



Horti-Bull

HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN
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Paul Huegel

President's Corner

The January meeting, which is usually a "low show", pleasantly surprised me with a good turnout. I hope this is a trend that will continue throughout our 50th Anniversary Year! Those attending seemed to be very engaged and interested. We have decided to change the format for the meetings this year a

little. We will have a "Show and Tell" in lieu of a formal Treasurer's report.. We will have a copy of the Treasurer's report available for the general membership to read if anyone cares to do so; but the formal reporting will be done at the Executive Board meeting preceding the General Membership meeting. This will allow members to be more involved in the meetings. If you have something garden related let me know so that we can present it sometime at one of the meetings.

Speaking of "Show and Tell", we recently lost one of our Lifetime members, Clarence Balsar who passed away on January 8, 2019 at the age of 98 years. Clarence has not been active for several years, but will be remembered by those who knew him as the Godfather of "Show and Tell". Clarence always enjoyed sharing his gardening experiences and did so with enthusiasm and humor. He spent his final years in a nursing home, but remained interested in the club. In fact, he called me last November to ensure that I was aware that his long time friend, Myra Fischer had passed. We talked for 45 minutes about the club and he seemed genuinely interested in the club's programs and our emphasis on children's gardening. Like myself, Clarence recognized the importance of growing people as well as plants. May Clarence rest in peace in the greatest garden of all.

As requested at the January meeting, we needed volunteers to shape up and organize the Grotto greenhouse and storage shed on March 23. I must admit I did not expect to see too many volunteers but

to my surprise we had 13 volunteers including myself! This was a better

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WANTED for Horti-Bull

ARTICLE SUBMISSION: Very short articles may be telephoned to: Jeff at 680-5347. Longer articles and photos should be emailed to Jeffbeido@hotmail.com. Submissions requested by 15th of each month.

2019 Calendar of MGCSA Events

Feb 7, 2019 MGCSA Thursday at Grotto:
Exec. Mtg. 5:30 p.m. General Mtg 7 p.m.

Feb 22 -24, 2019 San Antonio Home &
Garden Show - Alamo Dome

Mar 1 -3, 2019 Alamo Regional Science &
Engineering Fair at St. Mary's Univ.

Mar 7, 2019 MGCSA Thursday at Grotto:
Exec. Mtg. 5:30 p.m. General Mtg 7 p.m.

Mar 9, 2019 SAWS Spring Bloom
9 a.m - 1 p.m.

February Speaker: Mark Fanick

Welcome back gardeners to a new planting season, We all have our thinking caps on to discover: what will spring and summer bring to our gardens this year? Well, let's ask the expert! Mark Fanick from Fanick's Nursery will be here to answer your questions about flower and vegetable gardening, planting trees and shrubs. Mark brings with him generations of horticulture experience and knowledge.

Fanick's Garden Center is located at 1025 Holmgreen Rd. Take a visit to Fanick's garden center. As you walk through the gardens you'll find some unusual trees and shrubs which were planted by Eddie Fanick Sr. (his Great Grandfather). Species of trees include Japanese Raisin tree and White Flowering Pomegranate. There were once over 149 different kinds of pecan varieties that Eddie Sr. grafted on to native trees to see how they would perform.

You may find some new additions to your garden this year. Our meeting will be filled with an abundance of information needed to start your Spring Garden.

See you all at the next meeting!

Darlene

Directions to Grotto Pastoral Center

Please see bottom left page 5.

M-Z in February

We ask you to remain AFTER the meeting to help clean and straighten up so everyone can leave as soon as possible. Thanks.



Calvin's Corner

By Calvin Finch, Retired Texas A & M Horticulturalist.

February Gardening Calendar

There is still a good chance that we will experience freezing temperatures so keep the Insulate, Plankets, and other coverings handy. My favorite heat sources are mechanics lights but be sure they have the old-fashioned heat producing light bulbs rather than LED bulbs. Poultry heat lamps work well too.

February is the best month to prune off the dead foliage and stems caused by the freezes. Most of the root-hardy plants with cold-sensitive tops such as firebush, lantanas, salvias, poinciana, and esperanza do best if they are cut off at ground level. It is also time to prune fruit trees and roses. For detailed instructions and diagrams visit plantanswers.com. Wait until late in the month or even March to bring bougainvillea, oriental hibiscus, and other tropical plants out of the greenhouse. Most gardeners identify the first of February as the last chance to plant broccoli, chard, kale, onion, and cabbage transplants for spring production. English pea, radish, lettuce, turnip, beets, and carrot seeds will probably produce before the heat shuts them down as well. Prepare the soil with 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of winterizer fertilizer per 100 sq. ft. of garden bed.

Continue harvesting your winter greens including broccoli side shoots and Brussels sprouts and cauliflower. Thin the onions in the row to leave 6 inches between plants by using the in-between plants for green onions. Side dress the greens and onions with fertilizer to keep them growing strongly. Beets, turnips, radishes, rutabagas, and carrots planted last fall should be ready to harvest.

Among the naturalized wildflowers larkspurs, blue curl (Phacelia), primrose, verbena, ruellia, and phlox, begin blooming this month. Blue curl is a favorite butterfly nectar source that germinates and blooms in the shade and sun. If we received a cold spell in January, it is likely that the snapdragons quit blooming for period of time. They should set new blooms by the end of the month and bloom into May. Petunias often follow the same pattern of a mid-winter lapse but will bloom into June when they resume blooming. It is advisable to provide a side dressing of

fertilizer for all the winter annuals to support their spring bloom period. Slow-release or winterizer lawn fertilizer works well.

It is too early to fertilize the lawn for the spring. Wait until you have mowed "real grass" (not weeds) twice. That usually means about May 1st. In late February you can apply a pre-emergent herbicide such as Dimension or Amaze to prevent the summer weeds such as sand burs and crab grass. The winter weeds will be attempting to set seed. Bedstraw is especially aggressive. If it is growing in areas where a broadleaf contact herbicide can be applied without damaging desirable plants, Weed-Free-Zone works well. It is also relatively easy to pull bedstraw up by hand or with a rake. Recycle the foliage through the compost pile. Editor Jeff: the Net has some interesting information about this bedstraw plant (*Galium aparine*).

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showing than we get for most events! I think we did a good job in sorting, trashing, remodeling and organizing both the greenhouse and storage shed. I thank all who helped and we now can prepare for all the events this year in a more timely and efficient manner.

Please be prepared to volunteer for the surge of first quarter 2019 events if you have not already volunteered at the January meeting. The 39th Annual Spring Home and Garden Show will once again include a Children's Garden and the usual plant sales on 22-24 February at the Alamodome. We will be in two separate locations on the North side of the Alamodome so it is important that there are enough volunteers to cover both locations. Darlene Badorski will chair the Children's Garden and Robert McDaniel will chair the "plant sales/ask the expert exhibit".

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Men's Garden Club of San Antonio (MGCSA)

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Hospitality: Marion See 316-617-9574

From the Treasurer

Please check the address label on your February Horti-Bull to see your membership dues date. If it's not 2019 or later, it means I have you as needing to renew your club membership. If you are tired of me bugging you every year you can do a 3 year membership and have me only bug you every 3 years. You save a few bucks too!

I will have the 2019 Membership Cards available at the February meeting. You can get the membership cards and/or pay your dues at the side table next to the plant lady.

General Meeting Minutes Jan 3 2019

The General Meeting was convened by President Paul D. Huegel. Paul mentioned a proposed event to celebrate our club's 50th year anniversary.

Paul described the many events coming up for us. This is our busiest time of the year, as many folks want to obtain plants to grow before the summer heat interferes. The Spring Home and Garden Show (with our Children's Garden) and SAWS Spring Bloom are two events where plants can be sold for donations. We also have our annual participation in the Alamo Regional Science and Engineering event. It's a great opportunity to meet young students, and exchange information with them about horticulture, as we evaluate their projects. The key for us is can we have enough volunteers participate to make these all good events. See Paul's article in his President's Corner (starting on Page 1) on these events, and volunteer! He also announced our effort, on January 23, to clean up and better organize the Grotto greenhouse (see the President's Corner).

Darlene introduced our speaker, Grace Emery, to speak on herbs. She gave a slide illustrated presentation. The sound system was not real helpful to clearly understand her voice. We're working to improve the sound system. Thus the herb article is a commentary on her list of herbs commonly effective here in South Texas. Jane

McDaniels had modest length branches from the great bay leaf (*Laurus nobilis*) herbal tree. She says it will repel bugs if placed about the kitchen and house.

Directions to Grotto Pastoral Center

It is now called "**Martires Oblatos De Espana Pastoral Center**". From Blanco Road, inside Loop 410, you can access the center by turning at Mt. Sacred Heart Road, go 400 feet, and turn right into the parking lot or turn at the entrance by the Grotto marque on Blanco. These both lead to a large parking lot in front of the Pastoral Center. Members and guests may park anywhere in the lot. Use the side door to the left to enter directly into the meeting room. Meeting times are the same as before, 7 p.m. Address is 5712 Blanco Road.



The Plant Lady strikes again. **Sharon Hughes**, Life Member and resident supervisor of our plant table, brought in \$440.00 to our treasury in 2018. The next time you make a purchase at the plant table be sure to express your appreciation for her continued service. And a BIG thanks to the members who donated the plants to sell.

Ronnie Grell
Managing Partner

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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB SAN ANTONIO

8343 Willow Creek

San Antonio, Texas 78251

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Feb 7, 2019 Thur.; 7 p.m. at the Grotto.
Speaker: Mark Fanick**



Jane McDaniels performs "show and tell", at the January General Meeting, with a bunch of bay laurel branches she took off her tree.



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