

# The Magnolia

Columbus Garden Club Newsletter



December, 2023

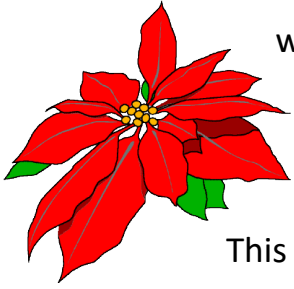


## Celebrating Christmas in Garden Club Style...

**They say that Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year and it is, but it can also be the busiest time of the year.**

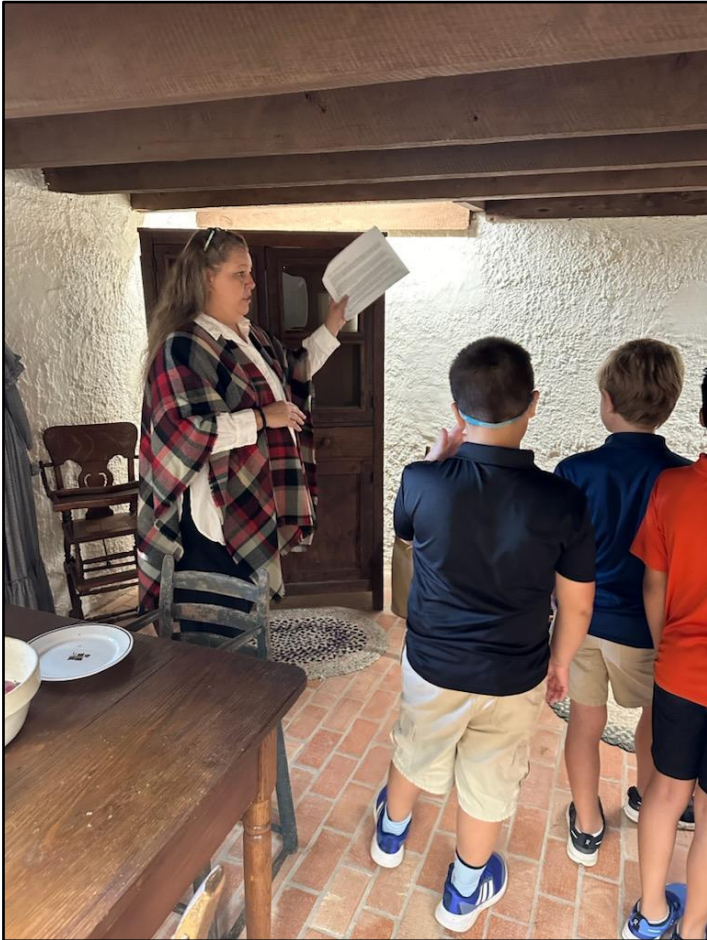
In Columbus Garden Club it even begins in November when the club begins decorating the Dilue Rose-Harris historical home and Alley Log Cabin. Each year club members decorate the home and the log cabin in the style appropriate to the 1800s. The white pickett fence at the Dilue Rose Harris and the rustic fence at the log cabin are trimmed with greenery and colorful Christmas bows. It is a tradition that children from Columbus Elementary and St. Anthony's school visit these historical homes during Christmastime. Garden club docents tell them about Texas history during the 1800s and the time of the Run Away Scrape (Sept.1835-April 1836)





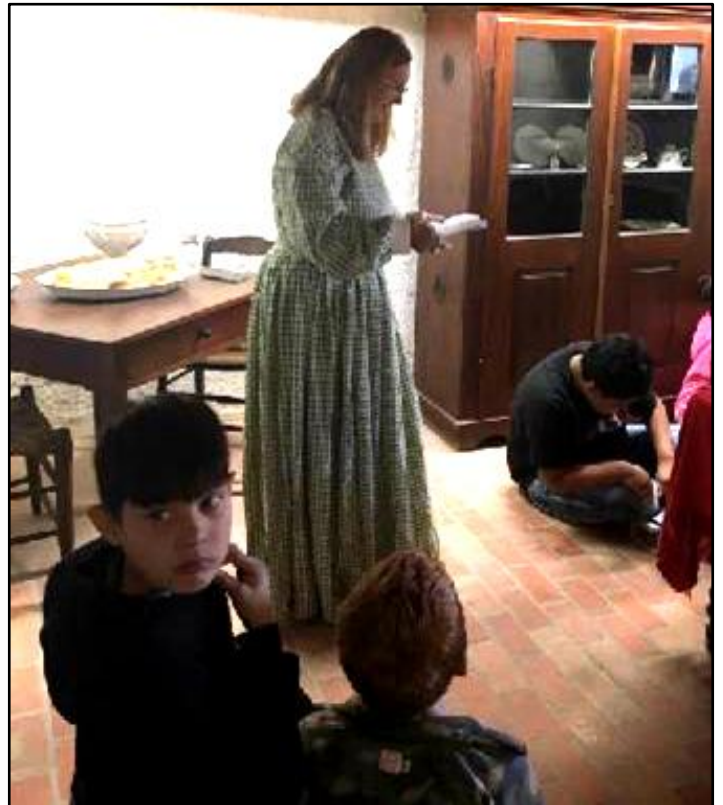
when locals fled the area because Santa Anna and his army were headed toward the area. They explain how families lived during that time period and how they may have decorated their homes.

This year Brenda Boehm (below) was a docent in the basement of the Dilue



Rose Harris house where the children saw how the family may have cooked, saw some of the cookware that was used, and had a look at where the family may have eaten meals. There is also a collection of artifacts that were found when some work was done on the home.

Jennie Pritchett (below right) tells the children about how the family may have lived during



those early Texas times. Ann Pavliska (left) talks to the students about the Dilue Rose Harris family (with nine children) and how daily life was

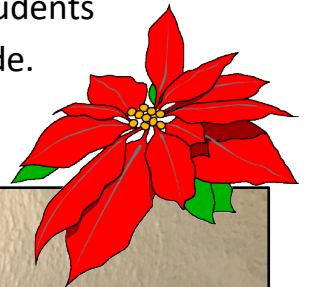


lived in this home. There is one bedroom with a very small bedroom off to the side. The bedroom has a small bed and there are toys like the children may have had.



Brenda Wyman and Janet Johnson were at the Alley Log Cabin to show the children the very rustic life style.

There is a children's tree there that is decorated with ornaments that these Columbus fourth grade students made.



Joann Obenhaus (right) and other garden club members were dressed in clothes typical of the time period.

Garden club members decorated the Dilue Rose Harris home and the Alley Log Cabin in ways that may have been typical of the times...not elaborately, but with items that were available. Cypress trees may have been used for the Christmas tree and for garnishing in areas of the home. They may have used apples or oranges and hand made ornaments.





Packages may have been wrapped in brown paper and tied with string or cord.

Jennie Pritchett, Brenda Boehm, Nancy Galloway, and Sharon Wegenhoft and other garden club members started decorating the Dilue Rose Harris home, the Alley Log Cabin and the fences around the homes back in November.

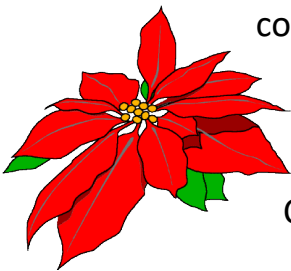
This is a long tradition for the garden club and a source of enjoyment to the community.

Pictured in front of the Dilue Rose Harris house (right) is Janet Johnson (middle, front), Brenda Boehm, Jennie Pritchett, Ann Havliska, Joann Obenhaus, Keith Johnson, Brenda Wyman, (first row) and in back are Sharon Wegenhoft and Santa (David Wyman). Santa met the children down at the Santa Claus Museum.





Santa and fourth grade students enjoyed touring the Santa Claus Museum and seeing all of the collections of Santas. What a fun time. Ho. Ho. Ho.



The Santa Claus Museum, the Dilue Rose Harris home, and the Alley Log Cabin are all properties of Columbus Historical Preservation Trust. Columbus Garden Club has a very long history of decorating historic homes.

It was in 1979 that Columbus Garden Club first decorated the Brandon House for the Magnolia Homes Tour's Christmas Open House and continued for 30 years until 2009 when The Club decorated the Dilue Rose-Harris House and has been decorating it for the Christmas Open House ever since. The Club has also hosted Columbus, Eagle Lake, Sheridan and Garwood elementary school children at the houses as a special event. In December of 2019 The Club celebrated 40 years of decorating historic homes in Columbus with a three-day exhibit (in cooperation with Columbus Historical Preservation Trust, Nesbitt Memorial Library, and with Columbus Chamber of Commerce) at Nesbitt Memorial Library that included mannequins dressed in period costumes; club members dressed in costume; scrapbooks through the years; display boards with enlarged pictures of Christmas decorations at the Brandon House, Dilue Rose-Harris House, and Alley Log Cabin; and a Victorian village that was put together in 2007 by club members. J. L. Obenhaus dressed in costume to demonstrate cooking in the late 1800s. The Santa Claus museum, Dilue Rose-Harris house, and Alley log cabin were open for three days for the public and for third grade students to tour.

## Get Ready for More Christmas Fun...



Our annual Christmas Tasting Luncheon, Silent Auction, Mistletoe Bag Drawing, and Scholarship Quilt Drawing will be this coming Wednesday, December 13, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Lighthouse at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Please bring items for the Silent Auction and Mistletoe Bag Drawing on Tuesday, December 12 from 3:00 – 5:00 to The Lighthouse at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Velma Harrington requests baskets, flower pots, boxes or anything else suitable to hold items for the Mistletoe Bag Drawing. Also, this is the time to set up and decorate the room for our Luncheon.

Remember to bring your Scholarship Quilt tickets and money and any unused tickets to the luncheon. The quilt was designed and sewn by Sharon Heimann. It is a kingsize quilt called Foothills Trails. And, please bring a wonderful side dish and/or desserts. The meat is provided but we need the rest.

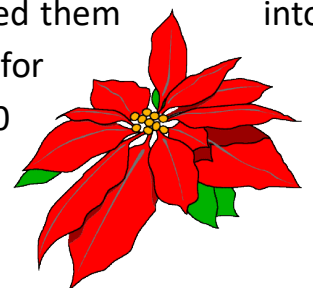
And, if you want to invite a guest please do so. Let Regena Williamson know how many guests you are bringing so she can plan the seating.

Please stay awhile after the luncheon to help clean up. We may all be a little “tired out” but it goes so much faster if everyone pitches in to help.

## Garden Club Members Helped Brookwood Prepare Poinsettias



Columbus Garden Club supports the Brookwood Community by helping in the gardening area throughout the year. The Club also supports the Community with donations. The Community grows and sells many poinsettias during the holiday season. On December 4 club members Sharon Wegenhoft, Brenda Boehm, Joann Obenhaus, Ericka Braun and Janet & Keith Johnson helped tag, put on green decorative sleeves and then slipped them into brown paper sleeves for transportation. Goal was 1,500 poinsettias and **we did it!!!!**



Lunch and shopping followed.



**Merry Christmas**



# THE FLOWER SHOW - Let's Celebrate

- Container-grown horticultural exhibits
- Design exhibits
- Cut horticultural exhibits

Thanks to everyone who helped organize and who participated in the **Flower Show**. There were so many beautiful, wonderful plants and designs at our November Flower Show and we should **Celebrate**. It was a great experience for garden club members and to members of the public who came to enjoy.



Helen Huddleston (above left) was the show's Chairman and her Co-Chairman was Deborah Braden. Regena Williamson (above right) was the Overall High Point Winner of the show. She won a Designer's Choice award for the overall design category and two Awards of Merit. Janet Johnson (left), the club's president, won a Grower's Choice ribbon in the cacti and succulents division and a Grower's Choice ribbon for her *Dracaena anolensis*.



Velma Harrington (right) won a Grower's Choice award for Container Grown Foliage for a *Scindapsus pictus exotica* (an ivy).



Sharon Wegenhoft (above left) won for her yaupon specimen.

Nancy Galloway (right) won many ribbons. Her "saucer garden" was a multi level creation that was spectacular.

A full list of award winners at our flower show will be ready for our January meeting. The important part of having and participating in a flower show is that you learn as you design and learn as you look up the scientific names of your plants.



# Youth in the Garden



On November 4 five Columbus High students participated in a Youth in the Garden workday at the Midtown Butterfly garden and the Blue Star Memorial garden. Janet Johnson lead two of the volunteers to weed the Blue Star Memorial and the Court Oak bed. The concrete scalloped edging of the Blue Star Memorial garden looks amazing.

The other volunteers cleaned up Midtown butterfly garden. For the first time in a while, it was completely weeded and a few things cut back.

For a few minutes, a couple of the volunteers did some light weeding in the Live Oak St. garden.

Lauren Braden, Mckenna Booker, Stephanie Cabrera, Aylin Marin and Nusaiba Arif worked in



these gardens. **Thanks to all who participate in this project.**

## Our members out and about in District IV.....and beyond!

- **Life Membership Application forms** may be found in the June copy of the District IV Newsletter or members may contact Marian Schonenberg. Life Membership fee is \$30.
- **Flower Show School II** will be held at Bayland Community Center January 29 - February 1, 2024. Please contact Regena Williamson for more information.
- **Sarah McReynolds sent information for Environmental School.** You may call Sarah McReynolds 254-747-1144 or [esarabeth@aol.com](mailto:esarabeth@aol.com) for Registration, lodging and incidentals or ...if you are lost. Master Consultant Help - Classes, field trips and tests. Environmental School II Winter 2024 Land And Related Issues January 19th evening class at 7:00 dinner will be served from 6-8 January 20th – January 21st Classes and tests \* a field trip & workshops\* Graduation\* Chairman: Sarah McReynolds Registration, Education Co Chairman It will be held at Fort Parker State Park. It is just a mile further north from the old fort on Hwy 114. It will be different, but fun. Registration Forms and more information **should be on the TGC website as well.**

## Last Month's Meeting Highlights...

Cindy Meredith, our gardening friend and neighbor “up the road,” was our speaker. Cindy is well known for her knowledge of growing and using herbs. Our members enjoyed her presentation and enjoyed being able to purchase some of her tea blends. Hostesses were

Pawne Blomquist, Patti Schindler and Dell Szymkowski.



## And, remember

- 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
- District VII Spring Convention in February 22, 2024
- TGC Spring Convention, April 8-12, 2024 Abilene, TX. District 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)

## Educational Corner

5:41



### Differences in the FLOWERS of the Holiday Cactus! 🌺

**Christmas Cactus** – The flowers are usually white or red but occasionally may be yellow. The blooming time is typically in December. The Christmas Cactus has purplish-brown anthers. In contrast the Thanksgiving Cactus has yellow anthers. Flowers are symmetrical being evenly distributed around each flower tube. The flowers are more pendulous and droop straight down from the ovary.

**Easter Cactus** – The flowers are royal purple, red or pink and brighter than Christmas Cactus or Thanksgiving Cactus. The flowers are more star-shaped than the other two 'Holiday Cactus.' It typically blooms in the spring months of April and May.

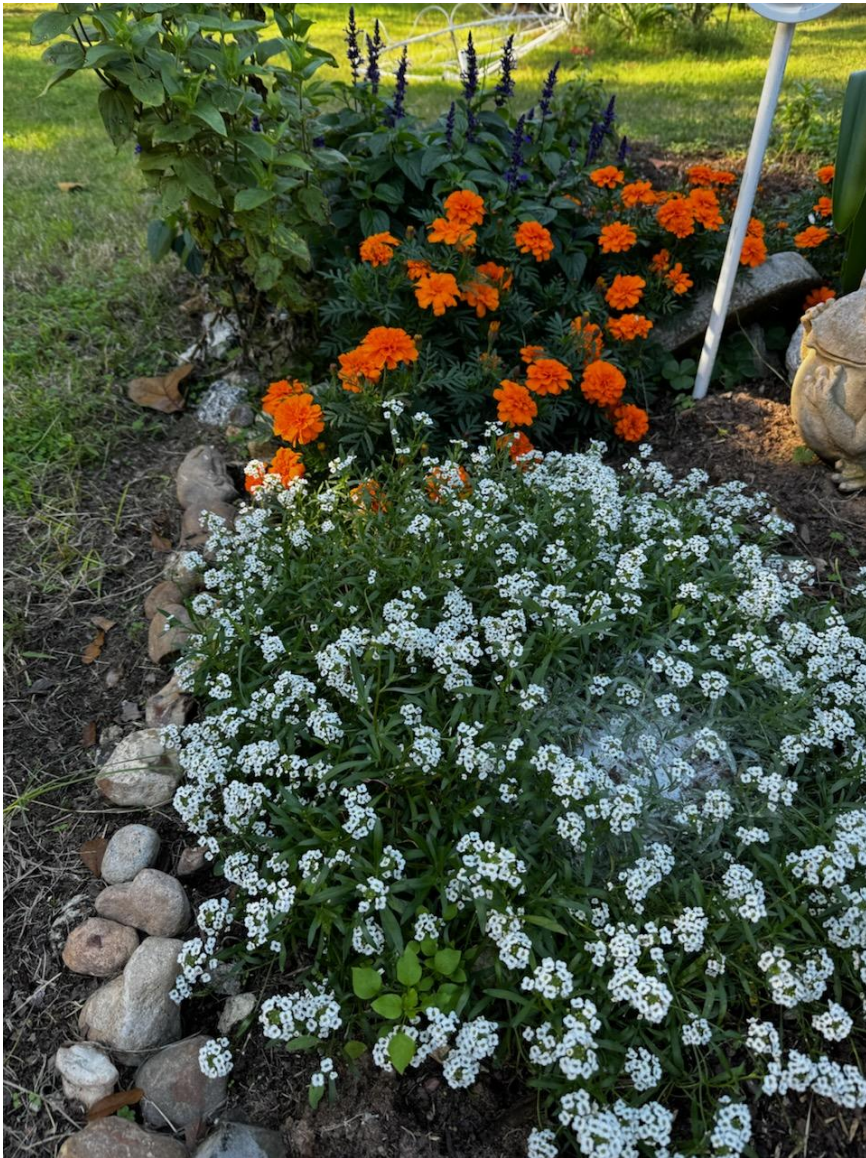
**Thanksgiving Cactus** – The flowers are pink, red, white or yellow and they typically bloom in November. The Thanksgiving Cactus anthers are yellow but they are purplish-brown on the Christmas Cactus. Thanksgiving Cactus flowers are more asymmetrical, protrude from the ovary and extend horizontally from the tips of the stem segments.

Cheryl Rose shares this information (left) about Thanksgiving Cactus, Christmas Cactus and Christmas Cactus....**which one is it?**



**SHARING OUR GARDENS WITH EACH OTHER** (Above) Nancy Galloway is

sharing her beautiful yellow rose from her garden.



Nancy also shares a picture (left) of her garden planted with Sweet Allysum, African marigolds, and Mealy Blue Sage.



Above is picture of her red hibiscus. **Janet Johnson** also shared some of the plants in her gardens.



Indian Blankets are on the left. Zinnias and Pink Cone Flowers (right) are so pretty.



Janet also shared a picture of peppers she has grown in her garden.

Lemons (left) from her lemon tree are really looking good.

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://fb.me/columbusgardenclubtx). Or, you can always text me (Velma) at 979-253-0055 or email [velma.george07@gmail.com](mailto:velma.george07@gmail.com)



**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.

Keep **Martha Jordan** in your thoughts and prayers. She is having some health issues. Also, for your information, **Ken and Sandy Coffman** have moved to Pearland to be closer to family.

## **DECEMBER YARD OF THE MONTH**

**Home of Todd and Betty Hovis (Below)**

**904 Travis St.**



The yard is lined with many drift roses and many other plants with a holiday background.

## **COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION AWARD**

**Magnolia Society (Right)**

**920 Milam Street**



The business has pots of Cyclamens, Alyssoms, Periwinkles, and a beautiful holiday scene.

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## Happy Birthday



### December

- 01 Joanne Cook
- 11 Pawne Blomquist
- 12 Jodie Sebesta
- 16 Susan Havelka
- 16 Sharon Wegenhoft
- 30 Stacy Renner



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