



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

July 2022

Number 07



MGCSA Coming Events

Fall Home and Garden Show	30 Sep-2 Oct
Herb Fest at The Pearl:	23 October
National Night Out	TBD
Hollywood Park Market	TBD
Beck Tamalada	TBD (Usually in November)



Interim President's Corner

Robert McDaniel

The 2022 MGCSA Picnic just finished with great success. Please join me in thanking and congratulating the Board and General Members who made it possible. An attendance of over 60 members is spectacular. I am, however, in Ireland and could not attend. The picnic did coincide with Bonfire Night of St John's Eve here in Ireland - end of spring and a new season. In Ireland its days of sunshine (I hope - a lot of rain so far) and in San Antonio it's time for the Club to prepare for upcoming events: National Night Out, Hollywood Park Market, Herb Fest at the Pearl, and the San Antonio Fall Home and Garden Show at the Alamodome. Just as with any planting the harvest comes up fast and many hands are necessary. It is your volunteer service which makes this Club a great success. I look forward to seeing you at the August meeting and our many Fall events that follow.

Lifetime MGCSA member, Gregg Walrafen is recovering at his home in New Braunfels from surgery on his neck. Keep him in your prayers for a speedy and complete recovery. *From Larry Cromer*

Happy birthday to July born
Healing and recovery for all sick
Strength, comfort, peace and love to all to all who are coping with losses. *From Vallerie Hartfield*

Spiraea Prunifolia Flower of The Month

This plant is also known as bridal wreath, It has tiny carnation-like double white flowers that cover the bare branches in early spring. It is one of the largest of the spirea species. It is native to Japan, Korea, and China. They can grow and get 4 to 8 feet high and 6 to 8 feet wide. It's loose, arching branches give it fountain-like effect. These plants take at least 6 hours full sun and are adaptable to our area. They are a versatile landscape plant in that they are used for mass plantings, borders and as centerpieces for gardens. I have had these plants for several years and enjoy the spring abundance of flowers. They are pollinator friendly and deer resistant.



From Todd Mernin



Elena Shriner brought her friends Bobby Hammons and Richard Garcia to the picnic

Photo by Jeff Brown



>>>> IS NOW >>>>
Same location on 1604
Same Products & Service





CALVIN'S CORNER

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

Horti Bull Gardening Calendar for July

If this was the ordinary July Gardening Calendar, it would not be unusual for me to warn you to be ready for our first days of the year with 100-degree temperatures. Our 100-degree temperature days of the year usually arrive about July 1. This year they showed up in May and occurred frequently in June! Wouldn't it be wonderful if we did not experience any more and as long as we

are wishing, hope for some generous rains.

We are still in drought restrictions and the lawns do not look good unless you have been able to irrigate despite the drought restrictions. A more reasonable solution than a generous irrigation program may be a survival strategy. For St Augustine grass that means watering every 3 weeks. If you have zoy-sia, Bermuda, or buffalo grass you may be able to refrain from watering and let the grass go dormant. Those varieties are capable of recovering from a dormant state due to lack of water relatively quickly after the rains resume or water becomes available from another source. In addition to not using the limited water, the dormant lawns stay relatively weed free and do not need to be mowed.

In the vegetable garden okra, southern peas, and peppers are producing fruit as long as they receive adequate water. The spring planted tomatoes should be finished with their season and can be pulled in late June or the first of July. If you leave the tomato plants in the garden in July it often leads to spider mite at or disease development. Clear the old plants out so you can plant the fall transplants at the end of the month,

Anecdotally it looks like the old reliable Celebrity did the best in dealing with the heat and drought. They were prominent in the Top Tomato Competitions. Let's see what happens with the fall crop, I would expect that the Rodeo Tomato performs better than it did in the spring season.

Flowers have done well despite the heat and drought. In the sun the show is led by zinnias and Cora vinca. In addition to colorful beds and cut flowers, zinnias provide nectar for pollinators and seeds for the birds. The Cora vinca has overcome the threat from aerial phytophthora and is deer proof. Two other deer proof blooms for the sun are Angelonia and four-o'clocks. Both of those blooms also do well in the shade.

In addition to the Angelonia and four-o'clocks consider wax leaf begonias, caladium, coleus, and pentas for color in the shade. The Whopper begonia is a large-leafed, large flowered relative of the wax leaf begonia that makes a spectacular show in the landscape. If you can find it at an area nursery, give it a try.

The Monarch butterflies are still in a precarious situation in terms of their population levels. Do your part to help them restore and stabilize their population by having plenty of nectar plants on hand as they pass through our region on their way to the north in the spring and back to Mexico in the autumn. Some of the best choices in addition to zinnias are mistflower, porter weed, lantana, salvia, and milkweed.

It is not usually the Monarchs, but you will also notice that several of the other butterfly species will partake in a drink of water from the bird baths you have out for the birds. With this heat and dryness in July you can expect to see at least 10 different bird species at your water source every day. Cardinals are hard to beat but my favorites are the lesser goldfinches that also visit the sun-flowers.

MGCSA OFFICERS FOR 2022

President	Robert McDaniel	210-542-1888
1st V.P	Ivan Roman	210-845-7073
2nd V.P.	Vallerie Hartfield	210-240-1466
3rd V.P		
Treasurer	Phil Byrd	210-497-8044
Secretary	Ida Santiago	210-387-5092
Chaplain	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 Opiela	210-532-5963

2022-2024

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

Other

EX Officio	Paul Huegel
	210-493-9853
HB Advertising	Paul Huegel
Historian	Paul Huegel
Webmaster	Ivan Roman
HB Editor	Larry Cromer
	210-521-5350

Coming in next
month's Horti-Bull
Paradise Nursery

Paradise Nursery, L.L.C.

Quality Plants and Trees



Raymond - owner

14606 Jones Maltsberger
San Antonio, TX 78247

Bus: 210-490-1111
Paradisenurseryllc.com

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

MGCSA

Page 2

HORTI-BULL

2022 MGCSA Annual Picnic With Some Picnic History

by Paul D Huegel

Picnics are one of the many social gatherings that we all look forward to as a tightly knit group for camaraderie, good food, drink and fun. The annual picnic this year comes after a two year hiatus that was brought on by the COVID pandemic but we made up for lost time with a successful comeback picnic for 2022. Before I get into the specifics of this year's picnic maybe we can remember picnics of the past in a special way over 53 year history.

The Club was chartered in 1969 but it was not until 1973 when we had our first June picnic thanks to Malcolm and Delphine Beck who hosted the first picnic Tamalada at Beck's Organic Farm. While it was not referred to as a picnic per se it had all the makings of a picnic with a Tex-Mex flair. Sixty people attended this first June picnic and enjoyed the company of our gracious host and hostess, two of the earliest organic gardening experts in Texas. They made the Tamalada picnic an annual June event which continued to be hosted by them for twenty four consecutive years until 1997. It did not take long for the Tamalada picnic to grow in popularity. In just two years from the first picnic attendance grew threefold with 180 members and guests attending. In 1986 the Tamalada picnic introduced a new menu with barbecued chicken and brisket which pleased a crowd of 300 attendees. This was the largest gathering ever and set the stage for future picnics. In 1987 the Tamalada evolved into more of a traditional picnic with hot dogs and hamburgers being served. The Becks hosted these picnics with excellent help from many of the members who produced an outstanding meal and program. Part of the program was the judging of hanging baskets to be used in the Club's first participation in the Folklife Festival which was also held in June.

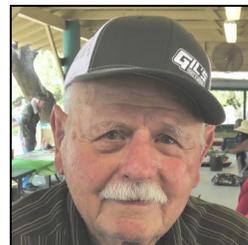
The Club celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 1989 with a grand picnic at the Beck's Farm and the Club honored the three remaining charter members, Dr. Robert Dewers, George Combs and Paul Offer. The highlight of this picnic was a guided tour of the Beck Farm and "compost and soil factory" proudly by Malcolm Beck. Malcolm was growing as a successful Gardenville business and was already featured in "Organic Gardening" magazine on a number of occasions. Beck's compost and organic soil business was considered to be one of the finest operations in the USA.

The 25th Anniversary picnic held at Beck's Gardenville was attended by 177 members and guests who enjoyed picture perfect weather. The 1995 annual picnic held at Beck's Gardenville was chaired by Gregg Walrafen who continued to serve as Chairman up until the current era. 1997 was the last year that the annual picnic was held at Beck's Gardenville Farm. It was a Tamalada picnic once again just as it had been 24 years before with 240 attendees. We will always be grateful to the Becks for their gracious hospitality for those 24 years. The June Tamalada picnic is no more, but the Beck's Tamalada in honor of Malcolm Beck is now an annual event in October held at the Beck's original San Antonio homestead which is now the home of MGCSA Director Barbara Lamm.

The 1998 June picnic was held at Camp Bullis and chaired by Gregg Walrafen who became a "permanent" chairman from that year forward. There was good BBQ, good weather and Earl Siebold assumed the duties as Master Chef for the

first time. The millennial 2000 June picnic held at Camp Bullis was postponed to July 8 because of bad weather. The BBQ was prepared by Lynwood Siebold and Rey Salazar. Earl Siebold, Bill Siebold and Frank Rios were actively involved in all aspects of the picnic. The 2001 annual picnic was again held at Camp Bullis and was a success involving most of the same volunteers with the addition of Joe Shiners. As always, whenever the Siebolds were involved, Joyce Siebold was behind the scene making sure everything ran smoothly.

The venue of the annual picnic changed in 2002 to take place at Mac Arthur Park and Gregg Walrafen managed to get perhaps the best pavilion in the park and has done so every year. Gregg has turned over this duty to Larry Cromer who secured Pavilion 4 again for this year's picnic. The 2022 picnic was held in what was expected to be threateningly hot weather in the 102 degree range so some people could not attend. We still managed to have a good turnout with 65 attendees and with the help of Ivan Roman, we were able to get good air circulation with large pavilion fans that he wired and got working to cool things down. Ivan also set up the sound system and we had music and a microphone for announcements and John Opiela's auction. We had a good selection of food with the barbecue meats procured by Leonard Martinez and prepared by Geraldo Salazar, under the supervision of our picnic Master Chef Rey Salazar who served us for 22 years. Like his dad Geraldo did a great job preparing the meats. We had a good selection of pot luck covered dishes and desserts with an international flair. There was also a good selection of adult beverages and soda thanks to Larry Cromer and yours truly. After gorging ourselves with good food and drink we had our plant sale and pavilion auction run by our Chief Auctioneer, John Opiela. He did his usual great job and off-set the cost of the picnic with bids and plant sales totaling over \$300. All in all, it was a successful picnic and I think we fulfilled the picnic goal of having a tightly knit group for camaraderie, good food, drink and fun. There was a lot of help in planning, setting up and tearing down with members like Vallerie Hartfield, Barbara Lamm, Elena Schriener, John Opiela, Frank Rios, Leonard Martinez, Larry Cromer, Mary Martinez, Ivan Roman, David and Darlene Badorski, Marion See and yours truly which made it the success it was.



Photos

By

Jeff

Brown



Smiling Faces at The Picnic

Upper Left CW: John Dieterich, Isabel Ramon, Jim Koch, Barbara Lamm, and John Opiela.

From Jane McDaniel on her Summer sojourn with husband Robert on Achill Island, Ireland. Jane IS Irish!

The greenhouse here at the house on Achill Island in Ireland's West is a garden shed which lost its roof in a Winter storm a couple of years ago. We put a PVC roof on it and it's pleasantly warm in there. Robert has stockpiled wood to make raised beds inside and as soon as those are made the tomatoes (sorts are "Moneymaker" and "Alicante") and cucumbers will be planted out into the earth. There's a currant bush which is dripping in dark fruit, that will stay in a pot. It over-winters well in this climate. I plan on growing the tomatoes and cucumbers up ropes attached to the roof beams. The PVC roof is weighted down with sandbags as the northwest winds here are legion.

On the plan for tomorrow is donkey poop/seaweed fertilizer: I'll be scouring the neighboring fields with a bucket for donkey poop, and the beach nearby for seaweed. All goes into a large 2 ft x 1 ft metal fish box, the seaweed cut up, water added and topped with cardboard. A stir now and then, and the fertilizer should be ready in 3 - 4 weeks. The same method with nettles, which grow profusely here.

We had some sweet, sweet carrots with dinner last night- their seeds were sown by a neighbor in early March, dug yesterday morning, those were 8 inches long. Great climate here for carrots and parsnips! In the cold frames

here are rocket, watercress, lettuce and nasturtiums, all fast growers. And all the herbs that I put in the herb patch last year survived the Winter: thyme, fennel, rosemary, mint and parsley. Surprise!

Every year on June 23 there are bonfires in the hills; it's an old pagan, Celtic custom, now a Christian one for St. John's Night. Robert has fed it with cut rhododendrons, a bed and an old wardrobe. We sat around the fire and toasted our toes while he worked the blaze. Afterwards we walked three times around the embers for good luck and took an ember to place in the vegetable beds for a good harvest. History past and present, it's Ireland.



Plants in the Greenhouse that's to be repaired after winter damage. Robert's bonfire on St John's Night bonfire, the only day of the year that bonfires are allowed. Tonight's bonfire consists of brush, chopped down tree trunks, and an old wardrobe.

Page 4

Ronnie Grell
Managing Partner

TEXAS CERTIFIED NURSERY PROFESSIONAL

RAINBOW GARDENS

2585 Thousand Oaks San Antonio, TX 78232 494-6131
Beautifying San Antonio, Since 1976

RAINBOW GARDENS also at 8516 Bandera Road

From bedding plants to trees, Milberger's has over 20 acres of specimen plants, trees and quality turf grass to meet all your gardening and landscaping needs.



MILBERGER
LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

Milberger's specializes in providing San Antonio with the very best plants, garden supplies, sod, water garden materials and trees.

Fresh Stock arrives daily.

Nursery Open
9 to 6 Mon to sat
10 to 5 on Sun



3920 North Loop 1604 E
San Antonio, TX 78624
(210) 497-3760

Three exits east of 281, inside 1604 next to the Valero station.

Watch for our WEEKLY AD SPECIALS at www.milbergernursery.com