

# The Magnolia

Columbus Garden Club Newsletter



June, 2023

**COLUMBUS GARDEN CLUB Celebrated 87 Years On May 10<sup>TH</sup> With A Crème Tea and Salad Luncheon – What a Beautiful Event!**

**Spring Bonnets and Hats --- Fascinators and Gloves**

**...and, why not! There was a lot to Celebrate.**

This year's **scholarship winners** and their mothers were introduced to the club and the **new officers** were presented with a very clever program.



## New Officers for 2023-2025

**Janet Johnson** is the new President of our Club. She wore a bonnet full of sunflowers suggesting that she would like to bring a bright, sunny agenda to the coming term. **Regena Williamson**, as First Vice President, wore a flowery dress full of possibilities for the Club to bloom with wonderful programs full of flowery knowledge. **Nancy Galloway**, Second Vice President, wore bright colors looking forward to a bright future in our fundraising events. **Jenny Pritchett**, Secretary, was “pretty in pink” full of promises to keep accurate records of our meetings. Polka dots on a background of black was the choice of **Patti Schindler** because as Treasurer she always wants us to be “in the black” (not red) in our financial records. As Reporter, **Velma Harrington** wore an “old fashioned hat” because she plans to report the news with old fashioned, straightforward accuracy but sometimes with a bit of “whimsy”.



(from left to right) Nancy Galloway (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), Velma Harrington (Reporter), Jenny Pritchett (Secretary), Patti Schindler (Treasurer), Regena Williamson (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), and Janet Johnson (President)





## *Letter From the President*

*The temperatures are rising and our hoses are busy but that's the beauty of living in our little bit of heaven! We had a great turnout for National Garden Week and everyone made beautiful flower arrangements to share with our community. Thank you for those that bought flowers for us to use, gathered flowers from yards and pastures and fillers, ribbons and cards, and the delightful Monarch butterfly picks we used in the arrangements!*

*This is a busy time as your new board is gathering and working to get things ready to start back up in September. Speaking of September, this month I will be sending out two important emails to you. We need to finish signing up for much needed areas for committees and for hostesses. Many of the committees are in full swing but the more the merrier. The committees are much needed areas for us to function as the great Columbus Garden Club we are! Instructions will be on the email or if you want to go ahead and contact me I will get you signed up where you want to be.*

*Thank you for being a part of this club and have a restful summer enjoying your gardens and families.*

*In His Garden,*

*Janet*

**This Year's Scholarship Winners** were introduced at the luncheon. Patsy Hodge planned a fun presentation. She talked with the scholarship winners and asked them questions about their future plans.



*(on back row) Scholarship Committee member, Beth Easterling, Maria Guadalupe Hernandez, Joyce Templeton, Scholarship Committee members, Jennie Pritchett and Patsy Hodge; (front row) Scholarship recipients Ivett Hernandez and Jordyn Templeton*

Columbus Garden Club is so very proud to have had Columbus High School student Jordyn Templeton, her mother Joyce Templeton, student Ivett Hernandez and her mother Maria Guadalupe Hernandez attend the recent Springtime Tea and Installation Program for the upcoming garden club year. They were there to be introduced to the club members as the recipients of this year's 2022-23 scholarships from the club.

**Jordyn Templeton** will be attending Centenary College of Louisiana (Shreveport, LA) majoring in Arts Management and minoring in horticulture. She plans to be an Art Director and earn certificates in UI Design and Floral Design. She maintained a 4.96 GPA and played varsity golf and tennis. She was a member of science club, art club, Cardinals in Action, National Honor Society, yearbook, and booster club. She has served as a student council representative and class secretary. She received the honor of attending Texas Bluebonnet Girls State and Texas High School Bass Association. She was the Columbus Education Foundation logo winner. She has volunteered with God Works Our Hands, Magnolia Belles, and Vacation Bible School.

**Ivett Hernandez** plans to attend Texas State University in San Marcos. She is undecided between nursing and education/teaching. Ivett played varsity soccer, ran varsity cross country, danced with the Cardinal Belles, and played in both the concert and marching bands. She was a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, CORE team member for C3YM youth group, yearbook, and Spanish Club.

She was a Colorado County Fair Queen contestant, served as class secretary, competed in UIL Journalism, UIL spelling and was Vice President of Spanish Club. She received A/B honor roll and maintained a 4.88 GPA.

She volunteered at St. Anthony's as an altar server, Free Throw Competition volunteer, and at St. Anthony's annual picnic. She volunteered for Adopt A Highway, at the Magnolia Festival, Wreaths Across America, and as a Science Night volunteer at Columbus Elementary.

These two outstanding young women are headed toward a bright future. Scholarship Committee members for the garden club are: Ericka Braun, Patsy Hodge, Beth Easterling, and Jennie Pritchett. Columbus students have been receiving scholarships from Columbus Garden Club since the 2001-2002 school year.

**June was time to celebrate National Garden Week** CGC members met on Wednesday June 7 to make flower arrangements in observance of National

Garden Week. Many kinds of colorful flowers and lots of ferns and greenery were brought by members to be used in the arrangements. Other flowers were purchased from Rita Anders at Cuts of Color to be used in the arrangements. There were so many colorful flowers to be used including beautiful bright sunflowers, colorful zinnias, and even wildflowers.



Brenda Boehm (top left) joyfully arranges flowers amidst a pile of bows.

Sharon Wegenhoft, Wanda Anglin, Joann Obenhaus and Brenda Wyman (top right) enjoy putting together colorful arrangements.

And Brenda Wyman and Sharon Roensch loved making the beautiful flower arrangements.





Nancy Galloway cutting pieces of ivy to use as “filler” in the arrangements (top left) Janet Johnson and Debbie Braden (top right) enjoying the day.



Joann Obenhaus (left) enjoyed putting tags on each of the arrangements.

(above on right) Brenda Boehm, Helen Huddleston and Sharon Wegenhoft put together many arrangements.



But, it all began May 22 with proclamations from the County and the City announcing the week of June 4 through 10 National Garden Week.



And, the result of all of this, is that many beautiful arrangements were made and delivered to County and City offices, Columbus Community Hospital, Chamber of Commerce, the newspapers, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, local businesses and some elderly people around town.





## Our Community Gardens and Planters

As the summer months heat up, our community gardens and planters will continue to need care and lots of watering. Some of the beds have a watering system in place but others, like the courthouse planters, have faucets with access to water but need to be watered by hand with use of hoses. Maintenance of these beds and planters takes no vacation. There seems to be no break when it comes to keeping plants watered, weed control and sometimes pest control.



### The Courthouse Planters and Historical Horse Trough

The committee for maintaining the Courthouse Planters met in May to replant and refurbish the planters so the courthouse grounds would be beautiful during

the Magnolia Oaks Festival. Patti Schindler, Debbie and Mike Braden, Janet Johnson and other committee members planted red and salmon impatiens, green and purple potatoe vines, petunias, lavender and replanted some of the original plantings that had been planted earlier in the year.







## Live Oak Street Bed

Sandy Barrett's husband, Charles, made the metal frame sign (left) for the Midtown Live Oak Street bed. Sandy painted the lettering. Sandy works hard in that bed and has planted many rose bushes and different plants there. She is very resourceful and finds "good deals".

## Visitors Center

Columbus Garden Club can feel proud of the plantings at the Visitors Center. It is a focal point in downtown Columbus as is the Courthouse Square. There have been conversations about adding a trellis to encourage plantings that attract an environment for butterflies and their stages of development.

**A More Beautiful Community** is our Club Motto. Good job, garden ladies!

## Sharing Plants Through Pictures...





Patti Schindler shared the picture on the previous page of her beautiful red clematis and her popcorn drift roses. She also shared this picture (below, left) of her **Brilliant Veranda Roses**.

**Wow! Is that a stunner!**



**And, so is the beautiful double orange daylily (right) shared by Janet Johnson, oh my!**



Janet also shared pictures (below) of critters in her garden...a baby Praying Mantis, a Fritillary caterpillar and a Fritillary chrysalis.





## Our members out and about in the area.....

CGC member Nancy Galloway (and also a Bluebonnet Master Gardener) was featured in an article in the Washington County Banner Press showing kids a caterpillar habitat at Kids Kamp at the Washington County Fairgrounds. The kids, "fifth and sixth graders, were introduced to some wonders of nature. The youth dissected flowers, learned about Venus Flytrap plants, hydroponics, ecosystems, making terrariums and tagging Monarch butterflies."



### Kool Kamp for Kids

Keith E. Donke/Banner-Press photos  
The Bluebonnet Master Gardeners Association hosted Kids Kamp at the Washington County Fairgrounds this week for local fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders who were introduced to some of the wonders of nature. The youth dissected flowers, learned about Venus Flytrap plants, hydroponics, ecosystems, making terrariums and tagging Monarch butterflies. ABOVE: Master Gardener Nancy Galloway shows a caterpillar habitat to the campers on Thursday, including, from left, Brooklynn Randermann, Cayd Wilkerson, Arabella Clay and Madeline McHargue. RIGHT: Cory McHargue uses a microscope to get an up-close-and-personal look at a butterfly.



## The Making of Future Gardeners



**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:**

Janet Johnson – She will notify the appropriate members to communicate with the club.

Cheryl Rose – She is person in charge of notifying the club.

## *In Sympathy*

**Gina Rene Hightower**, 63, a longtime resident of Pearland, TX passed away May 11, 2023 in Pearland, TX with her family by her side. She was born in Duncan, OK on December 22, 1959. Gina moved to Pearland in her early childhood where she enjoyed playing softball at the Pearland Dad's Club. She graduated from Pearland High School, class of 1978, before attending The University of Texas at Austin, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science, class of 1982.

Gina led a successful professional career in healthcare management. In her free time, she loved traveling to new places. She visited many national parks and enjoyed going on cruises with family and friends. One of her greatest joys was spending time with family, especially her grandchildren.

Gina leaves behind to cherish her memories, her husband of 29 years, Bobby Hightower; daughters: Bridgett Stephen, husband Brett, and Barbara Ruddell, husband Jason; son, Benjamin Hightower; grandchildren: Krysta Ruddell, Kierstyn Ruddell, Rylan Ruddell, Carson Stephen, and Emery Stephen; parents **Kenneth and Sandra Coffman**; sister, Lisa Esders, husband Steve; brother, Richard Coffman, wife Tammy; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was at 9:30 a.m., Friday, May 19, 2023 with a memorial service beginning at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Crowder Funeral Home in Pearland.

**Sandy and Ken Coffman would like to thank sincerely all of those who sent cards and other expressions of sympathy. Your love and kindness during this time has been lovingly appreciated.**

**Martha Sue Houser Knesek**, 79, of Columbus, Texas went to be with God on Saturday, June 3, 2023. She was born on July 10, 1943 in Lufkin, Texas to William Guy and Sadie Jordan Houser. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Garwood, Texas. Sue graduated from Garwood High School in 1961, where she was a majorette.

Sue married John Knesek on March 19, 1971 and resided in Missouri City, Texas for thirty-one years before retiring to Columbus, Texas in 2002.

Sue was a member of First Baptist Church, Columbus, Texas where she volunteered for several years with the church's clothes closet ministry, Women's Missionary Union and AWANAS. **She was also a member of the Columbus Garden Club and enjoyed working in her flower beds at home.**

Sue enjoyed camping, tubing down the Frio River and was involved in Cowboy Action Shooting with the Texas Historical Shooting Society alongside her husband under their cowboy aliases, Billy and Olive Dixon. Sue was known to be a better shot than her husband, John, but he jokingly said that she could be slow to aim at times. Sue was very proud to have won the 2nd place trophy in 1996 for Best Working Woman Costume at Trail Head.

Sue is survived by her loving husband, John Knesek, children, Blake (Phyllis), Sheri (Shannon), Chad (Scott), and John (Dana), as well as her grandchildren, Chris Polak and Benji Polak, great-grandchildren, Riley Polak, Randon Polak, and Sydney Polak, and numerous nieces and nephews, all of whom she loved very much!

Sue was preceded in death by her parents, her siblings, Stella Lorraine Houser, James T. Houser, **Margaret Ann Golla**, Harold Jean Houser and her identical twin sister, Sandra Kay Houser Berry.

Services were held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 11:00 am with visitation with the family beginning at 10:00 am at First Baptist Church, 1700 Milam Street, Columbus, Texas under the prayerful direction of Pastor Victor Morrison.



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.



## **Remember our Birthdays:**

### **June**

- 11 Regena Williamson**
- 18 Donnie Hyde**
- 19 Jackie Chesson**
- 29 Janice Harbich**

## **IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION**

- Environmental School scheduled for July 14-16 at Old Fort Parker has been canceled.
- Gardening School – August 22, 23, 24 2023 will be held at the San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels, San Antonio, TX
- Flower Show School I will be held September 25-28, 2023 at Bayland Community Center in Houston, TX
- Flower Show II will be held January 29-February 1, 2024 at Bayland Community Center in Houston, TX
- Flower show III will be held September 30-October 3, 2024 at Bayland Community Center in Houston, TX
- National Fall Board Meeting (Virtual) September 21, 2023
- TGC Fall Board Meeting, TGC Headquarters, Ft. Worth, TX October 17-18, 2023
- District VII Fall Meeting in October 23, 2023
- District VII Spring Convention in February 22, 2024

- TGC Spring Convention, April 8-12, 2024 Abilene, TX. Distrit VIII hosting at the MCM Elegante Hotel
- SCR Spring Convention April 24-25, 2024, Little Rock, Arkansas, at the Delta Hotel
- NGC Spring Convention Denver, Colorado, June, 2024 (Dates TBA)

## YARD OF THE MONTH



Home of:

**Karl and Nancy Davenport**

903 Milam Street

The yard is very pretty with petunias, yellow lantanas, bougainvillas and lots of different plants.



## COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

**The Lazy B Vacation Rental**

Owned by Donna Bukak

630 Walnut Street

Very cute with a bench between two Crepe Myrtles, lantanas and other plants.