



MG Grapevine

NOTICE

MG Association Meeting
Rose Garden Center
March 6, 2008
Ed McGee

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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.

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Extension Office

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March Meeting

Ed McGee spoke at the November 2004 MG meeting telling us, "What I Wish I Knew about Gardening 40 years Ago." At the March meeting Ed will discuss the things he has learned since then.

This is the First!

This month's *MG Grapevine* is the first which will be delivered, with only a few exceptions, via e-mail. Following last month's announcement of this change, all comments have been positive.

2008 Address Book

A new SCMG Address Book will be available at the April meeting. Please check your own information in the current book and if it is incorrect, notify Martin Davis, **AT ONCE!** Changed e-mail addresses published in the *MG Grapevine* do not require notification to Martin.

Sunshine Chairman

Through the years, as the SCMG group grew bigger, it has become more difficult to stay aware of the concerns for individuals in the association. John Brasher suggested to the Executive Committee that a Sunshine Committee might help fill the need.

Doris Waits volunteered to become Sunshine Chairman. Call her at 903-561-8246 to let her know of major illness or surgery.

MG Shirts

Each year the Smith County MGs are given an opportunity to purchase shirts with the SCMG logo embroidered onto them. Martin Davis has advised that he no longer wishes to handle this responsibility, thus a volunteer is needed to take his place. Please give John Brasher a call if you would like to do this once per year job.

Habitat for Humanity Project

On a Saturday in early February a group of MGs assisted in the landscaping of a new Habitat home. Plants included contributions of an 'Avalon' Red Bud, a large "dinner-plate" Hardy Hibiscus, several standard-size Nandina starts, three good batches of white Irises, and a whole mess of Liriope! Hanna Walker of HFH brought in a HUGE Lady Banks Rose, a Knock-Out Rose, three 3-gallon Abelias, two 3-gallon Crape Myrtles and six dwarf Nandinas.

Our group of homeowner-workers was, to a person, a cheerful, hard-working group. In four hours, they removed grass sod, tilled, installed edging, added garden soil, set out plants, and spread mulch. We were delighted by their excellent attitudes and diligence.

Unfortunately, Angela, the home-owner, had to leave for work before the plants were in, but it's fun to imagine her face when she sees the transformation.

This was a great time, and I'm proud of everyone!

The message above is a portion of a report provided by Rhonda Roles. Other MGs involved are, Bob Leffingwell, Hazel Bateman and Joanie Matthews.

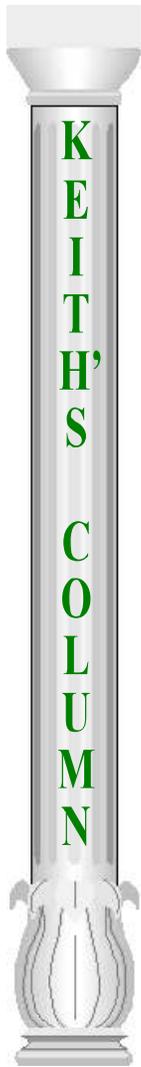
Habitat for Humanity Thanks



I'm seriously smiling big!
Thank you, thank you,
thank you for all your

hard work and it sounds like everything went extremely well. The Master Gardeners do it again! I cannot say enough how much we appreciate Master Gardener's part in the Habitat mission, really it means a lot.

In partnership together, Hannah Walker, Director of Family Services, Habitat for Humanity of Smith County.



T h a n k s ! T h e E n v i r o n m e n t a l Horticulture Committee and I thank all the Master Gardeners who assisted in any way with the East Texas Spring Landscape & Conference, both prior to and the day of. Your

participation and help is very much appreciated. We also thank the Smith Co. Master Gardener Association for their continued sponsorship of the Conference, which enables us to bring in top-notch speakers. John Brasher and Andie Rathbone represent the SCMGA on this committee as current and past president, providing excellent input in the planning and implementation of this program.

As we start getting into spring, I encourage all of you to stay involved not only in your favorite Master Gardener project, but to also help out in some other project you haven't been involved in, as your time allows. It's a good way to get to know other Master Gardeners. As always, you are welcome to pop in the Extension office and help out for an hour or more helping our clientele who contact our office for gardening advice. Also, your help is always welcome and appreciated in the Heritage Garden and IDEA Garden on Tuesdays! I've never been

there when I haven't learned or seen something new. These gardens continue to be a great source for education for not only us, but for the community as well. Dr. David Creech, director of the Stephen F. Austin Mast Arboretum in Nacogdoches visited the IDEA Garden last week and had very high praise for the garden.

Also, please keep up with your monthly reports. Monthly reporting helps me keep up with all the great things you are doing, and also lessens the burden on Martin Davis, our official hours keeper (bless you Martin!!). If you have situations that may be keeping you from temporarily participating in the Master Gardener program, please let me know.

The new class (XV) will be meeting with us during the March monthly Association meeting before heading out to Blue Moon Gardens, and I encourage you to greet and meet them over lunch.

We're making progress on the IDEA Garden online database, slowly adding photos and new plants that didn't make it into the database the first round. Hopefully it will

soon be complete enough so that we can actively promote it this spring. Go to the Master Gardener web site and look under IDEA Garden to browse through it. Your feedback is always welcome.

GOOD BUG/BAD BUG

by Anne Brown

Good - Honey Bees

Honey Bees are one of the most helpful insects humans know. Mankind around the world and from earliest times has known the benefits of Honey Bees. They pollinate crops, make honey, and produce wax. Bees are not a native insect, but were first introduced to the Americas from Europe.



A hive consists of one Queen who is the only female allowed to produce eggs. She is fertilized by drones, the males. The rest of the hive contains workers, infertile females. Workers are just that; they hunt for and find the pollens that are used to produce honey and they defend the colony. When a colony gets too large the old queen and about half the workers will leave the hive to establish a new colony. This behavior is called swarming. During swarming bees do not attack, they are too busy locating a new place to settle so are usually not a threat and should be left alone. Bees do not usually sting while they are searching for food either. However, if a human or animal poses a threat to the hive that person or animal can usually expect to be attacked. A new hive will usually become defensive within 2 to 4 weeks.

The ability to mate between species has produced offspring that have inherited the calmer tendencies of European bees and helped to calm the highly defensive behavior of Africanized bees. This does not mean you should be less cautious around any hive since people who have allergies or who may be stung hundreds of times can still be in serious trouble.

Honey Bees are very sensitive to any pesticides so if spraying or dusting is done try to do it after sunset when most bees have returned to the hive. Sometimes other bees will spend the night on plants and, since almost all bees are beneficial, take care not to kill them either.

Not Good - Scales

Scales can be soft bodied, hard bodied, waxy, cottony or have tails. They can be white, pink, red or brown. Females can give birth to live young or lay eggs. Life spans can last a few weeks to several months. A common characteristic is the hair-like mouth parts that penetrate plant leaves and stems and suck the sap from the plant, almost any plant. Because scales can mimic plant parts and because of their size (most scales are ¼ inch in size or smaller) they are easy to overlook unless there is a large infestation. Soft

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F the CORNER R O M



I'm making my list and checking it twice. Yes I know Christmas is past, but for a gardener Christmas has just begun. Every time I get a new *Wish Book* I find something else I just absolutely must have and add it to my wish list. At Christmas there's only one Wish Book. For a gardener Spring brings lots of Wish Books from nurseries and seed companies. So every time I get a new Wish Book I have to add at least one new plant or two or three or more to

my list, it's now up to 5 pages. Yes I know I don't have room for that many plants but isn't it fun to dream and wish?

And there's the other list, the things to do now. Every time I get a new magazine or newsletter the list changes. Now is the time of year to prepare my beds for spring planting according to one expert. The next expert says don't work your soil while it's wet. You can destroy the soil if you work it wet. Around my place the soil is pretty much wet all of the time in the spring. So do I prepare my beds now and destroy the soil? Or do I leave the beds alone and just hope for the best with all my new plants I've picked out of the Wish Books? Sometimes I think we have too many experts. Well I guess I could put the new stuff in the temporary bed until I can decide what to do. No I can't, the temporary bed is still full with the things I bought last year. There's always the overflow temporary bed I made last fall. Except, I forgot that I filled it up with all the marked down plants I bought last fall.

What to do, what to do? Well I'll think about that later. The mailman just stopped out front, maybe he left a new Wish Book. I better go check the mailbox. And I see the brown truck coming down the road, maybe he's bringing me something new that I don't know where to put.

New E-Mail Addresses

Anne Pattullo - gpattullo@nctv.com

Merlin Eck - myecks@gmail.com

Carl & Wincie Caskey - caskeycw@yahoo.com

Kathy Ballow - netexfarm@gmail.com

Ed McGee - thepatch@embarqmail.com

New Address

Pat Walker, 18440 FM 1253, Lindale, TX 75771 (phone is unchanged)

Work Day in the Gardens

Work days continue on each Tuesday, starting at 9:00 AM

Gardening Lecture Series Begins

The monthly "First Tuesday in the Garden" lecture series, an educational program sponsored by the Smith County Master Gardeners, begins at noon Tuesday, March 4th, in the IDEA Garden at the Tyler Rose Garden.

This month's topic is "Stretch Your Gardening Dollars, Get More Color for the Money." Master Gardener Anne Patullo will share information on perennials and re-seeding annuals for our East Texas location. Many of these plants can be seen currently growing in the garden.

This program is free, open to the public, and about an hour long. The IDEA Garden is located in the southeast corner of the Rose Garden with ample parking available outside of the southeast gate.

The "First Tuesday in the Garden" programs will continue monthly through the middle of the summer. The April 1st program will be "Growing Azaleas in East Texas" followed by "Butterfly Gardens" on May 6th and "Texas Superstars" on June 3rd. The series will resume in September.

BUGS - continued from page 2

scales secrete honeydew on which black sooty mold can grow. This substance can be a food source for ants so ants will often care for and protect the scales. Scales are most easily controlled during the crawler stage. Trying to control scales at any other time is difficult. One way to detect crawlers is to put two-sided tape around branches where adult scales are located. When the crawlers move to new locations, spraying with an insecticide labeled for Scale can be the most effective. Systemics are another means of control since the insect will absorb the insecticide when it sucks the plant sap. Horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps are other controls; just remember that temperature determines which type of horticultural oil should be used. Natural predators are another way to control scale since they attack and kill scales and can eliminate the need for pesticides.

Sources: Garden Insects of North America; Whitney Cranshaw Extension Entomologist, TX A&M University Field Guide to Common Texas Insects; Bastiaan M. Drees, John A. Jackman

Speaker's Bureau

The Speaker's Bureau continues to offer programs to Garden Clubs and other groups in our community.

During January Anne Patullo, Andie Rathbone, Sherri Watts, Sue Clark and Wincie Caskey made presentations. Their topics included, Great Gardening Books, Passalong Plants, Making Garden Troughs, Butterfly Gardens and the Art of Painting Flowers. In all, they spoke to 84 people.

If you wish to be involved, contact Andie Rathbone.

Wood Co. MG Home Gardening Conference

Conference is at Mineola Civic Center on Saturday March 8th. Registration 8 AM - Programs 9 - 11:30 AM, Free Admission. Programs - "Do's and Don'ts of Lawn Care" Dr. Bill Knoop, Professor Emeritus Extension, Soil & Crop Sciences, "Landscape Tree Management" Daniel Duncum, Urban District Forester, Texas Forest Service.

Secrets of Azalea Gardens, Old and New

The Nacogdoches Azalea Trail in partnership with the Texas chapter of the Azalea Society of America and SFA Mast Arboretum will be holding a symposium, "Secrets of Azalea Gardens, Old and New" from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on March 29 in Room #110 at the SFA Ag Building on Wilson Drive of Stephen F. Austin University.

Speakers include: Bart Brechter, Curator of the Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden, Hammond, LA; Dr. Regina Bracy, Margie Jenkins Azalea Garden, Hammond, LA; Margie Jenkins, Jenkins Nursery, Amite, LA and Barbara Stump, Ruby Mize Azalea Garden, Nacogdoches.

Registration is \$25.00/person and includes lunch and a tour of the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. Mail ticket requests to: Nacogdoches Azalea Trail, 200 E. Main, Nacogdoches.

Neches River Compost Available

Compost is produced by the Angelina & Neches River Authority, at it's Neches Compost Facility located near Jacksonville, Texas. The Neches Compost Facility was created as a result of a need for alternative methods of disposal for biosolids.



The Neches Compost Facility will be open ever Saturday during the month of March, except Easter weekend, from 8 AM - 12 Noon. Both bagged and bulk compost are available. For more info. phone 903-584-3491 or e-mail jhenry@anra.org. Facility located at 609 Hwy. 79, Jacksonville, TX 75766.

Garden Gala Day

The SFA Mast Arboretum will host their annual Garden Gala Day on April 12, 2008 from 9 am until 2 pm at the SFA Intramural Fields on Wilson Drive. This event features the annual spring plant sale fundraiser benefitting the SFA Mast Arboretum, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, and their educational programs. All of the plants are produced at SFA by the staff, students and volunteers. The public is encouraged to arrive early and bring a wagon.



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