

LGC  
BLOOMING & GROOMING  
NEWSLETTER  
January 2021

Garden Club Calendar

**Newsletter**

Members will be receiving our *B&G* Newsletter on or before the second Friday of each month. (Hint: If you print your newsletter, save paper by printing on both sides.)

**Zoom Meetings\***

**Friday, January 8, 2021. 10 a.m.** “Japanese Gardens” Presented by our Garden Club member **Phyllis Miller**. We hope you can join us!

**February – March. TBD. Any volunteers?**

**Friday, April 9, 2021. 10 a.m.** “Hanging Baskets” Presented by member **Mary Mikhail**.

\*Normally the second Friday of each month, which currently is our regularly scheduled meeting date and time. 10 am. Be sure to download Zoom: <https://Zoom.us> Members will be sent the Zoom log-on information prior to each meeting. *For information regarding the recording/viewing of our December Zoom program, scroll to bottom of page 17.*

Gardener Greetings

By now, we all are wearing our warm, comfy coats and clothes. I enjoy lighting the fireplace. I turn up the heat, but somehow the elf in our home manages to lower the thermostat when I'm not looking. The bed socks have come out of the drawer, and a cup of hot chocolate tastes so good. I'd stop by Starbucks more often if the line magically disappeared!

Each year, I find it difficult to take down the Christmas decorations. We really do enjoy the beauty and sparkle, and are sad to box all once again. I've added a new poinsettia to my collection of past years. One of these days, they might all bloom! I have had my old ones hiding in the dark in the upstairs bathtub for a couple of months per instructions, but no luck. Thank gosh, no one has needed that tub. Maybe next

year? Only a gardener would know why they are there. If found, my family would probably think I'm losing it! We have our secrets.

Are you having fun raking leaves? My 9 year old granddaughter and her neighborhood friends started a little profitable business of offering to help homeowners eliminate those leaves from their yards. The entrepreneurs pocketed some good change. Last year I established a compost leaf bin on the advice of one of our Garden Club speakers. I love my trees, but when they shed, I am not so sure. This fall, I thought I would try some of the compost in my garden, but quickly found out red ants decided it is a great habitat. Be careful!

We are adding a new section this month dedicated to the sale, trading and gifting of plants by members. So, for those of you who want to add a little income for your gardening efforts, are overstocked by pups, or are looking to buy or trade a particular plant, let us know. We will happily print your request.

To stay current with the WCGL newsletter that is graciously linking our GC newsletter, we need to have any articles or information to be printed in our newsletter submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. I know every member has something interesting to share - a tip we can all use, an article or maybe a nice photo of your garden. Just contact me at: [CAMaySFA@aol.com](mailto:CAMaySFA@aol.com).

This month our *Gardening Gem* is on *Moon Gardens*. I had never heard of a moon garden until I read an interesting article on this subject. I decided to do a little more research. We may not want to spend much time sitting outside this time of year, but we can always start preparing to have our little, special delight of flowers and smells as we enjoy our celestial sky. **Happy New Year! Cheryl May, Chair**

## Gardening Gems

### **Moon Gardens**

Cheryl May

“Moon garden” is a general idea open to some interpretation. The Old Farmer’s Almanac explains: “A moon garden can be enjoyed from dusk to dark — by the light of the moon ... with flowers that open in the evening, plants that release fragrant scents at night, and silvery or textured foliage which is visible. White flowers glow in the dusk.” Under the moonlight, these flowers can beam while bright foliage stands out. Such a moon garden can glimmer in the evening — as a calming and relaxing retreat. White blooming plants show up in the moonlight, but some blues and lavender-color blooms can be beautiful from dusk to dark also. Note: We are planting in Zone 8. (See Gardening Tips below.)



A moon garden should consist of flowers and plants designed to reflect moonlight, but also remain visible and fragrant during an obscured or new moon. White flowers should occupy most of your plot, along with plants with silver and gray foliage. Other pale hues to consider include pink, yellow and lavender. Pictured is the perennial **Sneezewort** which can be grown in USDA hardiness zones 3-9. This is a good flower to be planted in mass and will provide small white flowers all summer long. *(Good choice.)*



We often miss out on garden time during the day, but the scents and shine of a moon garden will not only feed your senses after dark but also attract pollinators like moths, native bees and bats. Shown here is **Epiphyllum Oxypetalum "Queen of the Night"** with a bee pollinating. This nocturnal, fragrant flower blooms at night and wilts the next day and can be grown in zones 10-12. *(Too bad Lakeway)*



These low spreading perennials look great when planted in large swaths. **Snow-in-Summer**, or **Cerastium Silver Carpet**, create paths of flowers that will twinkle through the night. The silvery gray stems have a natural reflective aspect throughout the year while producing white star-shaped flowers from May through June, thriving in hardiness zones 3-7. *(Oh darn.)*



The early- to late-summer blooming **White Cosmos** show off their white blossoms and yellow base during the night. Cosmos are great flower for all climates as they grow in hardiness zones 2-11. These appropriately named beauties mirror the sky when reflecting the moonlight, and gleam on moonless nights. *(Buy some!)*



With their trumpet shape and lemony scent, moonflowers should hold a key place in your moon garden. **Moonflowers** are recommended for zones 9-11 but have flourished as an annual in northern zones. These majestic flowers grow on a vine and take flight mid-summer, unfurling in the dusk and staying open until dawn. The white petals of this aptly named moon flower attract moths as they glimmer in the night. *(You can try.)*



The aromas produced by most night blooming flowers are sweet. Plus, moon gardens contribute to the ecology of a backyard. Many of these nighttime flowers count on nocturnal insects for pollination. The **Night Blooming Jasmine** is a pungent flower, delighting humans and attracting night flyers, typically from July through October, growing in hardiness zones 8 to 11. *(Yes!)*



While not fragrant, **Shasta Daisies** or the **Silver Princess**, best grown in zones 4-9, are an accent plant for your moon garden. Fill in the gaps in your plot with this herbaceous perennial plant of consistent bloomers. They deliver white color all spring, summer and fall. (*I enjoy. Very hardy.*)



As fall approaches, searching for bloomers—especially white ones—can become difficult. Have no fear, the sweet **Autumn Clematis** (zones 4-9) and its clusters of fragrant white flowers will start their silvery glint in late August and early September to keep your eyes warm as the nights begin to cool. (*Buy!*)



Adding a **Japanese Dogwood Tree** to your moon garden is another way to ensure flowering in the late summer and early fall. Pinching the flowers and pruning these trees allow you to control the timing of their bloom. Plant one off to the side of your lunar plot so that you don't block any moonlight or obscure your shorter flowers. These alluring yet hardy trees can be grown in zones 4-9. *(I'm seriously considering planting this tree.)*



Accent your moon garden with outdoor decor that will enhance your enjoyment on the darkest of nights. Create a path within, or leading to, your moon garden with large white rocks. A series of solar light stakes can give you that subtle radiance needed during moonless nights. A reflective moon globe on a stand will give the impression of a simulated moon sitting among the flowers. Once complete, sit back and let the moon do the rest of the work.

Source: [What Is a Moon Garden? \(And How You Can Start One\) | Family Handyman](#)

Since Austin is in planting zone 8, not all the flowers mentioned in this article can be selected. Be sure to check flower/tree zones before purchasing. Below are some additional flowers that are enjoyed in moon gardens plus their passion image:

**White Roses.** There is something so soft and pure about white roses, whether they are climbing roses, delicate tea roses or elegant David Austin roses. Roses are, of course, magically associated with love and opening the heart.

**Tuberose.** This flower is best known for its incredible, sweet fragrance, and also happens to be night-blooming. Tuberose is associated with peace and sensuality.

**Evening Primrose.** Although the flowers of this plant are yellow, not white, they do bloom at night and have a lovely fragrance. Like many night blooming flowers, evening primrose are associated with love, but are also connected to fairies.

**Water Lilies.** Some varieties of water lilies bloom at night, so if you have a pond or water feature, consider including some of these beautiful flowers. (Purchase non-tropical.)

**Cyclamen.** To keep your moon garden flourishing even in the winter months, white cyclamen is a lovely option associated with fertility, lust, and happiness!

**White Lilies.** Asiatic lilies are another beautiful option with a very light, gentle fragrance. Lilies are associated with rebirth and fertility.

**Alyssum.** This low-profile white flowering plant is often used as a border along paths or flower beds. For this reason, it is magically associated with protection.

**Camellia.** If you have a little bit of space, a white camellia shrub is a beautiful addition to any moon garden. Camellias are associated with wealth.

So ladies, find that little niche in your yard, your quiet spot to create your very own moon garden. You may find solace there, the privacy you sometimes need to rejuvenate, meditate, read....no phone, no demands - where you can relax and "smell the roses." One article suggested creating a little moon garden by your favorite window so when it is dark, you can just look outside and enjoy your beautiful blooms. Send us a photo if you have or create one of these special places. We'll keep your secret. Cheryl May

[Moon gardens - Bing images](#) Lots of beautiful Moon Garden photos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDAtdnOdGvM> U-Tube Presentation on MGs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpVMi97Om-w> Creating Moon Garden Pots

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/spaces/moon-garden.htm> For Fragrance

## Garden Humor!



## January Gardening

Your "To Do" list from the website of the Texas A&M Agri Life Extension Education in Travis County. January gardening checklist for Austin and central Texas.

<https://travis-tx.tamu.edu/about-2/horticulture/monthly-gardening-calendar-for-austin-area/january-gardening-checklist-for-austin/>

## Gardening Tips

If you want to know more about gardening and **zones**, visit these websites:

[A Guide to Planting Zones - Gardening Channel](#) (Very Informative.)

[10 Top Gardening Tips for Beginners | Miracle-Gro](#)

1. Site it Right
2. Follow the Sun
3. Stay Close to Water
4. Start with Great Soil
5. Consider Containers
6. Start with Great Plants
7. Discover Your Zone
8. Learn your Frost Dates
9. Add Some Mulch
10. Feed Plants Regularly

**Butternut Squash Soup**  
**American Statesmen**  
**December 5, 2020**

Whether you have grown the veggie in your garden, or buy from the Farmer's Market or store; this soup is tasty! Flintrock occasionally serves a delicious version for lunch. Enlarge photo if print is too small for you to read.

# Warm up with this quick butternut squash soup

**By Linda Gassenheimer**  
Tribune News Service

This is a comforting, thick, creamy, vegetarian soup that is perfect for this time of year. It's also quick to prep and cook using butternut squash already cut into cubes. Cut cubes can be found in the produce section of the market. You can, also, use butternut squash spirals if cubes aren't available.

I use shallots for the soup. They are a mild-flavored member of the onion family. Shallots break down as they cook, making a smoother sauce than their onion cousins.

Gala or honey crisp apples are used. They're sweet and do not turn brown when cut.

## BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

### Makes 2 servings

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 2 shallots sliced (about ½ cup)
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh ginger or 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 4 cups butternut squash cubes (about 1 pound)
- 2 cups vegetable broth
- ½ cup toasted pecan pieces
- 2 slices toasted whole-grain baguette
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg



**Butternut Squash Soup.** [LINDA GASSENHEIMER/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE]

### Helpful Hints:

- If butternut squash cubes or spirals are not available, peel a whole squash

and cut into 1-inch cubes. These might take longer to cook.

- White or any sweet onion can be used instead of shallots.

minutes, if needed.

Meanwhile, toast the pecans and baguette. When soup is ready, add the nutmeg and salt to taste. Remove soup to a blender and process until smooth. Divide between two large soup bowls and swirl cream onto the soup. Sprinkle pecans and apples on top and serve with the toasted baguette.

*Recipes by Linda Gassenheimer, Tribune News Service*

# Local Garden Resources

## Nurseries

### Great Outdoors Nursery

2730 S Congress Ave. Austin, TX

512-448-2992

<https://gonursery.com>

4 ½ Star Rating

Full scale garden center featuring: The Orchid Room, The Tropical Greenhouse, The Tool Shed and The Gift Shop.

## Clay Pots & Ornaments

### Desert Dream

10900 FM 2222 (North past dam)

Austin, TX

This store has a huge selection of clay pots behind the store. You can also find a nice assortment of butterflies, birds, lizards and other neat items for décor.



(Are you ready for this?)

## Garden Worms

A couple of years ago I happened to stop by the food market below, and while there decided I should buy a few worms for my garden. They were probably intended to catch the prize bass in Lake Travis. I didn't realize at the time all the various varieties of worms available - some better than other for your garden. I thought worms were worms. Anyway, whatever type I have, they seem happy and hopefully doing their job. If you wish to research more and buy specific types for your garden, check out the websites below. Mail order worms? Amazon claims to carry them! Cheryl May

### Garden (?) or Bait Worms

Marshall Ford Food Mart  
4610 Ranch Road 620 N  
Austin, TX 78732  
512 266-3142

Earthworms are highly prized by gardeners and composters for their ability to process (eat) organic material and convert it into nitrogen and other nutrients that plants can use. The worm castings (worm manure) are rich in nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and magnesium. Worms loosen the soil. This makes it easier for the plant roots to grow. Earthworms increase the soils capability for retaining water. There are more than 4,000 different worm species, but all are categorized into three types, anecic, endogeic and epigeic. These words refer to where the worm lives in conjunction to how they eat. All worms, despite their dwelling and eating habits, benefit the earth, process organic matter and improve the soil.

[www.provident-living-today.com/Garden-Worms.html](http://www.provident-living-today.com/Garden-Worms.html)

<https://www.unclejimswormfarm.com> (compost)

[Earthworm Facts For Gardeners \(gardening-advice.net\)](http://gardening-advice.net)

[Types of Garden Worms \(gardenguides.com\)](http://gardenguides.com)

[Best Worms For Vegetable Garden Guide \(gardenerthumb.com\)](http://gardenerthumb.com)

[Worms For Sale - Buy worms for Composting, Gardens, Fishing, and Growing your own population \(worms4earth.com\)](http://worms4earth.com)

## Garden Books

Ladies, reserve these books on gardening topics at our local library. Check them out!

### **Travis County Library**

1. **Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn**

<https://laketravis.biblionix.com/catalog/biblio/3060316>

2. **Month-by-month Gardening in Texas: What to do Each Month to Have a Beautiful Garden All Year**

<https://laketravis.biblionix.com/catalog/biblio/1622196>

3. **Emily Dickinson's Gardens: A Celebration of a Poet and Gardener**

<https://laketravis.biblionix.com/catalog/biblio/4905401>

### **Books for Armchair Gardening**

**Austin Statesman**

**Feast of Flowers**. By Jacqueline Heriteau. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. Whimsical and entertaining. Ms. Heriteau teaches us on how flowers can be part of our lives in all the seasons. Exquisite watercolors add to the delight of this book. There are suggestions from one season to the next with ideas for creating potpourris, living centerpieces and holiday wreaths, forcing bulbs and branches and planting assorted containers and window boxes. This lovely book will inspire you year-round.

### **A Time to Read**

*BY Mary LaBoube*

January – A time of renewal, and a time to recuperate after the Holidays. It's a wonderful time to read.

We moved to Austin from New England. I loved the beauty of New England. In truth, I had to work at trading New England's landscape for Austin's Hill Country. By chance, I found an author who made my transition easier, and helped me to fully appreciate the beauty of our new home.

Susan Wittig Albert is a New York Times best-selling author. She was born in Illinois, but she has lived in the Austin area most of her adult life. While in Austin she was a college English professor and a college administrator. At midlife, she and her husband Bill left their careers in the fast lane and moved to the rural Hill Country where they bought 31

acres. She devotes her life to writing, research, and homesteading. Her knowledgeable description of herbs, plants, and the Hill Country was instrumental in my loving this area.

My introduction to Susan Wittig Albert's writing was a series of "Cozy Mystery" books referred to as the China Bayles Herbal mysteries. China Bayles, the main character, is an attorney who left her stressful life as a criminal attorney to move to a small town south of Austin just off I-35. In her new home, she opened an herb shop. Although no longer practicing law, she still has a gift for solving crimes. Each mystery in the series has a signature herb that is connected to a major theme, and each is sprinkled with information on growing and using herbs. In the context of the novels, she aptly describes the Hill Country and includes interesting information about the history and the unique aspects of our Texas home. The novels are well-written with believable, engaging characters. The information gained from reading this series will delight anyone who enjoys growing and using herbs.

To quote the North American Gardener, (The China Bayles series) "are a treat for gardeners who like to relax with an absorbing mystery."

I highly recommend Susan Wittig Albert as an author. I particularly enjoyed her historical fiction novels – The General's Women (about Eisenhower), Loving Eleanor (about Eleanor Roosevelt) and A Wilder Rose (about Laura Ingalls Wilder's daughter Rose). These books are well-written and based on a wealth of research. Susan Wittig Albert has an informative website, blog, and newsletter that offer ongoing information. Perhaps you will enjoy her writing as much as I have. Thanks Mary. I am sure we will enjoy her books.

## Garden Plants

At my request, Lee Westphall [westphallee@gmail.com](mailto:westphallee@gmail.com) offered to kick-off our new selling, trading, looking for and gifting category. Lee enjoys producing little "pups" from her great collection of plants. Please let her know if you are interested. These would make nice little gifts for friends.





Variegated SunRose cuttings Trade or \$2



Succulent Trade or \$3



Member Garden Photos



Mary Mikhail's Garden Canna. Thanks for sharing!

My Glorious Internal Garden

Sue Pfeffer

Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.... H. Jackson Brown

## Garden Club Chairs

**Chairperson:** Cheryl May [CAMaySFA@aol.com](mailto:CAMaySFA@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Jayne Meythaler [Jayne.Meythaler@gmail.com](mailto:Jayne.Meythaler@gmail.com)

### **Programs:**

**Co-Chair:** Mary Mikhail [mymik04@yahoo.com](mailto:mymik04@yahoo.com)

**Co-Chair:** Kathleen Christensen [kchriste44@icloud.com](mailto:kchriste44@icloud.com)

**Secretary:** Yvonne Dunkin [ydunkin@earthlink.net](mailto:ydunkin@earthlink.net)

### **Hospitality:**

**Co-Chair:** Mary LaBoube [tomandmaryLaboube@gmail.com](mailto:tomandmaryLaboube@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Robin Smith [torobinsmith@austin.rr.com](mailto:torobinsmith@austin.rr.com)

**Communication:** Liz Mason [MasonDennis78@gmail.com](mailto:MasonDennis78@gmail.com)

**Name Tags & Historian:** Susan Rick [srick2011@gmail.com](mailto:srick2011@gmail.com)

**Parliamentarian:** Sue Pfeffer [suepfeff@hotmail.com](mailto:suepfeff@hotmail.com)

## Zoom Recording

Sara Scarberry sent us this link if you wish to view the recorded December 11<sup>th</sup> Zoom Garden Club program presented by Addie Bier on "Christmas Wreaths and Center Pieces Using Natural Elements."

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/NvWJrCnG73gL6Q5Bn6qFGhhHXQA4F4ACZdNxoz8Hm6tG88w6KEtSEwtm18dVa2w.oW6ZbHb8bGYhFxfG?startTime=1607702625000>

You will see a screen like the one below...notice the tips in red type for viewing the video.

us02web.zoom.us

zoom Garden Club Meeting - Shared screen with speaker view

You do not need to download these files unless you want to save them to your desktop. They are very large files. Download (3 files)

Chat Messages

- Jennifer Windau 46:56  
I can barely hear you!
- Jennifer Windau 47:53  
both!
- Jaynee's iPhone 48:09  
floral arrangements
- Jennifer Windau 52:57  
what is the best way to tie off the wire? twisting?
- Jennifer Windau 55:26  
is there a good place to go to buy small amounts of live greenery?
- Cheryl May 58:20  
Where do you buy spool wire?
- Jennifer Windau 59:39  
do they have magnolia leaves?

Click on the white triangle to start the video.

You can Pause, Fast Forward, or Stop the Recording/Video using the controls at the bottom of the screen. Total length is 1 hour 5 minutes

Click on this box to enlarge the video to a full screen.