



Horti-Bull

HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN

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Todd Mernin

From the President

Greetings fellow gardeners.

Hope you are enjoying this great fall weather. Some things to consider planting this fall are cabbages, kales, and Swiss chard. For the flower people among us there are varieties of pansies, dianthus, viola, alyssum, labelle, dusty miller, and petunias. I will be profiling the pansies in this issue. In short the Tamalada was a success, there were plenty of "good eats". I heartily thank all who participated in making this event happen and also to those who attended. These type of events are how we continue to strengthen community.

I also would like to recognize the efforts of the Master Gardeners and other volunteers at Greenies on Sherman St. It is through their hard work and dedication that food is being provided to those in need in our urban food deserts.

Well, that's it for this month. Hope to see you at our November meeting and Christmas Party. Till then, stay safe and continue to grow both plants and individuality. Love, Todd

The Pansy

These plants were originally from Europe and western Asia. The name originates from the French word *pense'e* meaning thought. The ones we think of today are hybrids of the original heartsease. In doing my research I found out that for our area the time to plant is now. Plant them about 7 to 12 inches apart. They will grow to about 6 to 9 inches tall. These plants like to be watered and grow well with an all purpose fertilizer. Believe it or not these flowers are edible and are said to have a mild mint like taste. The recommended varieties are 'Jolly Joker', Princess Series, Fama Series, Wit and Wisdom. When planted treat them like roses and deadhead all spent flowers. This pruning enables the plant to bloom again. The best size recommended for these flowers are medium, non leggy plants. I hope this information is helpful and you get a lot of enjoyment from these flowers both now and in the spring. Let us know what varieties worked for you.



MGCSA Coming Events

November 4th: Monthly meeting at the Place of Grace Fellowship, 2938 Nacogdoches Road, 6:30 PM for fellowship and meeting at 7PM.

November 6th: Arbor Day at Eisenhower Park, with information table and the Mobile Children's Garden.

November 7th: Market Days in Hollywood Park at the Voigt Center, 701 El Portal, with Plant Sale, info table, and the Mobile Children's Garden.

December 2nd: Annual Installation of Officers and Christmas Party at the Place of Grace Fellowship.

Refreshments for our November meeting

A-N it's your turn

We encourage the A—Ns to stay after the meeting to help clean and straighten up so everyone can leave as soon as possible. It only takes a few minutes for the cleanup if all pitch in to help!

Memorial for Cynthia Thompson

A memorial service for Cynthia Thompson who passed away on 19 January 2021, will be held 12 November 2021, 2:30PM at the Fort Sam National Cemetery, Gazebo 4. Garden Club members are invited to join in the service, with a brief eulogy and a gun salute. Cynthia was in the US Air Force when she met husband Bob. Cynthia and Bob Thompson's service to the Men's Garden Club are to be fondly remembered. There will be a Dutch dinner afterwards at BJ'S Restaurant to remember Cynthia following the service.

Please call Judy Thompson at 1-703-307-3114 and let her know you will be attending so she can reserve enough space at the restaurant.





Calvin's Corner

By Dr. Calvin Finch, Retired Texas A&M Horticulturalist

Horti-Bull Gardening Calendar for November

The first of November is the time to fertilize the lawn with a "winterizer" formula product with a 3-1-2 nutrient ratio. A common and effective product offers a formula of 18-6-12. That formula represents 18 per cent of a nitrogen source, 6 percent of a phosphorous source and 12 percent of a potassium source. The label of "winterizer" indicates that the product has a fast release nitrogen source that will contribute to cold tolerance and a fast green up in the spring for the lawn.

If you were not able to apply a preemergent herbicide such as Dimension or Crew earlier in the fall you can do a fair job of controlling the winter weeds in the lawn by keeping it mowed. Bedstraw, henbit, chickweed and other broad leaf weeds in the lawn or shrub border can also be sprayed with a 24D product. Follow the label instructions.

In the vegetable garden there is still time to plant broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, collards, and Swiss chard transplants. Spinach and onion transplants should also become available in the November. Also plant English peas, radish, lettuce, rutabaga, turnip, beets, and carrots by seed. Remember to plant lettuce seed on the soil surface. If it is covered with soil, it will not germinate. Soak English pea seeds overnight in water to increase the germination success. To prepare the winter vegetable garden beds incorporate 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of slow-release lawn fertilizer such as 19 -5-9 for every 100 sq ft of bed.

If you have vegetables growing from the summer, keep the eggplant, okra, and peppers harvested as the fruit matures. The tomatoes should also begin ripening. It is not unusual to experience a light freeze in November. If you are able to cover the tomatoes and protect them from severe damage it often translates into another 3 to 6 weeks of tomato harvesting window. Have your freeze protection covers ready!

For winter color snapdragons, stocks, dianthus, calendula, pansies, alyssum, sweet peas, and ornamental kale can be planted in the sun. Plant primula or cyclamen in the shade. Cyclamen have spectacular foliage and blooms but be prepared to cover them with a fabric cover if a cold spell of 30 degrees or less is forecast. The plants won't freeze back but the blooms may, and they are slow to rebloom. Pansies are the most cold resistant of the winter annuals. The sweet peas, alyssum, and stocks have pleasant fragrances to enhance bouquets from the garden.

Bring in birds for observation by offering bird baths, hummingbird feeders, and seed feeders. If you would prefer not to use your bird feeding budget to feed the squirrels, consider using feeders with weight sensitive perches. They close the seed access when a squirrel steps on the perch. It also works to include pepper flavored seeds and suet in the feeders. The birds are unaffected by the hot taste, but the squirrels avoid it.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Attendance: October 7, 2021, 28 Members, 2 Guests: Ivan's father Nacho Roman, and his Auntie Lucy Roman. They are visiting from Puerto Rico.

Happy Birthday: To all born in November. May God continue to bless you with his love, peace, and happiness with family and friends.

Sick: Please continue to pray for all of our members and families who are recovering

from surgery, hospitalization, injury, or illness and especially covid-19.

Deceased: Please keep all of our deceased members and their family members in your prayers.

Hospitality: Thank you to Marion See for organizing the refreshments for all who brought goodies and drinks.

The Botanical Gardens Children's Vegetable Garden Program: All the planting is done and

MGCSA Officers for 2021

President	Todd Mernin	210-218-4155
1st V.P.	Ivan Roman	210-845-7073
2nd V.P.	Vallerie Hartfield	210-240-1466
3rd V.P.	Robert McDaniel	210-542-1888
Treasurer	Phil Byrd	210-497-8044
Secretary	Larry Cromer	210-521-5350
Chaplain	Vallerie Hartfield	
Directors		

2019-2021

Teresa Martinez	210-534-8100
Vacant	

2020-2022

Barbara Lamm	210-648-8001
Leonard Martinez	210-514-0584

2021-2023

David Badorski	815-436-3970
John Opiela	210-532-5963

Other

EX Officio	Paul Huegel
	210-493-9853

HB Advertising	Paul Huegel
Historian	Paul Huegel

Webmaster	Ivan Roman
HB Editor	Larry Cromer

Postmaster	Larry Cromer
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they are harvesting beans, cucumbers, kale, lettuce, radish, and squash and cutting marigolds. They have made scarecrows for their garden.

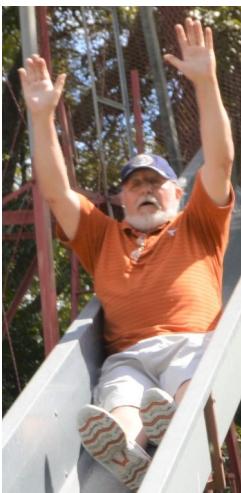
Gardening Experience and Interests: Have you tried anything new and different? What was the outcome? We want to hear from you.

Vallerie Hartfield

Annual Malcolm Beck Tamalada By Paul D. Huegel
 The Third Annual Malcom Beck Tamalada was held at Barbara Lamm's scenic homestead on October 23, 2021. The weather was picture perfect and the attendance was the best ever with 45 attendees. Thanks to our master coordinators Darlene and David Badorski, our hostess Barbara Lamm and her two lovely daughters Pam and Susie who did a wonderful job of planning and hosting the event. A special thanks to Leonard and Teresa Martinez for procuring plenty of delicious tamales and Darlene for preparing the chicken drumsticks. With the side dishes, des-

serts and beverages that other members provided we enjoyed a real feast. I may be a gringo, but I know a good tamale when I eat one. These tamales were not only good they were the best ever prepared by Claudia Fraga. There was plenty of food and drink and a good show of attendees who all seemed happy to get out of COVID confinement and gather at this annual event. This year once again some of us took the plunge and rode the high slide on site. I started the challenge and rode the slide a few times. Betty Opiela and Leonard Martinez then took the challenge and rode the slide followed by Ivan's dad Nacho. Every-

one had fun watching us land at full speed on our butts. We had the opportunity to visit with Ivan's dad Nacho Roman and Auntie Lucy Roman who were visiting from Puerto Rico, and with Leonard Martinez's Father and Son, Leonard Sr and Leonard Jr. and thank them for joining us. We concluded the Beck's Tamalada with everyone sharing their life experiences while eating some delicious desserts. I think all who attended enjoyed another fun Tamalada. While Delphine Beck was unable to attend this year, she was with us in spirit and hopefully she will be able to attend next year.

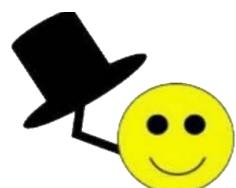


Why do grown-ups have to do things like this? And one was a visitor!



Above is a John Opiela group picture. That's him kneeling in the middle. How does he do that?

Once again, our gracious hostesses, Barbara Lamm and daughters Pam and Suzie treated us like royalty. Our hats off to these ladies.



It happens every time. They group together and discuss gardening, or maybe other things — or maybe they are discussing that group sitting over there.

More from the Tamalada.



Three generations of Martinezes — Our Leonard, on left, Grandpa Leonard Sr in the middle, and son Leonard Jr on the right.



Auntie Lucy and Nacho Ramon join Ivan and Isabel. Ida Santiago joins them, with her and Isabel sharing some common interests.

Market Day in Hollywood Park is Sunday, November 7, day after Arbor Day. It will be held at their Voigt Park. **Set up time is after 1PM** and the event will be from 2PM to 4PM. **We will have a plant sale and membership opportunity only.** Additionally, our display space will be limited; nowhere near what we are used to at the Hollywood Park garage sale

October Meeting

Marybeth Parsons, Master Gardener, was guest speaker at our October 7 meeting; her topic was "Fall is for Planting Texas Superstar Plants". It was soon clear, judging by the many questions and personal anecdotes, Marybeth had a captive audience. The following are excerpts from her talk:

There are four research gardens in Texas: Lubbock, San Antonio, College Station and Overton. The plant Hardiness Zone map, prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, takes in to account rainfall amounts, temperatures, and soil types. San Antonio/Bexar County is in the "8b" Plant Hardiness Zone Map.

There are stringent requirements for plants to be designated "superstars". Water usage, ease in propagation, and outstanding performance are but a few considerations. Plants undergo extensive field trials. Most plants are perennials; no pesticides are used.

From trees to shrubs to grasses, and perennials for our "8b" zone, vivid photos accompanied Marybeth's description of desirable plants for our homes and gardens. Many familiar names such as New Gold Lantana, Rose of Sharon, hibiscus/althea, Turk's Cap, Plumbago as well as Mystic Spires Blue Salvia, Yellow Butterfly vine – all inspired animated questions and comments from members about their experience with these plants. Some plants, common in our area like Gold Star Esperanza, Firebush, Pride of Barbados –are tropical perennials that do well in our area.

Marybeth ended her presentation by handing out the latest copy of "Texas Superstar, 2020", from the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, a must-have for adding new plants or replacing plants affected by the winter freeze.

Please note that Ivan's father Nacho, came all the way from Puerto Rico to attend the meeting. That's him and Auntie Lucy to the left.



Todd and Marybeth



The Plant Lady is back.

ARBOR DAY EVENT Arbor Day will be celebrated Saturday 6 November at Eisenhower Park, 19399 NW MILITARY Hwy. Set up time is between 8AM and 9:30AM. There will be a ceremonial ribbon cutting at 10AM, with event starting at 10:15AM and lasting until 1:30PM.

The Men's Garden Club **will have a new membership table and the Mobile Children's Garden**. There will be no plant sales. Robert McDaniel will transport all supplies to and from the event. The Children's Garden will need 3 workers to handle the kids.

Judging from our past involvement, there is a lot of great tree related programs/how-tos, **and a lot of free give-a-ways**.

↑
**Don't
Forget!**
←

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HERB FESTIVAL

The Happy Face of 6 year old Randi Leigh reflects the mood of the October Herb Fest. A great turnout of shoppers, strollers, and kids wanting to plant their herb. We thank our transporters David Badorski, Paul Huegel, and John Opiela. Barbara Lamm generously provided some gorgeous potted cactus arrangements (which all sold), and Ken Wolfgram shared profits from his handmade pottery table. Robert McDaniel was there pushing plant sales and overseeing the money box.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

We need a good head count of those who plan to attend the 2 December Christmas Party. This early input is necessary when dealing with the caterers who will prepare the meats. The club will furnish the appetizers and beverages , and **YOU** will provide your special covered dish and a dessert of your choosing to add to the table. Please coordinate with Darlene Badorski 1-815-436-3970 with your 'special dish' so we don't all show up with the same goodies.

Party location is our regular meeting place, the PLACE of GRACE FELLOWSHIP at 2938 Nacogdoches Rd (**an alcohol free facility**). We plan on hospitality at 6:00PM and dinner at 6:45PM.

The cost is \$10.00 per person and we will have blank forms at the 4 November meeting if you desire to sign up then.

Clip here and mail form and check. Please write legibly.

MEMBER Full Name _____

Phone: _____

Please circle whether SPOUSE or GUEST(S) below .

SPOUSE GUEST Full Name _____

Phone _____

Mail total amount with this form to Vallerie Hartfield, 2410 Monticello Court, SA, TX 78223 210-240-1466

Make Checks Payable to **MGCSA**.

General Election of Officers Thursday, November 4, 2021

Election of officers will be held at the November general meeting. There is one candidate for each position except for First Vice President and Secretary which remain vacant with no candidate. Please make every effort to attend our general meeting so you can vote and support our candidates. If you wish to run for either of the vacant positions or any position, we welcome you to self-nominate from the floor.

President –
First Vice President -
Second Vice President –
Third Vice President -
Secretary –
Treasurer –

Todd Mernin
NO CANDIDATE
Vallerie Hartfield
Robert McDaniel
NO CANDIDATE
Phil Byrd

Candidates for two open positions on the board of directors for the year 2022-2024:

Teresa Martinez
Gary Ross

The Nominating committee would like to thank the candidates for their hard work this past year and for agreeing to be a candidate for 2022. *Mary Martinez, Nominating Committee Chair*

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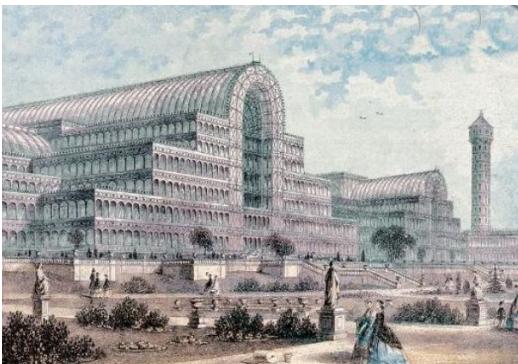
What the heck is a Tamalada?
It's a gathering of Gardeners bragging about their gardens.

Well at least no one put out their cigarette in my ashtray.

We love Barbara, don't we?

The Crystal Palace - *from Todd Mernin*

Fellow plant enthusiasts, Imagine a greenhouse the size of a mall. In Victorian England, Prince Albert wanted to show the world the great leaps forward from the industrial revolution with metal, glass and architecture. He was able to do this by holding the 1851 Great Exhibition in



Hyde Park London where he built The Crystal Palace. Its dimensions were 1851 Ft. long and 128 Ft. tall. It was constructed totally of glass and metal and had a 990,000 Sq. Ft. interior. Following the Exhibition, the building remained until its relocation in 1854 to South London. It remained in 'Penge Peak' until its destruction by fire in 1936. I have profiled this building due to its impact on Victorian architecture and especially the interest by the Victorians for extravagance with plants and conservatories. Today, we can see small examples of this locally at two places. The first is the modern conservatory at the Botanical Gardens. The second, a small greenhouse attached to the Kohler House just north of San Antonio College. There are many examples elsewhere that were inspired by this architectural marvel. I encourage you to investigate the influence of this building by typing 'Victorian Crystal Palace' in your search engine. Hope you enjoyed this. Continue learning.

Speaker for November Meeting

The guest speaker for November's meeting is Laura Rodgers. She is a past president of the GVST, a volunteer at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens, and a Bexar County Master Gardener for sixteen years. Her topic for the evening will be 'Container Gardening'.



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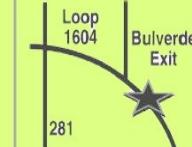


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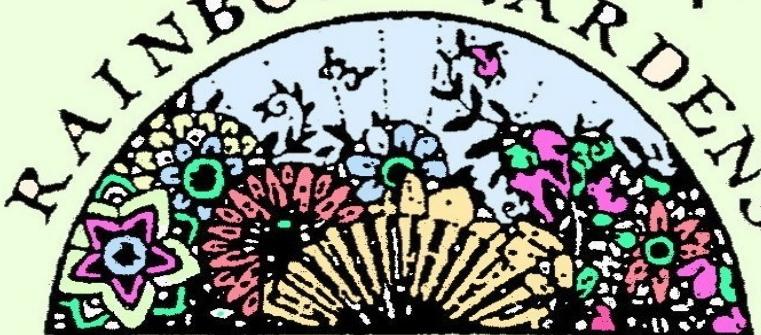


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