

The Magnolia

Columbus Garden Club Newsletter



March, 2024

Happy St. Paddy's Day



Well, not quite....but we can all be a “little Irish” on Sunday, March 17. In the meantime take a walk in your yard and look at everything that is showing “the green”. Take a little drive (don’t need to go very far) and look at all of the Indian Paintbrushes along the roads. The bluebonnets are starting to poke their heads up too. It’s “magical”. It is always such a beautiful time of the year, don’t you think”?

Janet Johnson says her bluebonnets (below left) are coming up in her yard.



And, so are her beautiful salvias. **Ahhh! SPRING!**

Planting areas are being cleaned out of all the dead foliage from winter at our homes and in the **Columbus Garden Club** planting areas around town. The Butterfly Garden at Midtown Park was recently cleaned up thanks to Sandy Barrett, Bren Wyman and her husband David.



Wow! That looks great!



(Looks like someone's feet hurt or they got into fire ants.) David also made repairs to the Live Oak bed sprinkler system and filled in the hole that the broken head had created.

Sandy Barrett has been working every week taking 30 minutes here and 30 minutes there as she has time to shake off the winter blues from the midtown Live Oak Bed and the Midtown Butterfly

Garden. She had cut back most things and then Bren and her husband chipped in to pick up the limbs. **New life is coming up everywhere** in both gardens and they look nice and clean.

Sandy Barrett has also been working in the Blue Star Memorial planting area on the courthouse square ensuring it is ready for spring by cleaning old perennials and putting in new fresh flowers. The garden looks great especially with the work that was done by the Youth in the Garden students and Janet Johnson last fall to reset the scalloped edging that had fallen over. Many thanks to Sandy for her diligence.



On Thursday, February 29, a handful of club members and four students in the Youth in the Garden project from Columbus High School made the most of the extra leap year day. “The students cut back all of the dead foliage from winter and we all worked in the Visitor Center Butterfly Garden on the square” says Wanda Anglin.

Picture below is before work got started. “Looks like a lot of work to be done.”



And.....this is the after. The perennials are already sprouting and one more short work day to do a little mulching and it will be in excellent shape ready for butterflies and other pollinators visiting this spring and summer.



In front are students (from left to right) Alley Fitzgerald, Nusaiba Arif, Stephanie Cabrera, and Melanie Cabrera. In back are club members, Bren Wyman, Wanda Anglin and Sharon Wegenhoft. Other club members that worked and contributed to the project included Patti

Schinder (another hard worker that day) and Chris Schobel. Chris provided water and snacks for the team. Columbus Garden Club Gardener Emeritus, Shirley Barfield, made a generous donation to purchase an arbor to install at the Visitor Center Butterfly Garden. Installation should be sometime in March. More about that in the future.

In Texas You Never Know What a Spring Day Will Be...

Just when you think you will go outside on a beautiful Saturday with sunshine, do some planting in the planters at the Courthouse Square, it becomes blustery and cold...47 degrees at my house the morning of March 9. But the "hearty" hardy garden club members and the Youth in the Garden students braved the obstacles and got the job done. On the left (below) are Keith Johnson, Janet Johnson (pruning the roses) and Sharon Wegenhof (watering) at the Historic Horse Trough at the courthouse square. On the right (below) are Sharon Wegenhof and Brenda Boehm holding flats of petunias and marigolds that will be planted in planters around the square and Janet Johnson ready to prune roses.



There are 11 planters of different sizes and shapes at 3 sitting areas at the Courthouse Square along with the historic horse trough on the northwest corner of the square. Volunteers and garden club members helping with the cleanup and planting were Janet Johnson and husband

Keith Johnson, Brenda Boehm, Sandy Barrett and Sharon Wegenhoft. The Youth in the Garden volunteers were Nusiba Arif, Stephanie Cabrera, Melanie Cabrera, (garden club member Sandy Barrett) and Alley Fitzgerald. They are getting ready to plant petunias.



(left) Petunias and Marigolds in planter by the gazebo. (right) Petunias and Begonias were planted there too.

Thanks to everyone for helping to clean up and plant the garden areas around town.



Some of our garden club ladies are getting a head start on spring planting in their own gardens.

Janet Johnson started different varieties of coleuses and balloon flowers using heat mats and lighting in her kitchen.

In picture below:

Wanda Anglin has also been starting plants early using heat mats and grow lights on a

wire rack. Each light can be independently turned on, and a timer turns them on and off. The top shelf is storage for other things like propagating plants on top that don't need grow lights.

She says "the seedlings shown are one month after I planted the seeds. The heat mats speed things along. My spring garden will be in great shape."



This is a reminder to everyone:

Columbus Garden Club

Plant and Bake Sale will be **Saturday, April 27 at Brookshire Bros.**

As you are cleaning out your planting areas and starting plants think about what you might save or start for the plant sale. And, also think

about baked goods and items for the Scholarship Cart. It won't be long.....

SHARING OUR GARDENS WITH EACH OTHER



Sandy Barrett's Orchids and Pink Amaryllis



Janet Johnson's
Lantana in a
butterfly planter
(on left)

And

Snapdragons
(on right)



Janet's African Violets



Last Month's Meeting was jam packed with celebrations, "bittersweet" goodbyes, and fun times. Of course it was Valentines Day so there was lots of love happening. And hearts. There were plenty of hearts and love to go around.



The hostesses were (in back) Bren Wyman, Cheryl Rose, Sharon Heimann and Brenda Boehm. In front are Patti Schindler, Ann Pavliska and Jennie Pritchett.



Our president Janet Johnson stepped right in when our speaker for the day did not arrive. Janet had planned to do a Plant Chat on “bird baths for our feathered friends and their importance”. So she bravely carried on by having that become our program for the day. And, it was a very good day.



Above right, Alicia Brummet enjoying her cup of coffee.



On left, Dell Szymkowski enjoying the meeting. Wanda Anglin (on right) brought seeds to share with club members.

And, members sure did enjoy looking through all of her seed packets. Did you see those “yard long beans?”

Thank you Wanda.





Sharon Roensch (left) is a longtime gardener. If you can eat it, she can grow it. I wonder what wonderful seeds she found in Wanda's seed box to plant in her garden. (Below) Ann Pavliska and Sharon Heimann



enjoy a cup of coffee and a good laugh together.

(On left) Our very best wishes go to Helen Huddleston as she moves back to Georgia to be closer to family.

Helen has been a joy to have in our garden club and she brought her flower show expertise to us. We will miss her sweet smile and her willingness to help wherever she was needed. But we say goodbye "we wish you well, we will miss you."

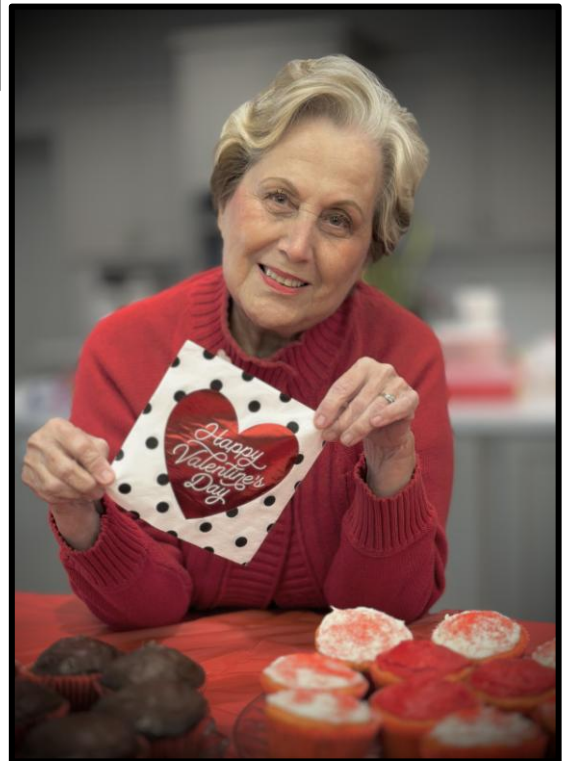
Sharon Wegenhoft presented Helen with



loving words from the club and Nancy Galloway was there to present her with a **plant that Helen had shown interest in at our last Flower Show.**



Yes, we all call the plant a “mother-in-laws tongue” or “Snake Plant” and it has long been classed as the Genus, Sansevieria. However, due to modern day DNA testing it was moved to the Dracaena genus. This can be important to us as club members in exhibiting horticulture for flower shows. So with hearts and flowers we say goodbye to Helen and we wish her and her family well.



(on left)

Deborah Braden congratulates Brenda Boehm for being honored at the recent garden club meeting.



Brenda Boehm has been chosen the Garden Angel for Columbus Garden Club 2023-24.

Brenda has been in the garden club for eleven years. She routinely helps set up the club's meeting rooms, assists elderly members, plants pots and waters around the Courthouse Square, and helps decorate downtown for the Fall season as well as decorate the County Fairgrounds entrance for the Colorado County Fair. She has chaired the club's Bake Sale many times, the Scholarship Wagon, Brookwood Volunteer Program, the E-Cycle program, and worked the Trash Off Event.

While working full-time, she has managed to faithfully attend meetings and participate in almost all Club projects and activities. Brenda's first paying job was at Monument Hill Nursing Home in LaGrange where she worked in the activity department with the residents. That is where she learned to love people and she developed her giving heart.

Hearts and Flowers to Brenda Boehm, Garden Angel of Columbus Garden Club, 2024

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EVENT



Columbus Trash-Off Days

Wednesday - Saturday

April 3 – 6, 2024

You Can Help

Join The City of Columbus & Columbus Garden Club

Large Item Disposal April 3 - 6

Columbus Citizens may bring large items for disposal

CITY MAINTENANCE YARD

Montezuma St. (next to Recycling Center)

between 8-12 and 1-5 Wednesday – Friday and 8-12 Saturday.

No Hazardous Items Please.

Do not bring TV's, electronics, computers, pesticides, chemicals, paint.

Free Limb Chipping April 8 – 12

Columbus City Wide Spring Clean Up

Columbus Citizens may

Call City Hall 979-732-2366 to Schedule Chipping

Join the City of Columbus and Columbus Garden Club

Clean Up Anytime March - May

Pick Up Litter Adopt a Spot Clean Our Parks & Streets

Adopt a Highway Paint a Fence Clean a Flower Bed

Mow a Vacant Lot Plant Trees & Flowers

Volunteers Welcome

Individuals, Groups, Students & Organizations

Call or Text Columbus Garden / Marian @ 979-733-4343

Volunteer to Help or Get Your Litter Clean Up Supplies

Trash Bags, Gloves, Safety Vests

City Leaders Support Columbus Trash Off Days – April 3 - 6



Councilmen Ronnie Daley, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Mayor Lori An Gobert, City Manager Donald Warschak, and council member Paige Sciba invite Columbus citizens to join in the annual community wide clean-up campaign. Not pictured Dr. Mike Ridlen, council member.

Columbus city leaders are kicking off the 2024 Columbus Trash Off Event by urging all citizens to join in the annual citywide clean-up campaign. Each spring local citizens work together to clean-up the Columbus community from March through May by picking up litter, cleaning roadsides and parks, planting trees and flowers, painting fences, mowing vacant lots, helping neighbors with clean-up jobs, beautifying their homes and lawns, and removing debris.

Large item disposal will be available to Columbus citizens at the City Maintenance Yard on Montezuma Street from April 3 – 6. Citizens may bring items to the Maintenance Yard Wednesday – Friday from 8 -12 and 1 – 5 , and Saturday from 8 – 12 noon.

Items accepted include washers, dryers, recliners, mattresses, limbs, fencing materials, lumber, household appliances, bicycles, exercise equipment, and more. Refrigerators and freezers will be accepted if a technician has removed the freon.

Hazardous items not accepted include pesticides, chemicals, paint, tires, batteries, televisions, computers, poisons and pharmaceuticals. Citizens are urged to properly store these items until the next hazardous collection day.

Columbus citizens may also schedule free curbside limb chipping the week of April 8 - 12 by calling City offices at 979-732-2366.

Columbus Trash Off Day is part of the statewide Keep Texas Beautiful “Don’t Mess with Texas” clean-up campaign. Individuals and groups will spread out across the community on Saturday, April 6 – Trash Off Day to work in areas that will benefit from clean-up efforts. Volunteers that cannot participate on Saturday can volunteer on any day from March – May to have their efforts counted among the event volunteers.

Organized by Columbus Garden Club since 2007, the club partners with the City of Columbus and Columbus Community Industrial Development Corp. to bring Trash Off Day to the community. Their combined goal is to urge citizens to take pride in Columbus and work together to create “a better Columbus.

Volunteer opportunities are also available year-round through the “Adopt a Highway” and “Adopt a Spot” programs. Consider giving your time to adopt an area. Various groups in our community routinely provide volunteer work throughout the year to clean our highways/roadways. Their clean-up efforts benefit the entire community. Watch for them as you are driving and take time to extend a “thank you”.

Volunteers may register or call for information by calling or texting Columbus Garden Club at 979-733-4343.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- **District IV Spring Convention** – March 27, 2024 - [See Below](#)
- **TGC Spring Convention**, April 8-12, 2024 Abilene, TX. District VIII hosting at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 4250 Ridgemont Drive, Abilene, TX 79606; (Reservations – 325-698-1234, call Debra at the hotel) Registration Fee is \$35 and due March 1. Theme is West Texas Wild, Cut ‘n’ Dried.
- **SCR Spring Convention** April 24-25, 2024, Four Points by Sheraton Little Rock Midtown Hotel, Little Rock, Arkansas
- **NGC Spring Convention** - Denver, Colorado, June 2-5, 2024. More Information will be coming.
- **Flower show III** will be held September 30-October 3, 2024 at Bayland Community Center in Houston, TX

District IV Spring Conference 2024. District IV Conference - Milkweed for Monarchs, Wednesday, March 27, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Lone Star Community Center, 2500 Lone Star Parkway, Montgomery, TX. There will be District business, awards, silent auction, a raffle,

the naming of "Garden Clubs of the Year", a fantastic program and luncheon. Attendees will learn about the protected Monarch Butterfly and the native milkweed they need for life.

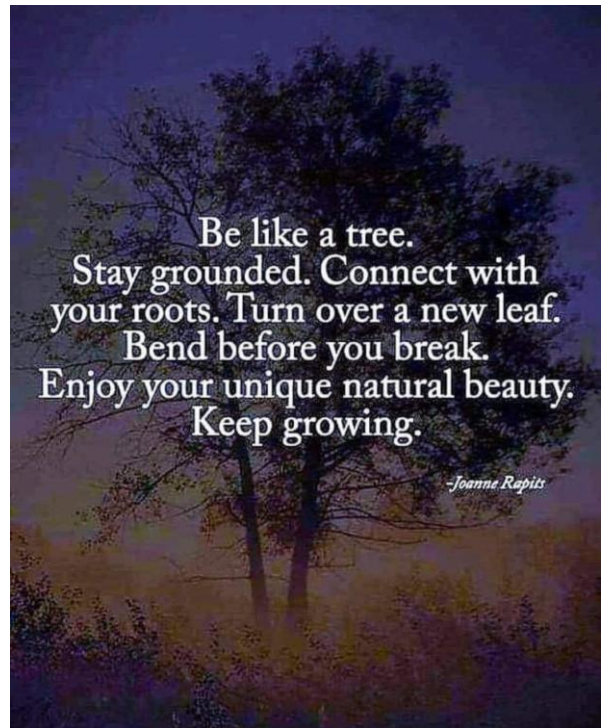
Nancy Galloway, Debbie Braden, Brenda Boehm and Sharon Wegenhoft are registered to attend.

Watch for information about Columbus Garden Club Arbor Day Celebration.

Patti Schindler

**Members: Deborah Braden
 Nancy Galloway
 Wanda Anglin**

(All members are encouraged to help.)



Let us know how you are gardening and include pictures of your plants and gardens. If you are on facebook you can chat with other garden club members, share pictures, ideas, memes, club activities and other fun stuff on the new **private group site** that is "up and going" thanks to Wanda Anglin. Just look up on facebook, Columbus Garden Club Private Group. This is a group seen only by CGC members. If you have problems finding the private group you can contact Wanda at 713-628-6545. Also, follow our public page: [fb.me/columbusgardenclubtx](https://www.facebook.com/columbusgardenclubtx). Or, you can always text me (Velma) at 979-253-0055 or email velma.george07@gmail.com



Joys, Love and Concerns

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 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.



Betty Calhoun Gills, 91, of Columbus, Texas, passed away on February 25, 2024 in Columbus, Texas. She was born on October 14, 1932 to Paul Murray Lancaster and Nina Mae (Shiflette) Lancaster in Van, Texas. On March 23, 2019 she married Kenneth Gills.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Columbus. Bette enjoyed spending time with her family and she loved the holidays and hosting parties, especially at the Pond House. She enjoyed socializing with friends. With her coffee in the morning Betty loved watching her bird feeder.

Betty is survived by her daughters Cathy Blymyer and husband Paul of Columbus, Cindi Schneider and husband Jim of McKinney and Kayley Kovar and husband Jeff of Weimar; sons Scott Calhoun and wife Susan of Waco and Cary Calhoun of Port Aransas, and seven grandchildren. *(Betty was a Columbus Garden Club Gardener Emeritus)*

Please keep **Martha Jordan and Bonnie Halkett** in your prayers. Also keep **Sharon Wegenhoft, her family and son John** in your prayers.

Also Share your Good News, Love and Joys. Send information and pictures to **Velma Harrington** at 979-253-0055 or email velma.george07@gmail.com to include in our newsletter.

The Columbus Community Choir Concert is on March 24 at 5:00 p.m., at the Columbus High School auditorium. Four members of garden club will be singing in it and two members' husbands are singing or playing instruments in the orchestra. Members: Patti, Ann, Cheryl and Janet. Members husbands Keith (Janet) in the choir and Don (Beth Easterling) orchestra.



Brenda Boehm's 3 daughters and 8 grandchildren. (from left to right) Ariana, Mateo, **Ashley**, Isabel, Ronin, Odin, **Jessica**, Ivar, Otylia, **Jennifer** and Atzi. All came recently for a visit.

Below are 5 grandchildren all together (from left to right) Ronin, Atzi, Otylia, Ivar, and Odin. So-o-o-o cute!

Below are fruit trays that look like floral designs. So when you just can't control



your creative instincts you might try creating one of these trays. Just thought I would share.

**It's time to celebrate
March Birthdays!**

- March 03** Katy Seymour
- 05** Ericka Braun
- 09** Nancy Galloway
- 15** JoAnn Bunge
- 22** Wanda Anglin



Yard of the Month

Home of JoAnn Sebesta

203 Oak Cluster Drive

The yard is beautifully landscaped with mature Live Oaks and “Springing” forth with many colors of azaleas and delightfully decorated for Eastertime.



Community Beautification Award

First State Bank

420 Walnut Street



Beautiful new blue planters have been placed along Walnut St. and have red azaleas and Dusty Millers planted in them.

Velma Harrington – Editor of Newsletter
