



# Horti-Bull

## HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN

Published Monthly by the SAN ANTONIO MEN'S GARDEN CLUB  
A club for Men and WOMEN interested in all aspects of gardening

[WEBSITE: mensgardenclubofsa.org](http://www.mensgardenclubofsa.org)

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February 2022

Number 02



### MGCSA Coming Events

**February 3rd:** Meeting at The Place for Grace Fellowship Church. Meet and greet at 6:30 and meeting begins at 7PM.

**February 11-13, 18-20:** Science and Engineering Fair. A two part **Virtual ZOOM** meet.

**February 27th:** Irish Heritage Day at the Leon Valley Community Center, 12 noon --5pm. **NOTE: Tentatively rescheduled for the 24th of April. Decision date, 10th of February.**

**March 5th:** Earth Day at the Leon Valley Community Center. Time to be announced.

**March 12th:** SAWS Spring Bloom. Time to be announced. **May become a virtual ZOOM event, decision to be made on February 10.**

**March 31st and April 1st and 2nd:** Hollywood Park Yard Sale. (Big Event. All hands on Deck)



Todd Mernin

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

.Hello again fellow gardeners.

January has been full of surprises as far as the weather is concerned. All my leaves have fallen from the pecan trees and some of the green leaves have fallen from my live oak tree. No, my tree is not sick; but recently the winds associated with the waves of cold fronts have been knocking them off and helping prune the branches on the pecans. If you're experiencing any of these similar events hope your clean up

doesn't involve the work of an insurance adjuster. Just a reminder, the cold tolerant plants can get wind whipped also when planted. Protection, protection, protection. The first cold snap of the new year killed off my moon flowers, but some of my Osmanthus are still blooming. Last month we talked about soil, this month we need to be focused on protection. Here are the three Ps: Plants, Pipes and Pets. These three are all at risk this time of year, so remember to drip those pipes, cover those plants and provide protection and warmth for your pets. Happy planting and plant care, till we meet again to share our knowledge, successes, and fellowship. Love, TODD

### FLOWER OF THE MONTH The Amaryllis

I don't know about you, but Santa brought me an amaryllis for Christmas. Wow, what a flower. In my research of this new member of my plant family I found that this plant was associated with pride, determination, and radiant beauty in Victorian times. The amaryllis species we all know is originally from the southwest coast of Africa. Now that you have the history of the plant, what to do with the plant after it flowers is next. It was noted that first you should place the plant in a low light area to enable it to die back naturally. Once this has occurred you are to cut off the dead leaves about an inch above the bulb. Then you take the bulb and remove it from the dirt and place it in a paper bag with perlite or peat moss. Then you are to place it in a cool place for about two months. You should place it where the temperature is to be about 50 degrees.

The final step is to take and replant and give sunshine. Well, there you go flower fans; let us know of your success in taking care of this type of seasonal gift from Santa.



Refreshments for our February meeting,

**A thru L,**

it's your turn. **We encourage the A thru Ls 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!**

**Sharon Hughes is always looking for plants for our plant table. She feels so lonely when the table is empty.**



### CALVIN'S CORNER

*By Dr. Calvin Finch, Retired Texas A&M Horticulturist*  
Horti-Bull Gardening Calendar for February

If you have the patience wait until next month to cut down the frozen stems of esperanza, lantana, salvia, and other plants. The remnant stems provide cover and habitat for the ground feeding birds. It is neater to clean up the brown stems but there is no advantage to the plants.

The first of February is a good time to plant potatoes. Dig a trench one foot wide and equally deep. Place a piece of potato with at least one eye every 24 inches in the trench. Stack the soil up on one or both sides of the trench so it can gradually be refilled as the potato stems grow in the trench. If extra soil is available, the trench can not only be filled but soil can be mounded over the potato plants above the trench. Discontinue the trench filling and mounding when you run out of soil. The potato plant will continue to grow upward. The first harvest can occur when the potato plant blooms. Eventually harvest all the plants when the tops brown. The potatoes can stay in place in the trench for several weeks after the tops decline but if the soil is moist there is a potential for the fruit to rot. In some situations, the fruit can be stored for months but it works best here in Central Texas if the potatoes are used for the table shortly after harvest as new potatoes.

There is still time to plant onions, broccoli and cabbage transplants. Plant lettuce, carrots, beets, English peas, and turnips by seed. Late in the month you could try seeding green beans and cucumbers.

In the flower garden the snapdragons and stocks have started their recovery from the damage from the January freeze and should be back in bloom by the end of the month. Pansies will be looking good as well. If you have naturalized larkspurs in the garden designate a few rows for them and remove the rest or they will grow over the top of the other cool weather annuals. As dominating as they are they are still desirable to have some blooming to provide nectar for the hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies.

Sometime this month the live oaks will do a quick leaf drop and recovery. The live oak leaves are excellent for paths and mulch.

The winter weeds are growing strong. Keep the rescue grass and annual bluegrass mowed so you can enjoy it as "the sustainable winter lawn". Next month and April they will try to set their seed. Bedstraw is especially interesting. It is easy to control in the lawn with the herbicide "Weed Free Zone" or you can rake up large patches to form small clumps that work well as fuel for the compost pile.

February is a good time to prune your fruit trees. For text and diagrams visit [plantanswers.com](http://plantanswers.com).

For CPS customers the \$50 per tree rebate is still available if you plant a recommended variety of shade tree at a location in the landscape that reduces energy use in the house. Shade trees planted in February have an opportunity to grow roots before they must face the challenge of a Texas summer. Consider live oak, cedar elm, Mexican sycamore, Texas red oak, anaqua, Mexican white oak, bur oak, or chinkapin oak. If your neighborhood is experiencing oak wilt pressures, consider the non-oak species.

### MGCSA Officers for 2022

<b>President</b>	Todd Mernin	210-218-4155
<b>1st V.P</b>	Ivan Roman	210-845-7073
<b>2nd V.P.</b>	Vallerie Hartfield	210-240-1466
<b>3rd V.P</b>	Robert McDaniel	210-542-1888
<b>Treasurer</b>	Phil Byrd	210-497-8044
<b>Secretary</b>	Ida Santiago	210-387-5092
<b>Chaplain</b>	Vallerie Hartfield	210-240-1466

#### Directors

#### 2020-2022

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

#### 2021-2023

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

#### 2022-2024

Teresa Martinez	210--534-8100
Gary Ross	210-408-1676

#### Other

<b>EX Officio</b>	Paul Huegel 210-493-9853
<b>HB Advertising</b>	Paul Huegel
<b>Historian</b>	Paul Huegel
<b>Webmaster</b>	Ivan Roman
<b>HB Editor</b>	Larry Cromer
<b>Postmaster</b>	Larry Cromer

**STILL wanted for the Horti-Bull - your inputs for future Horti-Bulls. Prefer receipt by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month . The article can be about your current gardening effort, a past event, or some plain old good- or-bad life experience, or simply a gardening tip.**

## My Dad's Victory Garden

*From Larry Cromer*

In the April 2020 Horti Bull, Paul Huegel gave us a 'History of The Victory Garden'. My Dad was a participant in that effort and had very good results. Our neighbors whom he shared some of the vegetables with gave him high praise. But Dad had a couple of secret weapons that were never mentioned— me and my brother. I was barely in school in 1943 when he went overboard with his effort and started his Victory Garden. At the tender age of seven, and my brother 3 years older, we were introduced to the hoe, rake, the hand plow, and six or eight plants that we previously thought came only from a can or the produce counter at the grocery store. .

My dad wasn't a hard driver, but he was somewhat pushy (and you know what that meant back in those days). He had a time-consuming job that allowed him an hour of leisure (working in the garden) in the morning and no free time at night as he didn't get home until 9:30 or 10:00 pm. His hour in the garden in the morning consisted of a little pruning, a little hoeing, and other garden stuff. But a goodly portion of his time consisted of him writing down and passing on to my brother and me a list of things that needed to be done in the garden that day. He was a stickler for the plants needing loose soil around

them so the roots would be healthy and support a healthy plant. We had to delicately break up the soil around them. He didn't believe in spraying plants with insecticide, so we were introduced to the Beatle which had to be removed by hand; good or bad, I didn't know and didn't care. Because our rows were drawn perpendicular to the slope of the land, too much rain caused the beds to wash out on occasion. That's when we utilized the hoe and plow to re-mound the beds. I won't mention the rainless weeks and the wagon, water tub and dipper, as my mother had introduced those to me several years prior.

There was another effort that went with the Victory Garden, and that was all stores closed for a half day on Wednesday so the grownups could tend their gardens. (Imagine that in 2022) So Dad had some free time on Wednesday. His afternoon consisted in one of two ways, he would go by the feed and seed store and pick up more plants to put out, or we all went fishing. You know which was my favorite.

That was 78 years ago and I still remember it very well. The Good Old Days.

### Men's Garden Club of San Antonio (MGCSA)

*Open to men and women. 2022 Membership Application*

Rates will remain effective until January 1, 2023

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Annual Members	3-Year Membership	Life Membership
\$20 Individual	\$50 Individual	\$200 Individual
\$25 Joint*	\$60 Joint*	\$250 Joint*

\*Joint Membership is one individual and one additional residing in the same household. Both members may enjoy all the member benefits of MGCSA but do not individually receive the Horti-Bull, the monthly newsletter.

Please Circle (above) the type of membership. This will help us keep the MGCSA files straight. Use one form for each membership or joint membership. **Please print/write legibly!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, TX 78 \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (210) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Way to Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to MGCSA

Payment Address: Phil Byrd, Treasurer Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ New Member

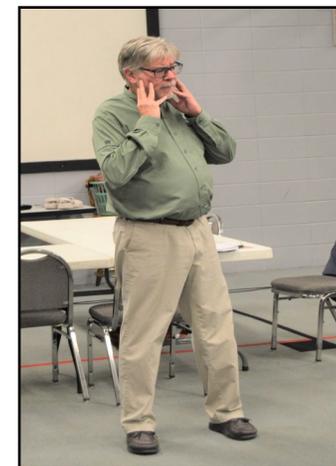
2522 Montebello, San Antonio, TX 78259 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

If you haven't already done so, it's time to renew your MGCSA membership for 2022. Either mail your membership form to Phil Byrd or see us at the February meeting. Call Phil Byrd at 210-497-8044 if you are unsure of your status.

**January Speaker: Mark Peterson, Conservation Project Coordinator with SAWS**

The speaker for our January 6, meeting was Mark Peterson. Mark's first timely subject was what to do to keep those living Christmas plants alive. Planting the **poinsettia** in ground, protecting it from northeast winds and watering as needed will keep the plant alive. It should have the tips pinched back in August. Poinsettias need 11-12 hours of darkness to produce blooms. Other plants discussed were the amaryllis, orchids, and Christmas cactus. Club members were eager to share their tips and experience with these plants and the animated discussion generated many questions from the floor as well. Mark also spoke about

what we learned from last year's harsh winter freeze. Supplemented with handouts, he spoke about which plants surprised us and fared well throughout the freeze and which ones did not do well or survive. Some plants to avoid included species found in tropical and subtropical areas. Palms, with its many species, were of interest to our members who reported successes and failures with those in their gardens. Mark also mentioned that the SAWS annual "Spring Bloom" is scheduled for Saturday, March 12 and hope to make it an in-person event. A firm decision will be made by February 14 whether to continue as planned for in-person gathering or make it a virtual event.



**LEFT:** A very animated Mark Peterson emphasizes with his lefthand and holds his beverage in his right.  
**RIGHT:** Mark reacts to a question from John Opiela.

Ronnie Grell  
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**Topping is big no-no when it comes to tree pruning. If a potential contractor practices topping, move on to another contractor.**

Winter is the best time to prune your trees. Make sure you have the best arborist for the job. It will save you both money and headaches.

During my long tenure at the [Texas Forest Service](#), now the Texas A&M Forest Service, people frequently asked for arborist recommendations. But as a public servant, I was — and still am — obliged not to provide references unless the individuals or companies have gone through an objective training or screening process.

Still, I'm happy to offer some guidance to help you choose a professional arborist to care for your trees. For starters, you'll want to ask a potential contractor if he or she practices [topping](#), and I'm not talking dessert. If the answer is yes, then move on to another contractor. If the answer is no, proceed by asking for:

- \* A City of San Antonio arborist license. Any individual or company doing work within the city limits must have received training and paid for an arborist license.
- \* Certificates of insurance, including proof of liability for personal and

property damage, and workers' compensation. Phone the insurance company or agent to ensure the policy is current.

- \* A written contract that fully explains the work to be done, on what day, and the price per service performed.
- \* [International Society of Arboriculture](#) membership which demonstrates professionalism and a desire to improve his or her knowledge of tree care.
- \* Proof of membership with one of the other professional arborist associations including the [San Antonio Arborist Association](#), the [American Society of Consulting Arborists](#) or the Tree Care Industry Association.
- \* Local references. Your neighbor is still one of the best resources.

**Follow these simple steps and your tree and wallet will thank you,**



From SAWS [GARDEN STYLE San Antonio](#), and authored by Mark Peterson.

**February Guest Speaker**

We are happy to have back with us Mr. Mark Fanick of Fanick's Garden Center. He will have an open question and answer period as well as topics of his choice. Mark always has a great presentation and Q&A time.

The garden club was honored to be a part of Fanick's Garden Center's 80th anniversary celebration back in 2019.



**LEFT:** Paul Huegel presents Mark and Mike Fanick a Commentative Plaque thanking the garden center for 50 years of service to the Men's Garden Club, with Frank Rios and Earl Siebold looking on. **RIGHT:** Mark and Mike show their plague with dignitaries David Rodriguez on the left, and Councilman Tommy Calvert on the right.

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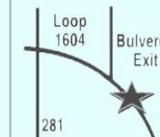


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Who is that masked man? Oh! It's Ivan Roman hauling in the club's new Audio - Visual Center.



Correction for January Horti-Bull Joyce Siebold, Ida Santiago, and Joyce's daughter Meliah Nye are smiling for the camera because they are having a good time.

**The Botanical Garden's 'CHILDREN'S VEGETABLE GARDEN' program**

The new season starts on February 19 and runs until June 4. Hours are from 8:30 to 10:30 AM, every Saturday morning. Currently Vallerie Hartfield and Barbara Lamm are giving their time and talent in support of the very rewarding program—for the young gardeners and the workers. It's not too late for you to volunteer for this program. Training will be held February 12th, 8:30 to 12:30PM. Go to the Botanical Garden's website for more detail.

**MEMBERSHIP** *From Vallerie Hartfield*  
24 Members, 3 Guests attended January 6, 2022 Meeting  
Happy Birthday to all for February.  
Healing and recovery for all who are sick.  
Strength, comfort, peace, and love to all who are coping with losses.  
**HOSPITALITY**  
Thanks to all who shared in providing refreshments, and to those who helped clean up after the meeting

**Why Do We Give Roses on Valentine's Day?**

For centuries, flowers have symbolized fertility, love, marriage, and romance. During the Victorian era, it became popular to use flowers to send secretive messages. The meaning behind each flower was often pulled from various myths, fables, or legends. Red roses typically represent love and romance and have been a powerful symbol of passion for many cultures through ages. The rose was sacred to a number of goddesses including Isis of Egypt, and the ancient Greeks and Romans identified the rose with their goddesses of love, Aphrodite and Venus.

Now giving a bouquet of flowers is considered a classic Valentine's Day gift. Luth Research shows that 91% of men who give flowers to their significant other on Valentine's Day do so simply to show their love.  
*From Vallerie Hartfield*



Resource: [www.gourmetgiftbaskets.com/](http://www.gourmetgiftbaskets.com/)  
Blogpost/  
Posted by MackenzieFraser on Jan 2, 2022

What does it take to sell a bag of fertilizer? - A gardener in need, the product they need, a name they can trust, and EYE APPEAL.

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day