



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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November 2022

Number 11



Coming Events

December 1st: Annual Christmas Awards and Banquet Party at the Oblate Renewal Center. **See map below.**

A recap of all 2023 events will be in the January Horti-Bull.



Robert McDaniel

President's Corner

Hello gardeners. I wish all had a peaceful and refreshing Thanksgiving – full of food, friends, and football – American or FIFA.

More than 22 September, Thanksgiving seems the better pivot from Summer to Fall for South Texas. Still, we are thankful

for the bounty of the land, growth of families and friendships, and the continued prosperity of our nation. This is reflected in our club. We completed Tamalada at the end of October with fine participation. I commend Barbara Lamm and her lovely daughters for its success. In mid-November there was a small show in Hollywood Park with Paul Huegel leading, assisted by Al Del Rio and Ken

Wolfgram.

This December our club celebrates Christmas and the beginning of 52 years of plants and service. The New Year follows close. Both are times of wishes, plans and resolutions. One of mine is for increased membership – we have been gaining, but we always need more. The second is for even more participation. The events we engage in earn for the club, more, they earn for you. These events place you in contact with gardeners and citizens in fun places; and as my mother would say “they get you out of the house.” Slightly less adventure than my days of jumping from second story windows, great fun!

Those gardening Adventures start in February and run strong through May. I ask you to join your fellow gardeners, your friends and volunteer.

The Botanical Garden's 'Children's Vegetable Garden'.

The children have been harvesting all of their vegetables. The spring season will be February 18-June 3, 2023. The Volunteers Meeting will be February 11, 2023. **Volunteers are always needed and welcomed.** Please contact Vallerie Hartfield at 210-240-1466 if you have questions or want information. **From Vallerie**

Plant of the month

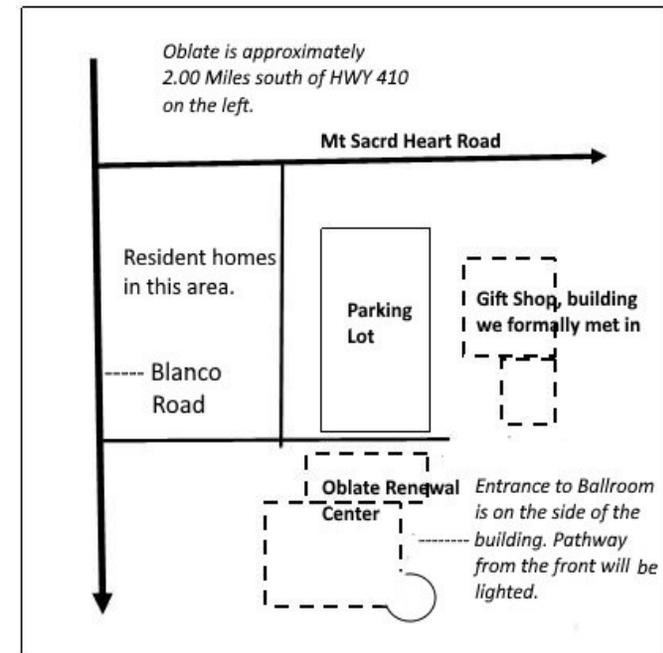
Plants, plants, plants!!! It is winter gardening planting time!! I know, put in kale, cabbage, beets, rosemary, onions, and pansies Maybe. Before I start that, I think about compost. Adding compost opens the packed Summer soil, feeding the new seedling and building the soil for Spring.

Yes, we use commercial compost and of various qualities depending on need. But Fall is the best time to also apply the home compost. We have 3 producers: 2 rotating piles, an aerated bin, and a fast cooker from an old iron bathtub. All 3 produce compost at different rates and from varying organic material sources.

The 2 piles are traditional – great for stemmy plants, leaves and large organic carcasses (ok, squirrels) – it is all organic, it just needs a dirt covering. The aerated bin is 4'x4'x4' – it gets grass clipping and household vegetable waste, my spoiled banana, moldy grapefruit from the bottom of the fridge, some dirt to cover and it goes to work. The tub mostly gets loaded quickly at the beginning of the year – leaves and other compost leftovers. The results are 3 different compost mixes for the garden. The piles get rotated, but the ready one works best with digging into new ground. The bin has ground level access – scoop out and distribute. The tub takes some work but has the best compost for new plants.

The result, we have reduced our solid waste discharge and there is quality compost for new planting.

From Robert McDaniel





Calvin's Corner

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

Horti-Bull Gardening Calendar for December

It is still a good time to plant seeds and transplants in the vegetable garden. In addition to transplants for broccoli, kale, collards, and Swiss chard, area nurseries now have onion transplants available.

It is not unusual to have to choose from at least seven selections of onions including 1015s and Legend. If you want a selection with a little more tang try the red Cajun. One bundle is usually enough plants for 2- 8-foot rows if you plant them 4 inches apart. If you do plant them 4 inches apart you will have to harvest two out of every three in the row as green onions by the end of March so the remaining plants can grow to full size. Full size onions are big fertilizer users. Prepare the soil prior to planting with the incorporation of 10 cups of "winterizer" or slow release lawn fertilizer. Also, side dress with one of the fertilizers about March 1.

The spinach transplants also look good at the nurseries. They are the favorite green but are not as productive as kale, chard and the other greens. They can be planted every 2 feet in the row and benefit by fertilizer nearly as much as the onions. A planting of 8 spinach plants usually will meet the needs of a family of four.

Plant English peas, lettuce, carrots, beets and turnips by seed. If you are from the Midwest like me, you may also want to plant rutabaga! Remember not to cover the lettuce seed with soil. It needs to be on the soil surface to germinate.

In the flower garden while you are thinking about English peas in the vegetable garden, also consider sweet peas for a fragrant cut flower. If you don't have trellis space consider using vacant tomato cages for supporting the vines. Of course, other cool weather annuals for the sun include snapdragons, stocks, calendulas, alyssum, pansies, violas, and dianthus. Stocks have a marvelous fragrance in the same league as sweet peas and dianthus make a good nectar source for the winter flying butterflies. Use violas to bloom all winter in small containers on the patio. In the shade consider primula and cyclamen for spectacular blooms.

December is a good month to plant shade trees as long as you take into account how dry the weather was in the spring and summer and you provide plenty of water for the newly planted trees. Start out by filling the planting hole with water so the soil surrounding the root ball is moist. Also plan on irrigating the newly planted trees and even trees planted in the last two years weekly or frequently enough to keep the root ball moist.

Don't neglect to prepare for cold weather in December.

Move the cold sensitive plants such as bougainvillea, tropical hibiscus, fire spike, Porter weed, and Mandevilla into shelter where the temperatures stay above 40 degrees.

Have fabric such as Insulate, Plankets or old sheets and blankets to cover citrus plants and other cold sensitive plantings that are not possible to move into shelter. For temperatures under 28 degrees have heat sources such as mechanics lights or poultry tree lamps to heat within the fabric covers. Make sure the light sources on the mechanics lights are not LED forms.

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Attendance at November meeting: 36

TURKEY PUNS

- What key has legs and can't open a door? "A turkey."
- Why did they let the turkey join the band? "Because he had his own drumsticks."
- If you call a big turkey a gobbler, what do you call a small one? "A goblet."
- What do you call a running turkey? "Fast food."
- Why was the turkey put in jail? "The police suspected fowl play."
- What did the turkey say to the computer? "Goggle, google."
- What did the leftover turkey say? "Make me a sandwich."

From Vallerie



2022 Malcolm Beck Tamalada

From Paul Huegel

The 2022 Beck Tamalada lived up to its legacy and was a great success. We had picture perfect weather with clear skies, little wind and not hot and humid or cold. I was impressed with the turnout of 35 given that many of our members could not make it this year for medical reasons. I think the tamales were excellent and the sides that everyone brought were a perfect complement as were the desserts. There was plenty to eat and drink so nobody went home hungry. Everyone present seemed to have a good time and I did not hear any complaints from anyone. We owe our success primarily to Barbara Lamm and her lovely daughters Susie and Pam, who spent many hours before and during the event setting up, cooking and restocking the serving line.

The Beck Tamalada was officially named four years ago in honor of Malcolm and Delphine Beck in 2018, the year that Malcolm went on to his greater glory. However, the history of the Tamalada goes back forty-nine years to June of 1973 when Malcolm and Delphine graciously invited the MGCSA to their Gardenville homestead to enjoy the first Tamalada picnic. This started the annual June picnic tradition. Malcolm and Delphine continued the Tamalada picnic for twenty more years at their homestead.

My only disappointment was that none of our newer members attended and to enjoy this social gathering which was a perfect opportunity to get to know each other better. Hopefully, they will not make this same mistake for the next social event which is the annual Christmas Party and Installation of Officers on December 1, 2022.



The Tamalada crowd. Photo by John Opiela

Our Hostess Barbara Lamb and Hostesses, Suzie and Pam, Barbara's daughters, trying to wind down after most of it was over.



The 'Heads of State' take a break from conference on world affairs.



Counter clockwise from upper right:
 Chill in the air, warm sun, and a plentiful helping of the tamalada goodies, Rey Salazar and friend know how to relax.
 Betty Opiela proudly shows of her newly acquired plant.
 Ivan and Isabel Roman, and Gary and Marianne Ross show their approval of the days activities with big smiles.
 Some of The 'over 85 Club' pose for their picture in the bright sunlight. They are (lft to rt) Verna and John Dieterich, Berny Albright, Larry Cromer, Joyce Siebold, John Opiela, Pat Schieffer, and Sharon Hughes.

House Plants

Surrounding yourself with houseplants doesn't just bring green, vibrant life to your home. It can also help you live a healthier, happier life! Here are some of the many benefits of houseplants:



They relieve stress. Houseplants can contribute to well-being, making you feel calm and less stressed. Having plants around you has also been known to lower blood pressure.

They help banish winter blues. Whether you're at home or in the office, being around plants can boost your mood and encourage you to feel more optimistic—even in the dead of winter.

They improve sleep. Some houseplants, like some orchids, bromeliads, and succulents, are especially good at releasing oxygen at night, so placing these plants in your bedroom may help you sleep better.

They relieve dryness. Plants release water vapor into the air, so they help raise humidity levels indoors. This also helps with dry skin!

They help you feel more energetic. Plants remove carbon dioxide from the air during photosynthesis. This can help you feel less tired, since excess CO₂ can lead to fatigue and drowsiness.

They clean the air. Some houseplants remove indoor air pollutants—like formaldehyde, ammonia, and benzene—from the air that have been released by common household items. Think of them as "nature's air purifiers." Ideal air filter plants include peace lilies, spider plants, dracaenas, pot-hos, snake plants, Chinese evergreens, and English ivy.

KSU Research cited in 'Do Container Plants Help You Heal?'



Photo from Linda Hollinsworth

Hollywood Park Market Days

On November 12th, Paul Huegel, Al Del Rio, and Ken Wolfram took part in Hollywood Park's Market Days. Al brought some interesting , new plants that sold very well and Ken did very good with his pottery. Paul sold some plants from the Green House. Ken said it was well attended. They made contact with a lot of people, and kept the garden club on the Hollywood Park 'preferred customer' list.

November speaker, Liz Campanella

Marion See is shown with her HAPPY FROG door prize with Liz Campanella, half of the team that owns and runs the Uprooted Gardens. Liz presented a lively program about their successes and failures when trying to prove their idea that 'everyone can grow something edible somewhere'. Club members participated in some lively discussions.



*Hope to see you at
the Christmas party.
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and fun time
for all.*



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