



MG Grapevine

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May 2011

Volume 18

Number 5

Notice

May 5th

MG Association
Meeting at the
Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

May SCMG Association Meeting

We are going learn all about Orchids at our May meeting. We will have Mitsi Runyan who has been growing orchids since the 70's and is also member of the Tyler Orchid Society. She will have some samples of different orchids and will tell how to grow them. She will also talk some about native orchids and ground orchids.

A White Elephant sale, an in-house fundraiser, will follow the program. Members may bring anything pertaining to gardening that is in usable condition to be sold to others. This is open to all members, so look around your house and see if there is something that you would not mind parting with and bring it to be sold in the sale. An area will be set up for these items. Help out with a note as to how much to price the item.

These items can be anything that relates to gardening such as: books, tools, flower pots, plants, bird houses, decorations, wind chimes, etc. Even if you don't bring anything to sell, bring a pocket full of money because there will surely be something that you would like to buy. Hope to see you at the meeting. Ronny Duncan.

2011-2012 Address Books

If you did not pick up a copy of the 2011-2012 Address Book at the April 7th meeting, pick up a copy at the office next time you visit there. The books are in the bottom drawer of the MG desk. Please notify Martin Davis of any errors. Known changes include:

Add Rita Gourley, 228 Vicksburg Dr., Tyler, TX 75703, Phone 903-581-6836, E-mail ritag5@sbcglobal.net

E-Mail changes are:

Carey Prosperie – cprosperie@gmail.com

Lynn Bryant - Lynnryant.email@gmail.com

Ronny Duncan rd819604@centurylink.net

Joanie Matthews Says..



Definitely April is the most successful month going. We started with the Graduation luncheon. A great time to visit, great food, a GREAT GRADUATION CLASS and all

those well deserved hard earned awards. We definitely are a dynamic group. I want to thank Pat Turinsky for taking care of the drinks and all the other essentials to assure a pleasant well run luncheon. Donna Cole was in charge of decorations, and yes she did make the centerpieces you all loved and asked about. Thanks, Donna.

Dee Bishop's "Gardening on the Cheap" had a nice turnout. We learned a lot, had some laughs and generally just had a good time visiting with each other. The weather was beautiful so sitting under the pergola at the IDEA Garden was perfect.

Donna Cole and Lynn Merryfield were co-coordinators at the Camp Tyler Earth Day. This year was the biggest one ever. They and their volunteers talked to about 425 people and our project was enjoyed by the kids and adults alike. It was so successful they ran out of carrots!! TV Chanel 19 showed a nice picture of our table and our fantastic NEW SCMG SIGN. Next year Donna & Lynn want to make Camp Tyler Earth Day a full- fledged project.... with your help.

On April 27th a large group of us are going to the State MG Convention....I'm sure there will be some tales to tell... just remember what happens in Glen Rose stays in Glen Rose !!!! Seriously we are looking forward to some great classes, projects, meetings and yes, having a good time. I wish everyone was going. The day after we get back from State is our BIG See JOANIE page 3 _____

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keith's Column – pg. 2
- Organic Gardening – pg. 2
- Good Bugs-Bad Bugs– pg. 3
- Awards – pg. 3
- Earth Day – pg. 3
- 1st Tues. in Garden – pg. 3
- Executive Comm. – pg. 4
- Heirloom Gardening – pg.4
- Rose Docents – pg.4
- TMGC Spring Fling – pg. 4
- Awards pictures – pg. 4

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A big tip of the hat to Pat and Clayton Turner and the Home Garden Tour leadership team they assembled. I am really impressed and thankful for the tremendous amount of time they invested in the entire process, from the home selection last year, to organizing all the details that go in to such an undertaking both before and during the tour. It looks like a very well-oiled machine. Please express your appreciation to them, and if you are not working on a home that day, get a ticket (and get a brochure – see below) and check out and enjoy the gardens!

How dry it is! And windy!! Seems like every time I write about water conservation, drought, or how dry it is, by the time it goes to press, we get torrential rains. Maybe it will work this time, too. I can only hope. As Master Gardeners, you will probably get questions about watering and the drought. The Extension Horticulture Department has assembled a great web site called Earth-Kind

Drought Preparedness. It has assembled a variety of articles and videos that can be used for your own edification and for helping others. If this drought continues, there will be water restrictions in many parts of the State, and this is a teachable moment to help our clientele implement water-saving features and techniques in the landscapes and gardens. If you are doing a program (speakers' bureau, etc.) and would like copies of any of the articles to hand out, please let me know and we can run copies for you at the office.

Visit <http://earthkind.tamu.edu/drought> and take some time over the next few days and weeks to read through the articles and view the videos. If you haven't taken the Earth-Kind Challenge, then check that out, too, to see how Earth-Kind your own landscape is.

Organic Gardening – Using What's Available

By Dee Bishop



Organic gardening is as old as dirt. It was the only way to garden before WW1. Chemical fertilizers and insecticides came into use and very quickly became the accepted way to garden. You could toss some fertilizer pellets out instead of digging, hauling, and spreading manure as had always been done. You could spray or dust bugs and get rid of them for awhile. It was a much easier, faster way to farm. Later airplanes were used to dust huge fields of crops and very quickly the world was able to raise more produce on less acreage. But----at what cost? We saw the answer to that during the dust bowl---how plowed, uncovered fields lost tons and tons of topsoil in a very short while.

We have come full circle once again and realize that we must take care of our soil and that soil is a living organism. We have learned that soil should never stand uncovered and that all the composted organic substances we can find to add to our soils will improve and bring it back to life. We have learned that the most important thing any gardener can do is build up his soil with good compost.

What is compost? Merely rotted (composted) organic material. Organic means the material was once alive and is composed of carbon. This black gold known as compost feeds all the organisms in the soil. Earthworms burrow throughout the soil and aerate it and add their droppings for microbes of all kinds to eat and turn into fertile, friable soil.

Where can we get compost? We may choose to buy compost, (it is a big business now) in bags for a few dollars. Fine if you garden in a pot, but what if you want to make large vegetable or flower gardens? Gets kinda expensive. Learn to go about the countryside gathering up leaves, pine straw, old hay (good hay, not full of weeds), and manures. Spread 6-8 in. on top of a grass and weed free bed and till in. Let it rot awhile and you will have a rich fertile soil to plant in.

One of the easiest ways to add humus to the soil is by planting green manure or cover crops. Legumes of all kinds are great because they fix nitrogen into the soil. The plants which can be mowed and tilled under add lots of compost once it decomposes.

In our area leaves and pine needles are for the taking. Manures, horse, chicken, rabbit, etc. are easily found. Paper which has been shredded is great. Remember anything that once was alive is great to add to your soil. What if your soil is too acid --- too alkaline? When you garden organically it will balance itself out. The English say it takes 7 years to make a good enough garden for perennials! Here, people add a few inches of compost to our dry sandy soils and think the bed is ready! Making a good, rich, organic garden takes work and time, but you will be rewarded far beyond your wildest dreams. Once you get the garden in good shape, after several years, anything will grow. Insects and disease will not flourish. The plants will outgrow problems in most cases. Remember, it takes time and there isn't enough money to buy that time. Patience will ensure success to the organic gardener.

One of the greatest gifts? The earthy smell of rich soil that abounds with activity.



This brochure and tour guide was designed by Scherel Carver. Each ticket buyer for the Home Garden Tour received one.

Good Bug – Bad Bug

By Anne Brown

Spring has come, and all too soon will be gone. Many gardeners are busy adding new plants to their landscapes and gardens; established plants are putting on new growth and with all these “goodies” here come the insects.

Aphids are one of our most prolific spring insects with more than 1300 species that attack annuals, perennials and even trees. Aphids come in many colors, green, yellow, dark green, and red-purple, depending on the species. Adults are small, soft bodied and usually pear shaped. What most species have in common is their ability to produce live young asexually, a process called parthenogenesis. Several generations are produced each season, usually female and wingless. When cooler weather arrives the adults mate to produce eggs that can over winter on host plants or in the bark of trees, depending on the species.



The Woolly Hackberry Aphid is a relatively new species that has been introduced into the United States. This aphid is covered with bluish white waxy wool. The University of Florida is especially interested in

being notified by anyone who sees this insect. There are other “wooly” aphid species which produce waxy threads and seem to develop on roots of summer host plants, but produce one egg that is left on the primary winter host plant. Woolly aphids are mostly found on trees and conifers.

Tender new growth on plants is the primary target of aphids. They cluster on the underside of leaves using rasping mouth parts to pierce the plant cells and suck fluid from the plant tissue. The removal of sap from a plant can cause leaf droop, discoloration or early leaf drop, affecting the production of current season crops or even crops during the coming year. After feeding aphids excrete a sticky fluid (honeydew) that collects on leaf surfaces allowing sooty mold to develop. This black colored mold limits the leaf's ability to perform photosynthesis and weakens the plant. Some aphids secrete toxic fluid into the host plant while feeding and other species transfer diseases.

Controlling aphids is not hard. They have many natural enemies including lady bug, lacewing and syrphid fly larvae plus parasites and pathogenic fungi. Be sure to check the condition of the aphids (they may already be dead or dying) before applying insecticides to avoid killing beneficials. Insecticidal soaps and oils can kill beneficial insects also. A strong spray of water can knock aphids off plants and may be all the control needed.

About.com

University of Florida

Garden Insects of North America, Whitney Cranshaw
A Field Guide to Common Texas Insects, Drees & Jackman



Awards for 2010

At the lunch on April 7th, the following people received awards:
 MG of the Year (Achievement) – Cindy Harrington
 MG of the Year (Hours) – Joanie Matthews
 Intern of the Year (Achievement) – Jean Smith
 Intern of the Year (Hours) – Jean Smith
 Project of the Year (AgriWorld/Secret Garden) – Hazel Bateman
 New Initiative – Sunshine Garden – Janis Morris and Class 16
 Media Award (Website) – Martin Davis
 Youth Award – JMG at All Saints – Jim Powell
 R & D Award – Anne Brown & Chris Steavenson
 Friend of Master Gardeners – Brent Pemberton
 Special Award of Excellence – Clayton and Pat Turner
 President's Award – Anne Brown
 No Problem Award – Pat Welch
 Special Project Award – Ronny Duncan
 Golden Work Glove Award – Sue Adee

The following people had high volunteer hours during 2010: over 400, Joanie Matthews and Anne Pattullo; over 300, Cindy Harrington and Hazel Bateman; over 200, Ronnie Duncan, Martin Davis, Anne Brown, Mary Claire Rowe, Gary Dobbs and Clayton Turner; over 100, Kay Dobbs, Bibi Blonn, Sue Adee, Jan Suggs, Scherel Carver, Jana Bowman, Harvey Collen, Don Davis, Victor Long, Pat Turner, Merlin Eck, Rhonda Rholes and Chris Steavenson. The following interns had high volunteer hour during their intern year: over 200, Jean Smith; over 100, Betty Atchley, Janet Cacho, Jim Powell and Sharon Reiland.

Earth Day

On April 16th Smith County MGs joined with others for an Earth Day program at Camp Tyler. The new SCMG banner had its first outing. A TV Channel 19 CBS news video is available at:



<http://www.cbs19.tv/story/14462824/east-texas-families-celebrate-earth-day>

1st Tuesday in the Garden

May 3rd – Noon – Guided tour of the IDEA Garden

JOANIE – Continued from page 1

Project, "The Home Garden Tour." Pat & Clayton Turner have poured their hearts into this project for a full year and does it ever show!! This is the best Home Tour ever. The gardens are magnificent, and everything is organized down to the smallest detail. I cannot wait to go follow those Geese. To the project co-coordinators and all the volunteers, I want to tell you how much each and every one of you are truly appreciated. We could not put on this type of event without your outstanding help. Your volunteerism is what makes the SCMG a such a strong and vibrant organization and one of which I am so proud to be a member.



The **Executive Committee** met on April 21st. Reports and updates were received concerning the Home Garden Tour, T-shirt sales, the Rose Festival, Gardening on the Cheap and the White Elephant Sale & Plant Swap.

New business included: Discussion of the planned picnic at Jim Powell's lake home. The date of that event will be October 20th from 5 to 8 PM.

A motion was made to change the date of the Executive Committee meeting from the Thursday prior to the monthly SCMGA meeting to the Thursday a week earlier, which would be prior to the newsletter deadline so that information from the meeting could appear in the current newsletter. Following discussion, the motion to change failed.

Discussed the excellent new Home Garden Tour brochure (see page 2 for the cover image), which was put together by Scherel Carver. She will be recognized for the job well done at the May membership meeting.

There was discussion of the rising gas cost which can be a factor for those who are a part of the Speaker's Bureau. Consideration for the alternatives will be discussed at a future meeting.

Jim Powell announced that 11 kids in the Junior MG Class at All Saints School will be certified on May 6th.

The very successful involvement in the Earth Day activities at Camp Tyler was discussed. It was felt that more planning for next year's event can be beneficial.

Heirloom Gardening in the South Yesterday's Plants for Today's Gardens

Dr. Welch and I have a brand new new book out. It's a big pretty thing with all new images, essays on our own garden restorations, added plants, etc. It's available from TAMU Press, Amazon.com, Dr. Welch, and others. – Greg Grant

New edition of a classic work on Southern heirloom gardening...

Heirloom plants belong in Southern gardens. Tough and adapted, tried and true, pretty and useful, these living antiques--passed through countless generations--represent the foundation of traditional gardens as we know them today.

Written by Dr. William C. Welch & Greg Grant.



New Rose Garden Guides Leadership

Janice Suggs has announced her resignation as the Rose Docent coordinator. Donna Cole and Lynn Merryfield have agreed to coordinate all activities of the Rose Docents. Janice commented, "This pleases me greatly as they are very dedicated, hard working, outstanding Master Gardeners and Rose Docents. I know that under their leadership, the program will thrive."

Tyler Men's Garden Club – Spring Fling Plant Sale

May 7th at the Tyler Rose Garden 9AM – 2 PM

For pictures of all of the award winners at the April 7th luncheon meeting, go to <http://scmg.tamu.edu/about/awards-recognition-3/>

Anne Pattullo presents MG of the Year award to Cindy Harrington



Keith Hansen presents Intern of the Year award to Jean Smith



Anne Pattullo presents Special Award of Excellence to Pat & Clayton Turner



Keith Hansen presents Project of the Year award to Hazel Bateman

