



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)

Volume LIV

November 2022

Number 11



Coming Events

November 3rd: Meeting at the San Antonio Garden Center. See speaker page 5.
6:30pm Hospitality 7:00pm Meeting

December 1st: Annual Christmas Awards and Banquet Party at the Oblate Renewal Center. See information page 5.



Robert McDaniel

President's Corner

Hey, it is November, well by the time of the meeting it will be. Hello gardeners, and club members.

The butterflies are out – all kinds: Viceroy, Monarch and Snub Nose and you and your flowers will enjoy them. Rain is now more a threat, but a welcome one. Temperatures are cooling, still there is lots of sun. November is a preparation month. The second Spring/Summer growing season is ending – I do hope some got a few tomatoes. This is still a planting and sowing season: putting out reseeding annuals, hardy perennials, and the “Cold Weather” vegetables or hardy standards: kale, cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce, radish, beets, turnips....and preparing the spring fruit trees.

The Men's Garden Club is also preparing. The November meeting is election meeting. I encourage all to come. Choose the leadership and future for the MGCSA.

As a club, we have not done bad this past October. There was the Butterfly Festival in Brackenridge Park on 8 October. Lovely weather, music, and Valerie as the standout promoting the Children's Garden. I wish to thank Paul for promoting the event.

The Pearl Herb Sale on 15 October was hot. The Children's Garden again stood out, and we began to sell again – the Grotto Green House got a little emptier.

Last, 29 October was the Malcom Beck Tamalada at Barbra Lamm's home. I know it was fun, but I have not seen Larry and John's photographs yet. See you there, be seeing you, or I saw you there.

Favorite flower.

Truth is, I have a hard time telling a begonia from a gardenia. Ok, I know which is which, but I confuse the names. Jane is the planter; I build things for planting.



Robert's San Antonio Hot House.

There are two easy things to build for a garden: raised beds and a cold frame. They should work together though the year – promoting growth and protection as seasons and weather changes.

I first encountered the cold frame in a 1960 edition of The Gardener's Encyclopedia. What I remember was about germinating seed

from zone 1 to 5, we are in 7. Most internet and garden catalogues promote cold frames as potted plant greenhouses. My cold frame is dirty, cheap and dedicated to function. It is a year-round garden aid – protecting from cold, severe rain, and adjustment providing shade in heat. In Ireland I have used old concrete frame boards and old windows. No angle to the window, but plenty of drainage to the sides (this is not a sealed BIO-SPHERE). Open in Spring and Summer yet closed for the cooler nights. Each Spring we return to re-seeded rocket, spinach, water cress. Rhubarb has spread and the strawberries in fruit.



Vicious fertilizer guard, Maxwell, at rest after another busy hour.



Calvin's Corner

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

Horti-Bull Gardening Calendar for November

Your tomatoes and peppers should continue to produce fruit until the cold weather arrives. Okra may still be producing small pods, but its production relates to day length more than weather and is declining as the days shorten.

If the first freeze is predicted for November, it is not a severely cold front, and you want to try to bring the tomatoes through it to add another 3 or 4 weeks of production period, prepare to cover the plants. Prior to covering the plants harvest all the full-size fruit and let it ripen in the house. Protecting the tomatoes from the first freeze is a gamble that sometimes works, and other times does not so it is best to salvage the full-size fruit.

The winter vegetables should cruise through the month as long as it is not too warm, and we get some rain. If you got your broccoli planted in early October and kept it fertilized and watered, you should be able to harvest the main head in time for Thanksgiving. The rest of the winter veggies will start producing their fruit after the broccoli. If you want to take advantage of the nutrition value of kale but it is not your favorite tasting green, mix it with chard or collards in salads and recipes.

If you have not planted spinach, put transplants in the garden at the first of the month. It generally takes about 8 plants to provide all the spinach to meet the needs of a family of four. Tall tomato cages work well for a trellis for English peas. Soak the seeds overnight before you plant them, I generally wait for December to plant onion transplants, but the plants are available now and more and more gardeners are planting them in November.

The choice of winter color plants is spectacular. For the sun there are several sizes of snapdragons and pansies plus dianthus, ornamental kale, calendula, alyssum, and stocks at nurseries as transplants. You can also plant sweet peas by seed for cut flowers with a pleasant fragrance. Stocks and alyssum also have a good fragrance. In the shade use cyclamen or primula for blooms. The colors of the cyclamen flowers make me think of the waxy show paint used by circus clowns. Even the foliage is special with silver and dark green tracing. Primula have colorful flowers like cyclamen and growth habits that resemble pansies. Both cyclamen and primulas bloom through most winter weather but they are expensive and slow to rebloom so be prepared to protect them with a fabric cover if temps below 28 degrees are forecast. November is normally a good time to plant trees and shrubs but be aware that the soil is dry from the hot rainless spring and summer so you must take special care to water frequently and deeply if you plant trees and shrubs before the rains return. In fact, make sure that trees and shrubs planted in the last 2 years receive special irrigation to keep their root system moist.

MGCSA Officers for 2022

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John Opiela	210-532-5963

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Other

EX Officio	Paul Huegel 210-493-9853
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Refreshments for November meeting.

M thru Z,

it's your turn. We encourage you 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!



Added especially for you. Beautiful decorations, plenty of delicious healthy food, delicious after dinner sweets (may not be so healthy), beautiful appointments, spirits aplenty, first class entertainment)

Please help by purchasing your ticket at the November meeting, so we can get an indication of the turnout.

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Welcome to the 53rd Installation of Officers & Awards Christmas Banquet.
 Date: Thursday, December 1st, 2022; Location is the: Oblate Renewal Center Dining Room, 5700 Blanco Rd (Across from the GROTTO Gift Shop, the building that we met in for several years); Candy Canes will light the way to the left side of the building and entrance to their beautiful dining room.

This year the Christmas Dinner will be professionally prepared by the chef and culinary staff at the OBLATE Center. The cost will be \$17.00 for each dinner. Hospitality 6PM and dinner at 6:30PM.

Mail checks to DARLENE BADORSKI, 9607 Ninas Ct, San Antonio, TX 78254. No reservations or refunds after 20 November. **Your Christmas Desserts and homemade goodies are welcomed for the dessert table.** Clip on dotted line and mail bottom portion and check to Darlene. WRITE LEGIBLY.

1. MEMBER

Full name _____ Phone # _____

2. SPOUSE/GUEST(S)

Full name _____ Phone # _____

Please circle spouse or guest.

Total amount rendered with this order _____



The Ballroom and entrance to the Oblate Renewal Center facility.



Monarch “Butterflies Are Free” To Pollinate

by Paul D Huegel

Some of us may remember the 1972 Goldie Hawn movie “Butterflies Are Free” which really did not have much to do with actual butterflies, but the Seventh Annual Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival had everything to do with a special butterfly which most of us take for granted, namely, the Monarch. I must admit that I was a little apprehensive about getting involved with an event that seemingly did not have much to do with plants, but I agreed to co-host a joint venture with the Gardening Volunteers of South Texas (GVST) at the urging of one of our newer members, Andrew Waring, who also happens to be the President of GVST.

A little background on this event might be in order. The festival took off seven years ago under the tutelage of a very dedicated and interesting woman named Monika Maeckle. Monika took an interest in monarch butterflies in October 2004 when she and her husband were on a Hill Country getaway on the Llano River attending a friends “tagging event”. At sunset, monarch butterflies began to cascade from the sky wherein the group caught them in nets and carefully removed them from the nets and tagged their wings then set them free. This was a epiphany moment for Monika which drove her to her passion of reading and researching everything she could on the monarch's annual migration to Mexico. What captured Monika's heart and much of her time was the incredible migration distance of the monarchs which can be up to 3,000 miles. Monarchs are important pollinators, and their migratory journey promotes greater diversity of flowering plants. Like many people I was unaware of this relationship even while watching the monarchs in my own backyard.

The festival event itself was very successful with more children and families than I have ever seen at any event we participated in. If it were not for Valerie Hartfield who attended another event earlier that morning in Brackenridge Park, we could not have managed the Children’s Garden section of the combined booths. I worked with some children before the official start at 10 am, but she handled the whole load the rest of the day with a constant flow of kids. With the venue situated in a picturesque area nestled between the miniature train station and the San Antonio River flowing through Brackenridge Park. Across the street from the zoo there were families with many children. Charles Bartlett and Al Del Rio brought many unique pollinator plants to sell which surprised me since event organizers were giving away free trees and butterfly attractors like tropical milkweed. Charles and Al sold out all the special hard to find plants they brought and said they plan on donating the proceeds to the club. The Children’s Garden gave away all the donated (thanks to Ken Wolfgram) spider plants we had and pots we brought for planting bean seeds. When we ran out of pots, I collected all the empty water bottles I could find

and made pots out of them. I made at least 30 or so pots. It was good that Andrew Waring remained with the GVST booth after setting it up since I was supposed to man it myself. As usual we made do with the volunteers we had but we could have used more because of the constant flow of people and especially in the Children’s Garden section. John Opiela, our volunteer extraordinaire, managed all the logistics with help from MGCSA President, Robert Mc Daniel and myself. The only disappointment beside the lack of volunteers was that more joint members did not take advantage of this interesting and fun event on a picture-perfect day. There was something there for everyone to enjoy. Even the Mayor made it to this event to honor the Monarch Matriarch, Monika Maeckle and her important mission. If invited again to the eighth-year festival, count me in and hopefully other club members from GVST and MGCSA will participate as well in the festivities.



A monarch butterfly on a Tropical Milkweed (Curassavica) from Charles Bartlett and Al Del Rio at the Butterfly event. The monarchs love this plant.



Botanical Garden’s Children’s Vegetable Garden Program

The children have planted all the vegetables for the fall and have been harvesting squash, green beans, cherry tomatoes, and Swiss chard. For the season, the garden is accented with scarecrows and different sizes of pumpkins and marigolds. They released ladybugs in their garden on 10/29/2022.

From Vallerie Hartfield

MEMBERSHIP

Attendance at the October 6, 2022, 35 Members, 4 Guests

Welcome New Member: None

Happy Birthday to all for November.

Healing and recovery to all who are sick.

Strength, comfort, peace, and love to all who are coping with losses.

HOSPITALITY

Thanks to all who brought food and goodies to share.

Thanks to all who donated plants to sell and share.

From Vallerie Hartfield

32nd Annual Herb Market at the Pearl

by Paul D Huegel

Herb Market went well despite logistical problems of setting up and tearing down on October 15, 2022. This was our fifth year as an invitee to showcase our Mobile Children's Garden and promote membership in the Club. This year we were specifically given permission to sell plants to raise money for the Club. Thanks to Ken Wolfgram and Robert McDaniel we had a surplus of plants to sell and did not have to buy too many plants. The event was scheduled to take place from 9AM to 1PM, but we needed to set up and tear down, which extended our day from 7AM to 3PM.



Linda Hollingsworth makes a couple of youngsters happy at the Mobile Children's Garden.

so John Opiela and myself could listened in while we were setting everything up, At the end of Bob's radio broadcast we took a group picture with him and he commended us for our work with the youth of San Antonio. He seemed very im-

There was a constant flow of people in a more confined space from previous years but we sold a respectable number of plants even though we were next to where the Herb Market plant sales were situated. Recovering from a recent surgery and against her doctor's orders not to bend over, Linda Hollingsworth took charge of the Mobile Children's Garden which was busier than usual this year. Linda got some help from Mary Martinez and Larry Cromer later in the morning. Robert and Jane McDaniel with a little help from yours truly managed the plant sales. Our real estate was right across from where Bob Webster was broadcasting for his Saturday early morning show on KTSA,

pressed with our Mobile Children's Garden and said that we are doing a worthwhile service for the "future gardeners of our community".

Thanks again to John Opiela and Robert McDaniel for their logistical support at the end of the event. We had to cart everything to the parking areas as the Pearl police would not allow

any vehicles in the area for safety reasons. For an event that is not considered to be a fund raiser we did pretty well in sales and had a good turnout of children. All in all, it turned out to be another worthwhile endeavor. My only regret was that more members of the Club did not support the event by showing up and promoting the club to potential new members.



Gang of five gardeners at the Herb Fest: Robert McDaniel, Paul Huegel, Bob Webster, John Opiela, and Andrew Waring. Bob Webster was doing his Saturday AM call in show on KTSA. Photo from John Opiela.

Up Rooted Gardens—November Meeting

This business was formed in 2016 by Nick & Liz Campanella with the idea that everyone can grow something edible somewhere. They believed that with a little help and good soil, anyone can grow their own food! They will present a short history of their garden, tips how to do it yourself; and other related subjects; plus questions from the audience.



Pumpkin Jokes

Why was the jack-o'-lantern afraid? It had no guts.
What do you get when you drop a pumpkin? Squash.
What did the pumpkin say to the carver? Cut it out.



How do you mend a jack-o'-lantern? With a pumpkin patch.

What is the best thing to put into a pumpkin pie? Your teeth.

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