



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

January 2014

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MG Association Meeting
January 2nd
Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

MG Grapevine Staff
 Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:
 Dee Bishop, David Gary, Keith Hansen, Mary Claire Rowe and Pat Welch.

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Dave Gary sez..

It is an honor to be elected as your 2014 President. I will serve the organization to the best of my ability. Any advice from you to help make this a successful year for all

Smith County Master Gardeners will be greatly appreciated.

We still need someone to Chair our 2014 Home Garden Tour on June 7th. This is one of our largest money making projects. You will have help and support from Pat Turner, Jean Smith, Pat Welch, and me. I will again head up finding the homes for the Tour. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Time to Pay Annual Dues

The time has come to pay the SCMG Association dues. Please bring your check for \$20, made out to SCMG, to the January 2nd association meeting. This notice includes Class 20 who will begin to pay dues as of January 1st.

Work Days in the Gardens

There are no scheduled work days in the gardens during January 2014.

If work is needed, an e-mail will be sent out.

They Are in the Garden!

Last month we told you that the new signs, designed as an MG project, would soon be installed in the gardens. They have been placed in the gardens and they are wonderful. You can see them on our website and our Facebook site.

SCMG Association Meeting

Our speaker for the January meeting is Daniel Duncum who will present, "The Right Tree—the Right Place", in your home landscape.

Mr. Duncum is employed by the Texas Forest Service. He lives in Longview, serving a 17 county area as the Urban District Forester.

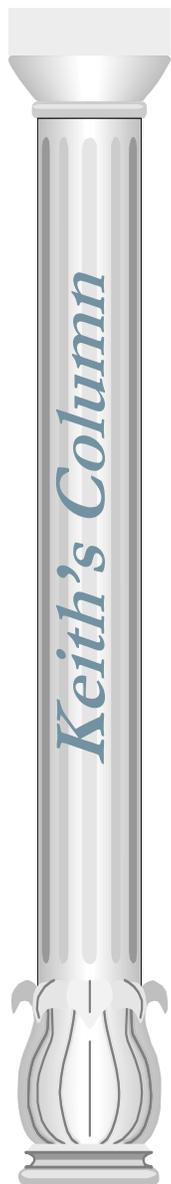
Also on the agenda for this meeting is the installation of officers for 2014.

- President – David Gary
- Vice President – Pat Welch
- Treasurer – Bob McRae
- Assistant Treasurer – Jean Smith
- Secretary – Pat Turner
- Historian – Bill Kelldorf
- Parliamentarian – David Pierson
- Ex. Committee at Large – Charlie Colman & Trudy Menke
- State Director, two years – James Showen
- State Director, one year – Harvey Collen
- Alt. Director – two years– Hazel Bateman
- Alt. Director – one year – Mary Green

Something New

MGs will discover something new when they arrive at the January 2nd SCMG meeting. The sign-in sheet will have all of the MGs names listed. Each person only needs to find his or her name and check the box next to it to sign in.





Happy New Year!! My hope for all of you is that this New Year will be full of joy and satisfaction. We are entering our 3rd decade of the Smith Co. Master Gardener program, and I am so proud of all the accomplishments and achievements you as volunteers have had in these past 20 years. The New Year also brings new opportunities and challenges, and I am also hoping that each of you will have the strength and interest to continue in our educational programs. As you learn of some Master Gardener activity needing help or even some leadership, please step forward to lend a hand. Remember that “many hands make light work”. The mutual support in our programs is what makes them so successful.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has implemented a new annual Volunteer Agreement that needs to be completed and returned each January, so be looking for that in the mail. Also, remember that all Master Gardeners are required to have a background check completed every 3 years, so some of you will also receive that form as well. Please complete and return these to the office at your earliest opportunity.

This month starts another round of training classes (Class 21), and it looks like we'll have 18 in the class. Remember that you can earn CE's by attending a training class – can be a good refresher. Once again, we will be having 2 extended sessions at Overton on Entomology and Plant Pathology. These are great refreshers, and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to get updated in these 2 important topics if you

haven't heard these 2 speakers: Dr. Mike Merchant, Extension Entomologist from Dallas will be doing a 6 hour training at Overton (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) on January 30; and Dr. Kevin Ong, Extension Plant Pathologist and head of the Plant Diagnostic Lab at A&M will give a 6 hour training at Overton (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) on February 20. Both are excellent, and will expand your current knowledge base in both subjects. Handouts will be limited to class trainees (but if I get pdf versions, I can pass them on to you post-training). Be sure to sign in on the Certified MG sign-in sheet if you attend any of the classes.

A small project I have in the works is to plant several rhododendron and camellia varieties (30 plants in all) in the Tyler Rose Garden. Soil prep will need to be done in most locations. If you are interested in helping out, please email or call me. I haven't set dates yet, but plan to do this in January.

Speaking of the Rose Garden, you really need to get up there and see the beautiful new signs for each of the demonstration gardens. (See elsewhere in the Grapevine for photos – they look even better in person). Thanks to Cindy Harrington, Eloise Muxworthy, Pat Welch, Ann Kelly and Jean Watson who have been working on this project for several years. Patience has paid off!

Interns, remember you only have until the end of March to complete your required hours. Be sure to turn in your hours to Martin Davis, and if you anticipate being unable to fulfill your commitment by that time, please contact me as soon as possible.

Have a great and happy new year!! - - Keith

Executive Committee Notes

The committee met on Friday December 20th and considered the following:

The 2014 Calendar/Journal sales are progressing well. The number of them sold by the MGs so far is good. At this time there is no report of those sold by the various stores, but the outlook is optimistic based on the feedback of the acceptance of the new format.

Several MG projects do not have leaders for 2014, particularly the Home Garden Tour. At this time no one has made a commitment to be the project leader for this June 7th event.

The potential of holding an event next summer with an out-of-town speaker was discussed. The desire to hold the event on a Saturday has not worked out as neither the Rose Garden Center or Harvey Hall has an open date. Possible other locations were discussed.

Information was provided on changes of the Texas Master Gardener group sizes for the 2013 awards program. A new Extra Large counties group was added. The SCMG association will continue to be in the Large county group with 100 or more members. Information on the categories for the awards was provided, which includes some changes from previous years. The deadline for submissions is March 12, 2014.

Keith Hansen passed out copies of the new “Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement” which will be mailed to each Master Gardener. See *Keith's Column* for his comments concerning this form.





YEAR'S END IN THE GARDEN

By Dee Bishop

2013 has come to a close and a new year awaits. We had a real 'Texas' year in the gardens, a little of everything, which adds up to normal, I suppose. We had roller coaster year. Hot one week and cold or cool the next. We had a really long spring keeping us from getting the gardens planted as early as we like, then summer came but was fairly ordinary – not terribly hot until Sept. which made up for lost time. When we needed to plant our fall things, it was too hot thus keeping us from being able to get our fall plantings off and growing before cold weather. Cold weather reared its ugly head really early in November and our little plants sit, living, but not growing. Our gardens are not going to be nearly as pretty as usual in winter; so we await spring's arrival, hoping for a miracle. Who knows? We may get one.

December can be very cold (or not) but we usually get enough frost to keep things dormant. What a wonderful time to enjoy seed catalogs and plant catalogs!

What fun to contemplate what we want from our gardens next year! Now is a great time to build those new bird houses and feeders we have planned in our heads all year. We always (nearly anyway) have a lot of good days in winter to do such chores. My pet peeve is bird feeders with roofs that do not cover the seeds up well. Why can't they make the roofs stretch out beyond the feeding areas? We have added on to our feeder's roofs and now the seeds stay dry and the birds stay dry while feeding and are protected from hawks while dining. Such an easy thing to do.

I have been planning to redo several of my beds to make them more drought tolerant (now that it is raining again!). Whatever I plant will take both floods and drought because that is Texas weather for you.

I love planting pots to sit in my yard to add color around in my front yard. We have lots of trees that have massive root systems and watering small plants is impossible when the weather is hot in summer; so large planted pots do the trick (if I put a fence around them to keep deer out).

Enjoy your Christmas and may we all have a gardener's dream of a new year.



A New Year's Resolution

Some of us made a resolution last year that went something like this, "I will do better next year and report my volunteer hours at the end of each month." Did you plan to do this, but somehow got behind once again? You are not alone.

Now is the time to close out the year by sending your report to me. Do so by January 15th at the latest. Thanks—Martin Davis

Timing

By Mary Clair Rowe



As I sit here on this incredibly cold day in December, I realize how really nice it is for me to stay in my warm house and not drive somewhere. I love these days with no commitments. I am free to do whatever I want to do. I also realize how rare and privileged these moments are.

We spend our lives working and being responsible for a job and/or the well-being of others. Our times to think and reflect, to read or write, to work in our gardens; these are cherished events: a garden-lover's happy-time, in her happy-space.

I was so surprised and delighted by the profuse blooming of my lovely lavender clematis this year. Right before the hard freeze came last night, I picked 5 gorgeous blossoms to bring into the warm. They did not last long, but their beauty and bravery to keep on blooming up until the end is to be admired. Isn't it funny how we can learn a thing or two from plants, if we are receptive to what is happening around us! I have often seen a quotation about how ideal it would be, if we were able to live life to the fullest, right up until the very end. To pass on having used up our energies and ourselves in the service of life and others. Much like my clematis, we would be blooming in full right up to the end. Not many of us are lucky enough to achieve that goal. But, it is still a worthy aspiration.

Now that we have had our hard freeze, it is time to turn our thoughts to what lies ahead in the new year. A new cultivar, perhaps, to change up things might just fill the bill. Or, moving a plant that wasn't thriving in one location to another, to see if it will work better for us; that might make a big difference. Pondering the New Year moves will keep us busy right through this long cold winter. What are you thinking?

Smith County MG—Training Schedule

- Jan. 7 - Registration/Orientation—Pruning Trees & Shrubs.
- Jan. 14-Plant Growth & Development—Keith Hansen
- Jan. 16-Perennials & Roses—Dr. William Welch
- Jan. 21-Trees-establishment & care—Daniel Duncum
- Jan. 23-Home Fruit Production—Keith Hansen
- Tip of the Week—Linda Sargent
- Jan. 28-Soils & Fertility—Dr. Mark McFarland
- Jan. 30-Entomology (Insect Pests) Pesticides & Safety
- Dr. Mike Merchant at **Overton—full day**

For the complete schedule, visit the SCMG website (on the Members page). Certified MGs earn CEs for classes they audit.

SFA Gardens to Host World Class Conservationist at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center

SFA Gardens will be hosting a very special lecture on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 7 pm. Dr. Peter Raven, president emeritus of the St. Louis Botanical garden and renowned conservationist will be speaking on “Conservation in a Rapidly Changing World.” Dr. Raven’s lecture will be the inaugural lecture in the new Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building.

Peter H. Raven is one of the world's leading botanists and advocates of conservation and biodiversity. For four decades, he headed the Missouri Botanical Garden, an institution he nurtured into a world-class center for botanical research and education, and horticultural display.

The Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building is located at the Stephen F. Austin State University Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St. in Nacogdoches, Texas. The event will be free and open to the public but to ensure seating and for more information call 936-468-1832 or e-mail erodewald@sfasu.edu.

Comal Master Gardeners are presenting a “Specialty Gardens in Landscape” seminar

February 8, 2014 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at the New Braunfels Convention Center 375 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX 78130

Landscape Design School Series XXIII, Course IV, February 17-18, 2014

NEW LOCATION: George W. Bush Presidential Library, theater in the Rotunda (free parking) College Station, TX.

Mrs. Diane Perez of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and Dr. William C. Welch, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service announce the latest in the series which is offered in four separate schools, approximately six months apart, each with 12 hours of instruction, in the Bryan-College Station area.

Master Gardeners who complete a course and pass the test may apply to their MG Chapter to receive 12 hours of credit toward their requirements for continuing education.

Registration for the course will be \$135.00 by February 1, 2014 (two lunches and a local bus tour are included) – make check payable to Landscape Design. Registration will be \$155 after February 2, 2014. The optional reference book, good for all four courses, is *Stewards of the Land*. It may be purchased for an additional \$40.00 by January 27, 2014.

You will receive an email confirmation upon receipt.

Mail to: Karin Wallace

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<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/>



Garden Signs at the Tyler Rose Garden
Photos by Keith Hansen

