



MG Grapevine

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NOTICE

**April 7th
MG Association
Meeting at the Rose
Garden Center
11:30 AM**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keith's Column - pg. 2
- A Few Good Web Sites - pg. 2
- Easter Lilies - pg. 3
- Flower Market - pg. 3
- New Address Book - pg. 3
- New phone nos. - pg. 3
- Ex. Comm. Meeting.- pg. 4

MG Grapevine Staff

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Extension Office

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March SCMG Association Meeting

Please remember the Graduation luncheon April 7th, bring a casserole, salad, or dessert and serving utensil if needed. This will be the final chance for the year to buy a shirt, jacket or sweatshirt. The sweatshirt will be on display at the meeting. Unfortunately, due to a space problem at the Rose Garden, the White Elephant sale is postponed until May. Also, please remember this month to enter the Rose Garden from the NORTH door.



SCMGA President
Joanie Matthews

Joanie Says...

Our trip to Dallas Blooms was an outstanding success with 38 of us attending., Not only did we get a great group discount, but our final surprise was not having to pay for parking. David Gary and his volunteer friend gave us a wonderful insiders tour of the Arboretum. Thank you David for giving us such a special day that we all will long remember. The tulips, daffodils, redbuds and all the other flowers were breathtaking. There definitely is a reason they call it "Dallas Blooms"!!! Needless to say we all went plant shopping after the tour.

The surveys have been a great success. There have been requests for special classes, tours, and workshops. also great ideas for new projects that members are interested in starting. Two of my very favorites surveys have been unsigned, one being "always close curtains as the glare eliminates seeing the speaker" (who knew?) to my very, very favorite, "There should be a rotation of duties in the gardens ...one person should not have to be on nut sedge duty all the time !!!" Ask and you shall receive !

See JOANIE, page 3

2011 Spring Home Garden Tour

The SCMG Garden Tour Committee has named five gardens to feature in the 2011 Home Garden Tour set for Saturday, April 30, 9am – 4 pm. The five gardens include:



Just south of the Loop MG Eloise Muxworthy has transformed her large hot grassy backyard into a charming cottage style garden filled with Japanese maples, hydrangeas, azaleas, and numerous perennials.

In her midtown garden Karen Goforth has reclaimed beautiful beds and brickwork created by the original owner in the 1930's. Over a dozen camellias along with azaleas and colorful annuals enhance the character of this new "old" garden.

Located in The Cascades, the Diedrick garden artfully blends a natural forested area with a more formal landscape filled with hydrangeas, roses, and azaleas. The garden frames a spectacular view of the golf course all the way to downtown Tyler.

Going north to the Swann area the Kindig garden is a refreshing island in an open countryside. Incorporating Feng Shui principles of design creates an especially peaceful garden filled with roses, azaleas, annuals, perennials, and crape myrtles for all year color.

Further north off Harvey Rd. is the Holey estate garden, the creation of three generations of rose growers and nurserymen. Several garden "rooms" include a kitchen garden, an all white garden, an herb garden, and a formal rose garden. A creek bed shaded by fifty year old bald cypress trees, oaks, pines, and hollies is planted with azaleas, dogwoods, hydrangeas, and ferns.

For addresses and ticket information go to <http://scmg.tamu.edu/mg-projects/home-garden-tour/>



Class 18 has finished their training, and Class 17 is finishing up their initial volunteer efforts. What a great group of people I am privileged to work with and have supporting our

Extension AgriLife educational programs! I look forward to seeing all of you April 7 at our annual celebration, graduation and luncheon. Regarding the Cost Recovery, I ask you to take a very deep breath, and please remain calm. I know many of you are upset, but I personally am comforted and reassured that Dr. Doug Welsh, our Associate Department Head for Extension Horticulture, and Jayla Fry, State Master Gardener Coordinator, are working daily with Extension administration to make sure that Cost Recovery does not negatively impact the Master Gardener program. They have already asked all the questions that probably you are asking. As of this moment there are no black and white rules, and there is a lot of conjecture, rumors and even misinformation regarding how this will be implemented and how it will impact our Master Gardener educational programs. Doug and Jayla are working at the State level, and I at the local level, looking at our programs to determine where Cost Recovery will be involved and where it will not. At the State Conference,

there will be multiple presentations made and a handout distributed regarding how we will be implementing this in our programs, where it makes sense to do so. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me directly.

As you continue your educational efforts in various projects, please be sure to identify yourself as a Master Gardener, and that you are part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, which offers educational programs in a wide range of subjects and categories from health and wellness, youth development, agriculture and natural resources, and of course, horticulture. This is very important as we face uncertain budgetary times in the coming months. Too often people don't realize the Master Gardener program is part of Texas AgriLife Extension, so help spread the word as you work on various projects and programs. You are ambassadors for our agency, and we really appreciate all that you do for the people of Texas!

Be sure to stay involved, and don't wait 'till the last minute to get your hours for volunteering or recertification. There are so many great Master Gardener projects and activities going on, and I hope you find one or more that you enjoy. Expand your Master Gardener experience and consider getting involved in a project that is new to you. Meet the

new interns and invite one to a project or committee meeting. Spread good, research-based gardening information, and most of all – HAVE FUN!

A Few Good Web Sites

by Dee Bishop

I often hunt information about plants as well as good sources of specific plants. I hunt for interesting perennials, natives, and things that will take very dry shade. The following sites are some of my favorite. If any of you have some that I don't list, let me know. There are hundreds if not thousands of wonderful sites and blogs. No, I don't do Face Book.



Plant Delights, <http://www.plantdelights.com/> - is one of my all time favorites. The site is written in a most entertaining way and contains many wonderful plants and all the info you need to grow them.

Woodlanders, <http://www.woodlanders.net> --- a great source of plants for the South. Great natives, tried and true, as well as lots of exotics.

Lazy S'S Farm <http://lazysfarm.com/> ---is a new site for me. I ran across it last week. It is a great source of anything your little heart desires.

Logee's <http://logees.com/> — Logee's is a great old nursery that specializes in all sorts of tropical plants, houseplants, begonias, etc.

Dave's Garden <http://davesgarden.com/> — gives out really great plant info. It is also a great site to find good nurseries to visit while traveling.

Jadepoint Succulents <http://www.jadepoint.com/> ---if you like succulents, this is the site for you. He has them all.

Rareplants <http://rareplants.com/> ---is a good site for, well, hard to find plants.

I also have several great veggie sites but will list them at another time. I have always loved research, especially plant research. These sites help me so much. Of course there are the A&M and SFA sites too, but I knew you already had them.

Here it is April already! It has turned off so hot and dry that I have not wanted to plant anything new. Just do not want to have to water new things all summer long. Be sure and water now if you haven't been because it is powder-house dry. Pray for rain!!!

"Having a garden is like having a class full of children. One has to discipline the boisterous and bossy plants, encourage the timid and less effective plants, attend to the most demanding ones and not neglect the ones who sit quietly at the back, all the while being thankful for those who survive and flourish in spite of one's errors." Reprinted from *The Foliage Garden*, by Angela Overy (submitted by Sue Adee)

Plant of the Month - Easter Lilies

by Herb Coursey

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet, Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” - The Bible.

We're looking at *Lilium longiflorum*, native to Ryukyn Island off southern Japan. After WW I an American GI named Louis Houghton brought a suitcase full of bulbs from there to the south coast of Oregon, where he gave them to grower-friends. In 1941 after Pearl Harbor the price of bulbs soared and serious cultivation began. The variety we like most today is “Nellie White,” of which nearly 12 million bulbs are produced yearly in that wonderful land between California and Oregon, and in Canada. Easter lilies are never dormant. Careful cultivation of tiny offspring bulbs produces mature bulbs in 3 to 4 years, to be shipped to growers that juggle their blooming date so as to coincide perfectly with Easter Sunday, the day of which falls on a different date each year, depending on celestial bodies. In our Tyler gardens they'll bloom around mid-to-late May.



They are not difficult to grow, and will flower faithfully for you for many years. After their bloom, lift your new store-bought plant as a unit from the pot it came in. Lilies like their heads in the sun, but their roots in the shade. Choose a bed with

excellent drainage, but it need not stay bone dry. Moisten well each week. Prepare the location so that 3" of good loam will rise above the flower bed. Scratch the soil some to mix it, and plant the bulbs about 3" below that surface of the mixture. Around the area plant a living mulch of pansies, violas, petunias or (later) dwarf impatiens. Remember, not only do you want handsome plants with beautiful stalks of flowers next year, but you want the babies that will grow around the bottom for the several years after that. Mulching is good. Pine straw every winter is particularly appreciated.

Perhaps I should neglect to mention my own experience with Easter lilies, but how can I resist? At a prominent, indeed a truly *august* church in Tyler, I sang Sundays for some 20 years as tenor soloist. This incident occurred a couple of years after I had retired from there, 3 or 4 days after one Easter Sunday. I knew that Sunday flower decorations by midweek were always hauled off in the garbage. I hoped to retrieve pots of left-behind Easter lilies to try to grow them. Of course I checked with the choir director, who was glad for me to take all I wanted.

I did. After getting home (the place where we still live) and planting all 54 of them, the phone rang. An indignant church-secretary lady commanded me to return them. I kindly invited her to come out and help me dig. That is the last I ever heard! **‘erb**



Flower Market

On March 25 - 26, a group of MGs were part of the Tyler Flower Market at the Goodman Museum.



Photo by Bill Kellendorf

Between the awesome weather and the diverse group, it was enjoyable event. It was an opportunity to get to know those we usually don't have a chance to interact with.

As with most events, there were "spurts of people". Julia Childs was our most popular rose. We were selling Buck roses for this event. It was a good chance to really educate people about the other types of roses that are out there.

Pat Welch

2011-2012 Address Book

The new Address Book will be available at the April 7th SCMGA meeting. Please take only one copy per household. Review your personal information and advise Martin Davis of any errors you find.

Two changes reported after the books were printed are:

Janet Cacho - new phone nos. 903-565-6827, cell 570-352-6928.

Tim Krizan - cell phone - 903-530-9510

JOANIE continued from page 1

So, if you have not filled out a survey please do....I will try my best to get your "hearts desire" for you....but you have to let me know what it is. Survey sheets will be available at the sign-in table at meetings.

One of the things you express is a desire for is organic gardening. Our own garden guru Dee Bishop, has agreed to teach a class called "Gardening on the Cheap" using materials you have on hand. The class will be at 9:30 am, Wednesday, April 13th at the IDEA Garden. Please bring your own chair. There will be sign-up sheets at the April meeting or you can register by emailing joanmatthews@msn.com. Joanie Matthews



The Executive Committee met on February 24th and considered the following:

State Directors Victor Long and Clayton Turner reported on the TMGA Board of Directors meeting which they attended on February 19th. The state officers are making an effort to make the state organization more helpful throughout the state. They emphasized support of the county agents during this period of financial cutbacks.

A report on was given on sales of the 2011 calendar with 641 of 750 calendars sold. Sherri Matthews will be the project coordinator for the 2012 calendar.

Team leaders and most docents and ticket takers are in place for the Home Garden Tour. Sign-up sheets will be available at the March meeting to fill out the rest of the slots.

President Joanie Matthews and Anne Brown attended a meeting with Rose Festival organizers. They report that times and dates have been changed for festival activities. Most activities, including the Queen's Tea, have been moved to Saturday. The Arts and Crafts vendors will be located at Bergfield Park. Discussion ensued about what role the SCMGA should take. It was proposed that the MGs have an education table at Rose Garden on Saturday and a booth at Bergfield on Saturday only.

Bill Kelldorf presented a list of unused audio equipment which belongs to the SCMGS. The equipment will be offered for sale to the MGs via e-mail and brought to the March meeting for anyone who may wish to purchase it.

Sue Adee and Ann Kelley completed a financial audit of the SCMG records on February 10, 2011. A report of that review was received by the committee.

Discussed a trip to the Dallas Arboretum during March for those interested in a caravan to the gardens.

Keith Hansen advised that the MGs have been asked to participate in Earth Day activities. St. Paul's Children's Foundation is writing a grant to develop a community garden and has requested SCMG participation in some capacity.

Other business included: Joanie Matthews will e-mail a list of business discounts to all members. The Tree ID class was very successful. Members will receive 3 CE's credit for attending. T-shirts will be available for sale at the March meeting. The new Address Book pictures of Class 18 have been taken. The JMG class at All Saints has started its new semester with 15 children in the program.

Joanie Matthews advised that the SCMGA has sent a beautiful flower arrangement and a donation to Hospice in honor of Sue Clark.

Smith Co. MGs visit the Dallas Arboretum

See story on page 1



Photo by Andie Rathbone



Photo by Janice Suggs



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