



# MG Grapevine

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Number 5

## NOTICE

MG Association Meeting  
Rose Garden Center  
May 1 - 11:30 AM  
Judith Bussey

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keith's Column - pg. 2
- MG Awards - pg. 2
- Another Thank you - pg. 2
- From the Corner - pg. 3
- Good Bug/Bad Bug - pg. 3
- Address Books - pg. 3
- SCMG Website - pg. 4
- 1<sup>st</sup> Tues. IDEA Series - pg. 4
- Specialist Training - pg. 4

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## May Meeting

The speaker for the May meeting is Judith Bussey from Newton, TX. She has been active in the Newton Garden Club since 1967. She became an accredited National Flower Show judge in 2001. Judith is also a Texas Garden Club Gardening Consultant.

Judith and her husband, Dr. Jim Bussey were introduced to bamboo in 1997 on a trip to Indonesia. They now have over 100 varieties in their collection.

They are members of: American Bamboo Society, Texas Bamboo Society and Louisiana Gulf Coast Bamboo Society.

### After Meeting Garden Tour

The garden tour following the May 1<sup>st</sup> MG Association meeting is to the home of Dr. Ken & Sharon Nelson at 609 Purdue Drive.

MG Mary Claire Rowe, a neighbor, featured this garden in her February 7<sup>th</sup> column in the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* as a prelude to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Smith County MG Home Garden Tour.

The garden has over 120 different Japanese maple cultivars from large to small. The Nelsons are members of the Maple Society, North American Branch. Sharon is the current president and will be holding the next meeting in Japan in the fall. Her husband, Dr. Ken Nelson has been an American Orchid judge, traveling the world to judge orchids.

Directions to the Nelson home are: Traveling south on Broadway, turn left on Heritage which curves toward the North. Turn right on Harvard for one block, then right on Purdue. The Nelson's home will be on the right at 609 Purdue.

## Home Garden Tour

The Smith County Master Gardeners will hold their 6th Annual Spring Home Garden Tour, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday, May 3, 2008. The tour will be held rain or shine and will feature five private gardens in Tyler. The gardens are:

### The Nelson Garden, 609 Purdue

With 120 different cultivars of Japanese maples in the garden, they form the backbone of what the Nelsons call their Oriental woodland garden.

**The Rhodes Garden, 711 West Heritage Drive** The Rhodes have planted over 200 rose bushes, 200 Encore azaleas, and over 300 varieties of trees, bushes, bulbs and perennials.

### The Clark Garden, 408 Cumberland Rd.

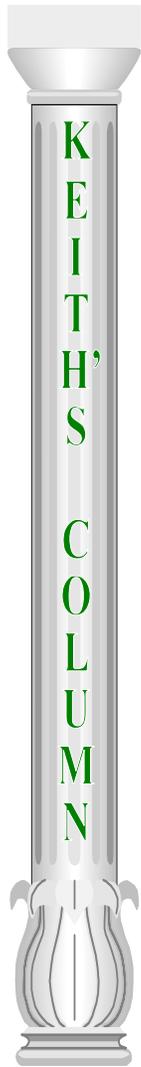
Master Gardener Sue Clark and her husband Bob have created a haven for birds and butterflies in their south Tyler garden. An eclectic mix of perennials and annuals blend with the woodland setting of the Clark's garden.

### The Hyde Garden, 1915 South Chilton

Sharlotte has designed a sophisticated city garden and her husband Tommy, a landscape and irrigation specialist, has helped her implement her dream. Their whimsical garden has a "living room" that is an extension of their house.

### The Coursey Garden, 3405 Colgate

Self-proclaimed camellia "nuts," MG Herb & Josephine Coursey have collected over 100 different varieties of camellia japonicas. Additionally, there are collections of azaleas, summer-flowering bulbs, caladiums, ferns, ornamental grasses, Japanese maples, roses, hydrangea, and a large variety of perennials.



Congratulations to Class 14 MGs for your certification as Texas Master Gardeners. I continue to see many of you in the gardens and on other projects and we appreciate your continued support!! Class 15 was

raring to go and get started on their service projects, and many have already jumped in with both feet. I encourage you to get involved with as many different projects as possible to see what all this great group of volunteers is doing for horticulture education in Smith County, and beyond!!

Thanks to everyone who made the annual graduation and awards luncheon a beautiful setting and for all the good food! So many great, yummy recipes – wish we had a recipe book!!

The Spring Home Garden Tour is right around the corner on May 3. Encourage your friends to attend the tour of these five fabulous home gardens, and hope for a sunny day! For those of you volunteering, remember to mention, if asked, that Master Gardeners are part of Texas AgriLife Extension Service, which offers educational programs in other program areas besides horticulture and gardening.

While sometimes things can get a little routine at the Extension office, you can always expect something different or unusual to be brought in to the office. Last week a gentleman brought in a jar of water from their commode with very, very long, thin black “worms” that were swimming around. We see these every year or two. They are called horsehair worms. They got their name, supposedly, because they were frequently found in horse water troughs – people thought that hair from a horse’s mane or tail fell in, and “spontaneously regenerated” in to living worms. I don’t know if people really believed that happened, but it makes a good story. At any rate, this is a nematode relative, and is a parasite in grasshoppers and crickets. Sure enough, the man said they had killed a cricket and threw it in to the toilet.

Typically folks find them in dog water bowls and swimming pools where a cricket or grasshopper dies. Extension has an older publication on horsehair worms you can find in <http://insects.tamu.edu>. I was curious though, and wanted to know a little more about them, and found an interesting summary of a recent research study at the Univ. of Nebraska. The study unraveled some of the enigma that surrounded these creatures - namely, how do they end up

inside of crickets, since they are aquatic organisms. The researchers found out that they normally live and reproduce in streams, and when very tiny, they form cysts which get eaten by various organisms, which in turn can be eaten by crickets or grasshoppers. The worms emerge from the cyst inside the host and begin feeding on the host, growing up to 16 inches long. It is theorized the host eventually becomes thirsty, and heads for puddles, pools, drinking bowls, etc for water, where they fall in and die.

The researcher figured out a way to infect crickets with the cysts, waited 30 days and then put the crickets into the water. Within 1 or 2 seconds, the worms began to emerge, in one case 9 of them from one cricket!

To read the whole story, go to: <http://www.unl.edu/scarlet/v11n10/v11n10features.html>

### MG Awards & Recognition for 2007

MG of the Year - Cindy Harrington

MG of the Year - Intern - Rhonda Rholes

Most MG Hours - Certified - Merlin Eck (701)

Most MG Intern Hours - Rhonda Rholes (443)

Project Award - Merlin Eck and the Fall Conference & Bulb Sale

New Initiative Award - Sue Clark for Main Street Flower Market

Sage Award - Dee Bishop

Youth Award - AgriWorld Committee

Research & Development Award - Bob Shearer

Special Award of Excellence - Andie Rathbone

Helping Hand Award - Susan Holloway

Public Awareness Award - Martin Davis

Presidents Award - Scherel Carver

Friends of Smith County Master Gardeners:

Chamblee's Rose Nursery

Texas Nursery & Landscape Association



MG of Year

### Another Thank You

Thank you so much for giving a fantastic demonstration at the *Seniors Celebrating Life* event. I appreciate you giving your time and efforts. Donna Reeder

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### Round and Round the Gardening Circle

Do you sometimes feel like gardening is a never-ending circle? A never-ending circle that we have happily jumped onto and never want to get off? Where does the circle start? Does it start in late winter when everything is dull and dreary and we watch the weather waiting for the first warm spring days so we can get outside and do “something” in the garden? Or does it start when the first buds

appear on the plants and the first tender green shoots appear struggling out of the soil bravely reaching for the bright sunshine that gives them the energy to grow and develop their beauty for us to admire and enjoy?

Or maybe it starts in the fall when all the beautiful flowers are starting to fade away and the plants are preparing for winter. Some will be gone forever while others will return again to bring us many moments of pleasure. Some dieback and wait to be reborn next spring, some bravely prepare to face the winter and meet its challenges head-on hoping to survive and thrive in the spring.

Maybe it starts every morning when we eagerly rise to meet the day, whatever the season may be. In winter we may wistfully stare out the window waiting for spring or remembering the beauty of the garden last year. In early spring we wait for the mailperson to bring wish books (for a gardener that's a seed catalog or nursery catalog) so we can dream what we will do with our garden come warmer weather. Come late spring and summer we hurry out to see how our garden is progressing.

Whenever the circle starts for each of us we have all elected to jump on board and enjoy the ride. For me this time of year is the start. I love to see the garden wake up each spring. Each year I find something new that wasn't there last year. I just found a new plant and I can't wait to see what it turns out be.

Regardless of when the circle starts or ends (if it does either) we have all chosen to make the trip each year, relishing the great adventures found on the gardening circle.

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#### New Address & Phone Number

Martin Davis, 4130 Madera Dr., Tyler 75707, Phone No. 903-565-5441. For those who e-mail volunteer hours reports, the e-mail address is unchanged.

#### New E-Mail Address

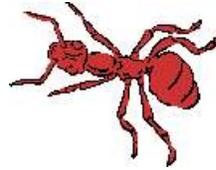
Dianna Daigle - [ddaigle@kw.com](mailto:ddaigle@kw.com)

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### Good Bug/Bad Bug

by Anne Brown

Ants are found in the arctic to the tropics, in the wettest to driest regions of the world. They are in the order Hymenoptera, which includes wasps and bees and sawflies.



Ants are social and live in colonies. Colonies can consist of a several tens to over a million individual ants. Unlike bees, a colony can have one to several queens. When the colony grows to the right size a queen will produce new queens and males to start a new colony. After mating the queen will establish a new nest in soil or plant material. using her own now useless flight muscles and fat reserves to produce eggs and feed larvae to raise workers.

The life cycle of most ants consists of several stages (instars) progressing from egg, larvae, pupae to adult. Ants have three body parts: head, thorax and abdomen. Each species has workers, sterile, wingless females which can be predators, scavengers or farmers. Workers tend “flocks of aphids from which they harvest liquids that are used for food and seeds from plants. Some workers care for the young and the queens. Workers can live one to three years. Queens can develop wings and produce eggs. Queens live longer than workers, in labs some queens have lived up to 29 years. Males are smaller than the other ants and usually die shortly after fertilizing the queen.

Adult ants feed on liquid food only. Liquids are collected by worker ants from prey, while tending true bugs and other insects and from plants glands. Communication between ants is almost entirely chemical. Pheromones are used to recognize other colony members, mark trails to food or water sources, determine caste and signal attack and defense. Tactile communication is used to request food transfer between adults.

Ants become pests when they invade homes, hospitals and other buildings. Many ants, usually the workers can bite and/or sting. Pharaoh Ants are the most common indoor ant in Texas. They can be carriers of more than a dozen bacteria but do not sting or bite. Carpenter Ants can weaken structures while producing nest sites. Red Harvester Ants are the primary food source for horned lizards. Ants can be beneficial predators of plant pests and other insects and a parasitic ant has been trialed to control fire ants. There are many insecticides available and gardeners should read all label information before choosing the product that they feel most comfortable using.

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#### Address Books 2008-2009

For those MGs who did not pick up a copy of the new Address Book at the April meeting, copies are available in the MG office. They are in the lower desk drawer of the phone desk.

## SCMG Website

Have you ever wondered why the Smith Co. MG website address was so long when it could be so simple? The name assigned was the result of our using Grovesite to facilitate the easy implementation and organization of the website. The website remains the same, but we have good news, the log-on has changed to <http://scmg.tamu.edu>. How about that?

Please thank Keith Hansen for wishing it could be easier and for taking the initiative to get it changed. And, don't forget to thank the folks at College Station who made it happen.



## The IDEA Garden Series Continues



The program will begin at noon and is free to the general public.

The next program on May 6th is Butterfly Gardens - The Whys & Hows to Attract Butterflies to your Landscape. On June 3, the topic is Texas Super Stars - Plants Specifically Adapted to Texas Conditions.

## Texas MG Specialist Training Plant Propagation

Presented by Big Country MG Association, Taylor County AgriLife Extension, Abilene, TX., the training is scheduled for June 5 - 7, 2008. The registration fee is \$130 which includes lecture, hands-on instructional sessions and materials; resource CD and copies of lecture materials; misc. propagation equipment; transportation for field trips; 2 dinners; 1 lunch; and, snacks.



**Deadline to register is May 15<sup>th</sup>.** If interested in attending, check with Keith Hansen for more information.

## Rainwater Harvesting



Training programs will be held at: Menard, June 17-19, Kaufman, July 16-18, Conroe, September 11-12.

For more information go to [http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu:80/training\\_gardener.html](http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu:80/training_gardener.html)