



# MG Grapevine

## NOTICE

**MG Association Meeting  
May 7<sup>th</sup> at the  
Rose Garden Center**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keith's Column - pg. 2
- Garden Dirt - pg. 2
- Cindy's Comments - pg.3
- Good Bug/Bad Bug - pg. 3
- Cindy's Comments - pg. 3
- Tyler Day Nursery - pg. 4
- Flower Market - pg. 4
- SCMG 2008 awards - pg. 4
- Events - pg. 5

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### Extension Office

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## May SCMG Meeting

Our May speaker is Wayne Pianta. Some of you may recognize his name, as he was Director of the Tyler Rose Garden in 1977.



Wayne now is a Product Technical Specialist for Ball Horticultural Company. He is coming back to Tyler to talk to us about new cultivars and trends in the world of flower marketing. Come hear all about new products that are suitable for planting in East Texas. Wayne is a native Texan and has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Horticultural Science from Texas A&M University. The program will start promptly at 11:30 AM.

## After-Meeting Garden Tour

After our May meeting we have been invited to tour Master Gardener Texie Cole's delightful garden where she "paints with flowers".

The directions are: out 64E to the Valero station across from Chapel Hill High School, turn left on CR 2249 (Deer Run), go to dead end, turn right into gate, punch in code 014 entering White Tail Dr, turn left on Deer Creek Dr, Texie's house is the 8th house on the right #10935 Deer Creek Dr.

## Address Books

For those MGs who did not pick up the new book at the April meeting, they are now available at the MG office.

Errors include: Jana Bowman's e-mail address should be [janalucy@suddenlink.net](mailto:janalucy@suddenlink.net). Rita Rasberry's last name is misspelled. Jan Moch's picture was left out.

## Recognition for June McClain

On April 25 at a luncheon of the Texas State Annual Master Gardener Conference held at Marshall, Texas June McClain, a Smith County Master Gardener was the recipient of the Marva E. Beck Junior Master Gardener Leader of the Year Award.



This prestigious Texas State honor was in recognition of her work in establishing a JMG program in Smith County. The award noted June's dedication to share the joys of gardening and nature with the youth of the county. Her enthusiasm was inspirational and she recruited a devoted group of teachers, obtained a funding grant from Exxon plus an ideal location to hold the program at the South Campus of the First Baptist Church. June expanded the JMG program and provided additional exposure for the enrollees to nature and environmental concerns. Surplus vegetables from the JMG Garden were donated to the food bank and the children also were involved with numerous programs for community service. June has been a lifelong gardener and a Smith County Master Gardener since 1999.

June was accompanied by her husband John at the presentation along with other Smith County Master Gardeners and Keith Hansen.

## Other State Awards

See *Keith's Column* on page 2 for a complete list of awards received at the TX State Conference on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The list may also be found at <http://scmg.tamu.edu> the SCMGA website.

A special thanks to all of you who visit the website. Over 12,300 page visits were recorded in March 2009, a new high.



Last week was National Volunteer Week, and I want to tell you that I have some of the best volunteers one could hope for. I told you that at the Annual Graduation and Awards Luncheon in early April, and we recognized many of you for your outstanding accomplishments in volunteering for Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Last week was the Texas Master Gardener State Conference in Marshall, and again, the excellence of your volunteer efforts in education the people of Texas was recognized by your peers at 2 awards programs. I'm really proud of your accomplishments and THANK YOU for your dedication to Texas AgriLife Extension Service educational programs.

June McClain was recognized at the Smith County program with the **Lifetime Award** for her years of service to the Smith County Master Gardener program, and most recently for her work in leading Junior Master Gardener classes in the south Tyler/Bullard area for the last several years. Then last week, she received the **Marva E. Beck Junior Master Gardener Leader of the Year Award**. Congratulations June!

Smith County received several other recognitions at the State Meeting, including 1<sup>st</sup> Place Publication for the Northeast Texas Gardening Guide; 1<sup>st</sup> Place Mass Media for the Tip of the Week project; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Newsletter (what you are currently reading) – The MG Grapevine; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Individual – Martin Davis (editor of the MG Grapevine, among many other things!); 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Educational Program – the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the Garden Series; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Project – Our Secret Garden (at AgriWorld at the East TX State Fair).

The Home Garden Tour group has worked hard to hold the annual Home Garden Tour this Saturday – let's hope the rain holds off and it is beautiful weather. Also, thanks to Master Gardener David Gary and MG Intern Barbara Null for letting your homes be on the Tour!

So many things going on. I hope you go by the Heritage Rose Garden, IDEA Garden and Shade Garden in the Tyler Rose Garden. They all are looking wonderful right now, and the Rose Garden itself is in full bloom. Thanks to all who work so hard to keep these educational showplaces in top form!

Several Master Gardeners are involved in Speaker's Bureau and other educational projects, including Earth Day at the Caldwell Zoo and at Camp Tyler, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the Garden series, plus many other events. Those of you with cable TV in the Tyler area – be watching the City of Tyler channel for Clayton Turner who was filmed doing the April 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the Garden program!

Those of you who are mentors to someone in the new class, please continue to contact your MG Intern periodically, invite them to projects, and see how you can help in any way. Thanks.

Have a great gardening month, and as my Bexar County coworker likes to sign off – “Remember, Learn and Have Fun!” Keith

## Garden Dirt

By Dee Bishop

### PLANT SOME 'SMELL' IN YOUR GARDEN

Flowers with their beautiful colors, shapes and sizes bring us so much pleasure, but those with wonderful scents, are extra special. Roses are renown for their fragrance and a rose without one is just plain disappointing.

We've all enjoyed wild honeysuckle, wisteria, and gardenias all our lives. We've treasured the sweetness of violets and pansies, petunias and alyssum--- wonderful smells of spring in our gardens. Now I want to introduce you to some old plants that are new again to us. If you don't have these little 'sweeties', I urge you to get some. They will make even the grumpiest old grouch smile.

Chinese abelia, very old, but very new to me a few years ago was a 'have-to-have' at a SFA plant sale. It blooms all summer and smells heavenly. My husband's grandmother had a Magnolia fuscata ( now known as Michelia figo) in her yard and I fell in love with the glorious banana-peachy fragrance. Mine is now about 10 ft. tall. She's evergreen and happy in my part shady yard. We discovered winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) about 35 yrs. ago when we lived in Birmingham. We have had one or two in every yard since. It blooms from mid-Dec. through March and smells like sweet honeysuckle on warm winter days. We have had the lovely native, *Aloysia gratissima*, better known as Almond Verbena, or Bee Brush, in the IDEA Garden for several years. It blooms fragrantly all summer long and all our visitors comment on it and want one. Then there's the beautiful oakleaf hydrangeas. We also discovered them when we lived in Birmingham.

They grew everywhere on the hillsides and all along creeks in that area. I dug a few and have had them everywhere I have ever lived and they grew happily everywhere - even in the Dallas muck! They scent the air

See Garden Dirt, page 4



## Cindy's Comments

President, Smith Co. MG Association

The past month has been a busy one. The new class is full of enthusiastic people. They are already working on getting their hours at the IDEA and Heritage Gardens, working at Earth Day at Caldwell Zoo, answering phones and the helping prepare for the Home Garden Tour. Welcome to Class 16!

Last week the 2009 State Master Gardener Conference was held in Marshall. The highlight of the conference for me was being present when Smith County Master Gardener **June McClain** was presented the Marva E. Beck Junior Master Gardener Leader of the Year Award. June exemplifies what JMG leaders should be. June said during her acceptance that she wanted to split the award and give parts of it to the other SCJMG leaders. Two of those leaders, George Weisser and John Brasher attended as June's honored guest. June we are so proud of you.

The conference had some great speakers and remarkable tours. Aubrey King spoke about exciting Texas plants and during his power point presentation it was interesting to see that some of his pictures were taken in the IDEA Garden. One of the tours was of Minglewood, a private estate that was absolutely incredible. I'm not sure I'll ever see more hostas in one place again, they had over 60,000. Many of you have probably been to Caddo Lake before, Wow; I didn't know what I had been missing. During that tour we took a steam paddle boat out on the lake and were given a great tour by the captain of the boat, The Gray Ghost. It took several boats to take everyone who had signed up, our boat had an additional tour guide who has lived his entire life on Caddo Lake. He was an interesting character with a running narrative on the lakes history and its residents.

Thanks to everyone who is working on this year's Home Garden Tour as docents, ticket takers and team leaders. An extra special thank you to Scherel Carver and her committee who have been hard at work for months to make this year's tour one of the best ever. The Home Garden Tour is scheduled for this weekend, rain or shine. Let's all hope its shine because there are some great gardens to visit. The Main Street Flower Market didn't get good weather but that didn't stop Sue Clark and the others who worked during the event from making sure it was a success.

One a personal note, my daughter and son-in-law have made me a grandmother for the first time. Shepard Johnson is a healthy beautiful boy. A session topic during the State Conference was *Introducing Children to Gardening* given by Gaye Hammond. Gaye is one of the most enthusiastic and informative speakers I've ever heard, so now I'm already making plans for the next generation of gardeners.

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

## Good Bug - Bad Bug

by Anne Brown

I hear of Thrips (this is the correct spelling for both single and multiple insects) most often because of the damage they do to roses. Thrips are microscopic insects that invade and damage a very large variety of plants. Thrips can bite humans but these bites are minor since there isn't any venom, but humans can transport thrips from infected areas to non-infected areas. Thrips are usually a pale yellow color, most are no more that 1/8<sup>th</sup> of an inch in size and the adults have fringed wings. Their bodies are elongated with short antennae and legs. Because the life cycle is short thrips multiply rapidly. Using the mouth to open the plant tissue females lay eggs in the plant and the eggs mature in 2-4 days. The following two short larval stages (along with adults) are when thrips feed on the sap in the plant tissue. Using a rasping mouth part that opens the plant tissue, the thrips sucks the sap and causes damage to the plant that is visible to the gardener. Some species develop into pupa which rest in the damaged tissue or in the soil and then emerge as adults. This whole cycle only lasts about 30 days at most so many species can have several generations in one year. Thrips are most common in hot, dry weather. There are over 6,000 species of thrips worldwide but luckily for Texas gardeners there are only about 200-300 that are common in the US. The most common and most likely to be in Texas gardens are Onion Thrips, Western Flower Thrips, and Greenhouse Thrips. Other species are Citrus Thrips, Tobacco Thrips and Gladiolus Thrips. The most damaging thrips is an introduced species "Chilli Thrips". This thrips feeds on almost any plant and has spread from Florida to Texas. In Texas Chilli Thrips have infected Knock-out Roses, Indian Hawthorne and other varieties of roses, damaging the foliage and causing the leaves to drop. This damage is similar to damage caused by other insects so a definite identity is necessary before starting any treatment. Scott Ludwig, Extension Program Specialist-IPM, has a web site at <http://chillithrips.tamu.edu> that helps identify and gives information on treatment to control this very invasive insect. Thrips feed on different parts of plants. Most often damage is seen in tender new growth but they can cause damage to the base of plants and distorted growth in leaves, buds or flowers. Damage causes bleached, silvered, distorted leaves and/or spots or blotches on flower petals. Thrips in roses cause brown or silver spots, brown edges on petals or buds that do not open. They are usually present when blooms "ball" and in distorted buds. To detect thrips, put a sheet of white paper under the leaves or flowers and shake the plant. Thrips look like small moving specks. By opening distorted buds, gardeners can see the thrips and/or their feces.

Non-chemical controls for thrips are predatory mites, Green Lacewing larvae, Damsel Bugs, and Pirate Bugs. A predatory thrips, "Bandedwinged Thrips", feeds on mites, other thrips and insect eggs. For chemical control, products using Abamectin, Acephate, Acetamiprid, Chlorfenapyr,

See Good Bug - Bad Bug, page 4

## The Tyler Day Nursery Project

A dedicated group of MGs (pictured below) regularly volunteers at the Tyler Day Nursery.



Photos by Bill Kelldorf

In the picture on the left Virginia and Jean Hudgins, Denice Allen, Joann Adair, and Mary McGee. (Virginia Hudgins is Jean Hudgins' daughter). Pat

High is a regular who was not there for the picture.

Joann Adair tells about the activities of this day: "Today we started with a storytime and talked about what we would do in the garden. We then divided the kids into 4 groups. We walked around the garden looking at our seedlings such as peas, parsley, dill, etc. We let the kids smell the rosemary, mint, and onion plants. Each child got to plant some marigold seeds. Before Easter we let the kids plant grass seeds in plastic egg shells. We have been watering them and keeping them alive, and at the close today we passed out the eggshells in small pots for the kids to take home.



It has been so nice to have more Master Gardeners helping at TDN. We are dividing into smaller groups of kids to talk to and work with in the garden."

## Flower Market Report



Many, many thanks to the great Master Gardeners who worked the Main Street Flower Market this year! What a great group of folks! To those who braved the mist, rain, wind and cold on Friday and those who worked on

in spite of feeling like human icicles today, I appreciate all of you...you make doing an event just great! We'll hope perhaps the weatherman could provide a little less challenging conditions for next year.

In spite of the less than ideal weather and its impact on the attendance, we did sell 111 rose bushes during the two days, as well as answer many questions at the Education Table.

Thanks again to each of you! Sue Clark

## SCMG 2008 Awards



Scherel Carver-MG of Yr.

MG of Year - Scherel Carver  
 MG Intern of Year - Wayne Blonn & Bibi Blonn  
 MG Certified - Hours - Sue Clark  
 MG Intern - Hours - Clayton Turner  
 President's Award - Jana Bowman  
 Lifetime Award - June McClain  
 Special Award of Excellence - Linda Sargent

MG Project - Jan Moch/Education Committee  
 Helping Hand - Pat Turinsky  
 No Problem - Ronny Duncan  
 Agent Support - Martin Davis  
 Youth - George Weisser  
 Public Awareness - Mary Claire Rowe  
 Friends of Master Gardeners - Tyler Rose Garden staff  
 For pictures of all recipients visit the SCMG website.

## Garden Dirt, continued from page 2

with the lightest, softest scent, just fabulous. Every year my neighbors stop by to find out 'what's that wonderful smell?'

If you plan it right, you can enjoy fabulous smells all year long. There are hundreds of others, but all the ones I mentioned are very easy to grow and take care of. Plants are grown for lots of reasons, but scent is a very special reason.

## Good Bug/Bad Bug, continued from page 3

Imidacloprid or Spinosad as the active ingredient are most effective. Some of these chemicals may not be available to the household gardener. Read any label carefully to be sure it is safe for the plants you will be treating and that the chemical will help control thrips.

Compiled from: Texas AgriLife, University of Florida; Minnesota Depart of Agriculture; Nanette Londeree, Rosarian; A Field Guide to Common Texas Insects Drees & Jackman; and Garden Insects of North America Whitney Cranshaw.

## New E-Mail Address

Anne Brown - [abrn525@att.net](mailto:abrn525@att.net)

## Entomology Specialist Training

The 2009 Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Training will be held September 28 - October 2, 2009 at the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Montgomery County Office, Conroe, TX hosted by Dr. Paul R. Nester and the Montgomery County Master Gardeners.

Registration fee of \$300.00 includes collecting kit with lots of goodies; lectures; Extension bulletins; 3 lunches, 1 dinner, snacks & drinks.

Transportation and lodging is on your own

Course is limited to 25 applicants; deadline is July 18.

## Texas Master Naturalists

The Texas Master Naturalists are hosting a series of public programs at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Nature Center in Tyler (11942 FM 848). The next seminar is on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM to noon.

May's topic is "Ornithology". The presenter is Jeff Kopachena with Texas A&M University – Commerce. Information discussed will range from understanding the causes for bird diversity to developing an awareness of how bird populations are monitored and managed.

The cost to attend any of the seminars is \$10 for those individuals that are not Texas Master Naturalist.

## Rainwater Specialist Training

Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Hood County and the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners are offering a Master Gardener Rainwater Specialist Training in Hood County on June 1-3, 2009. The training will take place at the Hood County Annex I, 1410 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas.

Registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Payment and forms must be in our office by May 15, 2009. Contact Marty Vahlenkamp, 817-579-3280, to answer any questions or provide further information.

## Online Study Course

New Non-Credit Course: *Sick Plants in a Hungry World*. This non-credit course is completely online and has 10 modules. The course is specifically designed for Master Gardener volunteers, however, anyone interested in plants, history, and contemporary global issues will find it exciting and intriguing.

The course will be online for 10 weeks once you begin the program. Assignments consist of supplied module readings and self-tests. You will receive a certificate from the Ohio State University Office of Continuing Educational upon completion. To learn more about the class, go to: <http://plantpath.osu.edu/extension/outreach/online/index.html>

## The Insect Pest Management CD

The Texas AgriLife Extension Insect Pest Management CD is a new electronic resource which contains over 160 Texas AgriLife Extension publications on insect pests of lawns, landscapes, gardens, trees and shrubs, fruit trees, pecans, field crops and livestock. The Insect Pest Management CD can be ordered through the Texas AgriLife Bookstore at <http://agrilifebookstore.org>. Select "Insects" from the menu and scroll down to item "SP-198 Insect Pest Mangement CD" and click to add to cart. The cost is \$8.00 per CD plus postage.



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