



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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Robert McDaniel

From The President

The past and upcoming weeks are times of heart and effort, and all rewarded. The current activities are wonderful and overwhelming. St. Mary's University. Science Fair 17-19 Feb - Congratulations to Paul Huegel and Darleen Badorski for organizing and Charles Bartlett for his endowment/scholarships.

As this is written your club is involved in the San Antonio Spring Home and Garden show with a return of the Children's garden and plant sales. Again, I, as you, pause to recognize John Opiela for organizing booth volunteers and Al Del Rio for jumpstarting the return of plant sales.

Sunday 26 February is our second Irish Heritage Day - a great venue for more plant sales and membership recruitment.

There are two major events in March - SAWS Spring Bloom 11 March and the Hollywood Park Garage Sale 23-25 March. For each we need attending volunteers to interact with the public and as producers of plants/seedlings for future development.

My heartfelt thank you goes to Andrew Waring and the Gardening Volunteers of South Texas. Without Andrew and GVST we could not have returned to the Spring San Antonio Home and Garden Show. We are complementary in purpose and I greatly respect the GVST. GVST promotes plant awareness and application for clean water, vibrant soil and water conservation.

Thank you to all volunteers at recent and soon upcoming events. I wish I could list each of you. If I tried though, I know I would still miss someone.

P.S. It is now the Lenten Season. This is a time of peace and contemplation. Ill thoughts toward others have never brought joy. Instead, I ask all to contemplate peace, growth, and accommodation for there is always room enough in any garden for one more plant. Again, condolences to Marion on the loss of her mother Berny - praise to all.

Spring Bloom blossoms again.

March 11, 2023 SAWS Headquarters

The hiatus is history. The Bloom is back.



Coming Events

Monthly Meeting , March 2 at the San Antonio Garden Center.

6:30pm - fellowship/mingling

7:00pm - meeting begins

Speaker; Round Table of MGCSA members; see page 6

March Events:

March 11, Spring Bloom, see page 5

March 23, 24, & 25; Hollywood Park plant sale; see page 6



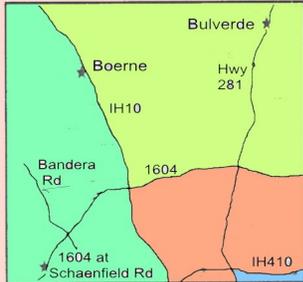
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Horti-Bull Gardening Calendar for March

From Dr. Calvin Finch

Everyone seems anxious to cut back the freeze killed foliage but one of the advantages of waiting until the new foliage emerges is that the birds and other wild-life use the freeze killed plants for cover and to seek food. If you can be patient wait until the new foliage begins to grow.

March is an important lawn care month. Prevent significant growth of sand burs and crabgrass by applying pre-emergent herbicide such as CREW or Dimension to prevent the germination of grassy weeds on sandy soil. Sand burs can be so persistent that it often works best if there are two applications, once about March 1 and one application in June.

It is too early to apply fertilizer to lawn grass. Wait until about May 1 or after you have mowed real grass twice, but what is very effective is to aerate the lawn and apply top dressing. If you use about one half inch of compost, the treatment does an excellent job of enriching the root area as the compost penetrates into the aeration holes and down into the root area.

St Augustine sod can be applied as soon as it is available but wait to seed Bermuda grass until May.

If your lawn is already infested with winter weeds mowing it every 2 weeks will often do an attractive job of producing a winter lawn, The weeds will decline in May with the arrival of spring warm temperatures.

In the vegetable garden you can plant potatoes early in March and green beans and summer squash later in the month, Keep your onions thinned and well fertilized. English peas should begin producing late in the month,

Wait until after mid-March to plant tomatoes in the garden. Potting them up until then will keep them growing. Place the plants in one-gallon containers and then shelter them in the sun but out of the wind until the mid-March to Mid-April in- garden planting time.

Many of our flowers took it on the chin with the cold spell in December but pansies, dianthus, and viola should be blooming well. Snapdragons looked terrible but they have made quite a recovery and you should expect the bloom to return this month. Sweet peas reseeded in February should also return to bloom.

Ronnie Grell
Managing Partner

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Refreshments for our FEBRUARY meeting,

A thru L

ITS 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!

RAINBOW GARDENS also at 8516 Bandera Road

Thirty- Seven Years and Still Judging

by Paul D Huegele

We are proud to have been participants in the Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair (ARSEF) for thirty- seven of its sixty-seven year history. The Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair (ARSEF) promotes interest in the pursuit of scientific inquiry among middle and high school students through an annual meeting and research presentation competition. Each year, more than 700 of the Alamo's best and brightest middle and high school students qualify for ARSEF out of more than 1,500 students competing at School and District Science Fairs. Through the fair, students network with like-minded peers and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) professionals and compete for prizes and awards. Independent entries are accepted if a student's school does not have a program on their campus. The Alamo Regional Academy of Science & Engineering is an organization of community and business volunteers whose purpose is to focus on STEM and to stimulate interest in STEM beyond class work. Anyone interested can share their passion for learning and science within our San Antonio community by joining the volunteer team. As an ARSEF Volunteer, you'll gain new skills and experience, meet interesting people, and enjoy a fun, fam-

ily-friendly atmosphere.

This is a great opportunity for people interested in meeting the next generation of young scientists from Central Texas. Volunteers need no specific qualifications and should be comfortable interacting with students. 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. This year is no different in that respect but much different in the manner in which judging is normally accomplished. It is always a challenge to pick our top four entrants but this year was even harder since we had to do it once again virtually for a third year because of funding issues. Judges Joe Shiners, Jeff Brown and yours truly sat at our computers and judged 14 Junior, 3 team, 6 Senior Botany and 4 Environmental Projects among the 250 total entrants. The monetary awards funded from the Charles Bartlett Endowment were \$150 for the first place Junior and Senior entrants and \$100 for the second place entrants which had to be mailed to five winners following a virtual Awards Ceremony. The winners of this year's MGCSA Charles Bartlett Botany Award included first place Senior Division, Teagan Korzeniewski, second place Senior Di-

vision, Benjamin Keller and a tie for second place in the Environmental category, Selbi Sapayeva, first place Junior Division, Lea Yuchnitz and second place Junior Division, Julian Banuelos.

In addition to the hard work of the judges who had to spend hours maneuvering around their computers, I want to thank Darlene Badorski for her part in organizing the event. Also, on another special note, I want to thank Charles Bartlett whose endowment funded all the prize money. As the longest serving member of the MGCSA, Charles has been a judge of the ARSEF at various times over the thirty- seven years we have participated. Charles indicated that judging at the science fair brought back fond memories of when he was an entrant himself. Charles embodies the spirit of volunteerism that has made our Club successful and endured the test of time.

I believe that this year's judging was excellent given the computer obstacles we had but hopefully next year we will be back to our normal judging in person. Thanks to all who made it a successful first event of 2023.



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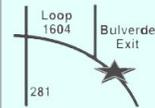
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MEMBERSHIP

Attendance: February 2, 2023, 29 members, 3 guests

Happy Birthday to all March births.

Healing and recovery to all who are sick.

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

HOSPITALITY

A heartfelt thanks to all who helped with setting up the refreshments and clean up at the February meeting and thanks to all who brought refreshments to share.

Benefits of Rose Petals for Natural Health and Beauty: Inside and Out Beauty

Rose petals are one of our favorite ingredients for giving a natural boost to your health and beauty. They look gorgeous and they have plenty of benefits when included in skincare or sipped in tea. Rosehip is high in Vitamin C-The rose hip plant is a brilliant source of Vitamin C-and while this amount is lessened when the petals are collected and dried, they still contain a beneficial quantity. Vitamin C supports skin cells against free radicals that cause signs of skin aging, as well as helping to fight back by increasing collagen production. For bouncy, firm skin, keep an eye out for rose petals in products.

Rose petals have a relaxing scent while you pick the scent up as a result of steeping rose petals for teas. They are in your creams or lotions, rose petals can help soothe a stressed, overthinking mind. If you're feeling a bit low, pop the kettle on or pamper yourself with a rose petal beauty product and you may find the ingredient leaves you feeling more up-lifted and comforted. You could try aromatherapy with rose based essential oils.

Rose petal tea can help to soothe a sore throat-While rose tea can be uplifting for your senses, it will also help to relieve a sore throat thanks to antioxidants. Create your own infusion using dried rose petals or indulge in a ready-prepped rose flavored brew.

Roses also tastes lovely. Try combining with a few peppermint leaves and honey to taste for a warming cup (or leave it to cool and add ice for an iced infusion perfect for warmer weather).

Studies have shown rose can boost a sluggish liver-If you feel your insides need a kick-start, Look to rose petals to help cleanse a congested and overworked liver. Its decongestant. Its' Antioxidant Properties will help to get everything moving and should decrease digestive issues.

Acne and breakouts can benefit from antibacterial rose petals. Not only does it naturally scent products, it's also antibacterial. This means it can get to work on inflamed or blemished skin, including acne, reducing redness and preventing more breakouts. It's also an anti-inflammatory, so can help to reduce puffy skin around eyes.

Article was taken from G Baldwin & Company

From Vallerie Hartfield



February Speaker

Our February meeting Speaker Mr. Tim Miller, a certified organic gardener, has spoken to us on previous occasions and talked about farming his five acre farm. This month, he spoke to us about his use of redwood wooden plot boxes to plant his tomato and vegetable gardens. He said he mostly grows heirloom varieties. Interestingly, he said that he hand waters all of his vegetables and further explained his method of collecting rain water. Following up on some questions, he said he uses the moon chart for planting and observes crop rotation. He described his use of soil, and peat moss and fertilizers for maximum plant growth and production. Mr. Miller's method of gardening always generates much interest, and he gives our members the opportunity to share their own experiences with vegetable planting and maintenance.



Jennifer Moore and Mynda Taylor's smiles show their appreciation for the February meeting



Feeding the birds

From Larry Cromer

Several Saturdays back, Calvin Finch in his Express-News column, featured birds and how and where to feed them. One location was to mount the feeder for observation ('bird watching') and that's what I did with this one. It is only about 4 feet from my front window and the small birds love it. And it likes only SMALL birds. It doesn't like large birds or squirrels. I have seen a squirrel sitting on top crying because it couldn't get to the bird food.

I can sit on my couch watching 'Gunsmoke' on TV and watch the birds feed at the same time.

The hiatus is history. The Bloom is back.

After three long years of “pandemic pause,” **Spring Bloom returns to SAWS Headquarters, Saturday, March 11!**

The free event is your prime opportunity to learn about gardening and landscape care from the pros — all while saving water. This year’s focus will be “What’s your GardenStyle?”

--To help you answer that question, we’ll showcase many ways that WaterSaver plants fit with your desired landscape look. And you can even shop for these tried-and-true varieties right there at the event.

--Local gardening experts will speak throughout the day, revealing their secrets to successful landscaping and how to choose a garden style that best suits your home’s terrain and character.

--We’ll also have demos on how to measure 200 square feet — you’ll need to know that so you can give up some grass, take advantage of our WaterSaver Coupons, and save hundreds of dollars on landscape plants and supplies.

--And if you’re curious about the new ConnectH2O electronic water meters SAWS has begun installing across the city, you can get an up-close look at this technology and how it can help you save water and money.

--As always, the first 1,000 adult guests will receive a free drought-hardy landscape plant. That’s in addition to the free admission and free parking.

Come celebrate the unofficial start to spring at the premier gardening event of the season!

Introduction/Comments/Words from SAWS Garden Style



Mike Stepp and Gary Ross are anticipating their next Spring Bloom customer.

Sometimes the crowds are so heavy you just have to take a cool, break. This beautiful lady knew how to use her umbrella.



March Speakers: We are in for a treat this month because we are honored to have five gardeners who happen to be MGCSA members that have a wealth of gardening knowledge. Al Del Rio, Paul Huegel, John Opiela, Joe Shinnars and Andrew Waring will share their experience with various aspects of planting, and there may even be some always welcomed “show and tell”. They will also entertain your questions and provide guidance to help in preparing our garden beds for spring planting.



Botanical Garden’s CHILDREN’S GARDEN PROGRAM

The plants are growing and the children are happy and asking many, many questions. The spring program began on February 18, 2023. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Please contact Vallerie Hartfield at 210-240-1466 if you are interested or want information.



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Hollywood Park plant sale

23,24, & 25 March are the dates for the Hollywood Park Plant Sale. Support this important event with your attendance, or **better yet, your participation**. We will have for sale the standards, also many unique hybrid tomatoes and flowering plants.



A group photo at the 2021 plant sale. A great time to relax, and to work.