



# Horti-Bull

## HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN

Published Monthly by the SAN ANTONIO MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

WEBSITE: mensgardenclubofsa.com

Volume LI

May 2020

Number 5



2020 MGCSA Calendar of Events

**May 7:** Club meeting, cancelled.

**May 16:** SA Festival of Flowers, cancelled

**May 23:** Basil Fest at the Pearl Farmer's Market, cancelled.

**June 6:** Club's Annual Summer Picnic at MacArthur Park. Status to be announced..

No general meeting, June and July.

Back to Business in August with our meeting on **August 6.**

**October 3.** Herb Fest at the Pearl Farmer's Market, being evaluated.

**October:** Annual Malcolm Beck Tamalada, date and time to be announced.

**November:** Celebrate Arbor Day, date and time to be announced.



Todd Mernin

### From your President

Well, it is that time of the year when I am feeding up my veggies and landscape plants. Currently there are angel trumpets and star (Confederate) jasmine wafting in the evening and morning breeze.

Reading through this issue of the Horti-Bull, you will be delighted to see that many of our members are staying just as busy in their gardens and with their landscape projects.

As you read Paul's article below and the effort to shore up our financial position, please consider helping as much as you can. I know it is old news now, but just another way to help out in the coronavirus age.

Hope all is well with you and your family and I look forward to the time when we can once again meet and enjoy our club activities face to face. I personally feel that social distancing and maximum use of the face mask is necessary to get us out of this COVID-19 jam that we are in. **Todd**

### Emergency Alert Calling All Members

As you know we are in a stand-down with COVID-19 and our ability to maintain our budget is limited due to the cancelling of our primary fund raisers. We can be passive and watch it happen or we can take some action. Ken Wolfgram, Joyce Siebold and others have already taken action by selling off all the plants we had set aside for Spring Bloom and the Hollywood Park event that were cancelled. These were sold at heavily discounted prices at their homes to friends and neighbors. We need help to continue this approach at other homes and maybe curbside at stores, with their permission. We can provide a community service and promote the club during these uncertain times. However, there is a shortage of wholesale plants so we are calling on members to grow our own to sell. Ken, John Opiela and I have plants started but we need more plants, preferably vegetable. Ken has plenty of seeds that can be picked up at the Oblate greenhouse. We will sell the plants for \$1.00 as a community service and promote our club which may even draw new members. Call or email me, Paul Huegel, at 210-493-9853, [pdh45@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pdh45@sbcglobal.net) or Ken Wolfgram at 210-788-0177, [kdwolfgram3@aol.com](mailto:kdwolfgram3@aol.com).

**From Paul Huegel**

Need some seeds? **Ken Wolfgram sez** he can help because he has plenty of veggie and flowering seeds and very willing to share. Just contact him via email at [<kdwolfgram3@aol.com>](mailto:kdwolfgram3@aol.com) and arrange to meet.





## Calvin's Corner

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

**Horti-Bull Gardening Calendar for May** The permanent lawn grass of St Augustine, Bermuda, or Zoysia grass should be at a growth stage that it is efficient to fertilize it early in the month. It works best to use a slow release lawn fertilizer such as 19-5-9 where half of the nitrogen is released immediately, and the rest is released to be used by the grass during the growing season.

We wait until the lawn grass has grown enough that it has been mowed twice because it indicates that the root system has recovered enough to uptake the available nutrients and the foliage is developed enough so that translocation of the nutrients will result in them being distributed throughout the plant.

Organic lawn fertilizers are 100% slow release and low-level nitrogen sources. To be effective in supporting the normal lawn spring growth spurt, they would have to be applied earlier in the spring to give the products time to release the nitrogen. The nitrogen levels in organic lawn fertilizers are also about one-third as much as the material in manufactured products, so depending on the product, it may work best for the lawn if 3 times as much fertilizer is applied to the grass about March 1 rather than on May 1. If you prefer organic fertilizers, one option may be to fertilize this spring with a high nitrogen fertilizer like 19-5-9 and then use the slow release organic product beginning in early spring next year.

It is not recommended that "Weed and Feed" products be used on our lawns. In our growing conditions the time to prevent or kill weeds is different from the time to provide nutrients to the lawn grass. Now, when it is time to fertilize, the winter weeds are at the end of their life already so applying a weed killer is wasted and environmentally inappropriate. If the product has preemergent properties, it is too late to prevent germination of the summer weeds when the fertilizer works best for the lawn.

The wildflowers performed well this spring, but remember that they must be left to mature and drop their seed if they are going to bloom again next year. Resist the pressure to mow the plants down too quickly.

Your winter annuals have probably declined and need to be replaced. In the sun zinnias, cosmos, moss rose, and purslane work well. Use penta, semperfloren begonia, whopper begonia, caladium and coleus in the shade.

Zinnia are especially useful as a brightly colored garden plant that can be used as a cut flower. They are also a favorite nectar plant for hummingbirds and butterflies. The seeds are sought after by goldfinches, cardinals and other seed eaters. Zinnias can be planted by seed or transplants.

In addition to zinnia, plant milkweed, porter weed, mistflower, lantana, and salvia for the butterflies. Rely on tropical milkweed for a nectar source and Monarch egg laying site while you work on establishing native species such as antelope horn, green, and swamp milkweed.

In the vegetable garden keep the tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants well watered. If you have- n't planted okra yet it will still make a crop if you seed it

fertilized and early in May.

### MGCSA Officers for 2020

<b>President</b>	Todd Mernin
<b>1st V.P.</b>	Ivan Roman
<b>2nd V.P.</b>	Vallerie Hartfield
<b>3rd V.P.</b>	Robert McDaniel
<b>Treasurer</b>	Phil Byrd
<b>Secretary</b>	Larry Cromer
<b>Chaplain</b>	Vallerie Hartfield

### Directors

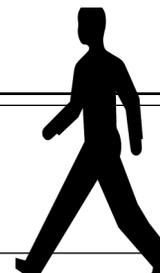
David Badorski	2018-2020
John Opiela	2018-2020
Margarita Rubio	2019-2021
Ken Wolgram	2019-2021
Barbara Lamm	2020-2022
Judy Phillips	2020-2022

### Other

<b>EX Officio:</b>	Paul Huegel
<b>HB advertising:</b>	Paul Huegel
<b>Postmaster:</b>	Larry Cromer
<b>Historian:</b>	<b>Paul Huegel</b>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	
<b>HB Editor:</b>	Jeffry Brown



←---SIX FEET---→



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**Social Distance and Mask  
Better Safe Than Sorry**

## History of Men's Garden Club of San Antonio Part 6- 1989, Two Decades of Successful Growth

by Paul D Huegel, MGCSA Historian



Part 5 took us back in history to the mid-to late 1980s where the MGCSA began to seek its independence from the national Men's Garden Club of America and pave the way for women members to fill leadership positions. The club had a prominent place in San Antonio having been recognized twice by proclamation by the city leadership. Part 6 will complete the 1980s with our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1989.

**1989-** Mat Hitzfelder became the 20 anniversary President and Bob Thompson (Cynthia's now deceased husband) assumed the Horti-Bull editor. This year brought astonishing growth and activities involving most of the membership. The Club started the year by appropriately planting the State pecan tree dedicated as a living memorial for all the deceased members of our first 20 years. The big February event came when we welcomed the first group of 14 women members into the club with a lot of fanfare and pride.

Also in February we started the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Youth Garden with a full capacity of 66 children registered. The children's garden had a new drip irrigation system installed as well as a better way to manage the compost piles. Like today the need for help continued to be a problem. But once again, only now as full members, the women stepped in to commit to the Youth garden program. General Dave Thomas who is the founder of the Youth Garden program at the Botanical Gardens arranged to test seeds for Texas A&M at the garden. Specifically, he tested 96 tomato plants the results of which were published in the January 1990 Horti-Bull. This may have been the first attempt of establishing the annual "Rodeo" tomato which is a

Bexar County project in collaboration with Texas A&M.

The Southwest Region of the national MGCA had its first Board of Directors meeting in Arlington Texas and the Annual Conference was held in Tyler Texas. Chairman Charles Bartlett (our longest serving active member) presented a Report on National Procedure which was accepted unanimously. The report recommended changes which had been rejected in 1988 and no official response was made at the National Convention in Portland, Oregon. Instead the National Board played politics and hired a consulting firm for \$5,000 dollars to "reorganize and revitalize" which was viewed as a stalling tactic to not face the underlining issues and concerns of the Southwest Region.

Meanwhile, MGCSA continued with its various successful programs. General Chuck Elia (most senior member today) chaired the judging of the Alamo Regional Science Fair which awarded the first-place winners \$100 savings bonds. Also, the 1989-90 Yearbook was released to the membership. Considered a "work of art" produced by Horti-Bull editor Bob Thompson, his wife Cynthia, Spike Ringen and Charles Bartlett identified officers, directors, and committee chairmen who guided the club in 1989 as well as a 20 year club history and a complete Club roster. This was a major accomplishment and set a baseline for the future.

Charles Bartlett presented an interesting and informative presentation on tropical and sub-tropical plants in 1989 using multiple visual aids and Spike Ringen and his wife Barbara opened their award-winning back yard garden to the Club and general public. This resulted in recruiting several new members as well as great respect and publicity for the Club. For the 17<sup>th</sup> year Malcolm and Delphine Beck opened their homestead for a grand 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary picnic. About 240 members and guests attended which was the largest picnic in the Club's history. A highlight for the picnic was a guided tour of the Beck farm and "compost and soil factory" which was featured in Organic Gardening on a number of occasions as one of the finest operations of its kind in the USA. Of course, Malcolm and Delphine grew this into a successful busi-

ness named "Gardenville" which still exists but owned by others.

The Club reached a membership of 308 members in 1989 which made it the largest garden club in the country. This is an amazing accomplishment considering we started out with group of 19 members in March of 1969. The first 20 years resulted in many milestones only because of hard work and dedication of its membership. It is notable that now that we are in our 51<sup>st</sup> year we still have some of those outstanding members who worked hard in the first two decades for us. I mentioned members including Charles Bartlett, General Chuck Elia, Delphine Beck and Cynthia Thompson in this brief history. We owe them and the many others who are no longer with us a great deal for our "best of the best" garden club legacy.



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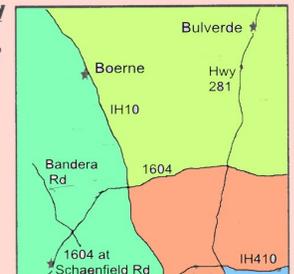
**Hours of Operation:**

**Mon. - Sat.**

**8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Sun. (seasonal)**

**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**



## What are you doing gardenwise during the COVID-19 stand-down?

I have a sloped backyard and I am building 2 retention walls each 2 feet tall. This will allow me to install 4 raised beds. I just started this project which should take about 5 – 7 weeks. *Gabriel Gonzales*

I'm working on weeding and planting my Iris and veggie beds – finally. Returned all the succulents to pots from glassware. Best of all – I managed to sell off lots of the veggies we had for the cancelled SAWS Spring Bloom event. *Ken Wolfgram*

With all the great weather, I have been on a weeding spree. I like to weed before having my yard mowed because my yardman doesn't use a grass catcher and I don't want the weeds to go to seed. I also pulled down the dead vines on the chain link fence between my neighbor and me because they were starting to get new growth and the dead ones were still there. We had such a weird winter. I have filled the blue barrel twice. *Pat Schieffer*

I started cuttings from a California Yellow Fig, culinary Rosemary and a Joseph's Coat Rose. Also started seeds for Texas Wild Tomato and the Silvery Fir Tree tomato from Kyle. Planted Daylilies, Rain Lilies, peppers, arugula, parsley, irises and milkweed. *Diana Fox*

The landscape has been a blessing to maintain my physical and mental health, with my gym and even condo gym closed. I go to my suburban home nearly every day to mow, rake leaves, spread compost, prune, plant, and so on. The more demanding, the better. And no mask except when I blew the oak pollen off the roof. *Joe Shinnars*

Renewed the beds and planted 15 tomato plants and 4 pepper plants. Taking great care of four newly planted oak trees. *Charles Elia*

Staying in and keeping my feet propped up. I have a broken foot, so not much gardening going on at this time. *Sharon Hughes*

I repurposed pallets to fill with soil and use to plant my Spring garden. *Judi Warwick*

Our backyard has too much shade for growing vegetables. This week we hired a tree service to clear out some branches to let more sunlight through. If we are blessed with tomatoes this season, they will be the most expensive tomatoes ever grown by Mr. B. *Darlene Badorski*

We have been working on several projects in our Japanese inspired American Woodland garden. We have vacuumed up most of the fallen leaves in the beds and mulched them. We have also planted about 30 new small trees, shrubs and other plants while replenishing the pathways with gravel. It's keeping us busy! *Jeffery Harris and Kevin George*

We have enclosed our patio with screening, repaired and planted some hanging pots with Angel Wing begonias (which some wrens have now occupied), cleaned out some of the flower garden area, and raked endless leaves. My significant other prefers the leaves in the trash. *Gary and Marianne Ross*

Amended garden/flower beds w/compost, planted summer veggie garden, fertilized everything. Propagated coleus, begonias, cleaned and fertilized daylily beds. Repotted all hanging baskets/new soil and fertilized. Painted and cleaned out potting shed. Took mower/trimmer to shop for maintenance, cleaned gardening tools, and put tung oil on handles. Hummingbirds are building a nest in a tree in my backyard for the first time. *Barbara Hall*

In Gonzalez we are hunkering down watching the grass grow and mowing when necessary. Doing usual Spring chores of cutting back plants, repotting, weeding, watching them bloom gloriously (especially the amaryllis, Belinda's Dream roses). We feel blessed to be in a place with practically no virus victims and a plethora of hummingbirds to keep us company during the quarantine. *Martha Jo and John Whitt*

My wonderful cacti are blooming giving me a real boost for sheltering down at Hill Country Retreat. *Linda Hollingsworth*

Looking forward to taking plants out of the greenhouse, and cleaning up the yard and getting things back to order. Enjoying what I create with my hands and watching it grow. Keeping it green. *Al Del Rio*

There is usually some type of opportunity to be found in a crisis and for me it has been the opportunity to spend more time in the yard. Luckily our club has provided me with some tomato plants to experiment with so I've set myself to the task. In due time, I hope to see if this endeavor proves to be fruitful or an utter disaster. I'll let you know. *Mike Stepp*

I only have a very small space to plant anything in my backyard so I decided to use a flower bed, a small triangle at the end of our swimming pool. I have put in three tomato, three pepper, and three squash plants of differing variety—this is all I can handle. Looking forward to the time we can meet again. *Joyce Siebold*

I have been putting new flower beds into my backyard and planting new rose bushes. I now have 29 rose bushes! Oops. *Tiffany Paddock*

I have planted tomatoes this year in five gallon buckets so I can move them in and out of the sun. Good for the tomatoes, not so for my back. Did my annual planting of the backyard bathtub; this year with tomatoes and peppers. *Frank Rios*

18 tomato plants are 4 ft tall and fruiting, strawberries are almost red. We have cucumbers, Irish and red potatoes, onions, shallots, squash, zucchini, bush beans, peas, pole beans, watermelon, peppers, radishes, corn and Crawford lettuce. And, 15 different herbs. *Robert and Jane McDaniel*

We have been maintaining a potted plant garden. The peanut cactus has a beautiful red bloom and more to come. We have put together a plastic barrel bird bath using a solar bubbler. We truly enjoy watching the birds using the bath to bathe and drink. *Charles and Ruth Shaw*

I am doing patio gardening with a few vegetable seeds. I purchased garden soil from New Earth. Am anxious to see the results. *Vallerie Hartfield*

Continued on page 6

**What do you know about eggs?**

Eggs are one of the few foods that should be classified as “superfoods.” They are loaded with nutrients. They contain vitamins A, D, E, K, B5, B12, B2, B6, folate, phosphorus, selenium, calcium, and zinc. Eggs are high in cholesterol, but eating eggs does not adversely affect cholesterol in the blood for the majority of people. Eating eggs consistently leads to elevated levels of HDL( the “good”) cholesterol, which is linked to a lower risk of heart disease, stroke, and other health problems. Eggs are among the best dietary sources of choline, a nutrient that is used to build cell membranes and has a role in producing signaling molecules in the brain. Egg consumption appears to change the pattern of LDL particles from small, dense LDL (bad) to large LDL, which is linked to a reduced heart disease risk. The antioxidants lutein and zeaxanthin are very important for eye health and can prevent macular degeneration and cataracts. Eggs are high in both of them. Omega-3 enriched and pastured eggs may contain significant amounts of omega-3 fatty acids. Eating these types of eggs is an effective way to reduce blood triglycerides. Proteins are the main building blocks of the human body. Eggs are an excellent source of protein. Many studies have looked at egg intake and the risk of heart disease and found no association. However, some studies have found an increased risk in people with type 2 diabetes. Eggs are highly satiating and may reduce calorie intake later in the day. Regularly eating eggs may promote weight loss. Eggs are pretty much nature’s perfect food. Next article will be on ‘Uses for Eggs’ .

From *Vallerie Hartfield*

**Ivan and Isabel’s sloping back yard**

Ivan and Isabel Roman’s sloping backyard has been leveled enough to plant a healthy looking Bald Cypress tree, and a beautiful basket tree on a real tree. There is coleus, spider plants and other live baskets, as well as hanging ornamentals.

**Linda Hollingsworth’s Cacti**

All of my cacti are hybrids purchased in San Diego county. They were put in pots for our home in Oceanside, CA. When we moved to Las Vegas, they moved with us. And when we came to San Antonio, they came with us. The cacti really like San Antonio, instead of blooming once in the spring elsewhere, in San Antonio they have bloomed 3 times during the year ... much to our joy. They are happy here as we are to be Texans. They are Echinopsis Trichocereus: Flying Saucer, La Lana, Noris, and Snow White varieties. My favorite is Tricho lobivia Hybrid pink Trumpet Flower. It is translucent and awesome. Below on the left is Linda’s favorite, the Trichocereus Tricho lobivia hybrid “Hot Pink”, common name Trumpet Flower Cactus. On the right is a Trichocereus hybrid “La Lana”.



**Continued from page 4**

I am fighting the spread of Oak Wilt which is active just 1 block away from my home. I am using Bob Webster's Organic recommendations using whole ground corn meal, an inexpensive endeavor well worth the time and effort to protect my 19 oak trees. *Janis Witt*

I've had time to plant two tomato and two bell pepper plants (yes, I planted a *little* late. Everything is so beautiful, green and lush right now, I'm even enjoying pulling weeds. I've re-potted several root bound plants, refreshed the mulch in the flower beds and generally, I'm spending time just puttering around the beautiful outdoors.

*Mary Martinez*

I have been adding plants to my backyard Victory Garden. We have had perfect weather to plant and the stand down gives us plenty of free time with fewer distractions like **shopping at Goodwill**. I have also made a couple visits to our Grotto greenhouse to water and admire the fish that Ken Wolfram added to the aquarium.

*Paul D. Huegel*

We continue to work on our challenging sloped back yard. Our most recent addition was the planting of a large bald cypress tree. We are also replanting and refreshing the flower baskets within the patio.

*Ivan and Isabel Roman*



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**CORRECTION** In the April Horti-Bull in the picture below, we identified the young lady as an employee of the shows management company. She in reality is Julia Collin Davison, co-host of the very popular NPR television show, America's Test Kitchen. She was a guest celebrity speaker at the Spring H&G Show



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**MEMBER NEWS**

I have telephoned many of our members to check on them. It is a great feeling to hear the voices of my garden family. Please continue to pray for all of us and our families. *Vallerie Hartfield*

Delphine Beck is currently at the Silver Dollar Nursing Home, 903 Roy Richard Drive, Schertz, TX 78154. I am sure it is very lonely not having anyone visiting with her due to Covid-19. I am sending her another card today and if anyone would like to brighten up her day, she is listed as Dell Beck in care of the nursing home. She would be happy to hear from you. *Barbara Lamm*

Cynthia Thompson still resides at the rest home over near Sea World where she has been for some time. She remembers a garden club, but doesn't associate faces or places or times. Info from her daughter. *Larry Cromer*

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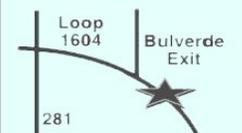


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