



MG Grapevine

<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

January 2009

Volume 16

Number 1

NOTICE
MG Association
Meeting
January 8th
Rose Garden Center

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keith's Column - pg. 2
- IDEA Garden News - pg. 2
- New Library book - pg. 2
- Cindy's Comments - pg. 3
- 2009 MG Assoc. Dues - pg. 3
- Good Bug - Bad Bug - pg. 3
- New E-Mail Address - pg. 3
- Did you miss them? - pg. 4
- Old Word - pg. 4
- Habitat project - pg. 4

MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Sue Adee, Anne Brown, Cindy Harrington and Keith Hansen

Published for the Master Gardeners of Smith County, Texas under the auspices of the Smith County Office of Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 1517 W. Front St. Tyler, TX 75702.

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.



Improving Lives, Improving Texas

"Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education."

Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980

Fax - 903-590-2984

January SCMG Meeting

Topic for January's meeting will be The State of the Association. Many of our members (especially the newer ones) may not be aware of the what, who and how each MG project progressed this past year. In addition it will give all members an opportunity to be more aware of the ways the Master Gardeners Association accomplishes its objectives as outlined in the Bylaws, which are: "A. To increase Association members' knowledge of gardening and to aid the general public to better understand recommended gardening practices. B. To support and assist the Texas AgriLife Extension Service by providing the community with information on Texas AgriLife Extension Service and gardening through news articles, clinics, presentations at garden clubs, schools, and other community groups."

Each project leader has been asked to give a 2-3 minute update on the progress made in '08 and plans or goals for '09.

Hours Reports

Each MG has been encouraged by Keith Hansen to make timely volunteer hours reports and to bring them up-to-date if necessary. For all certified Master Gardeners, December 31st is year-end. Final reports for 2008 should be turned in by **January 15th** at the latest.

Interns, your year does not end until March 31st, but your final reports for calendar year 2008 should be submitted by Jan. 15th also.

Internal Links

Click any item on the *Inside this Issue* list (at left) to go directly to the article referenced.

Officers for 2009 to be Installed

The new year will begin with new officers for the Smith County MG Association. The following people will be installed at the January 8th meeting: President - Cindy Harrington; President-Elect/Vice President - Anne Pattullo; Treasurer - Pat Welch; Secretary - JoAnne Huffman; Historian - Bill Kelldorf; Executive Committee at Large - Monica Klein and Merlin Eck; State Director - Rhonda Rholes; and Alternate State Director - Joanie Matthews.

The positions of State Director and Alternate are two year terms, thus continuing in those positions are: Harvey Collen and Carl Caskey.

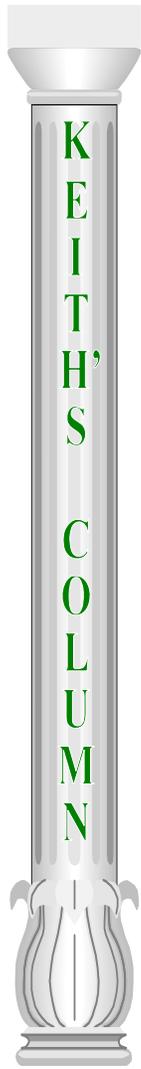
Thanks to these out-going officers for their service including: Ann Smith, Treasurer; Scherel Carver, Secretary; Doris Waits; Historian; Andie Rathbone, Parliamentarian; J. D. Wood, Executive Committee at large; Bob Leffingwell, State Director; and Carolyn Bonifay, Alternate State Director. John Brasher will become the Past-President and will serve on the Executive Committee, as per the bylaws.

Plant of the Month Column

The same day that the December *MG Grapevine* was published Herb Coursey came forward to volunteer to try his hand (pen) at writing the *Plant of the Month* column previously written by Anne Pattullo.

His words of wisdom will begin to appear in the February *MG Grapevine* and will alternate monthly with Anne Brown's *Good Bug - Bad Bug* column.

Thanks for stepping forward Herb.



Happy New Year to Smith County Master Gardeners!

As we enter in to a new year, I hope that it will be a prosperous one for you, especially in light of the current economic situation. It seems like we are seeing an increased interest in folks growing or wanting to grow their own food, whether it is to reduce dependence on store-bought sustenance, or perhaps a desire to eat fresh-from-the-garden produce. To help those who are interested in learning how to produce and preserve their own groceries, the Smith County Extension office staff will be hosting a seminar called "Grow It and Stow It" on Thursday, January 15, 2009. Cost of the seminar will be \$10 per person or \$15 per couple, which will include a set of handouts focusing on backyard fruit and vegetable production and home food preservation. There will be a 9 AM session and a 6 PM session offered. Please RSVP by January 13 to (903) 590 - 2980. Space is limited in each session to the first 50 people who register.

"Grow It and Stow It" will feature the following topics related to backyard fruit and vegetable production and food preservation. "Grow It" will cover: planning, preparing the soil, recommended varieties of common fruits and vegetables,

Spring and Fall planting dates for East Texas, and harvesting tips. Attendees will learn about planning the size of a backyard garden based upon the size of your family, food preferences, and whether or not you plan to preserve extra produce for use at a later date. "Stow It" will cover: food safety, canning, freezing, dehydration, and will feature live demonstrations of food preservation techniques.

Even if you may not be interested in this program, please pass it along to anyone who might have an interest.

We have another great group of 22 trainees signed up for the new Master Gardener training class. First class is on January 8, which is the same day as the regular MG monthly meeting. As you get a chance over the next several weeks, stop by during class to meet and introduce yourself to the new members, and make them feel welcome. They will join us for the March monthly meeting. The entire schedule is posted online (see MG web site under "Coming Events"). Note that several of the classes will be in Overton. Keep in mind you can earn CE's (3) for each class. We will have new speaker this

year for the vegetable session, Dr. Joe Masabni, the new Extension Vegetable Specialist in College Station (multi-county session in Overton).

IDEA Garden News

by Sue Adee

What a year! Changes were made this past year with great success. Let me briefly bring everyone up to date.

The plant database continues to be a work in progress. Keith and Rhonda Rholes are working diligently on it. Finishing the database is a priority for the upcoming year. We have divided the garden into 14 sections for placement and plant identification.

We now have Section Leaders who plan, plant and maintain certain sections of the garden. This is a big help and success as it brings different ideas and styles to the garden. Sue Adee remains as overall garden coordinator with Anne Pattullo managing the Rainbow Border and butterfly gardening. Joanie Matthews manages the shade garden and JoAnne Huffman manages the dry area. Cindy Harrington is responsible for the upper section.

One of the goals for the IDEA Garden is to add more shrubs reducing the number of annuals purchased every year. Therefore, we have removed a lot of older varieties of shrubs and added new varieties. Keith was given some of the Southern Living plants that are being advertised in horticultural magazines for planting in the garden. Three of these are *Loropetalum chinenses* 'Purple Pixie', 'Purple Diamond' and 'Emerald Snow', a green form with white flowers, all of which have now been planted. Another Southern Living Plant, an upright yew 'Yewtopia' (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia*) was added. These are just a few of the new varieties you will see when visiting the IDEA Garden.

The scarecrows were a first this year. We received a lot of positive response from visitors and the city. I think that everyone who worked on them had a good time. This project will probably be repeated in 2009, so put on your thinking cap, be ready to join in, and start working on them in August or September.

Christmas decorations were added to bring a festive atmosphere to the area. Thanks to all who furnished the decorations.

A BIG THANKS to all the Master Gardeners who worked in the IDEA Garden this past year. The garden can't be maintained without your help.

Book Contributed to MG Library

Marilyn Helm presented a book in memory of Chad Rockett - *Garden Insects of North America - The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs* by Whitney Cranshaw. This beautifully illustrated 650 page book is a book Dr. Scott Ludwig has highly recommended, and it will a very useful addition to the MG library.



Cindy's Comments

As another new year approaches, I have a better appreciation for the old saying "the older I get, the faster time goes". Is it really going to be 2009? Wasn't it just the other day many people were wondering if some of the dire Y2K predictions would actually happen. John Brasher has it right when he says things like March is just week after next.

January is a great time to reflect on last year and plan for the new year. The 2009 board members of the SCMG will be meeting in January to do just that. Please contact any of us with ideas, suggestions or concerns. We want to do a good job for the association and your input is our best tool.

A special thank you to: Andie Rathbone, John Brasher, Ann Smith, Scherel Carver, Doris Waits, J. D. Wood, Bob Leffingwell and Carolyn Bonifay for all their time and hard work while serving on the board of the SCMG's. Each project leader and coordinator continues to earn my respect and gratitude for their dedication to the SCMG's and its projects. Thank you to every member who worked to make all the events and projects a success. Pat Turinsky, you're the greatest!

While making the change to your 2009 calendar, why not go ahead and mark April 23rd – 25th for the State Master Gardeners Conference? "Fixin' to Sow, Gardens to Show" will be hosted by the Harrison County Master Gardeners in Marshall. Their web site is <http://tcaaa.tamu.edu/09statemeeting.htm>. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear informative speakers, continue your gardening education and earn CE's at the same time. Don't forget to wear your new name badge with the Texas AgriLife Extension logo!

Now that the holidays are over, I am so ready for spring. Maybe it's just the sun I'm missing because I seem to be solar powered. Last week in the few minutes when it wasn't raining, the wind wasn't blowing and it wasn't too cold to be outside, I saw that some of my bulbs purchased from the Bulb Sale this past year were coming up! After all spring is just week after next.

Looking ahead to the great things that will happen this year!
Cindy

2009 MG Association Dues

Your 2009 MG Association dues are due and payable during January. New Treasurer Pat Welch will happily accept your money at the January MG meeting or by mail to her at 19461 Sandhill Lane, Flint, TX 75762.

Pat will also take your order for a new name badge with the AgriLife Extension logo. Cost is \$6.00 each.

Good Bug - Bad Bug

by Anne Brown

As I write this article our East Texas weather is predictably unpredictable. One item I read stated that it has to be below freezing 5-7 days in a row before insects are affected. Living in this climate that almost never happens so you can be sure that come warmer temps the insects will be out and about.

Now is a good time (while gardeners are indoors) to learn about the insects that appear in your own gardens and how to cope with them. There are many options available from chemical to organic. My own plan is to "do the least harm" to the environment and beneficial insects.

It will soon be time to start watching for scale on Camellias and Azaleas. If the number of scales is small they can be removed by scraping them from the plant or by removing the parts of the plant that are infected. These pests can be controlled by using Horticultural Oil which smothers the adults, crawlers and eggs. Make sure you use the oil when temperatures are in the correct range (40-85°F). If you spray when the temps are wrong you can damage, or even kill, the plant. When using Horticultural Oil be sure to spray both the upper and lower parts of the plant leaves, stems and branches. It is a safe bet that if you had scale on your plants last year, you will have them again this year. Scale is very difficult to control and requires more than one application ten days apart. Because some scale only feed on the plant fiber, not the sap, a systemic insecticide will not work on them. Keith shared information with me that years ago there was a systemic that worked on both types of scale but that product is no longer available to home owners but systemic insecticide will still work on scale that sucks sap from the plant. The important and difficult chore is learning which scale you have on your plants.

Azalea Lace Bugs will also start showing up when the warmer temperatures come back. Because they feed on the underside of leaves they may not be noticed until the damage is already done. Check the back of leaves to see if there is insect waste or insects present. Because there are several beneficial insects that feed on Azalea Lace Bugs it is important to use as little chemical control as necessary to keep the Lace Bugs under control. Since Lace Bugs leave their eggs in the Azalea plant leaves it is very important to spray the under side of the leaves. Spray the plants seven to ten days apart with either Horticultural Oil or an insecticide that lists Azalea Lace Bugs on the label.

Always check the label on any product you plan to use and follow the directions. Don't waste your time and money by using a product that will not control the insect you have on your plants, or worse, is going to harm your plants.

New E-Mail Address

Betty Conejo - bconejo@suddenlink.net

Did you Miss Them?

A few weeks ago the Japanese Maples at the Tyler Rose Garden were showing their fall colors. Walk with Keith Hansen from the Heritage Garden toward the IDEA Garden as you view his excellent gallery of Maples in full color. Check it out at:

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu/homegardens/Japanesemaplefall2008.html>

Old Word

Ro'ric - Of or pertaining to dew; resembling dew; dewy. *Physics*) figures which appear upon a polished surface, as glass, when objects which have been near to, or in contact with the surface, are removed and the surface breathed upon.

New Class Schedule

As noted in *Keith's Column*, MG Class XVI begins on January 8th, meeting twice a week through March. The full schedule is available on the SCMG website under Coming Events.

MG's at a Habitat for Humanity Project

On December 13th, Master Gardeners once again worked with a Habitat house group, advising the new owners about their landscape.

Seen in the picture below are MGs Rhonda Rholes and Bob Leffingwell, along with others.



1517 Front St., Suite 116
Tyler, TX 75702