



MG Grapevine

NOTICE

No
MG Association
Meeting
In July

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keith's Column - pg. 2
- July dates - pg. 2
- Tour Guide Training - pg. 2
- Reiland's Rosy Rave - pg. 2
- From the Corner - pg. 3
- Good Bug - pg. 3
- Visitor Thank You - pg. 3
- Overton Field Trials - pg. 4

MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

John Brasher, Anne Brown,
Mary Hamlin, Keith Hansen
and Craig Reiland

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Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980

Fax - 903-590-2984

July Meeting

Careful reading of the Smith County Master Gardener Association Bylaws will reveal, in Article IV. Meetings, Section 1, "Association monthly meetings shall be held on the first Thursday of each month." In spite of that wording, the Executive Committee, in its wisdom has for several years cancelled the scheduled meeting for July.

Mary Hamlin's Old Words

Mary's sister was given a book of old words that have fallen out of favor and are rarely heard any more. She wrote down the plant-connected words, came home and looked them up, and thought that a word-a-month item might be fun.

We too thought it would be fun to share some of these words with you. Who knows, we may find a way to use some of these words in casual conversation.

The word this month is: **Com•men•sal**

adj. Of, relating to, or characterized by a symbiotic relationship in which one species is benefitted while the other is unaffected.

n. An organism participating in a symbiotic relationship in which one species derives some benefit while the other is unaffected.

In ecology, **commensalism** is a kind of relationship between two organisms where one benefits and the other is not significantly harmed or helped (like a bird living in a tree). The term derives from the English word *commensal* meaning "sharing of food" in human social interaction; that word derives from the Latin *com mensa*, meaning "sharing the table".

At our house we have a commensal relationship with our dog.

It's on the Web

This note was recently received at the Smith County AgriLife Extension office:

My name is Lynn White (of Willimantic, CT) and I have a unique question for you. You see, I came across this really wonderful quote in an article entitled *Gardening as Therapy* by Barbara Ann Myrick, a master gardener in Smith County. I am presently the director of Growing Stronger, Inc., a mentoring/service organization that gives vocational training and life skills coaching to at risk women who have completed their period of incarceration or completed a substance abuse rehab program. In creating a new web site for Growing Stronger. I would so very much like to use her quote, "*Gardening can ease your pain, calm your spirit, and soothe your soul.*" Permission to use was granted.

Barbara was a member of Class 5 and wrote the Tip of the Week 10 years ago that contained the quote referenced. When it is on the web, you never know who will read it. View the Tips, go to: <http://scmg.tamu.edu> and click on **Tip of the Week**.

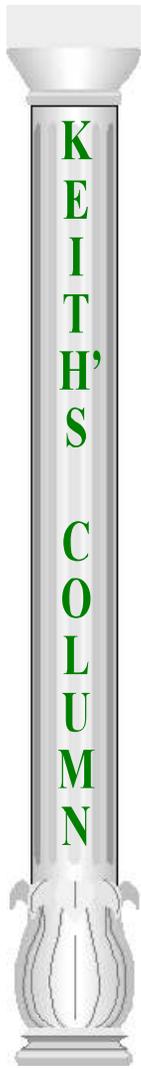
New Year's Resolution

A show of hands please. How many of you made a New Year's resolution to report your volunteer hours in a timely way during 2008? As we near mid-year, how are you doing?

Based on what we see by reviewing the hours spreadsheet, a lot of you aren't doing that well. Perhaps those that are deficient didn't make a resolution. We'll never know.

It is easy to count the number who have made no report at all this year and that is a surprising 50 people!

Continued page 2 - see **Resolution**



I'm still looking for Master Gardeners willing to serve about one time a month (if I get enough volunteers) for staffing the Extension office help desk. (see June Grapevine for more details). We have a ways to go before reaching that goal. As I mentioned last month, this group of volunteers would get the benefit of regular updates on what's hot, what's not, plant diagnosis training, and learn more about all the resources available to help folks with gardening questions and problems. Please give me a call or email me if you are interested or want more information.

Craig Reiland and I have scheduled another session to train Master Gardeners interested in serving as Rose Garden (RG) Tour Guides (also called Docents). The training date is Wednesday, August 6, at the Tyler Rose Garden Center. This all-day training is open to all Master Gardeners, both certified and interns. However, we ask that if you attend the training, you also commit to serving as a Tour Guide. This is a great opportunity to both learn all about roses and the Rose Garden, and to carry out our mission of educating our clientele and visitors about the world of horticulture.

Current RG Docents are also welcome to attend. You'll get a lot of knowledge, a notebook full of facts and information on growing roses and the Rose Garden, an in-depth tour of the Rose Garden, and benefit of learning from the experts.

If you have questions about being a tour guide, you can ask Craig Reiland at the Tyler Rose Garden, or Jean Watson or Janice Suggs co-coordinators of the Tour Guide program.

Please email Keith ASAP regarding your interest in attending the RG Tour Guide Training. The deadline for signing up is July 25, so we will have time to prepare handouts, etc.

Thanks for all you do for Texas AgriLife Extension!!!

Important July Dates

The Executive Committee will meet on July 16 and the Grapevine deadline is July 25.

Tyler Rose Garden Tour Guide Training Tentative Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions and Overview - Keith Hansen & Craig Reiland
- Check reference notebooks
- View videos of history of rose production - Tyler Rose Museum
- History of rose production in Smith County - Brent Pemberton & Mark Chamblee
- How roses are commercially grown - Brent & Mark
- History of the Tyler Rose Garden - Craig
- Rose hybrid classes - Mark
- How to grow roses - (various)
- Gardens & areas within the Rose Garden (walking tour) - (various)
- How to lead a group through the Garden
- Common Questions
- Evaluation

Reiland's "Rosy" Raves

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all Smith County Master Gardeners for the generosity of their time and continued support of the Tyler Rose Garden. In particular now, I applaud those serving as docents or guides in the Rose Garden, as without these individuals donating their personal time for the many tour group requests, not only would my time be more consumed by handling these myself, but our visitors benefit by quality tours presented by those trained on the Rose Garden and knowledgeable of horticulture. For those not familiar with the Rose Garden Docent program, please make contact with either myself or Keith Hansen. Plans are already under way to have a new training for "new volunteers" in August. Remember one important mission of Master Gardeners which is education. Craig Reiland

Resolution - continued from page 1

And then there are those who have made some report early in the year, but are not current in their report. Others may have health problems. If this is the case, and you have not already done so, contact Keith Hansen to discuss your situation.

A special thanks to those who always make timely reports and to the rest of you, please do better. We all know the reasons we should make reports monthly, don't we?

F the CORNER R O M



Tan, Brown, Well Done or Burned

For many years I didn't worry about whether I was tan, brown, burned or even well done. I did what I needed to do in the sun and didn't worry about it. Of course during most of that time I had a house with lots of trees around it so the sun wasn't a very big factor to me. I was also a lot younger and less knowledgeable (stupid) about

the effects of the sun on skin. I did as little yard work and gardening as possible so I didn't spend much time in the sun. Of course some Little League baseball practice didn't count since that was fun rather than work and the sun doesn't count when it's fun. I know you're wondering why you should care what I did a long time ago. The answer is you probably don't and shouldn't except that all those hours spent in the sun a long time ago have had an effect on my skin and now after a few trips to the dermatologist I see the error of my ways.

Now I live in a house with no trees at all and I have learned to love yard work and gardening. I am spending more time in the sun than before and I have to change my ways starting with how I dress when I'm out in the sun. Where I used to just wear a cap if anything at all on my head I now wear a wide brimmed hat to protect my ears, face and neck. I am starting to wear a long sleeve shirt to protect my arms and hands and pretty soon I may have to give up my shorts and wear long pants to work in the yard and garden. As uncomfortable as these changes are I think I will be in big trouble later on if I don't change now.

A few meetings ago Ed McGee told us all this and it's really starting to sink in with me. I hope it's not too late to change. I just wish someone had drilled all this into me a long time ago.

I know many of you are aware of all this and take all the necessary precautions when working in the sun. If so just ignore me.

Many people take no precautions when working in the sun and will suffer the consequences sooner or later. I recommend they take a look at some of the precautions for working in the sun. The few things I listed above are by no means all the recommended precautions for working in the sun. There are others and everyone should be aware of them.

So, do you prefer tan, brown, well done or burned?

John Brasher

GOOD BUG

by Anne Brown

Lacewings are found in almost every part of North America.

They are usually light green in color while some species can be brown. All species have wings that are almost transparent and fold over their backs but



lacewings are not good fliers. The wings are very light and the veins are easy to see. In Texas there is a species called "Goldeneyed Lacewing", which has a black band on the head. Like all insects, lacewings have three body parts, six legs and antenna.

Adult female lacewings lay eggs on short (1/4 – 1/2 inch) long stalks, either singly or in clusters usually on the underside of leaves. When the larvae hatch they look very similar to Lady Beetle larvae. After several instars, which take two to three weeks, the larvae spin white cocoons and the adult emerges in about 5 days. Lacewings can overwinter as either adults or in cocoons.

Lacewing larvae have sickle-shaped jaws used to pierce and suck body juices from prey. Larvae feed on soft-bodied insects, mites, insect eggs, thrips, mealy bugs, immature whiteflies and even small caterpillars. The larvae are very predatory, eating up to 200 soft bodied insects in a day. The larvae are sometimes called "aphid lions" because aphids are one of their major food sources.

Because lacewings are a beneficial insect care should be taken when using insecticides so the eggs, larvae and adults are not killed. Watch to see where lacewings are laying eggs and the larvae are feeding and avoid spraying in those areas. Adult lacewings feed on pollen, nectar and honeydew while some adult species feed on insects.

Message from Visiting MG's

Charlie and Linda Poe visiting from Rio Rancho, New Mexico attended the June MG Association meeting. They sent the following note:

Thanks for letting Charlie and I be part of your meeting on June 5. It was a fun for us to experience another Master Gardening Program. The IDEA Garden is magical, beautiful and in a perfect setting for attracting visitors. Hope when in the Albuquerque/Santa Fe area you will visit the Rio Rancho WaterWise Demonstration Garden.

Click to view WaterWise Garden information: <http://cahe.nmsu.edu/county/sandoval/mastergardener/water-wise-garden-work-d.html>

Overton Field Day

More than 150 nursery growers, professional plant breeders, greenhouse managers and gardening enthusiasts attended the annual Overton horticultural bedding plant trials and field day on June 26.

For a number of years Smith County Master Gardeners have been key participants in the project and this year was no exception. Many SCMGs were in attendance at the Field Day some of whom are in Keith Hansen's pictures.



1517 Front St., Suite 116
Tyler, TX 75702