



Horti-Bull

HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN

Published Monthly by the SAN ANTONIO MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

NEW WEB DOMAIN: mensgardenclubofsa.org

Volume LIII

January 2022

Number 01



MGCSA Coming Events

January 6th: Meeting at The Place for Grace Fellowship Church. Meet and greet at 6:30 and meeting begins at 7PM.

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 24, 25, and 26: Hollywood Park Garage Sale. (Big Event. All hands on Deck)



Todd Mernin

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello again fellow gardeners,

I hope everyone had a happy and safe new year celebration. Our Christmas party was a success, and all indications were that a good time was had by all. It was good to see faces we have not seen in some time. It is that time again to set new goals for the new year, and our club is no different than we as individuals. As a club we strive for social involvement and civic pride. In the past year we have seen the decline not only in our group but other groups like ours in

our area and throughout the U.S.A. It is my goal to do more outreach for this year. It can be as simple as talking to others about our club in casual conversation at your local gardening center or talking to your local community gardeners and seeing what we can contribute to the conversation. Our group started out with education of the youth at Fort Sam Houston and has evolved to judging science fairs at St. Mary's University. The time is now to reach out to other clubs and gardening enthusiasts and offer our help in moving the legacy of not only our club, but possible future collaborations among clubs. It is only through this grass roots method that we can continue to lead and contribute to community. I implore you to think back to what made you become a member of our organization and what keeps you coming back. I can tell you for me I originally started going to other related organizations in which I had an interest in learning more about the plants and how to maintain them. Several members of each of these groups invited me to our organization and I always was impressed with the education in the form of knowledgeable lecturers and the free flow of questions and answers from the guest lecturer and club members. You as members who are attending our meetings are this clubs most valuable asset for your knowledge and friendship during these trying times. It is my wish for you for the new year to recall what it means to be a member and think how you can contribute. May you and your family have a happy and prosperous New Year. We all look forward to seeing you at meetings and events throughout 2022. Todd

Our guest speaker for the January meeting is a long time club favorite, Mr. Mark Peterson. Mark is not only very knowledgeable in the gardening arena, but his presentations can bring laughs to those who enjoy a laugh. It will be a knockdown-drag-out question and answer session. AND, Mark may have some other things on his mind.



Refreshments for our January meeting,

M thru Z,

it's your turn. We encourage the M thru Zs 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!

Note the new club logo in the heading above. Ivan has provided new gardening tools



CALVIN'S CORNER

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

Normally by the first of January we have had at least one dose of freezing temperatures but not this yere so far. It has been cold enough that your bougainvillea, oriental hibiscus and other tropical plants in containers should be sheltered in a location where they won't be subjected to freezing temps. In fact, most of the plants in that tropical/subtropical category are affected by temps below 40 degrees.

It is also time to have your freeze protection materials in place and ready for action. Cold sensitive plants such as Meyer lemons and Mexican limes, and even the satsumas, viburnums, xylosma and other plants that sent out new shoots will need to be protected from any new freezes this year. Foliage that emerged from a freeze damaged plant one year is especially susceptible to damage the following year.

Another important freeze protection factor to consider, make sure that the light bulbs you have for your mechanics lights to provide heat are old fashioned heat producers and not cool LED versions.

In the vegetable garden it is time to plant your onions. If you plant them in rows with a plant ever 2 inches you can use the 2nd and this plant in each sequence for green onions. Keep the onions well fertilized. There is also time to plant spinach transplants and broccoli. Plant lettuce, carrots, English peas and beets by seed. The vegetables that have survived from the hot weather garden, tomatoes, peppers, okra and eggplant are on the edge of survival, but they should provide a few more veggies for harvest. The Ruby Crush tomatoes have been phenomenal and are still producing attractive sweet fruit.

Cover the cyclamen with a strip of insulate if the temperature is forecast to be under 30 degrees. The foliage is pretty invincible to cold, but the blooms are not and once the buds are frozen you won't have any more blooms for the year. The toughest flowers when it comes to cold resistance seems to be the pansy related flowers, they keep blooming through freezing temperatures. Plant sweet peas by seed and stocks and alyssum by transplants if you want beautiful flowers with a fragrance that can be used in cut flower bouquets.

The forced bloom paper whites you received as a Christmas flower are attractive and have a fragrance but not a fragrance in the same league as the sweet peas, stocks and alyssum, but they do very well in the landscape. They will green up in November each year, bloom in December/January to kick-off your landscapes 12 months of color and the deer will not eat them!

Don't forget about shade trees. It is a good time to plant them, and you can take advantage of the CPS shade tree rebate of \$50/tree. This year they have even included some of the citrus species on the eligibility list. Anaqua is also on the list. It is an evergreen native that blooms every spring and produces yellow berries that the birds love. The eligible list is extensive, and the planting requirements are easy to comply with, with the result that you save energy in heating and cooling.

If you have not given bird feeding a try, do so now. Attract the insect eaters such as kinglets, woodpeckers, warblers, and mockingbirds with suet. Select the pepper flavored suet and the squirrels will not eat it. Another way to reduce squirrel attention is to replace sunflower seed with safflower seed. You still attract the cardinals, chickadees lesser goldfinches, and titmice, but again the squirrels pass it up.

MGCSA Officers for 2022

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	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 Opieła	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
Postmaster	Larry Cromer

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

Read Dr Finches column every Saturday in the Express-News. It is informative and timely.

Tomato Woes! Probably my last tomato of the season, harvested on 22 December. I say 'probably' because the previous 2 'nice size tomatoes' were found laying on the ground 8 to 10 ft away from the bushes. They had large bites taken out of them ; victims of a yard monster. I still have many small tomatoes growing and many blooms that may set. As recommended by our visiting speaker, I thump the blooms everyday. I know, get a net to cover them.



From Larry Cromer

Soil Samples

Well it is the beginning of a new year. For some of us it is just a matter of sprucing the landscaping with annuals, but for others it may mean preparing the soil and choosing the right varieties of crop seeds. No matter which path or combination of paths you take, the soil and its fertility should be the first thing addressed. For those of you new to gardening it may mean taking a soil sample and having it examined by experts. The experts I recommend are the Texas Agricultural Extension Service of Bexar County. In order to have your soils tested you will have to go to their office at 3355 Cherry Ridge #212 and get a bag for the sample along with specific instructions. It is important to note that the soil samples must be done the way the instructions

describe in order to be accurate. Most of our readers will get the urban/residential form.

Once the soil is sent off to Texas A&M it will be analyzed and an assessment will be made. They will then send you their results and then you will know what your soil is lacking and what to do about it. If this interests you and you care to read more about soil I recommend an article from our very own Agricultural Extension Service agent David Rodriguez called It All Starts WITH SOIL. I hope to see you at our next meeting. Till then, keep tilling the soil and getting ready to plant.

From Todd Mernin



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	*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.
\$20 Individual	\$50 Individual	\$200 Individual	
\$25 Joint*	\$60 Joint*	\$250 Joint*	

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

If you haven't already done so, it's time to renew your MGCSA membership for 2022. Either mail your membership form to Phil Byrd or see us at the January meeting. Call Phil Byrd at 210-497-8044 if you are unsure of your status.

Mary Elizabeth DeMariano

Mary Elizabeth DeMariano, who was a faithful member of the MGCSA, left us on December 5, 2021. She was born in Corpus Christi to Francis and Florence Ordner. She moved to San Antonio upon marrying Joseph (Joe) DeMariano, Jr. Mary retired from the 232nd Medical Battalion on 05/31/2010 at Ft. Sam Houston. Because of her great love for flowers and plants, she was a member of the Men's Garden Club of San Antonio. Mary first joined the MGCSA in 1998. She was one of 46 new members that year. Mary was a dedicated member and volunteer who served on MGCSA committees and on the Board of Directors as 2nd Vice President in 2001. Of course, 2001 was a memorable year with the terrorist attacks on September 11 which caused considerable angst and fear in the American people. As the Membership Chair, Mary played a significant role on the Board to keep the club focused, calm and positive. She even managed to recruit her husband Joe to join that year to become the other half of the DeMariano dedicated gardener team. That team faithfully supported the MGCSA right up to the very end of Mary's life as she physically struggled to be part of our December 2, 2021 Christmas Party where she sat in one of the chairs that won her one of the beautiful poinsettia door prizes. How fitting that she would get a send off to her greater glory with a beautiful plant which she enjoyed at home for three days until her death on December 5, 2021. Mary was a loving wife and friend to many, and she will be dearly missed. We hope that her beloved husband Joe will carry on her legacy and love of plants with us until they are a whole team again.



Mary was a dedicated member and volunteer who served on MGCSA committees and on the Board of Directors as 2nd Vice President in 2001. Of course, 2001 was a memorable year with the terrorist attacks on September 11 which caused considerable angst and fear in the American people. As the Membership Chair, Mary played a significant role on the Board to keep the club focused, calm and positive. She even managed to recruit her husband Joe to join that year to become the other half of the DeMariano dedicated gardener team. That team faithfully supported the MGCSA right up to the very end of Mary's life as she physically struggled to be part of our December 2, 2021 Christmas Party where she sat in one of the chairs that won her one of the beautiful poinsettia door prizes. How fitting that she would get a send off to her greater glory with a beautiful plant which she enjoyed at home for three days until her death on December 5, 2021. Mary was a loving wife and friend to many, and she will be dearly missed. We hope that her beloved husband Joe will carry on her legacy and love of plants with us until they are a whole team again.

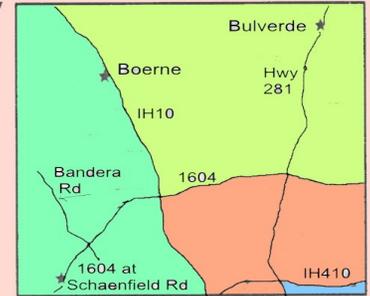


210-687-1005 210-688-9435 830-980-7901
Boerne San Antonio Bulverde
www.stoneandsoil.com

**Variety of Mulches, Soil Mixes,
Stone & Soil Compost,
Manure Compost, Bio Solid Compost,
Top Dressing, Selection of Sand,
Complete Organic Gardening Supplies**

Major Credit Cards Accepted
Pick up or Delivery Available
Open to Public

Hours of Operation:
Mon. – Sat.
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sun. (seasonal)
10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Ronnie Grell
Managing Partner



TEXAS
CERTIFIED
NURSERY
PROFESSIONAL



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

RAINBOW GARDENS also at 8516 Bandera Road



Page 4

Seen at our Christmas party: Club Pres Todd Mernin, Charles Bartlett, Alberto Del Rio, and President of The Garden Volunteers of South, Mr Andrew Waring.

History of Men's Garden Club of San Antonio, Part 10, 1995 - The Pivotal Year

by Paul D Huegel, MGCSA Historian

We continue our history into the mid 1990s and see how we grew into a more independent and vibrant club but still affiliated with the Men's Garden Club America (MGCA). 1995 was a milestone year which changed the course of the Club in two important ways.

1995- Our newly elected President for 1995 was Myra Fischer who had the distinction of being the first woman President. Like any good president she was well organized and picked the right members to fill the various committees to lead us into a new era. Thus, Myra's election as President was the first milestone for the year and the second milestone on May 4, 1995 was the Club's disaffiliation from national Men's Garden Club America (MGCA) to become an independent organization. We had been an important member of the MGCA for 25 years growing into the largest and most vibrant Chapter but had little influence on its bureaucracy in making decisions that benefited our 244 members. The decision to withdraw from MGCA had been pending for years and had the support of the members and the Board of Directors. Articles of the advantages and disadvantages were published in the Horti-Bull. Members from both sides of the issue spoke to the Board at various general meetings. After thorough deliberation the Board of Directors voted unanimously to present the issue to the general membership and on May 4, 1995, the Men's Garden Club of San Antonio voted to disaffiliate and withdraw from The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America as of June 30, 1995. The Board of Directors initiated action to incorporate the Men's Garden Club of San Antonio using that name. However, under state law permission must first be obtained for the use of the first three words, namely "Men's Garden Club" from the first incorporated organization using these three words. The Men's Garden Club of Houston, Inc would not give us permission so we had to change the name to the San Antonio Men's Garden Club with permission of San Antonio Men's Gymnastics. Thus, our Charter and By Laws had to be revised to reflect the change. In 1996 we were granted permission to use the Men's Garden Club of San Antonio again. Now this makes it understandable why we do not want to mess with our name ever again.

It was time to move forward and focus on our membership in the greater San Antonio region as the first and best garden club in the region. If you read my previous histories you would agree with this distinction. The challenge was to retain our prominent position in the San Antonio region and grow in mutual respect with our community through our programs and charitable events.

We had quality educational programs throughout 1995 under the Programs Chairman, Tom Hardgrave. Familiar names like Dr Jerry Parsons, Paul Cox and Malcolm Beck to name a few gave informative horticultural presentations. Paul Cox and Malcolm Beck are no longer with us but their passing in recent years left a legacy of horticultural excellence that will endure the test of time. Jerry Parsons is still sharing his wisdom on his weekly radio show and we hope to get him to speak to us at a future meeting as he has done in the past. The Annual Christmas Banquet with Awards and Officer Installation was Chaired in 1995 by our currently most senior member General Chuck Elia who we honored this year on his

100 birthday.

The Children's Garden at the Botanical Gardens completed its thirteenth year under our leadership with a Spring and Fall planting which sponsored 242 children for the year. We also teamed up with the Master Gardeners at their request to take over the Children's Terrarium Project at the Botanical Gardens from the Junior League. The Club also continued its support of the Alamo Regional Science Fair in support of the youth of the greater San Antonio region. General Elia once again led the judges who participated. The MGCSA support of various youth programs is one of the many things that makes our Club stand out in the San Antonio community.

Our 1995 Club Chaplain, George Hoop conducted a Memorial Service for eleven members who passed away that year which included Eddie Fanick the founder of Fanick's Nursery which is the oldest retail garden center in San Antonio still operating continuously with the third and fourth generation of the Fanick family. The MGCSA has always maintained a close relationship with all the independent garden centers in San Antonio.

Thus, 1995 was a pivotal year which gained the MGCSA independence and our first woman President, Myra Fischer, who led us through the turmoil of reorganization while maintaining the many programs and events that took place and welcoming 36 new members. Myra passed away in 2018 but for those of us who had the privilege of knowing her, she was an inspiration and model volunteer



HORTI-BULL



HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN
Published monthly by MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN ANTONIO
3310 North New Braunfels, San Antonio, Texas 78209-(210) 824-9981

VOLUME XXVIIJune 1995Number 6

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.

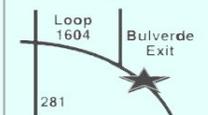


MILBERGER
LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

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

MGCSA's 51st Annual Installation & Awards Christmas Celebration



Ex-Officio Paul Huegel presents **OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARDS** to **MARION SEE** and **BARBARA LAMM**, both highly deserving members. Marion - for her dedication setting up an inviting food table at our gatherings and cleanup afterwards. Barbara - for hosting our Tamaladas, creating succulent gardens for our sale events, participating in the Botanical Children's Vegetable Garden program, and many hours of volunteer work at our sales events.



MGCSA 2022 Board. Joe Shinnars (far right) installed and presents the 2022 Board. They are from left, Barbara Lamm, Gary Ross, Phil Byrd, Leonard Martinez, Robert McDaniel, Teresa Martinez, David Baborski, Ida Santiago, Vallerie Hartfield, Ivan Roman, Todd Mernin, John Opiela, and Joe.



Joyce Siebold, Ida Santiago, and Cynthia Miller are smiling for the camera because they are having a good time. They all live within 30 yards of each other. Thanks Joyce for being a good Ambassador for the garden club.



President Todd Mernin presents the **2021 PRESIDENTS TRAVELING TROPHY** to yours truly, Larry Cromer.



Members joined with Verna Dieterich on the keyboard in some spirited Christmas music. We even took requests from the audience.



Vallerie's friend, Harold Williams presented us with a well received Praise Dance.