



# Horti-Bull

## HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN

Published Monthly by the SAN ANTONIO MEN'S GARDEN CLUB  
A club for Men and WOMEN interested in all aspects of gardening

[WEBSITE: mensgardenclubofsa.org](http://www.mensgardenclubofsa.org)

Volume 2024

November

Number 11



### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

#### From Our Interim President Elena Schriener

This is my opportunity to thank all the members of our Garden club for their dedication this past year in support of our club and to tell each and everyone of you: you are appreciated!

Some can't do as much as others (or as much as they used to do in the past); some aren't "Wow" gardeners, while others can and do manage to have crop after crop of successful veggies and flowers and amazing stories to tell! That's wonderful and good. Club members (like the fruits of your labor), have come & gone. But we have had precious mementos of sharing time and activities together. That's life. And I for one am so grateful for each and everyone that has been there at our MGCSA meetings and camaraderie! For those that no longer attend, be well, and return to say "hi" when you are able to do so. For those that continue to be at our meetings & activities, "Rock on!"



We've had some pretty good times and now we are about to have a TAMALADA; next, the changing of the guard" so to speak with voting for officers to lead our club next year; and, finally, in December, we can enjoy our Christmas celebration together.

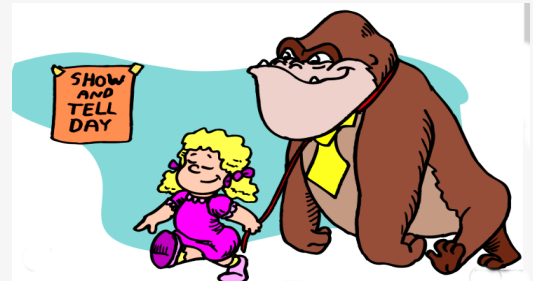
Hopefully, we can all STEP UP, participate & do a little better in helping those who are always, holding OUR club together! Beginning with: make suggestions, follow through & BE at our sales/activities; participate just a tad more (so our skeleton crew that is always there to carry on will not just be the only ones there )! Talk it over with a buddy and show up at each activity; it's always a learning opportunity. Thank you for your friendship. Elena

**MEETING: 7 November 2024 at The San Antonio Garden Center Located at N. New Braunfels Ave.**

**and Funston Place**

**It's the 2024 Malcolm Beck Tamalada and it will begin one hour earlier, 6 pm.**

**The November meeting will feature a wide open horticulture/ gardening 'SHOW AND TELL'. Don't be left out, bring your pride and joy to show, and 'tell' about.**



### Come and join us for the 2024 Malcolm Beck Tamalada

**The November 7, 2024, meeting will be held at the Garden Center with a full program.**

We will start the meeting an hour earlier **at 6 pm** and celebrate our annual Beck Tamalada with an informal dinner of delicious tamales and other side dishes. You are encouraged to join us and enjoy the fellowship with other members of the club. **AND, BRING THE SIDE DISHES.**



At 7 pm, the formal meeting will commence with a short business session, discussion of the December Officer Installation and Christmas Party, and the election of officers for 2025. We have already identified a slate of potential officers, and the floor will be open to add to this list. After the election of officers, we will have an open house for show and tell. Any- and every-one with a horticultural product to show and explain to the audience is invited to be a presenter. It will be a good time to share any of your experiences and show off your work. It gives everyone a chance to share their horticultural ideas. Bring your show and tell and share with others.

The tamales, beans, and beverages will be furnished by the club, and members will furnish the side dishes of their choosing.

HOPE TO START OUR MEAL AT 6 O'clock



**Horti-Bull Gardening Calendar  
for November 2024  
From Dr. Calvin Finch**

Fertilize your lawn with a “winterizer” fertilizer such as 18-06-12. Our lawn grass changes its chemistry in the autumn and instead of using all available nutrients to grow more foliage, a good part of the nutrients are stored

for the plants use for spring growth. Since the “winterizer” formula is all in fast source form, it lends itself better to the lawn grass’ current needs.

November 1 is also the time to apply a copper hydroxide product such as Kocide to your peach trees to help them combat bacterial diseases. The copper hydroxide should be applied as per the label instructions and the remaining leaves will fall off. The bare branches also make it convenient to identify any scale insects on the stems and trunks so you can apply horticultural oil to suffocate them and relieve the tree of their feeding on the plant liquids. It is too late to apply fertilizer to the fruit trees for the fall but make a note to apply a slow-release fertilizer such as 19-05-09 in February if the trees did not put at least 2 feet of growth on this summer.

The winter greens can still be planted in November and the weather should be cool enough to plant spinach and onions. I like to plant spinach plants with 1.5 feet in between the plants. If you allow 4 inches in between the onion transplants you can harvest the middle two plants through the row as green onions and allow the remaining 3rd plant to reach full size by about June 1. The onions and greens like spinach, broccoli, and kale are high nitrogen users. Prepare the planting site with 10 cups of high nitrogen fertilizer like 19-05-09 before planting and then side dress each 8 ft row with one cup of the same fertilizer every month.

In the vegetable garden stay alert to cabbage looper infestations on your cabbage related greens. Apply a Bt product such as Dipel or Bio Worm Killer as soon as you see any foliage damage from the caterpillars feeding.

Butterflies are often still active in November but it is best if the Monarchs concentrate on filling up with nectar to be able to complete their migration to their Mexican Wintering grounds. Towards that end cut back the tropical and other exotic milkweed foliage plants on the first of the month to discourage further egg-laying. Mist flower, zinnias, pentas, fall asters, lantana, porter weed, and salvia are favored nectar plants.

In the flower garden until the first freeze arrives you will still have zinnias and other warm weather annuals blooming but it is also a good time to plant the winter annuals such as snapdragons, stocks, calendula, dianthus, pansies, and alyssum by transplants.

Plant sweet peas by seed, it works well to use your largest tomato cages as trellis. Soak the seed overnight before planting. They are temperamental about both cold and heat so be prepared to replant if the temperatures are extreme in either direction.

Speaking of severe temperatures, November is usually when San Antonio experiences it’s first freeze of the year so be prepared to protect your citrus and other sensitive plants with fabric coverings and heat sources. Move the tropical hibiscus, bougainvillea, and other cold sensitive plants growing in containers into shelter as soon as the temperatures start reaching 40 degrees.

**MGCSA Officers for 2024**

<b>President</b>	Robert McDaniel	210-542-1888
<b>1st V.P.</b>	Elena Schriener	210-269-8222
<b>2nd V.P.</b>	Vallerie Hartfield	210-240-1466
<b>3rd V.P.</b>	Vacant	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Huegel	210-385-9072
<b>Secretary</b>	Ida Santiago	210-387-5092
<b>Chaplain</b>	Vallerie Hartfield	210-240-1466

**Directors**

**2022-2024**

Teresa Martinez	210--534-8100
Gary Ross	210-836-4052

**2023-2025**

Barbara Lamm	210-648-8001
Leonard Martinez	210-514-0584

**2024-2026**

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

**Other**

<b>EX Officio</b>	Todd Mernin	210-218-4155
<b>HB Advertising</b>	Paul Huegel	
<b>Historian</b>	Paul Huegel	
<b>Webmaster</b>	Ivan Roman	
<b>HB Editor</b>	Larry Cromer	210-521-5350

**MEMBERSHIP**

Attendance: October 3rd, 2024: 28 Members, 6 Guests.

We welcome all new members and guests.

If needed, contact Paul Huegel to update your membership and to pay your dues.

Happy Birthday to all November births.

Healing and recovery to all who are sick.

Strength, comfort, peace, and love to all who are coping with losses.

**HOSPITALITY**

Many thanks to Marion See and Marie Reyes for setting up the refreshments and cleaning afterwards. And, THANKS also to all who helped in this endeavor.

November 2024



# NINTH ANNUAL BUTTERFLY AND POLLINATOR FESTIVAL

by Paul D Huegel

The Ninth Annual Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival took place at the beautiful Brackenridge Park on October 5, 2024. This was our third year in attendance, and like last year, it was a fun and memorable event. Most of us observe the return of the Monarch butterflies every year, which we take for granted. I must admit that I was a little apprehensive last year about getting involved with an event that seems to have little to do with gardening. However, to my surprise and fascination, I now appreciate just how important butterfly and the other pollinators are to our ecosystem.

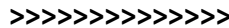
On a picture perfect day the festival itself was very successful with more children and families than I have ever seen at any event we participated in. Like last year the MGCSA had two exhibits. Charles Bartlett and Al Del Rio managed the pollinator plant sales and I managed the Children's Garden with some assistance from Ivan and Isabel Roman, Ida Santiago Maldonado, Mike Stepp, Frank Rios and Keith Massa, who managed to find the new location for our setup without any help. The truth is that all of us were confused as the site we were assigned was across from the river, close to the Children's Amusement Park. The people running the event had so many interested parties that they had to expand the area sites. I was a little worried that we would not be found and our children would not benefit. However, I was woefully wrong as we had over 200 kids and were constantly on the go. I was pleased that Keith Massa got there early as I would have been on my own with the Children's Garden for the first couple hours. There was a constant flow of families with legions of kids. Our assigned site was situated in a picturesque area with many tall, beautiful trees and an aqueduct behind our setup.

Charles Bartlett and Al Del Rio brought many unique pollinator plants to sell and the event organizers were giving away free trees and other butterfly attractors like tropical milkweed. Charles and Al sold out all the special plants they brought and donated the proceeds to the club which amounted to \$906. The club is blessed to have members like Charles and Al who not only give their time and talent but generously support us with many sizable donations, As stated earlier, the Children's Garden educated 200 plus children on the basics of gardening with Purple Heart and Purslane cuttings from the Grotto greenhouse and my backyard. The Children's Garden gave away all of the plants brought and thanks to Ken Wolfram, as an added bonus, we gave away all the pollinator seed balls that Ken made giving the kids an incentive to plant their seed balls next Spring.

As usual, we made do with a small group of volunteers but could have used more because of the constant flow of people, especially at the Children's Garden section. John Opiela and his lovely wife Betty, our volunteers extraordinaire, managed all the logistics with some help from Mike Stepp, Al Del Rio, Charles Bartlett and myself. The only disappointment, beside the lack of volunteers, was that more members did not take advantage of this interesting and fun event on a picture perfect day. If invited again next year to the Tenth Butterfly and Pollinator Festival, count me in and hopefully I will be joined with more club members who will participate and enjoy all the festival has to offer.



Charles Bartlett looks on as Al Del Rio makes a presentation to a potential customer.



At times, the crowds were so heavy, you couldn't see the Mobil Children's Garden for the Grandparents, Parents, and Planters.

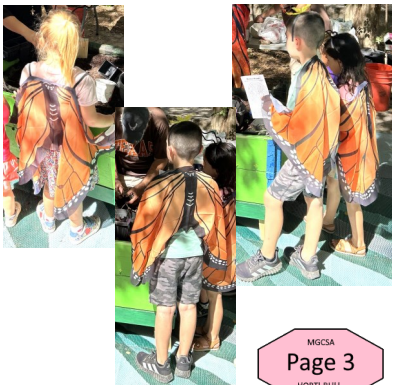


There were numerous Monarch Butterflies at the festival. But by far, our Garden Club Monarch Queen, Isabel Roman, was our favorite.

Ida Santiago and Isabel Roman help the young Monarchs do their planting.



PICTURES BY IVAN ROMAN



## SIGNATURE PLANT SALES

By Charles Bartlett

"I always find interesting plants here!" said a customer at the Monarch Fest. This is a comment we often hear. For many decades the MGCSA has hosted plant sales of special horticultural interest. We've hosted plants sales for the Festival of Flowers, the Herb Society, and the Monarch Festival, just to name a few.

The deadly 2021 winter storm damaged or killed many plants, shrubs, and trees in the San Antonio and Central Texas area. Based on what we learned from that weather event we're now interested in promoting more hardy plants, especially native plants. These plants, which have flourished in North America for 10,000 years, may not only be cold tolerant, but also drought tolerant, may have a long blooming season, and can often thrive in our alkaline soils. By concentrating on such noteworthy plant species, MGCSA plant sales are attractive, sought out by knowledgeable gardeners, and often a 'sold-out' event.

For Fall plant sales, we have emphasized species which provide abundant nectar, bloom during the Monarch butterfly migration in October-November, and which are

more difficult to find in local nurseries. For the 5 October, 9th Annual Monarch and Pollinator Festival in Brackenridge Park, we promoted Fall-blooming aster, showy goldenrod, a low-growing hybrid Salvia, and milkweed. Next year, we'll add Fall-blooming Mexican Taxis (Taxis inula). These perennial plants not only have a long life-span, but are beautiful, and are fairly low maintenance, an attraction for busy gardeners.

Many of our expert members have special heirloom, native, or even exotic plants which would be ideal for club plant sales events. We encourage you to check out your plant inventory, propagate, and grow those special plants for our MGCSA plant sales. You are not only helping your club financially, but ALSO, and most importantly, making available plants you know are amazing finds based on your decades of gardening experience. There's no one more qualified!

Anyone growing 'Changsha' tangerine, 'Dakota Gold' Bitterweed, or Maximilian Sunflower? Great plants for a future sale!



**Changsha Tangerine**



**Maximilian Sunflower**



The Botanical Garden's Childrens Vegetable Garden Program: The children are harvesting tomatoes, kale, cucumbers, and Swiss chard. They are preparing for the vegetable contest on November 23, 2024. They have been participating in Junior Master Gardener Classes. The children decorated their gardens with scarecrows for Halloween. What a sight to see. The program will end on December 7, 2024.

From Vallerie Hartfield

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### COMMENTS ON THE HORTI-BULL

We want to hear from you!

What do you like?

What do you dis-

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# 34th Annual Herb Market at Rainbow Gardens

by Paul D Huegel

Another successful Herb Market this year on October 19, 2024. This was our seventh year as an invitee to showcase our Mobile Children's Garden and promote membership in the Club. After spending six years at the Pearl Brewery we were invited to the Bandera Road Rainbow Gardens Garden Center by our host. Like our host, we welcomed the move because it was difficult to setup and tear down with the limited space and parking at the Pearl. This year, as in past years, we were specifically given permission to sell plants to raise money for the Club as well. We had a surplus of plants to sell from the Grotto greenhouse and did not have to buy any plants. The event was scheduled to take place from 9AM to 2PM, but we needed to set up and tear down which extended our day from 8AM to 3PM. Another advantage of our new venue at the Pearl was that we could set up on Friday for the Saturday event and there was plenty of free parking,

There was a constant flow of people in a much more spacious location next to a gazebo we could use. The area was shaded by a beautiful large oak tree. It was a picture-perfect day and the temperature was comfortable. This prime location drew more children than usual for our Children's Garden from previous years, but we did not sell any plants. That is understandable given we were in competition with the main plant sales feature of the Herb Market and our host, the Rainbow Gardens. This was not a problem since our primary goal was to operate the Children's Garden and promote membership to the club. The volunteers that participated helped with the Children's Garden while projecting a positive image of the Club by answering many plant related questions of the children's parents and grandparents. It was a real group effort and everyone seemed to be ready, willing and able to volunteer. We had enough volunteers, but I was disappointed that more Club members missed a golden opportunity to enjoy the event and promote membership at this popular attraction.

Thanks again to John and Betty Opiela for their logistical support to and from the Oblate greenhouse in setting up and tearing down our exhibits. Also, thanks to Ed Elbel, David Badorski, Mary Martinez, Ida Santiago Maldonado, Pat Schieffer, and Larry Cromer for assisting in setting up, running and tearing down our exhibits. For a charitable event we had a good turnout of volunteers and children. All in all, it turned out to be fun and a worthwhile endeavor and hopefully we will get invited again next year with even more Club volunteers and spectators hopefully again at Rainbow Gardens.



## Kids!

## Adopt an Herb Plant

Visit the Men's Garden Club

During

## Herb Market

For Your Free Plant!



Pictures from around the Children's Mobile Vegetable Garden, and some of the plants we had for sale, that didn't. Our volunteers shown are David Badorski, Ed Elbe, Paul Huegel, Sharon Hughes, Mary Martinez, Ida Santiago, and Pat Schieffer.

We had a 3-piece musical group that entertained us for 4 hours.





## Show-and-Tell by Alberto del Rio

Uncommon plants for the fall in-mass-or-groups

- Inland Sea Oats
- Fennel (edible)
- Gomphrena "Strawberry Fields"
- Cow Pen Daisy
- Yellow Butterfly Vine
- Beauty Berry (edible)
- Cockscomb
- Chromolaena Odorata (Blue Boneset) "Crucita"
- Dwarf Pomegranate -ornamental-
- Chile Pequin (edible)
- Dwarf Barbados Cherry -semi evergreen shrub-

Thursday  
October 3rd  
At the  
Garden Club  
MEETING

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**October Program Speakers:** Our very popular panel of gardening experts was at it again, presenting their latest experience with fall gardening. John Sells, Ken Wolfgram, Al Del Rio, Joe Shinnars, and John Opiela. They spoke about which fall vegetable and flowering plants do well in the Bexar County/San Antonio area. Paul Huegel, the moderator, led the question-and-answer session making sure all club members had a chance to share their planting experience and ask their questions. Al Del Rio brought a "Show and Tell" of assorted plants that enjoy our Fall season.

### Pictures and Billboard from Ivan Roman

Ronnie Grell  
Managing Partner

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