



Horti-Bull

HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN

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NEW WEB DOMAIN: mensgardenclubofsa.org

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Todd Mernin

From the President

Hello fellow gardeners and plant enthusiasts. This past month just flew by. We had some great events on Arbor Day and at Hollywood Park's Market Days. I thank all our club members who participated in these events. Without your help and dedication these events would not be possible. Now, onward to December. We will be having our Christmas Party on Dec. 2nd at the Place of Grace Fellowship on Nacogdoches Rd. Hope to see you there. It's that time of year again when we bring our plants in for the winter, or prepare them for the cold weather outside. I have rekindled a family tradition this year by planting bulbs from Holland, I go into more detail in Flower of The Month for December. Hope all had a Happy Thanksgiving and got to see your family following the COVID19 isolation. Please remember to keep those that have lost loved ones in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season. For those of you that are traveling, remember to keep an eye out for tired and weary drivers. They are as dangerous as an intoxicated driver. OK, I am done with my public service announcements: I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting in January 2022, and at the annual Christmas Party on December 2nd. As always, keep maintaining your passions by growing a garden or your favorite plants. Todd.

See my Flower of The Month on page 4.

The Fall Botanical Children's Vegetable Garden is winding down. December 11 will be the last session. We've had an abundant crop of great vegetables, a bunch of enthusiastic kids, and workers who say 'woohoo, it's all over until 2022 Springtime'. The COVID has caused the final ceremony and picnic to be cancelled for this session. *From Vallerie Hartfield*

MGCSA Coming Events

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

February 11-13, 18-20: Science and Engineering Fair. A two part Virtual meet.

February 27th: Irish Heritage Day at the Leon Valley Community Center, 12 noon ---5pm.

March 5th: Earth Day at the Leon Valley Community Center. Time to be announced.

March 12th: SAWS Spring Bloom. Time to be announced.

March 31, April 1st, 2nd: Hollywood Park Garage Sale. (Big Event. All hands on Deck)



Al Del Rio said his back yard is covered with Shrimp plants and there were five varieties of this plant. He brought a plant and offered cuttings to anyone interested.

Often asked about a good arborist, Al provided copies of a list of competent, reliable arborist that he recommends **Thanks Al!**



CALVIN'S CORNER

By Dr. Calvin Finch, Retired Texas A&M Horticulturist
Horti-Bull Gardening Calendar for December

The December Garden in San Antonio includes both warm weather vegetables and flowers, and their cold-weather opposites until the first major freeze eliminates the warm weather slate. Among the most noticeable of the summer plants are the zinnias. Because of their ease of reseeding and blooming plus their attraction to pollinators, seedeaters, and bouquet creators many gardeners encourage them to keep blooming even if it limits our space for snapdragons and stocks. A close second are the Whopper begonias. It is hard to imagine that any flower could outshine cyclamen but the Whoppers are still looking spectacular and will last into the winter as long as the temperatures stay mild. It may take a hard freeze to make room for the cyclamen.

Tomatoes in the vegetable garden is another warm weather plant that is encouraged by gardeners to keep producing as long as it will. The Rodeo tomato for 2021, the Ruby Crush, has been especially productive but now we are also harvesting Tycoon, Red Snapper, Celebrity, HM 2249 and other semi-determinate large, fruited varieties. With the cooler weather the tomatoes are reluctant to change color in the ripening process, but they quickly respond if full-size fruit is carried into the house. Peppers eggplant, okra, squash, and green beans are also continuing to produce fruit.

In the winter garden broccoli, cabbage, spinach, and other greens planted as transplants are responding well to the cooling weather. Seeded radishes, turnips, carrots, beets, and lettuce are finally germinating as well. There is still time to plant all the cold weather veggies.

Onion transplants have just become available at area nurseries. They are available as yellow, white and red versions. Try the "Legend" selection. It is an improved version of the Texas 1015. I also like the Red Creole for an onion with a bit of a bite. Plant the transplants every 2 inches in the row and then thin the two middle plants for green onions. It is important that onions be well fertilized. Use 10 cups of 19-5-9 per 100 sq ft. of bed.

It is a good time to plant shade trees. Planted now the recommended varieties have an opportunity to produce some root system and settle in before they are faced with the challenge of a San Antonio summer. Check out the CPS Shade Tree Rebate program. You can receive \$50 for each tree you plant because of the energy savings it accomplishes. Avoid using a string mower around the base of newly planted trees and also protect them from the deer. Visit plantanswers.com for more information on successful tree planting.

One of the unusual ways to add a shade tree to your landscape is to buy it as a living Christmas tree. Decorate the tree and then plant it in the landscape after the holidays. Several area nurseries have a relatively large selection of suitable trees. In the past I have used Arizona cypress and Deodar cedar as living Christmas trees with success. Sheared Aleppo pine have also been successfully used for a number of years.

MGCSA Officers for 2021

President	Todd Mernin	210-218-4155
1st V.P	Ivan Roman	210-845-7073
2nd V.P.	Vallerie Hartfield	210-240-1466
3rd V.P	Robert McDaniel	210-542-1888
Treasurer	Phil Byrd	210-497-8044
Secretary	Larry Cromer	210-521-5350
Chaplain	Vallerie Hartfield	

Directors

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Teresa Martinez	210-534-8100
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Barbara Lamm	210-648-8001
Leonard Martinez	210-514-0584

2021-2023

David Badorski	815-436-3970
John Opiela	210-532-5963

Other

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

I used to make loads of money clearing leaves from gardens. I was raking it in.

I was really impressed with a gardener I saw yesterday. He was out standing in his field..

I stood in my garden yesterday wondering where the sun had gone. Then it dawned on me.

Why did the gardener quit? His celery wasn't high enough.

Container Gardening by Master Gardener Laura Rodgers our November Speaker.

Below are excerpts from the Container Gardening talk.

Gardening in containers is an option to those who want to change their existing garden or who don't have the space to plant in beds.

— Planning your container selections is important before purchasing plants. There are ceramic, plastic, wood, and terra cotta pots, or you can be creative - an old wash tub with drainage holes is a good example. Consider that container plants are more susceptible to freezing so you might have to move plants when hard freezes are expected.

— Part of your planning should also consider what you want out of your planting. Do you want food, flowers, shade, privacy, whimsy? Where are the plants to be located, sun versus shade? Also consider how much time you want to devote to maintaining your planter garden.

— Thoughtful balance and contrast, design with color, simplicity of design – all need to be given thought for the best outcome of your planter garden. Once you have your plan, successful planting means using good potting soil, pre-moistened for best results. Each plant should be placed in the pot at same level as it came from the nursery, one inch below the rim of the container.

— Add slow release fertilizer as needed but don't over fertilize. Water your plant according to its needs but plants should not sit in water nor be overwatered. Once your flowers are in bloom, deadhead spent flowers to encourage new blooms.

— Plants need to be checked for disease and pests. Remove pests manually or use appropriate solutions. Once cold weather comes in, be ready to provide protection using wrapping material or moving plants indoors. Plants such as annuals need repotting each year.

Members and guests had questions for our speaker and added interesting comments about their container gardening experience. Ms Rodgers had beautiful pictures to illustrate every phase of her talk.

From Mary Martinez



Show and Tell. Jeff Brown presented his Vietnamese Basil container plant. He was unsure of its' true heritage, so he calls it a Vietnamize Basil, because he got the plant from a Vietnamize restaurant.

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Flower of the Month, the Daffodil

The Daffodils are botanically known as Narcissus and have been cultivated in European gardens since 300 BC. This flower symbolizes rebirth and a new beginning. It obtained this association by being one of the first perennials to bloom after the winter frost. An early Greek philosopher and botanist dedicated nine volumes to this species alone. Later in history the Romans were noted to have introduced them to the British Isles, believing they had healing powers. Please note all parts of the plant are toxic, although scientists have recently identified a compound in the Daffodil called narciclasine that is beneficial in treating brain cancer and Alzheimer's disease. Spain has been identified as the area with the largest variety. The flowers are mostly white- and yellow-colored petals with a large variety of forms and colors. Many of today's cultivators have a larger variety of colors within the cup of the flower. These colors can range from white, yellow, orange, green, pink and red or a combination. The fragrant varieties are Jonquilla and Apodanthus and they have five small flowers per stem. I have recently purchased a variety pack from Holland and planted them in an area that has afternoon sun and morning and evening shade. Prior to planting them I prepared my soil (Blackland Prairie) by adding cotton bur mulch with a garden fork and turning it in to the area. I then placed the bulbs in ground by using a large handheld garden spade and spacing them about 4 to 6 inches apart. The most important thing I did after planting was to cover the area with chicken wire to keep the squirrels from eating them. Good idea as immediately after planting, a squirrel tried to make a meal of them. I will let you know how these have turned out come spring. Oh, by the way now is the time to plant bulbs. My grandparents and parents had this tradition, so I am proud to be carrying on this family tradition. My hope for you is that you venture out of your comfort zone and experiment with these ancient and colorful flowers to beautify your surroundings and world.



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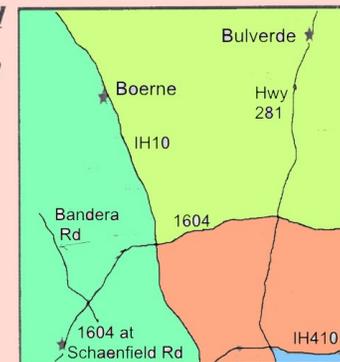
Hours of Operation:

Mon. - Sat.

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sun. (seasonal)

10:00 am - 3:00 pm



November meeting attendance was

32 members and one visitor.

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'This is Todd Mernin, David Rodriguez, Paul Huegel, John Opiela, and Larry Stine at the Greenie Farm on the east side of San Antonio on November 18, 2021. We picked watermelons, beans, and tomatoes. David and Larry both are Bexar County Extension Service agents. All the veggies are going to the needy.'
From John Opiela



Men's Garden Club of San Antonio (MGCSA)

Open to men and women. 2022 Membership Application

Rates will remain effective until January 1, 2023

CK# _____
 Cash _____



Annual Members	3-Year Membership	Life Membership
\$20 Individual	\$50 Individual	\$200 Individual
\$25 Joint*	\$60 Joint*	\$250 Joint*

*Joint Membership is one individual and one additional residing in the same household. Both members may enjoy all the member benefits of MGCSA but do not individually receive the Horti-Bull, the monthly newsletter.

Please Circle (above) the type of membership. This will help us keep the MGCSA files straight. Use one form for each membership or joint membership. **Please print/write legibly!**

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____, TX 78 _____ Occupation: _____

Phone: (210) _____ E-mail: _____

Best Way to Contact: _____ Best Time to Contact: _____

Please make checks payable to MGCSA
 Payment Address: Phil Byrd, Treasurer
 2522 Montebello, San Antonio, TX 78259

Today's Date: _____ Sponsor: _____

New Member
 Renewal

THE OVER 39 CLUB! An unexpected reunion was held at the November meeting as Joyce mentioned her birthday was today and I am 85 years old. John O, the 'ever-sharp-man' said there are others here to night that were born in 1936, lets get together. So he got us together for a photo. They are Larry Cromer June 8, John Opiela, the elder of othe crowd, February 9, Joyce Siebold, November 4, and Frank Rios April 26.

It could be time to re-new your member-ship. Call Phil Byrd at 210-497-8044 if you are unsure.



*Have a
Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous,
Kinder New Year*