



# Horti-Bull

## HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN

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**NEW WEB DOMAIN: [mensgardenclubofsa.org](http://mensgardenclubofsa.org)**

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Todd Mernin

### From the President

Greetings fellow gardeners.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all for attending our previous months meeting held at our new location north of 410 on Nacogdoches Rd. I also would like to thank David Rodriguez of the Bexar County Agricultural Extension Service for speaking and fielding questions about plants, planting, and plant characteristics. The speech was informative and thought provoking. Rarely do people leave one of his lectures with A) unanswered questions or B) less knowledge than what they came with. We as a club are fortunate to have such knowledgeable supporters and contributors. I look forward to hearing Marybeth Parsons from the Bexar County Master Gardeners at our October meeting. Her topic will be "Fall is for Planting Texas Superstar Plants". See more on the Texas Superstar program on page 3. We are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers that preform the research and propagation of these plants. The incorporation of Texas Superstar plants into a landscape are A) hardy and B) often time drought tolerant, thereby using less water.

It has finally started to cool down: Fall has arrived! Now is the time to pull those rakes out from the shed and be ready for the onslaught of leaves. I try to rake some and mulch some. It is like a form of calisthenics and cleaning combined and I love it. I have pulled my tomato plants and replaced them with several forms of jasmine, creeping lantana and small Mexican petunias. I will replant some tomato starts in pots with cages for mobility for the upcoming winter. Lets hope we don't get another winter like last year. Those of you among us who are having successful crops please share your success stories and varieties with us either at a meeting or by email. We would love to hear from you. Until we meet again, keep digging weeds and planting plants. Todd

*See Todd's Flower of The Month on page 2.*

Page 1

### Malcolm Beck Tamalada, 23 Oct

Come join us at our annual Malcolm Beck Tamalada on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Barbara Lamm's home at 6462 New Sulphur Spring Rd. The festivities will start at 11am and we'll be there till we get tired. It is a very peaceful setting and just a joy to attend. You don't have to bring a thing! However, if you wish, you can bring your favorite dessert or picnic dish. The club is furnishing the tamales, beverages, and the beans. Wear your comfortable clothes because it is all outdoors, with a giant slide, and plenty to see – and if you are nice, Barbara might give us a guided tour. A map is provided for those not familiar with the location.

### MGCSA Coming Events

**October 5th:** National Night Out. We will have our Children's Mobile Garden in Hollywood Park at the Voigt Center, 701 El Portal.

**October 7th:** General meeting at the Place of Grace Fellowship on Nacogdoches Rd. Meet and greet at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm. See page 2 for our speaker and topic.

**October 16th:** Herb Festival at The Pearl. See page 3 for more information.

**October 23rd:** Malcolm Beck Tamalada at Barbara Lamm's home.

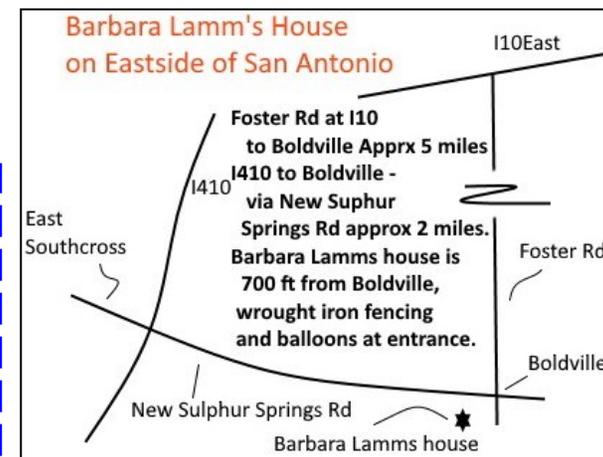
**November 7th:** Market Days in Hollywood Park at the Voigt Center, 701 El Portal.

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

### Refreshments for our October meeting

*M-Z it's your turn*

We encourage the M—Zs 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 pitches in help!





## Calvin's Corner

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

### HortiBull Gardening Calendar for October

The first of the month is the recommended time to fertilize the lawn with "winterizer" fertilizer with a 3-1-2 ratio of nutrients (such as 18-06-12). A "winterizer" lawn fertilizer has a fast release nitrogen source and is designed so that the nutrients can be taken up by the grass plants and organized so the plant can use them in the winter for cold tolerance and in the spring for green-up.

It is recommended that a preemergent herbicide be applied to the lawn and shrub border on August 1 to prevent germination of bedstraw, rescue grass, thistles, henbit, chickweed, and other winter weeds. If you missed that recommended date, it may still be use-

ful to apply a preemergent, especially if the targeted weeds have not begun to germinate. The popular herbicides Amaze and XL will be difficult to find because the plant in China that manufactured them reportedly was damaged. Look at the label of Dimension or the new product "Crew" to see if they will address the weeds that dominate your landscape. Mark August 1 on your calendar for a timelier application next year.

Another option is to mow your winter weeds and let them serve as the winter lawn. This works especially well if you have shallow soil and lots of shade that challenges the regular lawn. Rescue grass, horseherb, and annual bluegrass fill this role of a sustainable winter lawn especially well because they respond well to mowing, do not require supplementary watering and are attractive even in poor soil situations.

Your warm weather zinnias and begonias will continue to bloom well in October, but it is also a good time to plant the cool weather annual flowers. Consider snapdragons, stocks, sweet peas, alyssum, dianthus, petunias, and calendula in the sun. Later in the month or November plant pansies. The shade blooming primula and cyclamen usually do best if they are planted in November. Stocks, sweet peas, and alyssum are especially desirable because of the fragrance they produce.

You will be able to continue to harvest peppers, okra, and eggplant in October, and later in the month even the large size tomatoes should begin maturing fruit. Our tasty Ruby Crush and BHN 968 cherry tomatoes will be into heavy production. If you did not plant the winter vegetables in September, do so now. Use transplants for broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, collards, and Swiss chard. Rutabaga, radishes, lettuce, English peas, beets, carrots, and turnips can be planted by seed. Prepare the soil for both the vegetable and flower gardens by incorporating 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of slow-release lawn fertilizer into every 100sq. ft. of bed.

Spread any remaining wildflower seeds into an area receiving full sun and where the applied seed will reach the soil surface.



CORAL PLANT



MEXICAN PLUM

**About the TAMALADA  
Page 1  
About the Herb Fest  
Page 8**

Page 2

## MGCSA Officers for 2021

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Our guest speaker for the October meeting will be Master Gardener Marybeth Parsons. Her topic will be 'Fall is for planting Texas Superstar Plants'.



**No matter where your home is located, the key to a thriving, water-saving landscape is one that works with — not against — its natural characteristics.** *By Juan Soulas*

Nestled in the Texas Hill Country, San Antonio's booming northwest side is a prime location for a specific landscaping challenge: thin or shallow soils. But all is not lost.

As far as plant selection goes, the most important decision is how much of your landscape will be native vs. non-native. After all, the reason those beautiful limestone ledges are visible in the first place is because the soil eroded long ago. Although builders are required to add four inches of topsoil for lawns, most of it washes away after a few seasons.

Going native is the most logical choice as it retains the beauty and character of the landscape that attracts so many to live there in the first place.

A [native plant palette for Central Texas](#) is adapted to our natural surroundings — in this case limestone outcroppings with alkaline, shallow soils. Native plants require the least amount of water and maintenance.

If you opt for a non-native landscape, the single element that will have the greatest impact on water use and maintenance is the amount of lawn you have.

Turf or any non-native vegetation requires a substantial amount of water (50 percent to 70 percent more) and soil to ensure proper plant growth. The ideal soil depth is at least six inches. This helps retain moisture longer and encourages deeper root growth. Anything less will require more frequent watering.

No matter where your home is located always consider the consequences of the landscape choices you make. Ask yourself one simple question: Are you working with the natural surroundings or against it?

Juan Soulas is a conservation planner for San Antonio Water System. Since joining SAWS in 2007 his duties have focused on residential water use. He works with his Conservation colleagues to help customers find ways to reduce outdoor usage without compromising the health and aesthetic quality of their landscapes. Juan also coordinates engaging outreach efforts with SAWS' conservation partners -- Bexar County Master Gardeners, Gardening Volunteers of South Texas, San Antonio Botanical Garden and Mitchell Lake Audubon Center – to increase community access to vital conservation information.

**NOTE:** To find the 'native plant palette for Central Texas', mentioned in paragraph 4, just type **Plant Search Garden Style San Antonio** into your search engine.

The article above came from the **SAWS GARDEN STYLE San Antonio** Website This is another great location for expert gardening and water saving information.

Rainbow Gardens logo featuring a colorful rainbow arch over a garden scene with flowers and a sunburst. Text includes "Ronnie Grell Managing Partner", "TEXAS CERTIFIED NURSERY PROFESSIONAL", and address "2585 Thousand Oaks San Antonio, TX 78232 494-6131".

**RAINBOW GARDENS also at 8516 Bandera Road**



President Todd Mernin presents Ivan Roman the President's Trophy. It was late in being presented because of the trials and tribulations of the pandemic. Ivan is our Webmaster, Zoom Master, speaker seeker, and the go-to guy for any data problems.

## -Speaker: David Rodriguez Discusses Gardening and Answers Our Questions

By Jeff Brown

David Rodriguez, our guest speaker, spoke directly to us rather than using a microphone and amplified sound system. He answered questions and provided information on gardening which generated much discussion for our attendees at the September 2, 2021 meeting at the Place of Grace Fellowship.

Your author was able to record much of this speech in response to write this article.

I hope David will see this and suggests fixes to any errors.

David, a Master Gardener, is from the Texas A&M Agri-Life program and was here as part of their outreach program. He is a great speaker with an excellent knowledge of horticulture and gardening. He answered questions asked and gave us seasonal guidance on what to do in our gardens.

Right off the bat, John Opiela asked what type of flowers should we be planting now (Sep 2) or in the next few months. David noted that July and August are very hot. He talked some about an arrangement of blooming plants that club member Al Del Rio brought to this evening (*the author took footage of this bouquet and Al's description of it later during the meeting*). It contained many types of plants that are blooming now. This included 2 colors of 'beauty-berry', purple and white) and many others. This included shrimp plant and chili pequin (*the author wonders why the chili pequins aren't in the berry phase by now - the cold weather?*). He talked of annual flowers for the Fall,

Starting with marigolds (*the author planted them years ago, they come up easily from seed, and bloom well; but need to be deadheaded (remove dead blooms)*). They should go to the first frost. Next he discussed the Laura Bush petunia, and the latiqua? (*an Africanized blue petunia?*) which are both Texas Superstar plants. The Laura Bush petunia has a large blue flower that is a 'receding' bloom (*author does not understand this*). It blooms in the morning and is very fragrant. You can see the different plants on old German places and how they bloom against their backgrounds. Madagascar periwinkles are annual plants blooming there very well now. We may see some seasonal annuals near the end, like portulaca; but it is now time for perennials. By September we should be seeing all sorts of beautiful perennials around town like Mexican bird-of-paradise, plumbagos, tecomas. David was asked, when is a good time to plant? When it feels a bit cooler, like early November, or

mid October. There has been a change in what we are supposed to plant, per the market. We formerly planted healthy green plants. Now everyone wants already blooming plants (that does tell you what color you will have). These plants are grown in very happy environments initially; but when transferred to nurseries or big box stores they may be less happy and not look so good. We've been very lucky to have locally some very good nurseries like Fanicks and others. Or you can pinch a leaf, because the old way of testing plants was to ensure they had good leaves knowing that then the blooms would come. *Your author observed the 3 Mexican firebush plants he had, seemed to die in the severe February weather, but since late August they've come back to life! Some of the firebush answer may be in David's words.* Long ago gardener Greg Grant went to Belize and brought back 12 varieties of Hamelia (firebush). He was also responsible for putting gold star Esperanza on the market, a Texas superstar. About 3 or 4 hamelia plants are at the Botanical Gardens today.

Dave described how to help cold damaged plants recover. If there is mulch nearby, David says you need to move the mulch away from the plants. This allows the soil temperature to increase as the sunlight shines on the ground. You must be patient (*I did nothing to help my firebushes; like no mulch in the first place, so I was lethargic enough to be patient*). David said even by June, large Washingtonia palms were still being assumed dead. Many of those were on Hildebrand, but many came back from July on.

The Fanicks were a major factor in starting the Texas Superstars. Eddie Fanick said, "boys, keep your eyes open". A lot of great plants came from this. A major problem was getting these plants into mass production. When do you collect seed? When do you make cuttings? I think he said you cut off near the tips, then cut half of the leaves, and have a 3 inch shoot. Put them in water, perlite and rooting hormone in containers. Frank Rios asked about plumbagos. David says you cut off the tender tips, then take off the leaves and blooms from the rest.

A club member said she has Walker begonia, and loves it. It has grown quite large and is another Texas Superstar plant. David said you don't want a lot of fresh green growth soon above the ground for a cutting. Instead remove that growth and let the cutting put it's energy into developing roots below the ground. David says you don't want to develop the roots in water (water roots). These may not do well upon transplantation from the water. Instead stick them in the ground (provided wounds have healed first). He said that 'Whopper begonia' was a good early one. For quite a while the periwinkles (before Cora) were

planted too early, drenched too much with sprinklers. Soon the fungal disease would decimate the periwinkles. This is how cora vinca came about says David.

When the cocktail begonias were developed, it took a lot of time and drinking to pick their commercial names, like vodka, gin, and whiskey. Leaf color has also influenced the names. The whopper begonias are twice the size of cocktail begonias of earlier years. Twice the leaves, twice the plants, twice the blooms. The whoppers planted in early spring can adapt to sun. Club member Al del Rio said another good begonia is the dragon series, which he has had the last 2 or 3 years. David commented that many of the dragon begonias started out in baskets or hanging containers but have been used more now for landscape locations. They look good and have a slightly different leaf.

Joe Shinnars had a question: the Changsha tangerine nearly died in our February cold spell. Joe cut all the branches and says now the tree looks good. He talked then about Dr Moi at the Botanical Garden (*famous to me for his large, flowered hibiscus*) who David said was a genius and was an unbelievable plant breeder. Citrus is uniquely different from most plants. Most plants are heterozygous, seeds from a parent may not produce similar plant progeny if seeds from those parent plants are planted. So many trees, like pecans, are grafted to ensure the nuts are the same genetically. Most citrus are grafted (inverted grafted) onto sour orange rootstock. None of the Changsha trees are grafted, so they will come back true to type. Moi figured that Changsha is the cold heartiest citrus. Tree. The problem is the fruit are loaded with seeds. Dr. Jerry Parsons suggested crossing the Changra with other plants, especially with mandarins to make a better fruit. *Continued page 5*

### What is a Texas Superstar? A Superstar that defies Texas heat.

These plants have to show superior performance under the tough growing conditions in Texas, while receiving "minimal soil preparation, reasonable levels of water and no pesticides." ... Once a plant meets these requirements, they get stamped with the Superstar label.



October Speaker *Continued from page 4*

So Moi did that for 5 years and came up with the cold hardy Satsuma Mandarins with reasonable seed content. *This includes the Orange Frost, of which the author has one.* Only two major citrus growers are left in Texas. There was a large citrus industry over by Houston. In the 1920's it froze so they moved the industry to Fort Bend County, and it froze again in the 1950's. Now the industry is down by the Rio Grande. David says they work with people north of Beaumont. Some of the world's best grapefruit comes from the Rio Grande valley. On citrus, if the new growth after freeze dieback is big straight branches growing straight up with big leaves and big thorns; then you're likely looking at sour orange root stock growth. Good oranges will not be produced. If you see three little leaflets that indicates flying dragon sour orange root stock. *The author has noticed straight branches with big leaves and a few big thorns, but no leaves of three. So what is this? The author's best guess at first was root stock due to the low altitudes of the branches origins, but he bought the Orange Frost soon after introduction, and David said the early ones were not grafted.* Hopefully by next April or May David said we can go to Dr Steimetz's grafting seminar at Fanicks' Nursery and learn how to take the buds off one cirrus and do an inverted T bud graft onto these root stock branches and see if it works. John Opiela asked about Rodeo Orange Frost with thorns. David said when we first introduced them here they had thorns. Since then the thorns have been selected almost out of the Orange Frost.

Paul Huegel asked what the Meyer's Lemon is. It is actually a combination of a sweet orange and a lemon. The Improved Meyer's Lemon has a viral resistance and is incredible, said David. Paul asked about grafting, and then asked can he have a fruit cocktail tree, which could have lemons, limes, oranges and other citrus added by grafting them onto one tree. There are problems with multiple grafted trees, or cocktail trees. One is making sure they're suitable for us. A second problem is properly pollinating all the varieties in the cocktail. It is often hard to grow one, much less 3 cocktail varieties. And if one grows faster than the other one you will have to prune a lot to get the right mix. There are enough problems that the cocktail trees should be regarded as novelties. Al Del Rio told us citrus is the host plant for the largest North American butterfly, which has black and white stripes. The caterpillars on the leaves look like moving bird poop, that is actually the larva of the giant Swallowtail Butterfly. David commented the butterflies look almost like hummingbirds as they're so huge. David talks about how species of butterflies have to have specific plants, or groups of plants, they can use to host their larvae. So

David poses a dilemma: do I let my passion flower be devoured, or do I allow them to have beautiful butterflies.

David mentioned to have Bt, which is bacillus thuringiensis, named for the Thuringia part of Germany where it was found. The bacteria mess up the insects' guts, so we need to be careful to target the correct insects/plants. Al Del Rio told us his grandmother killed all the caterpillars since they were eating her plants. A question from a club member was 'my squash plants look beautiful but they don't make squash'. Squash, cucumbers and melons are all in the same family and they have male flowers that open first, then female flowers that open up later. So the bees visit the flowers, pick up the pollen, then add the pollen to the female flowers later. So, do squash pollinate more readily during warmer weather? David said there's lots of male flowers, but the females flowers don't like the summer heat so much. David said we have flowers blooming 12 months out of the year, building up a beneficial supply of insects and birds, etc. David said "when she said she had the same squash plants as this past spring" then the plants should be pulled out after 42 to 45 days. Even though they're still blooming. David said fruiting is a dwarfing and rejuvenation process. So for Turk's Caps and other major perennial plants the rule of thumb is in early March cut back, especially if we have had a mild winter. The tecomas and so on may be 12 feet tall after a mild winter, but have few blooms. So we cut back the plant to accelerate the growth (this leaves the roots alone). So you should cut them down by about a third or so. So when you cut the plant down, don't go below where the leaves are. You must leave leaves on the plant. We could have a frost by Halloween, but usually more in November. When you cut back the plant you rejuvenate. Evergreens should not be cut as much as in March. Use sharp tools. Roses should be done in early March. Ed Elbel commented that he had some tender bamboo just last week. David says red oaks and many plant were ready to come out and then the cold hit them hard and that many plants that they thought would be back by

June or July are just coming back now. (*Editor – my Mexican firebush have only come back to heights of 1 to 3 feet in recent weeks*). Even Segó palms are still coming back.

David said be careful with young fruit trees that have many fruit and few leaves. You will slow that plant down, so you need to remove some excess fruit or nuts. On citrus a rule-of-thumb is 42 leaves equals one fruit. You should have about 6 inches between each fruit. So over cropping can be an issue, leave a few and take a few off. Tomatoes are 90% wind pollinated. You can shake and move the cages early in the morning, when the pollen is more viable, to help pollination. Dave said it takes about 7 times for the bee to pollinate the female flower. John Opiela asked what vegetables should we plant now. Dave distinguished between warm and cool weather vegetables. Warm weather vegetables include tomatoes and squash, green beans, peppers; vegetables with seed bearing fruit. The warm weather crops should go in this week (current date: Sep 2). David said we grow a lot more vegetables here in the Fall than in the Spring. In springtime, Jan – Mar 15 is the cool weather. March 15 to May 1 is warm weather. Broccoli transplants can be put out Jan to March 1. When we put out cool weather crops; we put them out in Sept to shoot for Thanksgiving dinner; and put them out October to shoot for Christmas. That applies to cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, peas, and root crops like carrots, beets, turnips, rutabagas, and potatoes.

**My apologies, I missed the last few minutes of the presentation because of poor quality audio on my recorder and room echoes.**

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## A bathtub in the garden?

A few months ago - in March, Robert dragged in a bright pink bathtub which he had found on the street outside. Knowing that I plant and grow all sorts of vegetables in old stock tanks, he thought I could find a use for it. Those vegetables which like a warm climate, such as cucumbers, squash and peppers, all do very well in old tanks. So we lugged it over and out of the way, to where my three compost piles are at the farthest corner of the back garden. I had too much material for compost heap number 3, so we started to load up the bathtub: sticks and cutoff finger-thick branches on the



bottom, kitchen scraps on top, a smattering of cheap topsoil and lime on top, followed by twigs, kitchen scraps, pulled weeds—watered it now and then. Not that I needed a fourth compost pile, but it's a shame to waste a good bathtub. The vegetables will have to wait.

Coming back from Ireland 3 months later I went to check out the compost. Imagine my surprise and amazement when I saw how rich and ripe the bathtub compost was! It's dark brown, completely broken down and ready for use. Wow. That's enough for two 14 ft x 3.5 ft raised beds.

Beautiful. Next time I'll have to also make compost tea - there is a drain hole on the bottom of this pink bathtub. So, if you find a bathtub out on the next junk day, don't hesitate to help yourself.

From Jane McDaniel



## 9 Impressive Health Benefits of Pumpkin.

From Vallerie Hartfield

Resource: Healthline, Written by Ryan Raman, MS, RD on August 28, 2018.

Pumpkin is a type of winter squash that belongs to the Cucurbitaceae family. It's native to North America and particularly popular around Thanksgiving and Halloween. In the US, pumpkin typically refers to Cucurbita pepo, an orange type of winter squash. While commonly viewed as a vegetable, pumpkin is scientifically a fruit, as it contains seeds. It's nutritionally more similar to vegetables than fruits.

1. Highly Nutritious and Particularly Rich in Vitamin A: Pumpkin is high in vitamins and minerals while being low in calories. It's also a great source of beta-carotene, a carotenoid that your body converts into vitamin A.

2. High Antioxidant Content May Reduce Your Risk of Chronic Diseases: Pumpkin contains the antioxidants alpha-carotene, beta-carotene, beta-cryptoxanthin and many others, which may protect your cells against damage by free radicals.

3. Packs Vitamins That May Boost Im-

munity: Pumpkin is high in beta-carotene, which your body turns into vitamin A. Studies show that vitamin A can strengthen your immune system and help fight infections. Pumpkin is also high in vitamin C, which has been shown to increase white blood cell production, help immune cells work more effectively and make wounds heal faster. Pumpkin is also a good source of vitamin E, iron and folate—all of which have been shown to aid in the immune system as well.

4. Vitamin A, Lutein and Zeaxanthin May Protect Your Eyesight: Pumpkins' high vitamin A, lutein and zeaxanthin contents may protect your eyes against sight loss, which becomes more common with age.

5. Nutrient Density and Low Calorie Count May Promote Weight Loss: Pumpkin is packed with nutrients and yet has under 50 calories per cup (245 grams). This makes it a nutrient-dense food. It's also a good source of fiber, which may suppress your appetite.

6. Antioxidant Content May Lower Your Risk of Cancer: Pumpkin contain carotenoids, which function as antioxidants. These compounds are linked to risks of stomach, throat, pancreas and breast cancers. *Continued on page 8.*

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Attendance: September 2, 2021, 30 Members, 1 Guest

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

Sick: Please pray for all 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: a **BIG THANK YOU** to **Marion See** for organizing the refreshments, and to all who brought goodies and drinks.

**Children's Vegetable Garden Program:** The children have planted tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, squash, beans, carrots, cucumbers, cilantro, radish, and marigolds.

Gardening Experience and Interests: What is your passion? Please share it with us at the meeting, on the website, [www.mensgardenclubofsa.org](http://www.mensgardenclubofsa.org), or send information to Larry Cromer at [tcrolmerc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tcrolmerc@sbcglobal.net).

From Vallerie Hartfield

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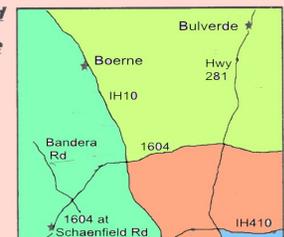
**Hours of Operation:**

**Mon. - Sat.**

**8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Sun. (seasonal)**

**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**



## Flower of The Month

I am profiling two plant species this month for those who love flowers both now and in the future. The first is the plant (Shrub) called the **Coral plant** or fireman's hat, the Latin name is: **Erythrina** (er-ith-ry-nuh) **bidwillii** (bid-WIL-lee-eye). This plant is a prod-

uct of hybridization in Australia. The locals both here and other southern states note its high resiliency to low temperatures and hardiness. It is noted to be a source of food for humming birds.

The second plant is the **Mexican Plum**/understory tree whose Latin name is: *Prunus Mexicana*. This understory tree is noted to get 15 to 20 feet high. This tree is a great source of nectar during it's blooming

and a great source of food for insects, birds and small animals. It is also considered a native, therefore less soil amending and drought tolerant. *Pictures are on page 2.*



## MGCSA 52nd Installation of Officers & Awards Party

Please keep top portion as your reminder. Mail the bottom portion only..

Date: Thursday, December 2nd, 2021. Hospitality 6pm, Dinner at 6:45

Place: The Place of Grace Fellowship, 2938 Nacogdoches Rd, an alcohol free facility.

Mail Checks to: Vallerie Hartfield, 2410 Monticello Court, SA, TX 78223 210-240-1466

No reservations or refunds after 4 November 2021 . *Thank you for your cooperation!*



### HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS GATHERING

LET'S CELEBRATE THE WARMTH OF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WITH THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB POTLUCK CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION DINNER. THE MGC WILL SUPPLY THE APPETIZERS, MEATS AND BEVERAGES FOR THE EVENING. PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH TO SHARE AND HELP FILL THE TABLES WITH YOUR HOMEMADE SPECIALITY. WE WILL HAVE TABLES DECORATED WITH A VARIETY OF DESSERTS TO CHOOSE FROM.

**SO, LETS MINGLE AND JINGLE** TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH ALL OUR GARDENING FRIENDS.

PLEASE RSVP TO DARLENE AT 815-436-3970 WITH YOUR CHOICE OF SIDE DISH OR IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF AN IDEA OF WHAT TO BRING. DINNER IS \$10.00 PER PERSON. TO GIVE US AND THE CATERER TIME TO SET THINGS UP, WE ASK YOU TO RSVP BY NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> 2021.

*Clip here and mail FORM AND CHECK with your reservation. PLEASE PRINT OR WRITE LEGIBLY.*

MEMBER Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle whether SPOUSE or GUESTS(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**.



**The Benefits of pumpkin, continued from page 6.**

7. Potassium, Vitamin C and Fiber May Benefit Heart Health: Studies have shown that people with higher potassium intakes appear to have lower blood pressure and a reduced risk of strokes—two risk factors for heart disease. Pumpkin is also high in antioxidants, which may protect “bad” LDL cholesterol from oxidizing. When LDL cholesterol particles oxidize, they can clump along the walls of blood vessels, which can restrict your vessels and raise your risk for heart disease.

8. Contains Compounds That Promote Healthy Skin: Pumpkin is high in beta-carotene, which acts as a natural sunblock. It also contains vitamins C and E, as well as lutein and zeaxanthin, which can help keep your skin strong and healthy.

9. Incredibly Versatile and Easy to Add to Your Diet: Pumpkin, once sliced and cut, can be easily roasted, pureed into soup or baked into pies. Its seeds are also edible and highly nutritious.



**John, you know good and well I told you 'only one question.'**

**But David, those others were observations, not questions!**



**Al explains his latest arrangement. Ivan and wife Isabel show off THEIR President's Trophy.**



### The Charles M Bartlett Endowment

By Pau D Huegel

The Charles M Bartlett Endowment is named after the MGCSA longest serving member who has already done more than his fair share in giving his time and talent to the Club. Charles was registered as the first Men's Garden Club of America (MGCA) Life Member in 1975 when the San Antonio Chapter was chartered under the national MGCA. He actually chaired the committee that developed the Constitution and By-Laws for the Club which have endured the test of time with only some modification when the MGCSA became an independent garden club. As a proven leader in what was then the original garden club in San Antonio, Charles was also on active military duty where he applied his military leadership, skills and love of gardening to help make the San Antonio Chapter of MGCA one of the best in the nation. Over the 46 years as a member of the Club he has served on many key committees at the regional and local level, the Horti-Bull Editor (10 years receiving national Certificate of Excellence in Journalism every

year as editor), Club President (1988), expert presenter on tropical and semi-tropical plants, (awarded Presidents Award for growing a large species of hibiscus), Science Fair Judge and horticulture entrepreneur. His interest in promoting horticulture among the youth was perhaps what led him to establishing the endowment.

We are proud to have been active participants in the Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair (ARSEF) for thirty-five of its sixty-five-year history. One of our most important goals of the MGCSA is to foster the spirit and passion for horticulture and the science of botany with the youth of the Alamo Region. By providing judges for the ARSEF, we are inspired by the quality of research and enthusiasm of the entrants over the years.

Charles Bartlett has donated all Botany Awards money for the past couple years. He told me at last years Fair in which he participated as a judge that judging at the science fair brought back fond memories of when he was an entrant himself. With that spirit dedication and giving, Charles approached the MGCSA Board early this year with

his desire to set up a more permanent endowment for aspiring winners in the Botany category at the ARSEF. The Board was elated with his generosity and voted to establish the endowment as the **Charles M Bartlett Endowment** which will be managed separately from the Club budget account. The annual awards at the ARSEF will increase from four to six awards and the award itself will be designated as the **Men's Garden Club of San Antonio Charles M Bartlett Botany Award** in his honor.

As a judge myself for several the years I think it is one of most worthwhile things the Club participates in and it is well worth your time to volunteer as a judge. You do not need to feel like you must be an expert in botany to be a judge as the students do most of the talking and judges listen and deliberate as a group. The ARSEF usually occurs in late February every year, so give it some serious thought.

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 16 2021 HERBFEST AT THE PEARL

9am to 1pm

THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB WILL AGAIN BE AT THE PEARL HERB FESTIVAL. WE WILL BE SELLING A VARIETY OF BEAUTIFUL INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PLANTS. OUR MOBILE CHILDREN'S GARDEN WILL BE THERE ALSO.

WE WILL HAVE AN INSTRUCTIONAL GARDEN FOR THE CHILDREN SHOWING THEM HOW TO PLANT A VARIETY OF HERBS.

KEN WOLFGRAM WILL ALSO HAVE A TABLE WITH HIS HANDMADE POTTERY FOR SALE.

WE ENCOURAGE OUR MEMBERS TO SPEND AN HOUR WITH US AT THE BOOTH OR THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN, AND ON THE PEARL GROUNDS.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE PEARL

THANKS.  
815-436-3970

Darlene Badorski 1-