



NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN ANTONIO HERB SOCIETY  
DECEMBER 2021

**JOIN US AT THE GARDEN CENTER DECEMBER 1  
NO HERB SOCIETY MEETING IN DECEMBER 2021**

Not exactly the same thing as our regular meeting, but we are having a salad tasting luncheon at the Garden Center December 1, from 10 until 1 pm. Herb Society members are all invited to come to the luncheon. We are rushing to get this newsletter out to you in time, to give you notice, because this will be our only opportunity to meet in December

We have cancelled the December 9 meeting. Circumstances beyond our control have made it very difficult to have our annual banquet meeting. The Botanical Gardens have a five year contract for the *Lightscape* at the Gardens. This will last the whole of December to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Valet parking at \$25 per car has taken over the parking lot of the Garden Center and closed parking to Garden Center members. The parking allowance for our group is ten parking spaces plus the three handicap and two side door loading spaces. We were not sure how many spaces would actually be available. Almost all the other clubs that meet at night have decided to cancel their meetings. Rather than swim up-stream, we have decided to take a pause and plan a nice January Banquet for Thursday, January 13. (Volunteer to help plan this event)

Next year, we will have an idea of how crowded the parking lot was and can make good plans in advance.

Our motto is “Don’t give up meeting together.” Get in touch with other members over the holidays, stay in touch with us. Have a happy and safe holiday.

**SAN ANTONIO  
HERB SOCIETY**  
Mark your calendar for  
January 13, 2022  
Banquet

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## STUCK FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT? INVITE LADYBUGS TO VISIT

Ladybugs are one of many great beneficial insects to have in your yard. They leave your garden crop alone. Instead, they focus their appetite on garden pests like aphids and mites. Here are four simple ideas to attract more ladybugs to the garden.

### 1. Grow Ladybug Plants and Flowers

Ladybugs may feed on nectar if there aren't many aphids or natural food supply to feed on. Consider growing brightly-colored flowers like cosmos, calendulas, and marigolds in your garden. The leaves of these flowering plants may also provide shelter for the ladybugs. Also Angelica, Caraway, Chives, Cilantro, Coreopsis, Dandelions, Dill, Fennel, Feverfew, Scented geraniums, Statice, Sweet alyssum, Tansy, Wild carrot and Yarrow



### 2. Build a Ladybug House

Provide a nice shelter for the ladybugs by placing a ladybug house in the garden. A ladybug house typically consists of a small wooden box filled with wooden pieces like bamboo canes.

The ladybug house may also attract other beneficial insects like green lacewings and bees. The insects can shelter and hibernate in these wooden structures.

Quoted from Backyard Buddies, an educational initiative of FNPW from Australia (with construction comments from editor)

“Ladybirds (Americans call them ladybugs) are a welcome sight in any backyard. Not only are they colourful and lovely to watch, but they also eat up aphids from your plants and help keep your garden healthy.

This Ladybird House makes a creative addition to any garden. It will be used by ladybirds and other insects in winter. Adult help is required to make this project. Your ladybird house can help attract ladybirds to your garden or encourage those you release to stick around.

**You will need:** a piece of plywood, logs (at least 10 cm wide) (about 4 inches), bamboo canes, twigs screws, nails, wire, power drill, hand saw. |

**Instructions:**

1. Screw and wire together the logs to make a frame. (In the picture the frame is made of wood and painted yellow)
2. Cut the plywood to the shape of the frame and nail it to the back.
3. Cut the bamboo canes into pieces the same depth as the frame.
4. Cut pieces of log the same depth as the frame.(They use machine made dowels, but ladybugs like the logs just as well)
5. Use a drill to make holes around 5 mm in diameter in the log pieces.
6. Stack the bamboo and log pieces into the frame. Push them in as tightly as possible so they don't fall out.
7. Fill any gaps with twigs.
8. Make a loop from wire to hang it from.



Hang on a wall, ideally facing into the morning sun. Position it near plants because ladybirds like to eat aphids. If it is low down and near a pond it may be used by dragonflies and solitary bees too.

Avoid using chemicals and pesticides in the garden as they can deter good bugs like ladybirds that want to eat up your aphids for free. Leave little unknown bugs as they could grow into ladybirds. Lure ladybirds to your garden by making a concoction of honey, water and brewers yeast. Spread it in the garden and ladybirds will visit.

**Be a backyard buddy**

It's easy. All you have to do is care... and take a few simple steps. Backyard Buddies are the native plants and animals that share our urban areas, waterways, backyards and parks. Backyard Buddies are also the people who value native wildlife and want to protect it.”

**3. Add a Water Source**

Ladybugs also need water to survive. Provide a water source by placing a few damp paper towels in your garden. Ladybugs will also drink from plant dew so it may help to spray your plant foliage every once in a while.

**4. Don't use Pesticide**

Using pesticide is a big no-no. Pesticide doesn't discriminate between the good and bad bugs. Let the ladybugs do the pest control job for you. Did you know that one ladybug is capable of eating as many as 5,000 aphids in its lifetime?

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!

Garden Center November 3 We were the Lead Host for the meeting. Each month the Garden center has a meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. Garden clubs from all over San Antonio meet to hear an excellent speaker.

We were not sure how many guests would attend; estimated fifty. There were probably more than that. Pam De Roche, Gloria Ortiz and I made Pimento Cheese, ham with mustard and mayonnaise and turkey salad with cranberries and pecans.



Annette could not attend the cooking portion but volunteered to bring a fruit salad. She did something clever, that we will put in our arsenal for next time: a small, covered back-up salad, stashed in the refrigerator, just in case the first bowl got empty. She was also there to help set up the table.

Cindy brought ahead of time all kinds of fall decorations for all three of the tables if necessary. She is tied up on Wednesdays but manages to volunteer on the days before to great effect.

Two other garden groups supported the effort: Lantana and Terrell Heights clubs. The smallest club provided coffee service by bringing the supplies by the previous day. Rhonda set up all the coffee on this little cart. Sweets were provided by Lantana. We did not expect such a generous outpouring of sweets. (pictured)



The Garden Center was filled with members. Mary Dunford gave a talk about making wreaths from dried flowers and herbs. She had lots of samples of different plants we can dry for this purpose.

We had a plan, that if this was too much food, we would offer it to the members, then take what was bonus to someone in need. Gloria helped on the phone, trying to connect with the Catholic Charities, which are close by and usually accept offerings of food. For some reason, they did not have a working number, so we called the Women's Shelter. Since we had visited them before, we all thought it, too, was local. It began to rain, and we put the address in our GPS only to find that it was located clear across town. Oh well, it was a pleasant drive, and they were most grateful for the contribution.

This December 1 the Garden Center is having its annual Salad Tasting Luncheon. Be sure to join us, and put Wednesday January 5 on your calendar for the next Garden Center meeting



## MORE THANKYOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

We also want to thank all those who volunteer to do the work for the Herb Society. Our notice was short to prepare for the Pop-Up Holiday sale but you all were troopers. Esther Sutton, Linda Nairn, Annette Hoffman, Gloria Ortiz all came over to help make the roasted garlic salt. It took a lot of mixing and slow baking. Then Annette helped finish the jars the next day. Esther was a genius with the antique crimper, which she figured how to pink a circle out of our Christmas themed fabric. Marsha Wilson spent a day bottling the garlic salt. We measured, wrapped, topped and beribboned the jars. The jars are larger than the little baggies we used before. We are offering a generous amount for a little higher price.



We also cut out felt and sewed small boxes, added pompom buttons, trimmed thread. These small felt boxes with the hand sewn button holes, are distinctive enough to hold treasure. We think these will be ideal 'useful bags' for holding a precious gift or use your imagination as to what to put inside. We use them for earbuds, because they tend to be less tangled this way. If your teen has wireless ones, the bag helps keep them in a treasured place.



**Today, my gift to the earth, in the glove box:** Melanie and Jim Short and Ester Sutton returned to help with the napkin project.

These products need a little explaining. In looking for a gift, a marketer tries to solve a problem the customer did not know they had. In our musings, we have wondered how to use less plastic. One simple method, suggested to us by Rachael Cywinsky, is to bring your own silverware with you. So we made a large napkin, turned over one corner to stitch small pockets for knife, fork, spoon and reusable straw. Rolling this up and tying with a ribbon, makes a neat packet to keep in the glove box. Once used, the non-matching silverware is easy to spot, roll in the clean napkin, return to the glovebox.



We will be curious to see how these new products are accepted by our public.



# Meeting Minutes

MEETING MINUTES 11 11 2021

We met at 7 pm in the Garden Center. Robin Maymar, president, called the meeting to order. There were 16 people in attendance. There was no Zoom broadcast for the meeting.

7 pm Robin Maymar opened the meeting and welcomed the members. There were in attendance 16 . There was no zoom broadcast.

The announcements were as follows

Weed and Gloat November 29, 9:00 or thereabouts.

Wednesday Dec. 1 at the Garden Center is the Pop-Up Holiday Market and Tasting Luncheon 10 to 3 Herb Society will be selling things. A sign -up sheet was sent around. Many people volunteered.

Explain our relationship with the Garden Center by Annette Hoffman

Next meeting: December 9, speaker to be announced

Olla Workshop in March – Pots are needed, alert us if you see 6-inch pots for sale. We have volunteers for this project.

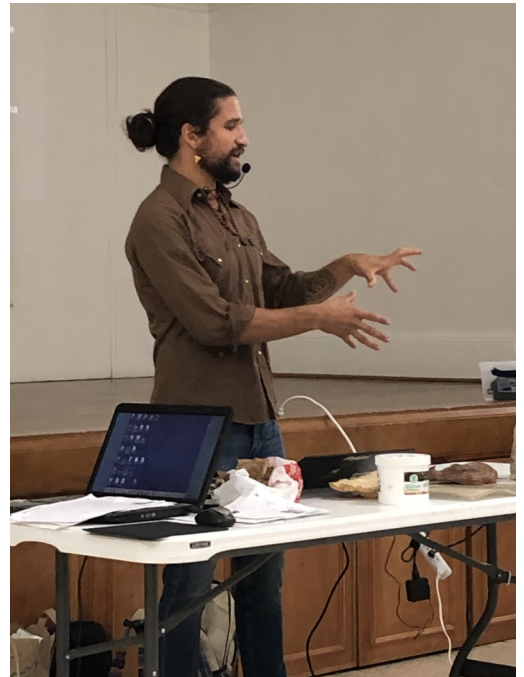
January 13 meeting is our Banquet- need some members to choose a theme, choose catered food, describe menu and make choices for decoration. We can set up the day of, at 12:30 or 1 for decorations, tablecloths etc. Usually the theme has to do with the holidays, so this time it is more challenging, but also fun. We usually choose a turkey, small ham and a vegetarian lasagna. We can choose one dessert or have members bring some of their favorites. All members bring a dish: appetizer, salad, bread etc.(No volunteers, yet)

Herb of the month Mexican Mint Marigold. Thank you to Rudi Harst for his fine article and photograph. Next month: Winter Savory We need someone to write about growing and using winter savory. Brochure is available. (No volunteers)

Thank you to all who helped with programs.

Our guest speaker was, Sam Mc Chesney, also known as Sam the Fungi. Oh, my stars, he was a captivating speaker. We took pages and pages of notes. Way too much to include in a tiny new letter. He carefully outlined the whole Fungi Kingdom in clear easy to understand way. His website is a [CentralTexasMycology.org](http://CentralTexasMycology.org) You can see what the Central Texas Mycology Society is doing. However, we would encourage you to look carefully for an outdoor hike and lecture. The tours that Sam described sounded like pure fun.

As a policy this newsletter does not like to report just on things you missed, but in this case, you really missed the best meeting we have had. The only consolation is that we hope to mount a field trip with Sam the Fungi, just as soon as we get past Hanukah, Pop-up Sales, Christmas, New Year and Epiphany. If you do not see a mention of that field trip in the December issue, call us.



## WEED OF THE YEAR: PURSLANE THE WEED THAT NEVER QUILTS

The policy of the press to not give too much publicity to the criminal, should also apply to weeds. We don't want to play up purslane too much. However, it is one of the most consistent players in our garden. Some of our weed and gloat team have become impatient and just pulled these little plants out. The stems give easily, and the area looks clean. Next month when we return, it looks as though nobody had weeded there... ever. "Purslane weed is best dealt with while the plant is still young., ' the internet tells us". Also, purslane can re-root itself from any part of its stems and leaves. Even a small piece of the plant left on the soil can result in new growth. On top of this, purslane can continue to ripen its seeds even after it has been uprooted from the ground." Well, dang. No wonder it keeps coming back!



The key, is to use the weed shooter, with its long narrow blade, to literally root out the bulb at the bottom of the plant.



### GARDENER'S GOOD RULE OF THUMB

This rule involves short memory and need for exercise.

In general only take out two tools at a time, one for each hand?

If you need a third, put one back and take another.

This helps when at the Botanical Garden We may bring more than two tools, but use only one or two at a time.

Always police the yard or garden before leaving, just in case.

Also mark your tools with an etching machine or paint the handles a distinctive color. or in some other way mark you tools.

# Culinary Contributions

## IOWA CORN SPOON BREAD

Tink Pecaut of Sioux City has been serving this recipe to her family of five for years. “I always double it,” she says,” and we always eat all of it. I usually serve it with steak.”

2 eggs slightly beaten  
1 8-ounce package corn muffin mix  
1 8-ounce can cream-style corn  
1 8-ounce can whole kernel corn, drained, or 1 cup fresh Iowa corn cut from the cob  
1 cup sour cream  
½ cup butter, melted  
1 cup Jarlesburg or shredded Swiss cheese

In a bowl, combine all ingredients except cheese. Spread in a buttered 2-quart casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Top with cheese and bake 10 to 15 minutes more until a knife inserted in the middle comes out clean.

Yield: 6 servings.

Adapted from a recipe found in the Washington Post

To come next issue, Sean’s Incredible Dressing, Nikki’s Chorizo Stuffing

### MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP!

We are delighted that so many members have sent in their dues. We have attached the form at the end of the newsletter. It is also available elsewhere on the Herb Society pages, ready for download and filling in. Please remember to send in your dues. Our policy is to collect until the end of January. We then nag those who have forgotten; we set a hard deadline the end of February. Then we write the directory, to be distributed at the end of March. Join or Rejoin the Herb Society.

Thank you,  
Management

Good news members, we have another opportunity to meet the public. March 5 , 2022 is the 32<sup>nd</sup> Earth-wise Living Day. We have missed visiting with that community because of Covid-19, but their Day is on schedule this coming year. Earthwise takes place in Leon Valley. They have excellent parking, and the building is large and roomy. There are always very interesting exhibits and things for sale. Mark you calendar, and make a plan to join us that day. We need members to volunteer at the table and to shop.



## Weed & Gloat

A little butterfly came to visit us while we weeded. Visitors from out of town visiting family. We had cut down the huge basil in anticipation of frost this coming month. So, we offered her a piece. The scent of basil filled the garden. Every month we meet new people, always enjoying the walk in our beautiful garden. Since they often come from Botanical Gardens in other cities, we learn a lot about how their operations are going. One person last month said that they maintained QR codes on each of the beds. You could use your phone to find out the names of the plants in front of you. Only problem was, for some reason, people kept taking the QR code markers. We all puzzled over this. What a bizarre memento.



Dennis Joy had provided us with four flats of herbs. Best was the Hopley's Oregano which we wrote about in a previous Yerba Buena. We had two flats of thyme, one French the other English. Lastly, there was chamomile. It was marked for borders, but doing our plant research, we realized that it would grow to eighteen inches, not good for next to the path. We placed it along the fence.

There were just the three of us working, so it took quite a while to install all these new plants. We also did quite a bit of damage to the purslane, which was attempting to make a comeback (see sidebar) Then we went to La Madeline for some well deserved lunch.

Dust off your matching warm wool hat, gloves and scarf. Pack you newly acquired Christmas garden gloves and meet us the last Monday in December for Weed and Gloat.



Dec. 27, 9 am



**WEED AND GLOAT**  
**Come weed with us at the**  
**Botanical Gardens!**  
**Feel welcome to come to join us**  
**this month in the sunshine.**  
Next Weed and Gloat is scheduled  
for Monday, December 27  
We meet at 9 A.M.  
Contact [robinmaymar@gmail.com](mailto:robinmaymar@gmail.com) for  
simple safety measures we need to take .  
See you then.

## DECEMBER IN THE GARDEN

### In the Herb Garden:

First week is typical for freezes!!

Replenish winter mulch as needed

Should a freeze warning occur, water plants thoroughly 12 to 24, but not more than 48 hours prior to, to protect roots. Cut back tender perennials that freeze and need to be trimmed before reemerging in the spring: Mexican mint marigold, chives, tarragon, lemon verbena and lovage.

Plant seeds of California poppies, nasturtiums and sweet peas

Now is the time to plant a number of spring-producing herbs including dill, garlic, cilantro, fennel and parsley. (This is a surprise to newcomers to San Antonio, and to newcomers to herb growing, since in other parts of the country these are planted in the spring)

Move hibiscus, plumeria and bougainvillea and other tropics into freeze-protected storage.

Pansies planted now will provide color all winter (violas, also called Johnny-jump-ups are perfect border plants for pansy beds)

Mow your leaves and let them decompose on the lawn or use them for mulch or compost.

Cut back lantanas and salvia after the tops freeze.

December is spring bulb, corm, rhizome and tuber planting time in Texas to have a show of color from these plant selections next spring. Check out The southern Bulb company. They are tuned to our climate and have excellent stock. Their goal is to have color in your garden every month of the year,, color that will come back year after year. Not herbs, but an excellent addition to your garden.



Spinach is available as transplants. Plant English peas, snap peas and snow peas.

Leave hummingbird feeder up, even though the ‘traffic’ has slowed down. Native and migratory hummers are still around. Keep your feeder about ¼ full and change about once a week. You might put a little more sugar in the mixture. A red feeder is enough to attract the birds, although red flowering plants such as the shrimp plant close by will help even more. (avoid red dye in the sugar water mixture)

Have the soil tested in your vegetable garden, rose garden, perennial garden, lawn or any other special area in your landscape this month. The results of the test will offer recommendations to help you achieve the most results from your gardening activities. Now is a good time to check the pH and add lime (or for those of us in Bexar Co., sulfur) if needed. Ground dolomite limestone (granular sulfur) is best because it acts slowly, lasts a long time, does not over alkalize the soil and adds magnesium.

Complete the new bed you meant to start in August and should have done in Sept. Oct. or Nov. Don't do like some folks who buy bushes with only a vague idea where to put them.

**For the Birds:** prepare your backyard now for winter feeding. Most birds establish their feeding territories in the early fall.

Clean all feeders

Remove seed hulls from under feeders (use in compost)

Check stability of pole' tighten screws in feeders

Add different types of feeders

Stock up on seed and suet

Be prepared to empty concrete birdbaths during freezing weather, replace with a plastic dish

Clean out nesting boxes and leave up for roosting Put up roosting boxes to attract owls, flickers and bluebird

Add a squirrel feeding station. (They're not birds but they are fun to watch and it will keep them from eating all the bird seed)

### **Roses:**

Even though our bushes might not be growing vigorously above ground, their roots are growing and picking up all kinds of nourishment. So, we need to provide moisture for the roots to absorb and store this spring energy. Keep potted roses watered.

Before you lay your winter mulch down, scatter gypsum liberally through your rose beds. Use about 2 cups sprinkled around each bush. This will help loosen up your soil and also provide for better aeration. Then lay down about 2" of your favorite composting materials. Continue to cut roses as long as they are pretty.

Keep weeds pulled. If we can keep chickweed out now, there will be a lot less next spring.

Winter Pests: if we have cycles of dry warm weather spidermites will thrive. If you see some foliage at the bottom of the bush beginning to yellow, check the bottom side of the leaves for a fine white webbing with a salt & pepper looking effect. If left unchecked, the mite infestation will move up the bush gradually. Water wash the affected bush with a hard spray (bottomside of foliage) for nine days at three-day intervals.

Watch for Japanese beetles on roses and other plants, us Orthene or organic products such as Green Light's "Rose Defense". The best advice is to buy fresh liquid sprays for the new growing season. Powders spray materials will carry over well if stored properly and kept moisture free. Most of these powder sprays can have a shelf life of 3

**Herb Society Board**

**President**  
Robin Maymar  
robinmaymar@gmail.com

**1st Vice-President (Programs)** Position vacant

**Treasurer** Vacant

**Secretary** Volunteer at meeting

**Membership** Milan Maymar, protem

**Publicity** Vicki Jamvold

Our website: <https://sanantonioherbs.org>



## FROM THE PREZ- A RANT

I am putting this From the Prez, at the end of the news letter. You don't have to read it.

Our quiet world has been upturned this month, and the future for the Garden Center itself is unsure.

A little background, the Garden Center was organized in 1940. Member garden clubs contribute time and effort as well as funds to keep this meeting space open and free to the public. Twenty-five clubs regularly meet at the Garden Center. It is also open for public rental for Weddings, Receptions, Quincinieras (I do not know how to spell that) and other public events. The weekend rate for a wedding is around \$1500.

The Botanical Gardens were established in 1980. When it was established, because both Garden Center and Botanical Gardens come under rules of Parks and Recreation, the parking lot by the Garden Center was shared with the Botanical Gardens. When they had overflow, they used our area. When we had overflow, we used their areas. When the Gardens grew larger, they also made a much larger parking area to accommodate their development. At the same time, they cut the Garden Center parking access, adding a locked gate.

Then the Gardens grew again. During the pandemic, the Botanical Gardens enlarged their meeting center from a small area that seats 100 to a much larger facility that accommodates 500. They are now offering their event center to the public at a fee of \$5,000 per event. Garden Center has held reservations for brides for over a year, but when the Botanical Gardens scheduled a wedding event, they closed the parking lot of the Garden Center, telling Garden Center guests they must park on the streets around the community and hike up the hill to the event because the valet parking was only for Botanical Garden guests. This seems unfair to us. If a church were to build on property within a neighborhood, they would have to go through zoning, describe how many people the church would accommodate, and they would have to justify their construction with an appropriate number of parking spaces, designated for church use.

Botanical Gardens seems to above the law in this regard. They have signed a five-year contract with *Lightscares* for each December. Selling more tickets than there are parking spaces, they have taken over the parking lots and installed valet parking at a high cost. Alternately, only ticket holders can catch the shuttle bus from remote parking. This completely elbows out people attending Garden Center events, who have had a contract of use for many years. The Parks and Recreation have conceded ten parking spaces for Garden Center events.

We object to this takeover. Garden Center is open to the public for no fee at all. Theoretically, *Lightscape* is a charitable trust. We don't see any charity in this event. There is a charge to get in and another charge for the parking. Other people have complained to me that the Botanical Gardens, instead of contributing to the community with education never open their doors without a fee, and sometimes a hefty one at that.

We call on the leaders in the community to consider the situation, and help us develop a more equitable situation going forward.



**San Antonio Herb Society Membership Application/ Renewal**

January- December

If you joined after October first of any year,  
you are a member through December of the following year  
Print, complete and mail form with your check to:

**San Antonio Herb Society**  
**P.O. Box 6406**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Name as you would like it to appear on your name badge).

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt/ Ste # \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home/ Work/ Cell (circle one)

Alt. phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home/ Work/ Cell (circle one)

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:     New member     Renewing member

Membership Category :  Student (\$15)     Single (\$35)

Dual (45)     Business (\$50)

How did you hear about the San Antonio Herb Society?

\_\_\_\_\_  
What programs would you like to see in the coming year? The more details the better.

I would like to be a GREEN member, receive newsletter & other information vial email

I do not want my personal information to be shared on the SAHA membership list

I am interested in helping with:

Banquet Committee     Spring Banquet     Winter Holiday Banquet

Hospitality Committee (decorate refreshment table, make tea, etc.)

Greeter/ Membership (a great way to meet people and welcome everyone)

Chairperson for plant sales or other events. (help keep the lights on)

The booths at  Spring  Summer  Plant  Book Sales  Herb Market in October

Being a Board Member (please list your skills) \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter "The Yerba Buena": write articles; help coordinate regular features, etc.

Speaking at one of our meetings- your topic(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Maintaining the herb garden at San Antonio Botanical Garden (Weed & Gloat)

Maintaining a SAHS sales table at monthly meetings

Leading a Special Interest Group (SIG)- your interest area(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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Office Use Only

CASH     Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_     PayPal

Date received \_\_\_\_\_ Date \$ given to treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

Green member ? Y N Date information entered into data base \_\_\_\_\_

**This form also available at [www.sanantonioherbs.org](http://www.sanantonioherbs.org)**

## BUSINESS MEMBERS

WE THANK OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

MENTION YOUR S.A.H.S. MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU PATRONIZE THEM!



### Natures Herb Farm

7193 Old Talley Road Lot #7  
San Antonio, Texas 78253

Email: [naturesherbfarm@att.net](mailto:naturesherbfarm@att.net)

Website: [naturesherbfarms.com](http://naturesherbfarms.com)



### Rainbow Gardens

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