

The Magnolia

Columbus Garden Club Newsletter



February, 2022



Everything's Coming Up Roses... or so sings Ethel Merman, because it is definitely February...the month for roses, valentines and hearts of chocolate.

Club member **Janet Johnson** says February is our favorite month for many reasons but for gardeners it is the time, **the perfect month**, to get your roses ready for Springtime blooming! By mid-February, after Valentine's Day, is the best time to start or when the danger of frost is over.

She also says, pruning roses is one of the most important steps for good health and prevention of diseases which allows the rose bush to focus on blooming better and longer. You need good sharp pruners to get a clean cut and start by removing dead or damaged canes that look brown in color. Healthy white centers are what you are looking for in a healthy cane. Prune down to $\frac{1}{2}$ the height of the bush for a hard prune but anything above that is fine also. You can keep doing light pruning throughout the season because it is almost impossible to kill rose bushes by pruning them too much.

Climbing roses are mainly pruned the same way except they have two types of canes. The main cane comes directly from the base and should never be pruned but the lateral canes that are off shoots from the main canes, that produce the flowers, should be pruned to encourage more blooms throughout the season.

If you buy bareroot roses now, plant them in pots and let their roots start growing and developing so they are ready for and easier transplanting later in the spring. They should be pruned and ready to sprout leaves.

When the new leaves start to come out and your roses are in the ground or permanent pot (some rose varieties are good pot dwellers) it is time to start your fertilizing program. Roses like high nitrogen fertilizers and there are many selections of fertilizers on the market that can

help with proper food and disease needs. Some roses are more disease resistant than others, but they still need help with our humid and rainy weather to prevent problems like Black Spot to name one. A fertilizer with a systemic combination helps with the diseases that are common. Roses also like magnesium which they can get through Epsom salt. Epsom salt can help with better cane growth and lush green leaves. Mix ½ cup of Epsom salt into the soil around the rose bush roots and water in very well or mix as a soil drench ½ cup into a watering can and water around the base of the bush. With either method do not let the Epsom salt touch or remain on the leaves or new growth, it will burn them. If you are planting new rose bushes add 1 tbs. of Epsom salt to the hole before putting your new rose bush in. You will need to adjust these measurements if you are using pots for the roses. **Thank you Janet for sharing your rose expertise with us.**

Janet shares these pictures of some of her roses.



The popcorn rose (below) is blooming now in **Bonnie Halkett's yard**. She says she loves them because they are happy year around when kept dead headed no matter where she plants them. They thrive in the sun and shade and even in the ice and snow last year. This particular bush gets full sun and is in a bed that floods whenever it rains. Bonnie says "Nothing phases them, which is why I have 15 or more of them planted and another 9 waiting to be planted. A few of the 9 will be planted offset in front of foxtail ferns on a walkway opposite coral knockouts and popcorns."



Dates to put on your calendar: April 2 and April 13

[Columbus Trash Off Day](#) will be **Saturday, April 2**. The event has been a project coordinated by Columbus Garden Club since 2007 partnering each year with the City, local organizations, and individuals to clean up our community.

This year participants can contribute to clean up efforts to Trash Off anytime from March 1 to May 31 and also be part of the Great American Clean Up.

Any effort to clean up or beautify the community at residential or commercial sites can be included as part of the event: picking up litter, planting flowers, mowing vacant lots, adding planters, painting or rebuilding, demolition of dilapidated buildings, pruning trees, and more. For more information or to volunteer please contact **Marian Schonenberg 979-733-4343**.

[A Small Standard NGC Flower Show "Go Ask Alice"](#) will be held on **April 13, 2022** at Nesbitt Memorial Library. Regena Williamson say, "Potted plants will be set up the evening of April 12. Cut specimens and designs will be accepted from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. on April 13. The flower show will consist not only of horticulture but also design. We will be doing creative designs and we will have three classes of four designs each. We will be doing petite designs so all designs in the show will be less than 12 inches in size."

Below are examples of creative designs. She says "a creative design is one that conforms to the principles of design. The principles of design are: Balance, Contrast, Dominance, Proportion, Rhythm, and Scale. Creative designs are eclectic, show restraint in the amount of plant material used, uses components in a non-realistic manner and may contain abstraction. Creative designs also use penetration of space, and any part of the design may be dominant."



These designs (above) are all from Flower Show School III held in Houston January 25th-27th. These Angular designs are standard size.



These designs (left) are examples of Multi-Rhythmic designs.

To our show in April there is no limit to the amount of horticulture that one person can bring. We will be accepting cut specimens and potted plants. All cut specimens should be in a clear glass container. All potted plants should be clean and well groomed.

At last month's meeting (left) Regena talked to the club members about getting ready for the flower show.

She said that for Horticulture specimens:

- All plant material must be fresh and has to be in the possession of the exhibitor for at least 90 days.
- Combination plantings must have been grown together for at least 6 weeks.
- Arboreals must have been owned for at least 6 months.
- Plant material should be free of debris.
- Pots should be clean. Should be no debris on the soil.
- Wedging in vases is permitted.

- Vases should be clear and should not have foliage below the water line.
- Entry cards should be filled out in advance.



Thank you Regena for your knowledge, instruction, and help getting us ready for our flower show.

Hostesses for the January meeting were: Debbie Braden, Sharon Wegenhoft, Brenda Boehm, Ericka Braun, Lyn Buescher, Margaret Miller, Charlene Morrison, Susan Peletz, Velma Harrington, and JoAnn Bunge



On Thursday, March 31 our club will be hosting the District IV Convention. This is exciting! It will be held in the Family Life Center at First Methodist Church (our regular meeting place). Jay White is the speaker. Get your registration forms from Patti Schindler at the February meeting. Joe's Italian Restaurant will cater the event. Club members are encouraged to help. There will be many opportunities for members to help with registration, to be greeters, help with a silent auction, help with set up and take down, and a kitchen team. Regena Williamson and Cheryl Rose are co-chairing this event and will be informing the club more about this event at this Wednesday's February club meeting.

So, what happens at Environmental School? Patsy Hodge says, and from the looks of it, "a whole lot of fun and some learning happened as the four curious, studious adventurers reached their Groesbeck destination: **Old Fort Parker State Park.** They were there January 14-16 to study "AIR" as part of the Environmental School sponsored by Texas Garden Club. Joann Obenhaus, Patsy Hodge, Sharon Wegenhoft, and Jennie Pritchett met up with Sarah McReynolds (the director of the Environmental School and Past President of Texas Garden Club)."



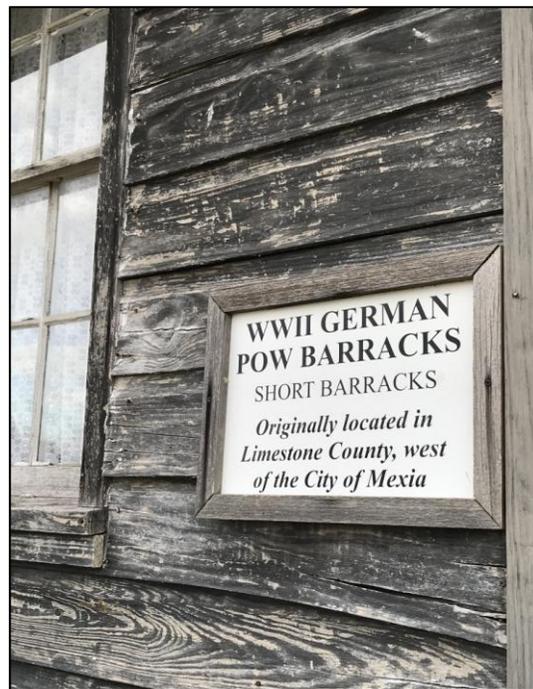
"Sharon shared her excitement about our Club with others attending which would not be complete without hand gestures."



"One highlight of the School was a visit to a lovely home with off-grid-potential solar panels. Informative eye-popping info and *you too could have this and a few more panels for only \$99,000. But you do not need to pay for it immediately. You can buy it on credit. (Wink. Wink.)*" (See picture below)



“Joann and Jennie created a customized dinner that was grilled. Choice of meat, veggies and carbs to satisfy any hungry “student”! Every meal had a nice healthy surprise served by friendly gardeners. Food and education was great but best part was sharing social time with garden club aficionados from all over Texas!”



“Old Ft. Parker has barracks that have been transformed into lovely small rooms with most sleeping one person since, after all, they were WWII German POW barracks! There was fun trickling down the long barracks hallway with

everyone crazy about gardening. Patsy frightened her “sisters” by texting she had been thrown in prison for the weekend!”

Patsy also shared the following information from the Environmental School.

Indoor plants clean the air in your home. True or False?

That's the question. Prepare for a surprise for the answer.

Plant growers are continually encouraging us to buy indoor plants to "clean the air" in our home—to absorb pollutants leading to a more healthy life. This "fact" is based on a study where a plant was put in an enclosed 30" box, air pollutants were introduced into the box, and a reduction in the pollutants was noted. Voila! A plant can clean the air and we depart with a smile on our faces knowing that we are cleaning the air in our homes. Or, are we?

If you carry that experiment farther, you learn that one plant can clean some pollutants within the 30" box, but to duplicate those "very good" results, you'd need a rain forest of plants to clean the volume of air in your home! Bah humbug! Just think of the moisture in your home necessary for your "rain forest!"

However, don't despair if you love having plants in your home (and buying more plants!). They DO contribute to absorbing some pollutants and the best plant for the most absorption is the Boston fern. BUT the sad fact is that their affect is negligible unless you have a "forest" of plants present. However, other healthy advantages abound besides retail therapy! Scientific studies show meaningful, positive brain responses after looking at a green plant, a flower, or any part of nature in and out of the home. As primitive humans we were originally "wired" to nature. Our busy go-go/do-do daily lives can easily lead us away from that mentally valuable connection to nature.

The moral of the story: keep growing your plants in your home even though they don't truly "clean the air" considering the volume of air in your home. Their higher potential is in adding calm to your life with connection to nature. Grow on. Glow on. And, don't forget to **get roses** now and then...and **STOP and smell the roses!** **Thank you Patsy Hodge for your article.**

**Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Meeting,
Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman St., Houston 77004**

"A Floral Revival"

February 11, 2022

Mr. Tony L. Huffman, ASID, AIFD, PFC-I, TMF
& HFGC Member

Tony's Program "A Floral Revival" will celebrate Black History Month featuring Designs inspired by African American Spirituals, A Morning of Flowers, Music and History
Workshop: Yard Art: Participants will create an outside village tableau

Marian Schonenberg shared these Dandelion Facts:

Dandelion Facts:

(Honest and Survive)

Dandelions are NOT weeds, but are from the same family as sunflowers.

A dandelion seed can travel up to 5 miles before it lands.

1 cup of dandelion greens = 535% of your daily recommended vitamin K and 112% of vitamin A.

Every part of the dandelion is edible.

Up until the 1800's, dandelions were seen as extremely beneficial. People would remove grass to plant dandelions.





Nancy Galloway shared a picture of her mammoth elephant ears. Each of the leaves were about 2 feet wide by 3 feet long.

The double monarch picture is from a release Nancy did at her Waystation. She said they sat there together drinking nectar for a long time.



Janet Johnson shared pictures of a sunset, her roses, and one of her butterflies.





Sandy Barrett shared pictures of:



(From Left to Right) Giant Leopard plant, red Cockscombs, and impatiens

Believe it or not, **it is not too early to start thinking about our plant sale** this coming Saturday, April 30. We will be celebrating our 30th year of having a plant sale. Sharon Wegenhoft and Regena Williamson will be “heading up” the sale this year. Please start cuttings and getting plants ready for the sale.

February Yard of the Month

February Community Beautification



RJ and Donna Jauernig

310 Bonham Street

The yard has beautiful pampas grass, holly with a lot of beautiful red berries and other evergreen plants

Nesbitt Memorial Library

529 Washington Street

The landscaping was a 2020 project of Jarrett Pryor working toward earning rank of Eagle Scout. Plantings include: a Japanese Red Maple with some wood fern on the Washington Street side and Red Bud trees with cleyera (evergreen shrubs) and dianella (flax lilies) on the Bowie Street side of the library. Also included in the plantings are drift roses and Asian Jasmine.



Remember our Birthdays:

February

- 07 Sandy Barrett
- 14 Chaney Gregory
- 18 Amanda Hopkins
- 20 Neva Lou Hubenak
- 21 Arlene Johnsey
- 23 Jennie Pritchett



Happy Valentines Day

