



Horti-Bull

HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN

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Volume L

March 2019

Number 3



President's Corner

As might be expected, the February meeting with third generation Mark Fanick representing the oldest nursery in San Antonio resulted in a good turnout. Mark introduced the fourth generation with the presence of his son. His talk on fruit trees and bushes sold in compact containers was interesting as evidenced by the number of questions from the membership. I hope attendance trend will continue throughout our 50th Anniversary Year! As mentioned last month we decided to change the format for the meetings this year a little. We now have a "Show and Tell" segment in lieu of a formal Treasurer's report. Joe Shinnars kicked things off with a couple of interesting entries. Once again, we will have a copy of the Treasurers report available for the general membership to look at if anyone cares to see it, but the formal reporting will be done at the Executive Committee meeting preceding the General Membership meeting.

We need volunteers to shape up and plant the Grotto fountain garden. This involves weeding, planting and mulching. We will set a date at the March Board meeting and announce it at the General Membership meeting. As I have often remarked in the past, this is an important event which honors our commitment to our gracious host who allows us to use the facility for meetings and manage the greenhouse as a quid pro quo.

As I write this, we are engaged in our Spring Home and Garden Show which proceeds the March 2, 2019 Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair. I think we have enough volunteers but we could use a couple backups. As mentioned last month this is always a fun event and serves as another charitable youth program in horticulture and the science of botany. Darlene and David Badorski, our dynamic duo, has agreed to Chair this worthwhile event.

The SAWS Spring Bloom takes place on March 9, 2019. The Spring Bloom is a fast and furious event and one of the club's best fund raisers. It is a fun event with lots of give aways and demos. It starts at 9AM and is over by 1PM. Please volunteer if you want to mingle with the other garden clubs and raise some money for our club.

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WANTED for the 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.

Snacks for March 2019: If your last name begins with a letter A-L, you're up.. We also ask you to remain AFTER the meeting to help clean and straighten up so everyone can leave as soon as possible. Thanks.

2019 Calendar of MGCSA Events

March 1-3, Alamo Regional Science & Engineering Fair at St. Mary's University

Mar 7, MGCSA Thursday at the Grotto. Exec. Mtg 5:30 pm, General Mtg 7pm.

Mar 9, Saturday SAWS Spring Bloom 9 am – 1 pm at SAWS Headquarters

March 23, Saturday Master Gardeners Cultivate at the UIW campus

Apr 4, MGCSA Thursday at Grotto: Exec. Mtg. 5:30 pm General Mtg 7 pm .

April 4-5, Thurs, Fri, Hollywood Park Plant Sale at 226 Yosemite Dr., SA

April 13, Saturday. Leave from Grotto at 2 pm for Sylvain Clavieres' Talking Tree Farm Tour

May 26, Saturday, Festival of Flowers, Austin Hwy Event Center, 1944 Austin Hwy. between Eisenhower and Walzem Rd. 9 am – 5 pm

June 15, Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm, Fanick's Nursery 80th Anniversary

June 22, Annual MGCSA Picnic, MacArthur Park

August 23, Men's Garden Club 50th Anniversary Shindig, Details to be announced

March Speakers: Mike and Melissa Maynard

Mike and wife Melissa own and operate Mikey's Garden in Hunt, Tx. Mike and Melissa both retired from enjoyable careers in 2015, left Austin and followed a dream to Hunt, Tx, where they established their garden. They use hydroponics as their growing method. The science and beauty of a sustainable growing method that is able to be done anywhere in the world from farm to table in 24 hours was an attraction 10 years ago when living in Austin. In Hunt, a 6000 sq. ft greenhouse was constructed and became a family business. They specialize in living produce with a variety of young tender lettuce, kale, arugula and culinary herbs grown year-round. The green house consists of 8 troughs of water, each 4 ft wide, 92 ft long, and 12 inches deep. Melissa leads the chemistry of the growing medium with the nutrients and organic fertilizers added to the water. Mike and Melissa continue to evolve in their journey developing connections with the community and providing locally grown, high-quality garden-fresh greens.

We have a great evening planned for everyone. See you all Thursday March 7th. *Darlene Badorski*



Calvin's Corner

By Calvin Finch, Retired Texas A & M Horticulturalist

Gardening Calendar for March

We pass the average last frost date in early March so later in the month all the cold sensitive plants can be moved from the greenhouse. If you are extra cautious wait until the very end of the month.

The winter weeds are all trying to produce a seed crop. Do your best to keep them mowed or pulled. String mowing also works well to keep beggars' lice, thistle and other weeds with obnoxious seeds from producing those seeds. If they are still vigorously growing, a product like Fertilome's Weed Free Zone will kill the weeds in the lawn.

Bedstraw responds well to being removed with a steel rake. The plants stick together and are easily collected in the rake's teeth.

On the first of the month it is the last recommended day to apply one of the pre-emergent herbicides such as Dimension, Amaze or XL to prevent the germination of sand burs and crabgrass this summer. Make another application on or about June 1 to prevent the late germination of sandbur seeds.

In the vegetable garden use a portion of the onions in the row for green onions so that it opens up more space between the remaining plants. It is too early to fertilize the lawn but the onions and remaining actively growing cool weather vegetables and flowers should receive another dose of "winterizer" fertilizer.

Some of your potted-up tomatoes could be transplanted to the garden but save some until April 1 to make sure the soil has warmed up enough to support active growth. Consider the new Rodeo tomato "HM 8849" as one of the varieties you grow this year. If you have nematodes, Celebrity, Tycoon, BHN 968 and Valley Cat are all nematode resistant. In addition to tomatoes, in March plant green beans, cucumbers, potatoes, and peppers in the vegetable garden.

Snapdragons stocks, dianthus, ornamental kale, alyssum, primula, cyclamen and calendula are all blooming strong but after mid-month it is also a good time to plant zinnias by seed or transplant. The monarchs will be here in April so plant milkweed, mistflower, and porterweed along with the zinnias to provide nectar. The milkweed is the only plant on which they will lay their eggs.

The wildflowers should be growing strong and most will begin their blooming in March. Blue curl (phacelia) is especially desirable because it is attractive, and it is a favorite nectar source for butterflies. Let the seeds of the wildflowers mature and drop if you want the plants to naturalize and grow again next year. If you don't have blue curl put the word out to your fellow gardeners that you would welcome some seed, so you can get some planted for next year.

If you have purple martin houses, nesting pairs should be looking for housing early in the month. I always put the houses up on March 1 even if I haven't seen the birds yet. They always seem to move in before mid-month.

Keep your feeders full in March, it is the usual time to see the first returning hummingbirds. Other migrants also will visit your seed and suet feeders as they pass-through heading North. If you have a water source, especially if it is recycling the water, you will often see painted buntings, warblers and orioles.

President's Corner *Continued from Page 1*

The Hollywood Park garden yard sale held at our member host property, the Siebolds, will take place on April 4/5, 2019. This event is always a good fund raiser as well as a chance to sit back and socialize in a calm laid back environment on a lovely property in scenic Hollywood Park where you are bound to see a herd of deer grazing.

On April 13 we have our first field trip to the Talking Tree Farm hosted by Sarah and Sylvain Clavieres the owners and brains of the farm. You may recall the meeting last September when they spoke and invited the club to visit their productive farm. Darlene brought the trip up at last month's meeting and passed around a sign up sheet. As I recall there were many members interested, We now have a website! Many thanks to my daughter Chrissy who is the mother of a 3 and a 6 year old and is heavily involved in their school and extracurricular activities. Chrissy is also a member of the USAA Advisory Panel. She managed to design our website for us which is up and running. It needs some tweaking but now when asked if the MGCSA has a website you can say in the affirmative that it is: mensgardenclubofsa.com. Among other things it describes the club and its activities, and has links to the Horti-Bull and a membership application form. I will work with Chrissy for the time being but would like to have a webmaster position filled by one of you in the near future.

Hopefully, I will see all of you at the March 7, 2019 meeting and our guest speakers, Melissa and Mike Maynard. They are the owners of Mikey's Garden, their dream hydroponics garden. Darlene has a more detailed look at them and their work elsewhere in this Horti Bull.

Men's Garden Club of San Antonio (MGCSA)

OFFICERS - 2019

President Paul Huegel 210-493-9853

1st VP Darlene Badorski 815-436-3970

2nd VP Vallerie Hartfield 210-240-1466

3rd VP Robert McDaniel 210-381-4931

Treasurer Larry Cromer 210-521-5350

Secretary Jeffry Brown 210-680-5347

Chaplain Vallerie Hartfield 210-240-1466

DIRECTORS - 201

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Barbara Lamm 17-19 210-648-8001

David Badorski 18-20 210-408-1676

John Opiela 18-20 210-532-5963

Margarita Rubio 19-21 210-837-1805

Ken Wolfgram 19-21 210-788-0177

OTHER

EX officio: Frank Rios 210-421-4676

HB Advertising: Paul Huegel

Postmaster: Larry Cromer

HB Editor: Jeffry Brown

It needs some tweaking but now when asked if the MGCSA has a website you can say in the affirmative that it is: mensgardenclubofsa.com. Among other things it describes the club and its activities.

mensgardenclubofsa.com Our New Garden Club Website. *Looks even better in color.*

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The Men's Garden Club of San Antonio

Since 1969, the Men's Garden Club of San Antonio has served the community by fostering garden programs and doing charitable events to support the youth and general garden community



The Botanical Gardens Children's Vegetable Garden

The Spring session started 2 March and ends June 15. It is not too late to volunteer as more volunteers are always needed. Go to the Botanical Gardens website for more information. Thanks to MGCSA members Valerie Hartfield, Margarita Rubio, and Barbara Lamm for their hands-on support to the garden, and to the club membership for their financial support.

A Little Garden Humor

What kind of socks do you need to plant vegetables? Garden Hose.

What new crop did the gardener plant? Beets me.

Why did the cabbage win the race? Because it was ahead.

MEMBERSHIP

Attendance: January 3, 46; February 7, 47

New Members: Gabriel & Anna Gonzales

Happy Birthday to all March born.

Needing your prayers: Deena Joya is going through some tough times right now.

Deceased: Please remember Lifetime Member Clarence Balser, and keep all our members and their families in your prayers.

Hospitality: Thanks to Marion See for organizing the refreshments, and to all who brought the goodies and drinks to share. And thanks to those who help clean up after the meetings.

What's in your garden? Please share some of your garden surprises with us. We can always learn something about gardening.

Ronnie Grell
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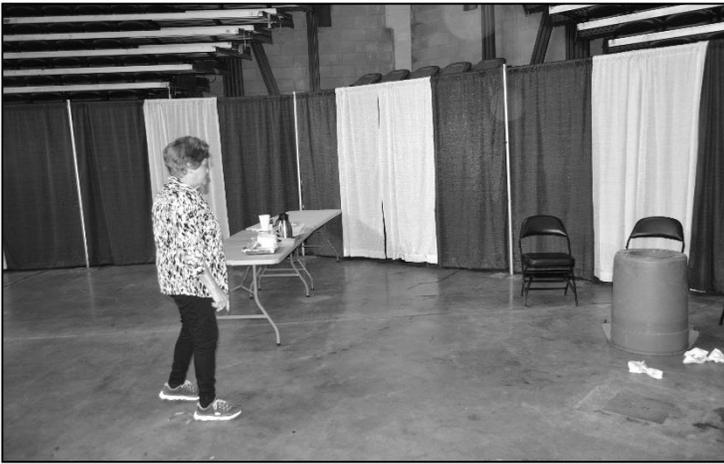
Rainbow Gardens also has a 8516 Bandera Rd Location



The real 'PROJECTS SOLVED' guy didn't come by our booth this year, but Robert McDaniel seems to be happy that the cardboard cutout did.



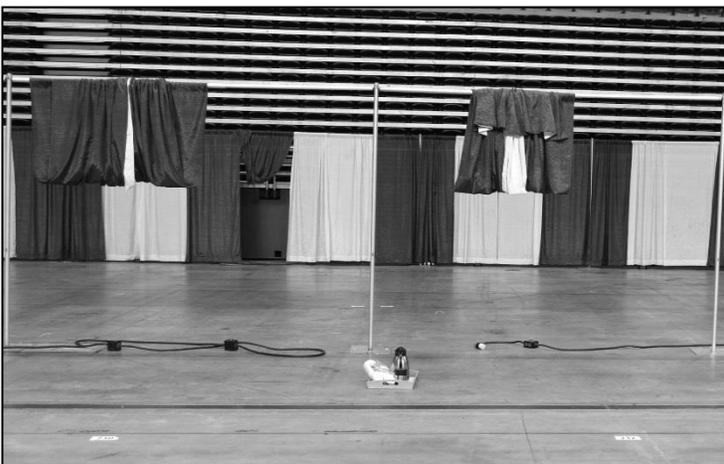
Teresa & Leonard Martinez, Marianne Ross, Margarita Rubio, and Mary & John Garcia enjoy a lull in the action at the Children's Garden.



BEFORE; Barbara Lamm surveys the area that has been set aside for the children's Garden. She has her thinking cap on.



AFTER: Barbara and Paul Huegel look over the garden after Barbara is done thinking and decorating. VERY NICE JOB!



BEFORE: Just 2 10ft wide spaces among hundreds at the show. The coffee pot sitting in the middle sez Men's Garden Club.

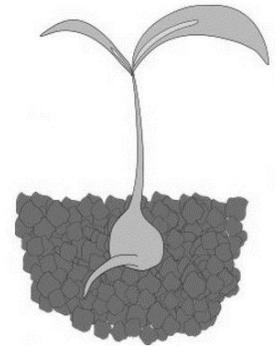


AFTER: It's show time and Frank Rios is busy helping a lady select her tomatoes. The area looks much better now, doesn't it?

The very successful 2019 Spring Home & Garden Show is over. If my memory serves me correctly, there were 11 people and 6 vehicles involved in the set up and putting away for this year's show. Countless hours went in before the Tuesday set up day in purchasing and preparing the plants and putting together the items needed to decorate the booth and especially the Children's Garden.

When starting seeds, the most important thing to remember is not to plant them too deep. Placing the seeds in less than 1/4 inch of soil will do. Also - you need to measure this with a ruler. Do not guess at it. The seed is a living embryo that contains enough energy to germinate and break the surface of the soil. If planted too deep, the seed will run out of energy and die before it breaks the surface. Once it breaks the soil surface, it produces the energy it needs through photosynthesis.

Keep the soil moist, but NOT WET with a temperature of at least 70 degrees. OVER-WATERING WILL DROWN THE SEED. A good rule to follow is the dirt should be so moist that it feels like brown sugar to your first knuckle. If it feels dry like salt, it is too dry. If it feels like wet flour, then it is too wet. The best watering for germinating is bottom watering. Put your starter pots in a tray, fill 3/4 with water and let them soak up the water they need until the seeds germinate. Watering from the top can dislodge the germinating seeds and kill them. Seeds should germinate in about 7 - 14 days, sometimes even in 21 days. Chili pepper seeds, for example, can take as long as 30 days until the first seedling comes up.



If starting indoors, seeds need 14 - 16 hours of daylight per day. A grow light will therefore be necessary. A regular florescent light, or lamp lights, will not do the job. If you are going to start your seeds indoors, you will need to make a small investment. Putting pots on a windowsill will not work in most cases. If the seedlings do not get enough light, they will grow tall and then they will die. If using a planter with cover, do not use a heat pad. The cover and that pad combination will create too much heat and humidity which will cook the seeds, thus killing them. One or the other is sufficient. Keep in mind that most planters have holes pre-drilled from 3/4 to 1 inch deep; that is too deep for many seeds. You may have to put a bit of filler in there.

Choose soil/garden soil carefully when starting your seedlings. Make sure the soil is light and formulated for germination of seedlings. Heavier more organic soils are ok for mature plants but not for seedlings. Some nursery sources have a germination/garden mix which works really great. Also, know that in the garden, birds, ants and other insects like to eat seeds. It is possible to plant them and have them stolen, especially smaller seeds. Even worms will eat the seeds. Do not use any fertilizer until plants are six inches tall. Then, use only half of what is recommended until the plants are a foot tall (12 inches). Use an organic fertilizer.

When transplanting outdoors, plants will need to be hardened off for 7 - 10 days. If you take the plants from the controlled environment to outside without hardening off, they could flounder and die or not grow well. For information on how to harden off plants, check out the website. www.davids-garden-seeds-and-products.com/hardeninf-off-plants.html.

This information comes, with corrections, thanks to David's Garden Seeds, San Antonio purveyor of over 1,000 varieties of Non-GMO seeds.

DIRECTIONS TO GROTTO PASTORAL CENTER

It is now called "Martires Oblatos De Espana Pastoral Center". Go south on Blanco Rd from Loop 410 for approximately 1.2 miles. Access the center by turning left onto Mt Sacred Heart Rd, go 400' and turn right into a large parking area. The center is to your left. Park near the building and access the meeting room from the **left side** of the building.

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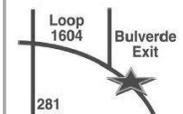


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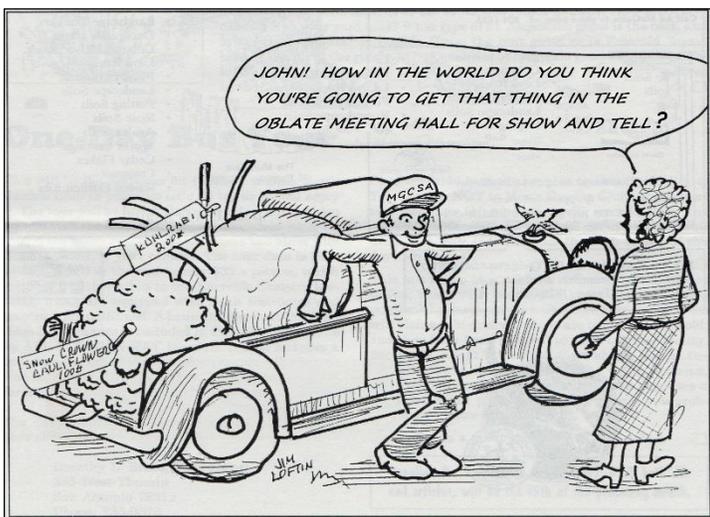
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**MGCSA MEETING at the OBLATE
7 March, 2019**

Social Hour: 6:30PM, Meeting 7PM

Speakers Sarah and Mike Maynard on
their hydroponics garden



Jim Loftin was a great gardener, club President in 1993, and a fine amateur artist. Over his years as a club member and president, he contributed many of his 'works of art' to the Horti Bull. The cartoon above was in the March 1992 edition. We have many more available to share with you in coming editions of the Horti Bull.



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