact hasn’t entered the collective conscience of home gardeners –who are still throwing all kinds of things into the bottom of flower pots.”



Todd Heft is a lifelong gardener and the publisher of Big Blog of Gardening. He lives in the Lehigh Valley, PA. When he isn't writing or reading about organic gardening, he's gardening. One of the readers of his blog asked, "I put dry leaves at the bottom of my pot so I don't use as much soil and the pot isn't as heavy. Is this recommended?"

Heft replied, "Adding leaves to the bottom of the pot is definitely not recommended for two reasons. First, the leaves may clump together and block drainage, since there won't be bacterial and fungi action to degrade them as there is in open garden soil. Second, there's a high probability of introducing diseases to your plants like fungal infections that are carried on the leaves." Well, now we just became a little more "garden smart."

**If you have garden hints or want to share a garden experience or want to share pictures from your garden** please send to Velma Harrington at [velma.george07@gmail.com](mailto:velma.george07@gmail.com) I will be glad to include in our monthly newsletter.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **MARK YOUR 2022—2023 CALENDAR – For Federation, TGC and NGC Events**

#### **2022**

SEPTEMBER: 9	FEDERATION GEN. MTG. - ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 5308 BUFFALO SPEEDWAY, HOUSTON, TX 77005. 10 A.M.
19-22	NGC FALL BOARD MEETING – ST LOUIS, MO
26-29	FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL IV, BAYLAND, HOUSTON, TX
26-28	LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL I, COLLEGE STATION
OCTOBER: 1	ALL DISTRICT AND TGC SCHOLARSHIPS DUE
11-12.	TGC FALL CONVENTION/BOARD MEETING – FT WORTH
14	FEDERATION GENERAL MEETING AND SMALL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW - "THE GREAT PUMPKIN"
20	DISTRICT IV FALL BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER: 1	ALL DISTRICT AWARDS DUE
11	FEDERATION GENERAL MEETING—ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 5308 BUFFALO SPEEDWAY, HOUSTON, TX. 7005 10 A.M.
12	FEDERATION PLANT SALE 9 a.m.—1 p.m.
14.	ARBOR DAY – DEBAKEY VA CENTER, HOUSTON
DECEMBER: 9.	FEDERATION GALA
JANUARY: 2023	
1	SOUTH CENTRAL REGION AWARDS DUE
13	FEDERATION GENERAL MEETING 10 A.M.

15 ALL PRESIDENTS REPORTS DUE: SEND TO AREA COORDINATORS  
 21-23 ENVIROMENTAL SCHOOL ,OLD FORT PARKER, MEXIA, TX  
 JAN 30-FEB. 2 FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL I, BAYLAND, HOUSTON, TX.  
 FEBUARY: 1 PRESIDENTS REPORTS DUE TO BE JUDGED  
 10 FEDERATION GENERAL MEETING  
 MARCH: 10 FEDERATION GENERAL MEETING 10 A.M.  
 21 TGC DISTRICT IV SPRING CONVENTION, HOUSTON.  
 APRIL: 10-14 TGC CONVENTION – SAN ANTONIO  
 14 FEDERATION GENERAL MEETING 10 A.M.  
 19-21 SCR SPRING CONVENTION, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK.  
 24-25 SCR SPRING CONVENTION, LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 MAY: 2-5 NGC SPRING CONVENTION – WHITE SULFER SPRING ,WV.  
 12 FEDERATION GENERAL MEETING. 10 A.M.

2024  
 APRIL 24-25 SCR SPRING CONVENTION, LITTLE ROCK, AR.

## Colorado County Lunch - N - Learn Series

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

*It's Free!*

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

**July 20, 2022**  
Firewise Landscaping

*It's Free!*

**October 19, 2022**  
Tree Care

**County Services Building**  
 305 Radio Lane  
 Columbus, Texas 78934

**August 17, 2022**  
 Fall Vegetable Gardening

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

**September 21, 2022**  
Berries Blue & Black

*It's Free!*

**November 16, 2022**  
Soil Biology & Compost Tea

**TEXAS MASTER GARDENER**  
 TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

**TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION**

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.



## September Yard of the Month

Home of:

**Walter and Isabel Evans**  
**929 Live Oak Street**

The yard has a beautiful live oak tree that is surrounded by plumbago. There is also yellow lantana and many other plants.



## September Community Beautification

**Columbus Junior High School**  
702 Rampart Street

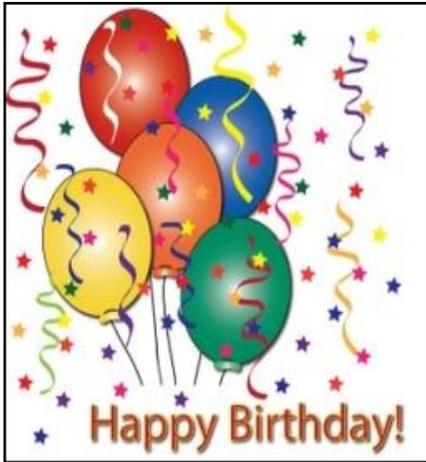
The bed in front of the junior high school has esperanzas, pink roses, dianthus and purple sage.

*(Pictured are the school principal Kevin Winfield and Mrs. Julie Leopold.)*



Mrs. Julie Leopold does a fantastic job of taking care of the flower beds at Columbus Junior High School. Even during the summer when school was out she could be found every day tending to the flower beds. Mrs. Leopold started gardening when she was in college. She also worked as a landscaper at a bed and breakfast in her hometown. Her favorite part about gardening is turning an ordinary piece of ground into something that looks nice and welcoming. Mrs. Leopold is very much appreciated for tending to the flower beds at the school campus.

## Remember our Birthdays:



### September

- 25 Patti Schindler  
30 Dell Szymkowski



## Keep These Garden Club Members and Families in Your Thoughts:

Barbara Hohensee's Family

John Blake Hohensee, 54, of Spring, Texas passed away August 28th, 2022. Blake was born December 13th, 1967 in Alice, Texas.

Blake is survived by his wife, Michelle Garza Hohensee; son, Jonathan Aaron Hohensee; his parents, Vernon and Barbara Hohensee; sister Lana & husband Stephen Patterson, sister Shannon Damuth, brother Kurt Hohensee, brother Scott & wife Scottie Hohensee, sister Michelle Hohensee. In-laws Robert & Gloria Garza, brother-in-law, Robert Garza Jr; several nieces and nephews, extended family, and many dear friends.

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 there is a death in the family please contact:

Joann Obenhaus 979-942-0528 – She will notify the appropriate members to communicate with the club.

Cheryl Rose 713-444-6500 – She is officer in charge of notifying the club

Susan Peletz 979-732-6621 – She will send birthday cards, get well cards, sympathy cards