



# MG Grapevine

<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

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## NOTICE

**August 5<sup>th</sup>  
MG Association  
Meeting at the Rose  
Garden Center  
11:30 AM**

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### Extension Office

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## August Meeting Program

Our speaker for the August meeting is Donn Byrne, who is involved with field research on the life cycle of the monarch butterfly as well as studying the migratory habits on behalf of the Entomology Department of the University of Kansas. The University of Kansas is the primary university for the advance study of the migration of the monarch.



Donn has been a monarch butterfly enthusiast since he was 12 years old, frequently referring to monarchs as the second love of his life.

## Scholarship Thank You

Lauren Deibert, scholarship recipient at SFA State University writes:

"Thank you for awarding me the very generous Smith County Master Gardener Horticulture Scholarship for Fall 2010/Spring 2011. I was extremely happy and excited when I received the news that I had been selected as the recipient.

I am a Horticulture major at SFA and plan to pursue a career in Landscape Design or Nursery Management after graduating. I am a full time student with a current GPA of 3.46 and plan on graduating in the spring of 2011. I am considering applying to graduate school after obtaining my bachelor's degree.

This summer I am working as a horticulture intern with the Cockrell Butterfly Center at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in order to gain more hands-on experience and practical knowledge.

I give my sincere gratitude to you, the Smith County Master Gardeners and I am determined to use your donation wisely and excel in my studies of Horticulture here at Stephen F. Austin."

## Karen Miller Retirement

After 23 years of service in the office, Karen will retire on July 30th. She was working in the office prior to Keith Hansen's arrival, but has served as his secretary every since he has been there. She has helped MGs in many ways, answering countless questions and generally serving as an asset to all.

An open house reception will be held in her honor on July 30th in the Extension office meeting room from 3:30 to 5:30 PM. All are invited. Stop by and wish her well.

## Human Resources Handbook

The new Human Resources Handbook is now complete and is available in the MG office. Those who put the book together included Pat Welch, coordinator and Sue Adee, Ann Kelley and Linda Sargent.

Thanks to these ladies, we now have a complete book of information with job descriptions, project and committee responsibilities and a lot of other useful stuff, all available in one place for quick reference.

## Fall Conference Speaker Named

Greg Grant will offer landscaping advice and ideas with a presentation titled "Right Plant, Right Place, Home Landscaping 101." Greg Grant is Lecturer in the School of Horticulture at Stephen F. Austin State University. He is also co-author, with William C. Welch, of the *Southern Heirloom Garden* (1995, Taylor Publishing, Dallas, Texas) and a regular contributor to Neil Sperry's Gardens magazine.

Merlin Eck will present a slide show providing information on the many varieties of bulbs for sale following the conference.

The conference and bulb sale will be at Harvey Hall on October 9<sup>th</sup> with doors opening at 8:00 AM. The conference is from 9:00 AM to 11:15 AM, with the Bulb Sale following at 11:30 AM until 2:30 PM.



Summer is truly here. And, as usual, summer plant problems abound. As reported here last month, Gray Leaf Spot is still the number one question we are getting in the office.

Hopefully with drier weather, this fungal disease will slow down and stop. If you want a little more info on it, go to the ET Garden web site, and look under Home Gardening -> Landscaping-> FAQ's - you'll find an article with photos on it, and a short blurb on Slime Mold, which we have also seen in the office.

Speaking of the office, there are some major changes going on. Karen Miller, the Horticulture and Agriculture/Natural Resources secretary, is retiring after 23 years. We will miss her with her years of knowledge about Extension in all aspects (she can even diagnose Gray Leaf Spot! - she's seen it enough times), and we'll miss her helpful and supportive role she has given to not only me but also to the Master Gardener volunteers, and all clientele that walk through the door. We wish her well as she embarks on a new phase of her life.

Jackie Herrera has been hired to fill her spot, and so make her feel welcome when you come through the office.

The Ag/NR agent position has been unfrozen (the position Brian Triplett had prior to transferring to the Bowie County Extension office), so we will start receiving applicants to fill the position. We'll keep you posted.

Another co-worker, Cassandra Coleman, the Family & Consumer Sciences agent, has resigned to pursue a career in the private sector. Patrice Dunagin, the Family Development agent, will change job responsibilities and fill that position. Finally (I hope), the State eliminated the Family Development agent position in the Smith County office in July.

Thanks go out to David Pierson and Chris Steavenson for redoing the stone paths in the IDEA Garden. After 11 years, they needed a face lift, and they made the stone path both attractive and safer to traverse.

Hazel Bateman will be seeking help during the August monthly meeting for the AgriWorld/Secret Garden project. This is an important educational program where we reach thousands of youth and East Texas State Fair goers with gardening and environmental stewardship lessons. It is a big undertaking and your help in the many areas is needed. Finally, please remember to turn in your hours and group contacts every month. I turn in reports every month, and

while you may think your hours don't make much difference, when added together with all the other Smith County Master Gardener reports, it makes quite an impact. And when added together with all the other counties across Texas, we demonstrate to the decision-makers in Austin that we are reaching people, providing quality educational programs, meeting the needs of the citizens of this State.

### AUGUST FUN (???)\*\*\*)

by Dee Bishop

Fun - in August? --- In Texas? Weell - yes if you don't mind sweatin' a little.

Now's a good time to order those wildflower seeds you thought were so pretty last spring. Bluebonnets, Indian paint brush, phlox, etc. Find a place in full sun, that is well-drained even after lots of rain, and rough till it. Sprinkle the seeds over and tamp down. Do Not Water. Let nature take its course. Eventually the rain will come and the seeds will sprout, just when they should, and you will have beautiful wildflowers next spring.

August is a good month to cut back iris foliage, unless you have remontant bloomers, then wait until later. You can dig and separate iris and other bulbs. Cut off any diseased and old areas, let them lay in a sheltered shady place for a few days then replant. Remember, make a saddle for them to 'ride' so the roots will have room in the hole and the rhizome will be exposed. Do not mulch irises. They need to bake in the sun. Other bulbs can lie drying in the shade to be replanted in Oct.-Nov. or you can replant them now. They are dormant so it won't matter when you plant them.

Be careful when watering succulent plants such as begonias and impatiens. They may look wilted but are not really dry. Be sure to let them dry between waterings. They are in a semi-dormant state and can't use too much water. If you keep them soggy, they will rot, pronto. Many plants wilt in the high heat of summer, but aren't necessarily dry. Be sure to check before watering.

Don't fertilize in August unless you want to use a very mild organic fertilizer. Allow the weather to cool so the plants resume growing. Then they will be able to use the fertilizer. You don't want to force the poor things to grow in August's sweltering heat. Tropicals, do grow in summer's heat, so will need regular fertilizing to keep them blooming at their best.



Now, rinse off in the sprinkler and go inside for a tall glass of iced tea and relax in the cool air-conditioned house. Now's the time to thumb through seed catalogs and place fall orders for the beautiful fall garden you intend to have.

## Coffee Walking

by Anne Pattullo - President SCMG Association

We have reached the summer doldrums! Our coffee walks start earlier and end sooner. I am encouraged each morning when everything looks fresh and perky, but by 3:00 p.m. it is just too hot to be in the garden. It is amazing, though, what a little water can do! With an afternoon drink, most of the container plants manage to do just fine. We cut down a monstrous oak tree which shaded our whole back yard last fall. It has been interesting to see which plants can take the added sun and which cannot. I have had to move nearly all my Hostas to a shadier area. I have added more sun coleus which I am really enjoying, but need something perennial to replace the Hostas. Suggestions are welcome. As for a few plants which really thrive in the heat and sun, I chose Goldsturm and Herbstonne Rudbekia, and Phlox paniculata. John Fannick seems to be the very best variety, mildew resistant and standing tall after rain storms. Another vote goes to Tidal Wave petunias which, although they are finally getting smaller and more sparse, have been beautiful since March. My vegetable garden is a disappointment with the loss of my tomatoes, but I have lots of cucumbers. Harvey Collen lost his cukes so we help each other out. Now I have what I need to make Gazpacho, my favorite summer soup.



June and July have been a busy time for the calendar committee. As I write this, it is nearly ready to go to the printer. Please be thinking of any sales outlet you might know of that would be willing to handle this beautiful publication. A special thank you goes out to Shirley Hightower and Scherel Carver as well as the writers and illustrators who have spent long hours getting it ready.

I will not be at our August meeting as we will be in Siberia (doesn't that sound cool! Pun intended). My husband and I are going with a team from Marvin Church to work in an orphanage in the Russian city of Tomsk. As soon as we return from Russia, we are going to Michigan to attend Garth's 50th class reunion. I know everyone will continue to prepare for our great fall events. *Anne*

until your planting time. Then anytime between Christmas and mid-January, excavate loamy soil from your planting area to 7" deep (6-to-5" deep in clay-type soils). For neatness, use a large piece of plywood or a heavy tarp to hold the removed dirt. Place 5 or 6 tulip bulbs evenly in each sq. ft., pointy-side up. Then replace and smooth half the excavated dirt around the bulbs, and tamp down lightly. If the soil is dry, water it thoroughly. This will help eliminate air pockets around the bulbs and get the root-growing started. Afterwards, cover the bulbs and planting area with the rest of the soil. Happy spring! - 'erb



## Tulips

by Herb Coursey

"Why worry," you may ask, "about spring-blooming bulbs during these hottest months of the year, when we won't see the first tulip blooms until March or probably even later!" Aha! Because now is exactly the right time to start the fretting, planning, catalog-searching and buying that help define your success for a stunning spring! Besides, getting everything done ("groundwork", you might call it) in air conditioned comfort will whisk you happily away from hours of hot, sweaty summer discomfort and tedium. If you like inspiration, plan your garden to add to the focus of Tyler's Azalea Festival: the brilliant displays of tulips with azaleas this past spring were truly sensational!

They wowed even our son John, newly returned from years of working for Microsoft in Seattle, and - I must say - never before much concerned with gardens, lawn, or flowers. But last summer he bought a house he *loves* in Tyler, had it landscaped, and has already ordered 500 "Temple of Beauty" tulip bulbs to plant for this spring. I mention all this because we are the proud parents. We want you to drive by and look at his place and what he's doing: his address is 1330 Belmont Drive. Already he was invited and has agreed for his house and garden to be on the Azalea Trail Tour of Homes next spring. So when the time comes, YOU GO SEE! Believe me, you don't know what a miracle those tulips will represent.

In earlier P/M articles, you have read of my deep loyalty and appreciation for the former Thompson-Hills Nursery and its late beloved owner Laura Miller. Every year she ordered thousands of tulip bulbs, comprised of dozens of varieties which she sold, then stored in refrigeration until just before planting time. Laura and TH are gone, true, but I can pass on two sources of inestimable value for acquiring imported tulips and other spring-flowering bulbs, all of them grown in Holland.

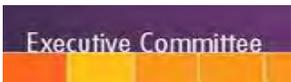
John Scheepers, Inc. in Connecticut (860)-567-0838 or [catalog@johnscheepers.com](mailto:catalog@johnscheepers.com) <http://www.dutchbulbs.com> for a magnificent free catalog: *Beauty from Bulbs, Fall 2010*. To service bigger orders: Van Engelen, Inc. at (860)-567-8734, or <[customerservice@vanengelen.com](mailto:customerservice@vanengelen.com)> Ask for their 52-page wholesale price list (for orders of more than 100 of a variety) to use while you refer to the pictures in the catalog.

Jimmy Turner, director of horticultural research at Dallas Arboretum, oversees planting 400,000 tulip bulbs every year. For Texas he advises only Single Late Tulips because they bloom after mid-March through much of April, plus their taller blooms are larger and hold up better than other types. Ideally, if you order soon to receive the bulbs in early



October, place them in tightly closed paper bags - *not plastic* - in the crisper of your refrigerator for 10-12 weeks. Be wary: freezing kills! If you order pre-cooled bulbs, they *must remain in pre-cooling* **Continued at left**



Executive Committee

The committee met on July 15<sup>th</sup> to consider:

The picnic at Jim Powell's is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>.

The 2011 Home Garden Tour will be on April 30, 2011 with five home gardens on display.

Greg Grant will be the Fall Conference speaker.

The Human Resources Handbook is complete and will be available in the MG office.

Craig Reiland presented the city's new *Celebrating Rose Season* brochure. Go to [www.visitt Tyler.com](http://www.visitt Tyler.com) for PDF of it. There will be a plant sale in the Rose Garden during the Rose Festival Arts & Crafts Fair. SCMGs are invited to participate.

Karen Miller (Keith's secretary) is retiring on July 30<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to an open house from 3:30-5:30PM that day.

### New Addresses

#### E-Mail

Judy Racs - [judyracs@centurylink.net](mailto:judyracs@centurylink.net)

J. D. Wood - [james\\_w75771@suddenlink.net](mailto:james_w75771@suddenlink.net)

#### Home Address

Janet Cacho - 13451 Co. Rd. 2216, Tyler 75707

## Coming Events

### 2010 Bluebird Symposium in Henderson

Saturday, August 14, 2010

New Civic Center at Lake Forrest Park

1005 Hwy 64 W, Henderson, TX 75652

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM Doors open 8:30 for registration

Keith Kridler - How, What & Why? Eastern Bluebirds

Greg Grant - The Hole Truth: East Texas Woodpeckers

### 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the Garden

Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at noon in the IDEA Garden

Scale, Lace Bugs, Spider Mites (Identify and take action on these pests) - Anne Brown

### AgriWorld at the E.T. State Fair

Once again the SCMGs will participate at the fair from September 23<sup>rd</sup> until October 3<sup>rd</sup> with the Secret Garden display. A learning experience for children, as well as adults.

### MG Tree Stewardship Specialist Training

September 27-29 at Palestine, TX Training in basic tree care, tree biology, tree and site selection, problem diagnoses, health monitoring and maintenance. Registration deadline, September 13<sup>th</sup>. More info. Mark Price, CEA Ag/NR 903-723-3735 [mdprice@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mdprice@ag.tamu.edu)



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