



NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN ANTONIO HERB SOCIETY  
OCTOBER 2022

ROSES, ROSES, ROSES

Now is the ideal time to be out planting roses. The weather has begun to cool, if we are lucky there will be some rain and roses are in abundance at the nurseries right now.

Which rose should you plant? Come to our next meeting to meet Father Greg Ross. A rose expert and member of the San Antonio Rose Society. Not only does he know which are the easiest to care for, he can tell us all about planting, pruning fertilizing and nurturing our roses.

Father Ross has been enjoying roses here in San Antonio since 1988. He has been a member of the Rose Society for ten years. He maintains a rose garden with over seventy varieties. Be prepared for a colorful talk, as he has lots of beautiful pictures and an abundance of varieties to introduce us to. (See phop page 3)



**SAN ANTONIO  
HERB SOCIETY**  
Mark your calendar for our  
next meeting  
**OCTOBER 12, 2023**  
3310 N. New Braunfels  
San Antonio, 79209

Table theme: Roses  
Social at 6:30 Meeting at 7  
All meetings are free and open to the public

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## FROM THE PREZ

At our September meeting we had a successful mini-garage sale. A friend had given us a lot of garden supplies from her garage. Among which was a cube-shaped box of chains. A larger chain that was coated in white (plastic maybe?) and some smaller chain, ideal for hanging baskets.

It is close to Halloween, and there is a lot of buzz about scary events. Chains seem to be a must have décor for prison-settings at haunted houses. But I have to tell you, the older I get the more I appreciate a good chain. They are sold by the foot at hardware stores. Heavy duty ones at Northern Tools. And they run to quite a cost. Nothing, nothing works as well as a good chain in the right place.

You could put up a hanging bird bath with string and have to rehang it the next year when the cords deteriorate from weathering. But use chain and that birdbath will be swinging for a long time. Could not believe that item did not sell. So, we will have other items for sale and some books at the October 12 meeting. There will be a nice selection of seeds, a gift from Rainbow Nursery



We have lots going on this month. **Solar Fest** on the first Saturday, the 7<sup>th</sup> at the Green Line (see Upcoming Events)

Then a **Solar Eclipse** on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Go to the library or Lion's Field or just about anywhere outside to observe. Be sure to wear your Solar Eclipse Glasses. And keep them, there is a total eclipse of the sun coming up in 2024! You are so lucky. Some people on the planet have to wait three hundred years to see the next one.

And we have **Herb Market** on the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Pearl. What I want to know is "Am I getting exacting about time? Or is everyone else getting flaky about it?" I write my calendar a year in advance, I put important dates (like Herb Society on the SECOND Thursday of every month) on there as soon as I know when they will be. I make plans, I write about it, I tell everyone about the upcoming dates. So I am still waiting to hear from the Herb Market Association about where we will meet and how on earth to park and set up. All I know is that it will occur, we will be there and there will be two solitary volunteers to do the whole sale. I am a little discouraged. This used to be a big deal and we usually had a good fundraiser.

Out of sequence, but important, is that Greg Scott will be speaking about roses at the next Herb Society Meeting. That will be on the 12 at 6:30 pm at the Garden Center. Prizes will be awarded to any member who reads this and calls me to tell me they will be attending that meeting.



The last Monday of each month willing gardeners meet in the morning at the herb garden in the Botanical Garden New Braunfels Road. Each volunteer brings their own garden tools and plenty of water to drink. We weed, trim existing herbs, plant new herbs provided by the Botanical Garden and water the herbs, all while enjoying each others' company. This usually takes 2-3 hours depending on the things to be accomplished and most of all the weather. Often the group then moves on to a local eatery for a light lunch and good conversation. We all have the satisfaction of a job well done.

The crew arrived at 8 a.m. There were four volunteers: Cindy, Patsy, Marsh and Gloria. The Botanical Garden gardeners had filled in many of the empty spaces planting mari-

golds. (Marigolds are not an herb.) Everyone worked diligently and did a great job. Robin was home, ill. No pictures or journal entries. Hopefully better coverage next month.

Patsy would like to show us her method for sharpening tools. Everyone bring something to be sharpened. If you have a sharpener, bring that, too. We can sharpen together before we get started, then sharpen at the end also.



**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, **OCTOBER 30**  
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.

**Herb Society Board**

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

**Treasurer** Vacant

**Secretary** [Volunteer at meeting](#)

**Membership** [Milan Maymar, protem](#)

**Publicity**

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday October 3, 10 am. 110 W. Brandon- Volunteers needed to make assorted sandwiches and bake cookies for Garden Center meeting. We will also supply napkins and plates for the refreshment tables.

Wednesday October 4- 9 a.m. Garden Center meeting. The Herb Society is one of three hosts providing refreshments for the Garden Center meeting. We need to be there, help set up the food tables. This meeting is always free and open to the public. "Fall Garden and winter Preparation" presented by Mark Fanick of Fanick's Garden Center a & Nursery.

Saturday October 7 **Solar Fest at The Green Line at Brooks, 2532 Sidney Brooks St. 78235** We will be featuring Ollas, and explaining how to use them for water conservation. We will also have various other herb and gardening related things for sale. Volunteers still needed. Andrew Waring and Grace went with us the last time we were at Solar Fest.

Thursday October 12, 6:30 pm. **Herb Society** meeting. Fr. Greg Ross will speak on Roses We may also have more garden goods for sale, as well as books. Members are asked to bring refreshments. Some may include rose flavors.

Saturday October 21 **Herb Market at the Pearl.** More details this event at the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>

Tentative preparation days before Herb Market 16, 17 and 19.  
November Yerba publishes last day of October

OCT PANSY SALES? Good luck!

Since I mentioned preparing for pansies and setting up the beds in the TO DO I thought I would explore sources. The TO DO says to hold off planting until November, but prepare in October.

MASTER GARDENERS ORDER AHEAD SALE The ad I saw from Master Gardeners says Poinsettia and Pansy Sale October 1 to November 30.

Order on line at BEXARMG.ORG Ad says Pick-up December 7 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday December 8 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the BCMG Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive Suite 208 78230

You could try WINDCREST GARDEN CLUB FUND RAISER PLANT SALE on October 14 Methodist Church 8101 Midcrown at the corner of Walzem. They had advertised pansies last year but may or may not have any this year. It is a good, wide range of plants.

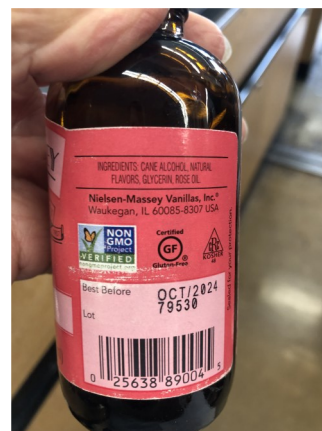
### A NOTE ON ROSE WATER

In the last issue of the Yerba, there was a recipe with a rose flavored icing. The direction was to use two tablespoons of rose water. But when the bottle was opened the fragrance was very strong. We tried two drops, but that was way too much!

Central Market was very kind to take the rose water back. The Foodie there directed me to a different brand. We will try this one. The Lebanese Kitchen Cortas Rose Water contains Rose Water

The other brand labeled Rose Water contained: cane alcohol, natural flavors, glycerin and rose oil.

Will report back on whether this new brand makes good icing. In the meantime, be sure to read your labels.



## OCTOBER TO DO LIST

*One day, the gardener realizes that what she is doing out there is actually teaching herself to garden by performing a series of experiments.  
This is a pivotal moment. – Margaret Roach*

### GARDEN:

Side dress vegetables with 1 cup of ammonium sulfate, per 100 sq.ft. bed.

Get compost bins ready to handle the leaves that will fall soon.

Exposure to light triggers germination of many annual weed seeds so use mulch whenever possible to reduce the amount of labor required to keep your garden weed free. This also helps keep valuable moisture in the soil. As it degrades, it also adds nutrients to the soil.

This is usually a super month to install landscape plantings because of available soil moisture, cooler temperatures, and PLANT SALES (but considering the drought, may not be). Plant cool season annuals because the soil is warm and the air is cooler.

For a fall garden,: Chinese cabbage, celery, collards, garlic, kale, and kohlrabi

October is usually a good month to dig, divide, replant, or plant many spring/summer blooming perennials because of ample soil moisture, cooler air temperatures, and longer available time for them to establish themselves for spring and/or summer bloom.

#### 2nd WEEK OR LATER:

Plant cole crops such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts are tasty, nutritious and easy to grow. Plant them this month for winter and spring production.

Fertilize tomatoes as soon as fruit begins to set. Use a half-cup of slow-release lawn fertilizer per plant away from the base.

#### 3rd WEEK:

Keep an eye out for the Orionids Meteor Showers. Check out dates when it's due.

Row cover, a lightweight fabric available at nurseries and garden centers, will help protect tender vegetables. It is sold by various names such as *PlantGuard*, *Gro-Web*, *Plant Shield* and *N-Sulate*.

**In Our Herb Garden:** Add compost to your garden as a winterizer and mulch. It's not too late to plant frost-tolerant herb annuals or perennials that you bought at **Herb Market**. This is the month to plant garlic cloves and onion sets. The Tex. Coop. Ext. Svc. recommends Texas white garlic and 1015 onions. Salad groupings and exotic greens should also be planted now. Examples are sorrel, arugula, salad burnet, leaf lettuces, nasturtium. (Be sure to check out the selection we will have at the next meeting October 12) Sow wildflower seeds. Plant Antique roses especially those that yield rose hips.

### BIRDS

Keep your hummingbird feeder clean and full of sugar water. Fall is the best time to observe the colorful birds. Your feeders will not affect the birds' fall migration.

Clean and refill birdbaths regularly. Both the native and migratory birds will be grateful.

## FLOWERS:

With our first cool spell, plant dianthus, calendulas, stock and snapdragons for cool-weather color. Deadhead zinnias, marigolds, salvias and other flowering plants to stimulate more blooms. Prepare beds for planting cool-season flowers. Well-drained soil is important, and the bed should get at least six hours of full sun for successful flowering.

Plant perennial varieties of Daffodils immediately.

Fertilize spring-blooming plants to ensure good bud set.

**Week 3** Prepare beds for **pansies**. They need well-drained soil and at least a half day of full sun. Place blood meal in the planting holes to improve vigor of the plants.

Divide and replant perennials such as phlox, hollyhock, iris, day lily and Shasta daisy.

Don't give up on tropicals just because we have had some rain and cool weather. We have at least another month of performance from bougainvillea, plumeria, mandevilla and hibiscus. Keep tropicals watered and fertilized.

It is wildflower seeding time. Bluebonnet and other wildflower seeds can be planted now. Rake the soil before spreading the seed. Wildflowers will not grow in sod.

For instant color and an easy-to-grow perennial, plant garden mums now in a sunny location.

Purchase the bulbs now. For the best selection, shop now for spring bulbs.

Garden Centers, catalogs and Internet retailers offer a variety of choices. Store bulbs that require chilling in the refrigerator away from fresh fruit. Tulip and hyacinth bulbs need to be chilled in the refrigerator for 6 to 8 weeks before you plant them. Daffodils can be planted without chilling.

Collect seeds from your favorite plants and store them in a cool, dry place until next year. Label them with the plant name and the place and the date the seeds were collected. **Picture**

Transplant hardy annuals like Bluebonnet, Flowering Kale, Snapdragon, Johnny-Jump-up, Pinks, Phlox, Violas and Ornamental Cabbage. Plant petunias, dianthus, snapdragons, alyssum and stocks this month; **wait on pansies**. (See Upcoming events for Pansy orders)

If you are "blessed" with DEER, plant snapdragons, flowering kale, ornamental cabbage, nicotiana, daffodils and irises for winter and spring color

Quarantine container plants that are going to be brought in with house or greenhouse plants to be certain they're free of insects and diseases. Spray only as necessary. Watch drain holes for hiding PILLBUGS, SLUGS, LIZARDS and even ROACHES

Provide Christmas cactus with 12 hours of uninterrupted darkness daily and cool nights for one month to initiate flower buds

**In Our Rose Garden:** Some rain and cooler temperatures will help jump-start our roses for some beautiful fall color. To insure this, let's see what's on our agenda for this month.

Watering: Lots of tender rose growth means we need to provide ample moisture for our bushes to keep them growing. October can still be warm, even hot at times. So make sure the top 6-8 inches of soil stays moist (not soggy) to keep the tender growth from



sun burning. Make sure before any type of feeding or spraying that your bushes have been adequately watered (use your finger as your moisture meter).

**Feeding:** This is an ideal time to maintain a soluble feeding program. (Keep in mind, whether you are a hard-core exhibitor or not, fertilization containing any kind of nitrogen should stop by October 15.) Suggestions for this might include the following: 1) *Regular Feed Every Two Weeks* - Mix two cups of your favorite soluble feed (like 20-20-20) into a clean 32 gal. container (like a trash can). Into this solution add 1 cup of fish emulsion and 1 cup of a chelated iron like *Sprint 330*. Give miniature plants 1 qt. each and your larger bushes 1 gal. each.

**Bush Grooming:** You've finished your fall pruning, but we need to keep our bushes clean of small, twiggy growth. As your old blooms fade out, cut them off. Old blooms left on the bush are ideal homes for thrips, cucumber beetles, etc. This will help you keep the thrips population curtailed.

### **YARD:**

It is time to apply winterizer fertilizer to St. Augustine, Zoysia and Bermuda lawns.

If you have not applied pre-emergent herbicide to your buffalo grass lawn to prevent cool-weather weeds, do so soon before the seeds begin to germinate.

Fall is the best time to plant shade trees. Consider bur oak, chinquapin oak, Chinese pistache, cedar elm, Lacey oak, Monterey oak, Montezuma cypress, or Mexican sycamore.

With cooler weather, watch for brown patch fungus on lawns (that is, IF it ever rains). Brown patch shows up as expanding round areas of grass with blades dying at the base. Treat with a product containing PCNB (such as *Terraclor*). Sprinkling cornmeal on St. Augustine grass suffering with brown patch will have an immediate greening effect. It stimulates beneficial organisms, particularly trichoderma, which gobbles up pathogens.

Hollies and nandinas are evergreen shrubs for sun or shade. They do not require a lot of water and are not bothered by pests. They also produce winter berries for wildlife.

Mulch around newly planted trees and shrubs to minimize water use and to maximize growth rate. Deeply mulch subtropical perennials like: Chilean Jasmine, China Doll, Firebush, Firecracker Bush, Mandevilla, Mex. Bird-of-Paradise, Plumbago and Poinsetta.

Now is the time to apply hiyield dormant oil to reduce bacterial diseases on peaches and plums. Follow the instructions.

**PESTS:** FIRE ANT baits applied now will reduce ants through next spring.

Watch for WORMS on tomatoes. Both hornworms and pinworms may be active. Use *Bt* (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), *malathion* or *carbaryl* (*Sevin*).

If you have NEMATODES in your garden, forgo a fall crop in favor of Elbon rye to reduce nematodes. The rye makes a good green manure.

**WEEK 4 CANKER WORMS** are plain gray or brown caterpillars that leave obvious black dropping and feed on petunias, roses, beans and other plants. Use *Bt* (such as Dipel, Thuricide or Bio-worm Killer), *carbaryl* or *malathion* to control them

**HORNWORMS** are the big, green caterpillars ravaging tomatoes, eggplants, pentas, peppers and nicotana. Use *Bt* or *carbaryl* (*Sevin*) as soon as you see their damage or droppings.

If lantana and hibiscus plants are infested with WHITEFLIES, apply *Orthene*, *Sevin*, or *Malathion* to the underside of the leaves.

Turnover compost piles. Watch for "steam" in morning! (this means your compost is working) Canvass area for more material such as bags of leaves or grass cuttings.

# Meeting Minutes

## MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 The Zoom meeting was started with two people attending. For some unknown reason, they could not hear the proceedings. Eventually the bug was worked out. The meeting was recorded, but unfortunately lost. It may yet be recovered.

Two sign-up sheets were circulated for upcoming events: Solar Fest on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October and Herb Market on the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Pearl. Signees will be notified with all details. If there is anyone else who would like to attend, contact Robin Maymar for details

There was a mini-garage sale of garden supplies. Many members enjoyed the hats, tools and memo pads.



Robin Maymar introduced our speaker of the evening, Jaci Randel, Executive Director of Bexar Branches Alliance. This alliance is focused on the urban ecology of our region and serves as a liaison to many ecology based endeavors. There are a number of groups allied together. For more information, go to their website [www.bexarbranches.org](http://www.bexarbranches.org)

She began with maps showing our region from above “Trees do not stop at the city limits,” she pointed out. So, the alliance deals with the tree canopy both within and outside the city limits. And, although many people do not like hackberry trees, she noted that they are the habitat for the snout-nosed butterflies and make good shade as well as berries for many creatures. The Ash Junipers, another unpopular tree, is home of the golden cheeked warbler. The junipers are scorned because myth has it they use more water than other plants. This has been debunked.

Trees are: a good investment of public dollars, promote health, protect wildlife, help cool the city.

Project Canopy has an established system for not only helping citizens plant trees (larger sized ones, 1 ½ inch) that are already established , but they also have a system in place for watering the newly planted tree for three years. This makes sure that what they plant will continue to grow.

We were not clear about what a Food Forest actually was. Having read the different initiatives that the Bexar Branches were involved in, the Food Forest was baffling and had no details. Food Forest is a place for finding growing food. Part of the property is dedicated to nut trees (hence the forest) and the rest to a garden with some things being grown under the canopy and the rest in full sun. It provides food to the neighborhood who are then asked to provide help in gardening in return. Some of the things grown are smaller trees, perennials, okra, amaranth, zucchini, cantaloupe and berries. Plants are grown for deible or medicinal purposes.

What are some good trees to grow? That depends on a number of factors. Do you need some immediate shade or can you wait for a slower growing tree? Do you have a large canopy area to cover or just a small area. There are a number of smaller decorative trees that are popular, and still have the benefits that big trees do Jaci mentioned crepe myrtle, which comes in a variety of heights and colors. Our To



Do list always suggest buying one in bloom so you will be sure of the color. Red oak is also good. Both of these have done very well with the stress of drought. Desert willow was also suggested

She also suggested we watch a video put out by CPS about putting the right tree in the right spot. The Texas Forest Service also has a video on their website about how to water a larger tree.

There were a couple of words of caution to planters of new trees. First, do not make a 'mulch volcano' around your tree. The mulch holds moisture on the bark of the tree which will damage it. Make more of a donut shape forming a well where moisture can go into the roots. Be aware of where the canopy is and remember that the roots are mirroring the



leaves. Water to the tip of the leaf

line. (You will be noticing where that is October 14 during the eclipse. The leaves on the trees act like thousands of pin-hole camera lenses. As the moon moves across the face of the sun, you can see below the tree thousands of circles with a part cut out) The leafline helps you identify where the roots are underground.



The other caution is tree guys (not certified arborists) who come out and cut off all the lower branches on your tree every year. Eventually the tree looks like a giraffe with a long neck. A good arborist will 'lift' your tree by removing some obstructing branches, but will also removed dead or dying wood, and very specific pieces of the tree to balance the weight. The tree should finish looking close to the shape it originally had.

Joci's talk was extremely informative, even a little overwhelming with so much information. I am sad that I could not find the Zoom recording, as poor as my technical skill was, it was still worth listening to a second time. If we can find it, we will make it available to members.

The evening ended with lots of discussion and farewells at 9 pm.

The San Antonio Herb Society does not advise, recommend or prescribe herbs for medicinal use; Information is provided as an educational service and the San Antonio Herb Society cannot be held liable for its content. Please consult a health care provider before pursuing any herbal treatments.

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**Nature's Herb Farm**

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