

# The Magnolia



Columbus Garden Club Newsletter

April, 2025



## April Flowers

# CGC April Meeting



## Herbs

Linda Miller, Master Gardener

9:30am, April 9, 2025

The Lighthouse, St. Paul Lutheran,  
Columbus TX

Public always welcome!



**District IV Spring Convention Updates: Sharon Wegenhoft,  
Deborah Braden, and Nancy Galloway**

Sign up for committees and for a hostess month  
or call/text Janet Johnson (713) 248-8974

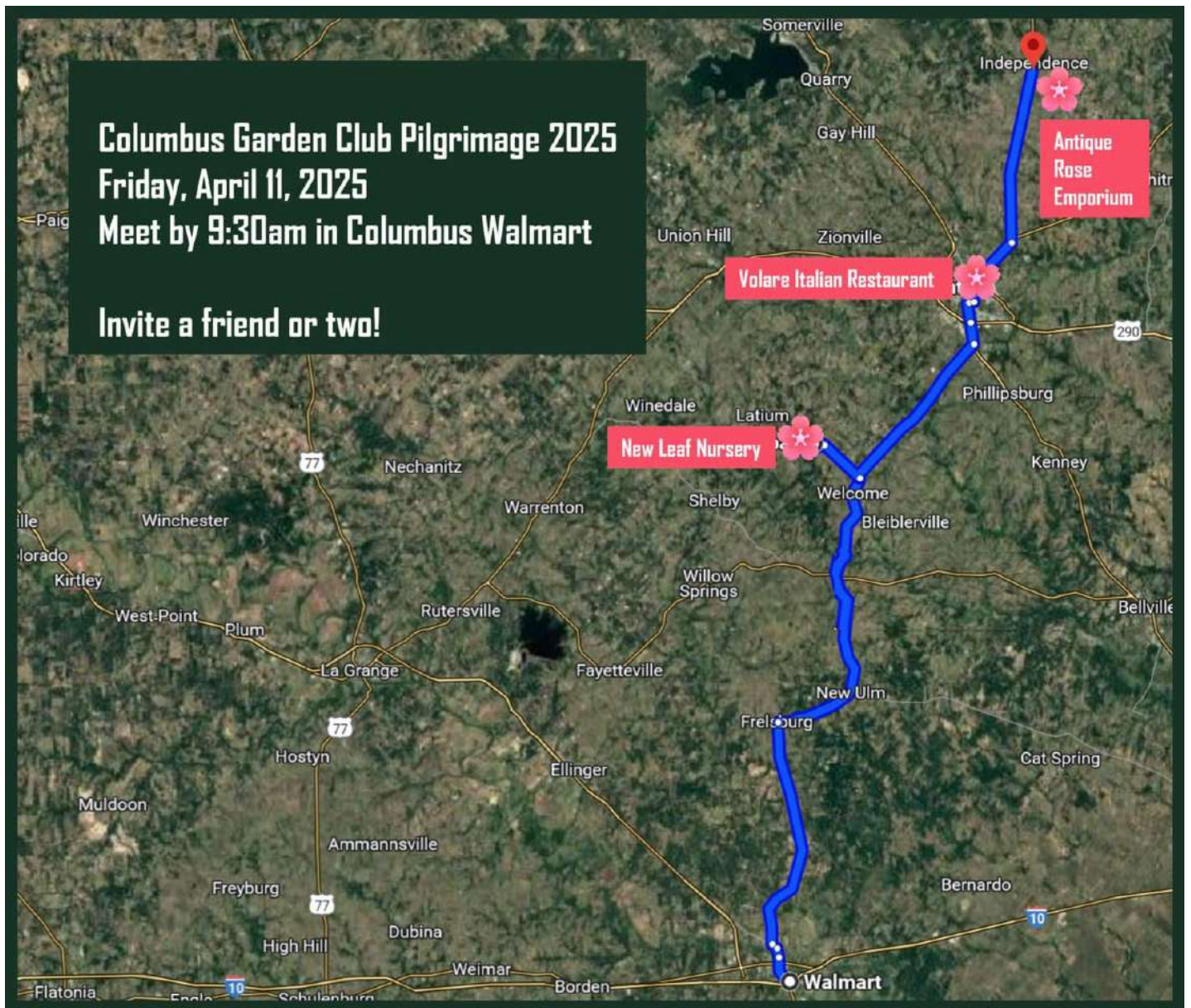
**Want To Go On A Pilgrimage?  
Let's Explore Nurseries  
In The Brenham Area**

**Friday, April 11**

**Leave Walmart Parking Lot - 9:30 a.m.**

**Sign Up By April 9**





**First Stop** is New Leaf Nursery about 15 miles southwest of Brenham. This is a nursery (and home) of one of our favorite program presenters, Phoebe Lake. She will show us around her farm teeming with native pollinator plants. You will surely find a new (or a few) specimens for your garden. Plan on one (plus) hour here. Address is 9521 Shelby Rd., Brenham, TX 77833.

Lunch at Volare's Italian Restaurant in Brenham (102 S. Ross St., Brenham, TX 77833)

After Lunch head about 11 miles northeast to the Antique Rose Emporium – Nursery & Display Gardens (and gift shop) near Independence, TX. Address is 10000 FM 50, Brenham, TX 77833.



Invite a friend or two...including past members! Bring a bottle of water, a snack (if you like), a cardboard box or two and a few plastic grocery bags in case they are needed to keep your new plant treasures safe in the vehicle. Oh, and plenty of cash or a credit card!

**Important: Please sign up by April 9<sup>th</sup> to go on the Pilgrimage so that we can make reservations at the restaurant and so we are expecting you for the carpooling. You may sign up at the meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> or let Regena know (361-550-1485) or [regena46@yahoo.com](mailto:regena46@yahoo.com). Please indicate if you can drive that day.**

# Columbus Trash Off Days and Keep Columbus Beautiful



Proclamation Signing at City Hall – Councilmen Chuck Rankin, Mike Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Mayor LoriAn Gobert, Ronnie Daley, and Keith Cumming; Garden Club members Marian Schonenberg, Janet Johnson, and Sandy Barrett

## **KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL SPRING CLEAN UP**

The annual Spring Clean Up Event for 2025 will be held March 1 – May 31. Focusing on Litter Clean Up, Community Beautification, and Waterway Clean Up, volunteers are encouraged to join the clean-up campaign hosted by Keep Columbus Beautiful.

A project of Columbus Garden Club, the spring clean-up is a part of the Keep Texas Beautiful “Don’t Mess with Texas” and Keep America Beautiful “Greatest American Clean Up” nationwide events.

Adopt a Highway, Adopt a Spot, and Adopt a Street/Neighborhood programs continue to play key roles in ongoing beautification efforts.

Supply kits will be available for volunteers again this year. Kits include safety vests, gloves, trash bags, and grabbers.

All efforts, large or small will help our community. Registering your volunteer service will also help Columbus and the success of this event.

Call or text 979-733-4343 for more information or to volunteer.





(Left) Charter volunteer Dora Rios (right) has been volunteering every year since 2007. This year she recruited Lilly Contreras to help.



(Right) This Downtown Litter Patrol removed litter from the Court House Square, the Annex and AgriLife Center, and along Walnut/Hwy. 90



(Left) Lori Walla leads a team of scouts at Cardinal Park





(Left) Posting event signs around Columbus

(Below) Scouts plant mini-periwinkles, rake leaves, and spread mulch at Court Oak.

(Below) Getting help digging up plants at Court Oak.



Don't mess with Texas®

**TRASH-OFF**

Keep Columbus Beautiful Trash-Off Day: April 5, 2025  
9a – noon

Come to the Visitor Center at the corner of Walnut and Travis on the Square. Pick up trash bags, gloves, safety vests, and more then pick up trash in any public area or road, clean a lot, or work on a project that beautifies our community that the coordinator suggests.





Texas Master Naturalists – Gideon Lincecum Chapter devoted their day to cleaning up the Colorado River despite the rain, wind and cold. Pictured are: Nancy Dunnahue, Jaci Elliott, Bill Fisher, Chuck Babb, and Tayvis Dunbahue pulled cups, cans, bottles and tires from the water. Perhaps the most unusual item removed from the water was an inflatable unicorn.



Thank you Marian Schonenberg for all you do to Keep Columbus Beautiful



## Columbus Oaks Raised Bed Planter Project

Wanda Anglin dropped by facility to check in with social worker, Tracy Psencik, and LaBrittany Miller, activities director. The staff and residents have squash and tomatoes growing in the new spring planter. The squash is planted a bit close, but we can fix that in the next couple of weeks. The planter that was planted out in the fall has a few things like collards that overwintered and black seeded Simpson lettuce popping up. The collards are not doing much as the courtyard gets too much shade. Wanda continues to work with them to learn about what grows well with less sun.



After weeding the planters and taking pictures, Wanda and LaBrittany talked about doing gardening activities with the residents. If anyone is interested in presenting a topic like herbs, veggies that will grow in less sun, or container gardening (they can add containers out there and some are available in the Sprout to Share Seed Library to use). They would most likely have the short activities at 10am weekdays. If you have an idea, let Wanda know (713) 628-6545, [wanda.anglin@hotmail.com](mailto:wanda.anglin@hotmail.com) and she can set you up to schedule it with LaBrittany



## Can Youth in the Garden Help Your Project?

Bren Wyman and Wanda Anglin invite you to consider if our Youth in the Garden student volunteers can help with your project. We have discussed having the Youth in the Garden to help water the Courthouse Square planters.



# Member in the Spotlight

## ErnaLYN Wienken BUESCHER



*Lyn has an April birthday. There are two official flowers designated to the month of April – the Daisy and the Sweet Pea. While the simple daisy is more popular out in the fields, a wonderful bouquet of bright gerbera daisies is gorgeous in a vase. The sweet pea is beautifully delicate and has a sweet fragrance that can freshen any room.*

Inspired by both her parents, Lyn developed a love and appreciation of plants early in life.

Being raised on a small farm in Shaw's Bend, garden crops (corn, cotton, potatoes, watermelons, tomatoes, strawberries, peaches, figs, plums, etc.) were grown for food, as well as for economic reasons. She and her brother were crucial in helping with the raising and harvesting of these crops.

Closer to and surrounding the house were a large variety of flowering plants that were planted and enjoyed due to the aesthetic beauty they provided. She was delighted when the roses, irises, lilies, gardenias, azaleas, chrysanthemums, periwinkles, hydrangeas, gladiolas, magnolias, etc. were in bloom. She enjoyed having a jar filled with some fresh cut flowers on the dining table and to this day continues to bring floral clippings into her home so she can enjoy their beauty throughout the day. Her mother was amazing when growing plants was the topic. There was no lawn of grass around the home, only pathways through all of the flowers. Not only did neighbors and people from town often rely on her to grow flowers for the floral arrangements found in churches on Sunday mornings but also for any kind of gathering – weddings, birthdays, family reunions, holidays, etc.



She most certainly had a 'green thumb' as she could take a 'barren looking' twig and have it grow into an amazing plant. Lyn certainly had a great foundation and from there developed her love of plants which was instilled by both of her parents.

When the fields and road sides were filled with bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, phlox, Indian blankets, buttercups, and many other wildflowers, she thoroughly enjoyed the colorful array. In the spring, she created traditional Easter 'nests' made from a base layer of tree moss which was then adorned with wildflowers. The Easter nests were assembled and left on the front porch the day before Easter. Then on Easter Sunday morning, they were magically filled with colorful boiled eggs. This is a very old German tradition that was continued with her children and her nephews/nieces. Cedar trees were plentiful on the farm and provided the yearly Christmas tree along with a wonderful fir scent which radiated throughout the home.

After marriage, she and her husband Bennett bought their first home in the Robindell subdivision in Houston where she quickly joined the Robindell Garden Club and was a member from the mid-1950s to the early 1960s. Meetings were rotated and held in the homes of the members. She thrived as she was introduced to a vast array of information. Her interest was piqued as she enjoyed learning different techniques in flower arranging. Creativity surfaced as she entered many flower shows which had numerous local entries.

After a move to their second home in the Briargrove Park subdivision on the west side of Houston, she helped to organize and establish the Rustic Oaks Garden Club. Once again, meetings were held in the homes of the members. Floral arranging for many flower shows was always an enjoyment for her.

One of her special remembrances was when she earned the highest score and was presented with the top tri-color award for her Hogarth design entry. At this show there were 4 design categories: circle, square, triangle, and Hogarth. The theme of this particular flower show was songs. Lyn chose the song Greensleeves. Not having any green flowers needed for her design, she created the flowers from geranium leaves. Abelia was used as the basis or foundation for the curved design



line for the Hogarth. A green ceramic pitcher was used to support her creation. After moving back to her hometown of Columbus, Lyn soon joined the Columbus Garden Club in the early 1980s. At that time, meetings were held in the various homes of the members. Later meetings began to be held in church fellowship areas. Over the years she has been honored to serve on many different committees, act as President (2 years) and later as Vice-President (8 years) of the Columbus Garden Club. She continues to enjoy the focus of the CGC along with the camaraderie of the members.

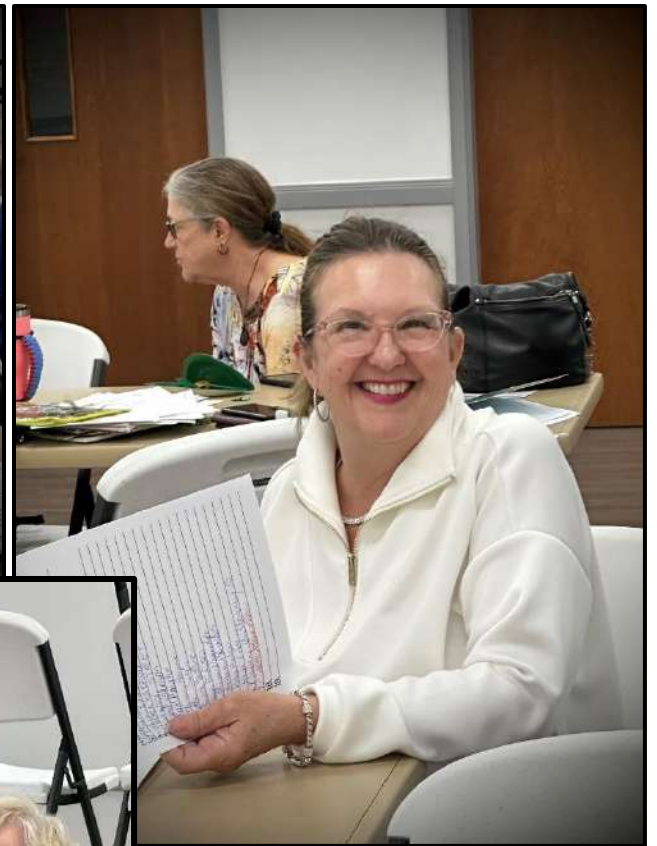
Yes, Lyn has a love and appreciation of plants, especially those which produce fruits/vegetables and those which produce flowers of beauty. Lyn's favorite list of flowers probably has the rose at the top. Without a doubt Lyn's favorite garden insect is the butterfly which is shared by her sister Ellen. Lyn has several clothing butterfly pins which she proudly wears. Pinks, blues, and purples are at the top of her favorite color palette when referring to flowers. That said, Lyn has always said that a flower's beauty is always enhanced when it is surrounded by textured greenery with the hint of delicate fillers.

# Last Month's Meeting



Hostesses (L-R) for our March Meeting were Sharon Wegenhoft (lead), Jennie Pritchett, Brenda Boehm, Nancy Galloway, Sandy Barrett and Dell Szymkowski (not pictured). They decorated in a St. Patrick's Day theme - **no blarney just good food and hot coffee**





We have a good time.....

We learn a lot...

And we get a lot done.







Our scheduled speaker was not able to be at our meeting so our very knowledgeable First Vice President and Master Gardener, Regena Williamson, stepped in and provided an excellent program on container gardening.

Thank you again, Regena.

We had several visitors at our meeting. Velma invited Sandy Street, a former member, to visit with us. Sandy is such a sweet and delightful person.

Feather Cavazos and Tracy Bishop saw our meeting notice on facebook and decided to visit.

Patsy Hodge brought two visitors Gina Carter and Kaye Frey.

We love sharing our love for gardening .

# Getting Ready for Plant Sale

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**Mark your calendars please:**

**Work Days at Marian Schonenberg's Home:**

**April 14 and 21 at 9:30 a.m. for Planting Days**

# **Columbus Garden Club** ***Plant and Bake Sale***

**Saturday, Apr. 26**

**Brookshire Bros.**

**8:00 a.m. til sell out**

**Sun Plants**

**Shade Plants**

**Yard Art**



**Let's Talk Plants**  
**and Gardening**

**Home Baked Goodies**  
**Sweets and Casseroles**



# Columbus Garden Club

## Well Represented at

### District IV Spring Convention



Sharon Wegenhoft, Marian Schonenberg, Deborah Braden, Nancy Galloway, and Wanda Anglin attended the District IV Spring Convention March 27, 2025, held at the Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center in League City. The convention with the theme, “Wild about Wildflowers!” was conceived and hosted by League City Garden Club.

All CGC attendees attended the Executive Committee/Full Board Meeting where planning and committee reporting was conducted. Since all CGC attendees were part of the

current or the incoming 2026-28 Board and committees, no one had the opportunity to attend the morning presentation to the general convention given by Martha Richeson, Native Plant Society member and Texas Master Naturalist that focused on native plants and pollinators. CGC members donated silent auction items.

- Nancy Galloway – a beautiful Consuelo motif tote with a wildlife throw and a garden encyclopedia of flowers.

- Ann Pavliska – one of her glass flower creations made from recycled glassware perfect for either a bird feeder or decoration for the garden.

The convention was kicked off with a welcome from Leslie Wong, Convention Chairman, and an invocation by Freda Martin, District IV Chaplain and pledges of allegiance to the American and Texas flags. District IV Director, Cindy Heckaman, conducted the business meeting. A brisket and sausage lunch was served with all the trimmings along with several desserts including hand decorated sugar cookies.

Sharon gave the TGC Trustee Report, the Area 4 Report on behalf of Regena Williamson, and her Area 7 Coordinator Report. Marian gave her Area 9 Report, Scholarship Report, and Life Membership Report. Dr. Heather White, Board member of the National Garden Club, South Central Region, and Texas Garden Club installed incoming 2026-28 officers including Sharon Wegenhoft, District IV Director; Nancy Galloway, Assistant to the Director; Wanda Anglin, Area 7 Coordinator; and Marian Schonenberg, Area 9 Coordinator.

Barry Ward, Executive Director of non-profit Trees for Houston, talked about trees' roles as pollinator hosts and the value of their addition to a landscaping or pollinator garden plan. He emphasized the value of native trees and talked about how non-invasive trees that are not native also having value especially citrus that provide food for humans and pollinators. He entertained many questions from the convention attendees.

Director Cindy Heckaman gifted roses and recognized first-time convention attendees that included Wanda. Also, seasoned garden club members (those aged 90+) were honored and given a certificate. Several were in attendance!





2024-5 District IV Life Memberships were recognized and given a certificate; CGC members receiving Life Memberships included Wanda Anglin, Janet Johnson, Regena Williamson, and Jennie Pritchett. 2024 Garden Angels were celebrated and top awards announced. Columbus Garden Club received the following District IV Awards (Medium Gold Club):

Blue Ribbons – 1<sup>st</sup> Place

- TGC Litter/Reclamation/Recycle
- TGC Club Program – Night Pollinators
- TGC Yearbook
- TGC President’s Report

Red Ribbons – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

- MAE 2-1 Social Media Website 2-A 1
- MAE 4-1 Publication/Newsletter

Director’s Citations

Deborah Braden	Secretary Yearbook Judge
Nancy Galloway	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Director – Newsletter
Marian Schonenberg	Area 9 Coordinator Life Membership Chair Scholarship Chair
Sharon Wegenhoft	Headquarters Trustee Area 7 Coordinator Nominating Committee Chair
Regena Williamson	Area 4 Coordinator

The Credential Report was given by Brenda Peterson, District IV Credentials Chair, and the Courtesy Resolution was presented by Dr. Heather White.



Raffle and silent auction items were awarded. Several CGC members attending were lucky enough to win an item.

The CGC attendees enjoyed shopping the wonderful vendors and exploring the information at the various booths as well as meeting many gardening enthusiasts across the Houston area. Sharon Wegenhoft is on the planning committee for the 2026 District IV Convention so please plan to participate in putting the event on in The Woodlands and attending next March!

# SHARE YOUR GARDEN



Janet Johnson's purple Columbine and white Amaryllis



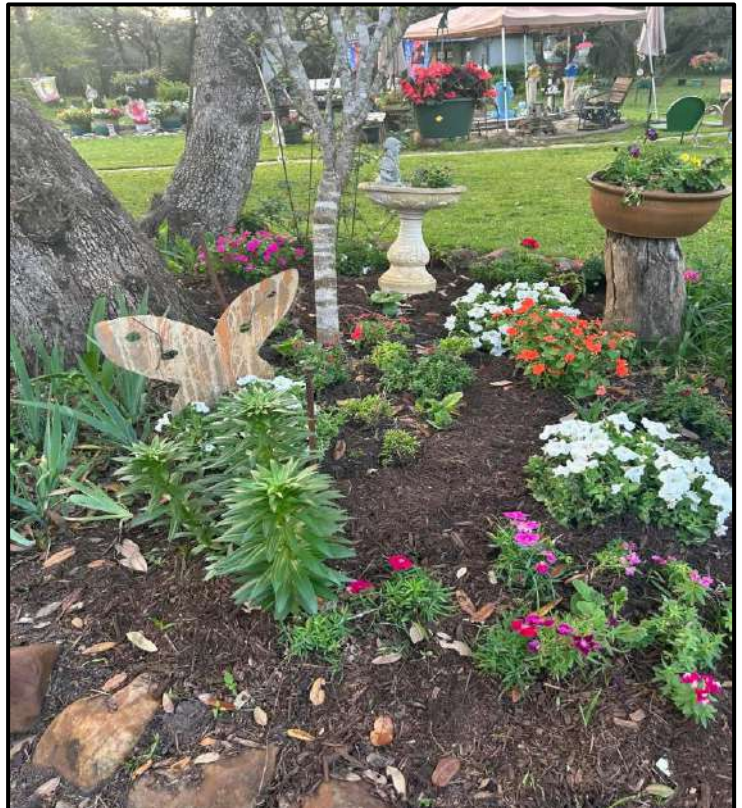




Janet Johnson's pink Amaryllis, sunny Gaillardias, and Orange Hibiscus.



(Below) Sandy Barrett's Backyard



Springtime in Texas



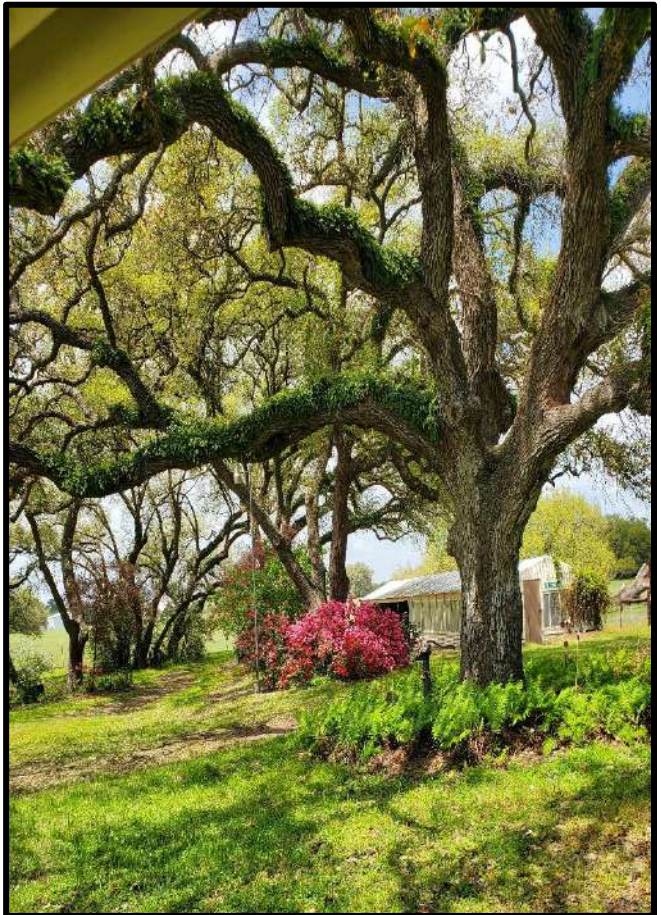


Wanda Anglin says almost everything is up in her veggie garden.

Wanda's blackberry orchard is going crazy!







Velma's Nun's Orchid (left) and View of the Azaleas, Oak Trees and Fern



(Left) Patti's beautiful roses and on the right a yellow columbine



# Courthouse Planters Have Been Planted



On April 2 Janet Johnson and Debbie Braden planted flowers at the Courthouse Square for the Spring and Summer seasons. And now the flowers will need to be kept watered. In April Sandy Barrett will water on Mondays; Nancy Galloway on Wednesdays, and we need someone to sign up for Fridays. In May Ann Pavliska will water on Mondays and we need volunteers to sign up for Wednesdays and Fridays. Please contact Debbie Braden.





**The Seed Library** was freshly stocked March 28 with lots of things to plant for your summer garden. Plenty of dill seeds for your pickling and butterfly food needs. Lots of other herbs as well as several types of okra. If you have not gotten your spring garden started for many vegetables there is still time for squash and pumpkins. Lots of different kinds. Plus, there's excellent information

on varieties that grow in our area, tomato troubleshooting, and even instructions on making a mini greenhouse with recycled items. Drop in between eight and five Monday through Friday. It is inside the Colorado County AgriLife building at 316 Spring St. in Columbus first room on the right.

**Help Columbus Garden Club earn funds by recycling your HP and Canon printer cartridges.** Turn in your cartridges to Marian Schonenberg or Brenda Boehm. This project only applies to HP and Canon. Thank you for helping.

### **Getting Club Emails? Want to Send an Email to the Entire Club?**

#### **Get Emails**

Are you receiving emails from the Club? About 4, sometimes 6 are sent monthly including meeting announcements and reminders, the newsletters, and information about upcoming events. If you are NOT receiving emails from the Club, go to this website:

<https://tinyurl.com/cgc-emails> . Enter your email address there and you will begin receiving all emails sent out by the Club.

#### **Send an Email to the Entire Club**

FYI...in the past, there was confusion about our Club email address which is [hello@columbusgardenclub.org](mailto:hello@columbusgardenclub.org) . Please note that when someone sends an email to this address, the Website/Social Media committee and some Board members get the email. It is NOT an email that sends out announcements or information to the entire Club.

The way to send an email to the entire club is to prepare what you want to say and send it along with any images to Cheryl Rose ([cherylscgc@gmail.com](mailto:cherylscgc@gmail.com)) AND Wanda Anglin ([wanda.anglin@hotmail.com](mailto:wanda.anglin@hotmail.com)). Cheryl and Wanda will coordinate putting your information in our tool called MailChimp that will send out to the entire Club.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER: (As Listed in Dist. IV Newsletter)**

### **April 2025:**

- 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> TGC Inc. Spring Convention
- 11<sup>th</sup> Houston Federation Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> South Central State Spring Convention, Albuquerque, NM
- 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> South-Central Region Spring Convention, Albuquerque, NM

### **May 2025:**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Houston Federation Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.  
(**Note: National Spring Convention:** It has been decided to move forward with the 2025 Pre-convention meetings and Convention to be held at the Embassy Suites in North Charleston, SC **May 18-21, 2025. Please make note of this change.**)

### **June 2025:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> National Garden Week

**Houston Federation of Garden Clubs** regular meetings are held the second Friday, September through May with the “social hour” beginning at 10-10:30 a.m. Dates are as follows:

- Sept. 13, 2024
- Oct. 11, 2024
- Nov. 8, 2024
- Dec. 13, 2024
- Jan 10, 2025
- Feb. 14, 2025
- Mar. 14, 2025
- Apr. 11, 2025
- May 9, 2025



**Houston Federation of Garden Clubs has a new meeting place at the corner of Bellaire and Ave. B and located directly across Bellaire Blvd from last year's meeting place, Faith Lutheran Church**

**CityRise Church-Bellaire  
4601 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire  
77401**





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## Joys, Love and Concerns

**Wanda Anglin** has enjoyed an exciting trip to Antarctica and sharing wonderful pictures of icy landscapes and wildlife and has written an account of vegetation that can be found there too. We will be sharing some of her pictures and accounts of her experiences in future newsletters. She also has written an account of volunteers from the Coastal Prairie Conservancy and Native Plant Society of Texas – Houston Chapter who organized a guided walk through the saline barrens of Warren Ranch in Late March 2025. Look for these writings in the next newsletter.

Our sincere condolences to **Sandy Barrett and Family** for an unexpected loss of daughter-in-law Anela Barrett and to **Cheryl Rose** as her mother-in-law passed away. **Beth Easterling** had been really ill with an ear drum bursting and pinkeye but she is better. Beth will participate in hostessing duties for April but can not attend the meeting. **Debbie Braden** had a bout of pneumonia but has been back going strong again. **Patti Schindler** wants everyone to know that she is doing well after knee replacement surgery. She thanks everyone who called and was concerned with how she was progressing. She says, “it really meant a lot to me.” And, please remember **Martha Jordan, Dell Szymkowski, Katy Seymour, Chris Schobel** and so many of our members that we have been missing and are in need of our thoughts and prayers.

**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 has had 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.

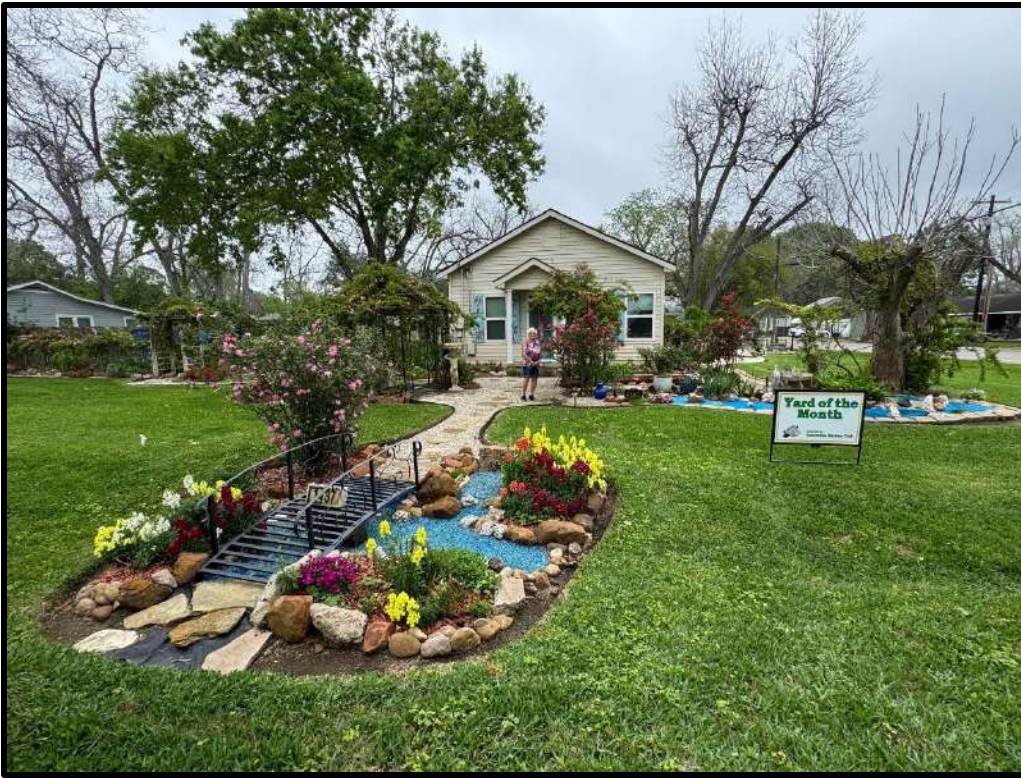
### It's time to celebrate April Birthdays:



18 Ida Sivley  
25 Lyn Buescher

Yard of the Month – April

**Home of: Sharon McIntye**  
**1437 Prairie St.**



April Yard of the Month was awarded to 1437 Prairie St. The corner lot exudes a country cottage appeal full of whimsy, a little Kitsch, and colors across the rainbow. Owner, Sharon McIntyre,

propagates by cuttings and seeds and plants herself. Little treasures hide in every corner from the arched arbor to the faux pond to the white picket fence, all teeming with a variety of classic garden flowers including snapdragons, vinca, Peggy Martin roses, Mexican petunias, and dianthus. Her son and daughter live across the street and she is in the process of re-landscaping their yards. If you see her out in her yard, be sure to stop...she loves to talk flowers, interior design, and painting art on walls and fences, all of which she does for her and her family's homes.





## Community Beautification

### Winston Sage Custom Homes

Owners: Charles Dibala and Treavor Barnett

2004 TX-71 Business



The April Community Beautification Award was awarded to Winston Sage Custom Homes, owned by Charles Dibala and Treavor Barnett at 2004 TX-71 Business. Fantastic 4' high knockout red roses in a raised bed at the front of this distinctive office with wood shake siding invite future homeowners to come on in. When installing the sign outside, Community Beautification chair, Wanda Anglin, delivered a framed certificate to the office recognizing the business for their contribution of beauty to our town.