



# MG Grapevine

<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

November 2008

Volume 15

Number 11

## NOTICE

**MG Association Meeting  
November 6<sup>th</sup>  
See location at right  
11:30 AM**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keith's Column - pg. 2
- Kelldorf donation - pg. 2
- New e-mail address - pg. 2
- Home Tour request - pg. 2
- Old Word - pg. 2
- From the Corner - pg. 3
- Good Bug/Bad Bug - pg. 3
- Flower Show - pg. 4
- This 'n That - pg. 4

## MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

### MG Grapevine Contributors:

John Brasher, Anne Brown, Scherel Carver, 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

## November SCMG Meeting

Speaker for the November meeting is Marnell Durrett from Keipersol Wineries. Topic will be vineyards and wine making.

Once again the meeting location is changed, this time to the **Extension Office Classroom** in the Cotton Belt Building.

## Two Opportunities to Vote

The slate of officers for 2009 was presented at the October meeting. Those named are:

Vice President: Anne Pattullo

Treasurer: Pat Welch

Secretary: JoAnne Huffman

Historian: Bill Kelldorf

Exec Comm. At Large: Monica Klein

Exec Comm. At Large: Merlin Eck

State Director: Rhonda Rholes

Alternate St. Director: Joanie Matthews

The current VP/President Elect Cindy Harrington succeeds to the presidency.

The election of this slate will be held at the November meeting.

Proposed changes to the SCMG Association bylaws were e-mailed/mailed to all members and presented at the October meeting.

The vote "For" or "Against" that proposal will be taken at the November meeting. The bylaws require a written signed ballot, which has been e-mailed to the members. Extra ballots will be available at the meeting for those without e-mail or for those who forget their ballot.

## Work Day Schedule Changed

Work Day in the Gardens is scheduled for a 1:00 PM start for the next few months.

Replanting of the gardens will begin on November 4<sup>th</sup>, which means extra help is needed and appreciated.

## Fall Conference/Bulb Sale Wrap-up

This event has become one of the biggest of the year and the 2008 event was certainly that. Praise for it has come from several sources.

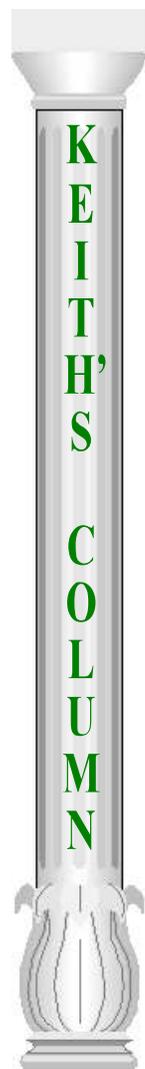
Read Keith Hansen's column on page 2 for his comments.

Merlin Eck's praise included, "A huge amount of gratitude is extended to Sherri Watts, Anne Pattullo, Andie Rathbone, Linda Scoggin, Ronnie Duncan, Joan Cook, Joanie Matthews, Dee Bishop, Mary Claire Rowe, Scherel Carver, the Turners, the Caskeys, Keith Hansen, Rhonda Rholes, Anne Brown, Sue Adee, and others who generated free plant material for us to sell.

Keith Kridler, from Mt. Pleasant, supplies some of the bulbs sold at the bulb sale. His comments after the conference/sale included: "Three months ago the Smith County Texas Master Gardeners were worried that high gasoline prices would cut down on the numbers of bulb buyers coming from the normal three or four states to attend the information programs, bulb sale and all day demonstration/information tables.

127 people signed in for the morning programs delivered by Chris Wiesinger and the great Dr. William Welch. Merlin Eck presented a PowerPoint program with killer shots of daffodils. Merlin gave a whirlwind description of each flower as one variety after another flowed like a forest stream into view up on the wall and faded into the next. I could NOT believe that he gave the entire program on so many different types of bulbs all from memory.....for those us who were sitting in the gallery it was an awe inspiring event." Keith Kridler

(Selected comments from an e-mail from Mr. Kridler.)



My hat off to leader Merlin Eck, and each of the fine members of the Fall Conference and Bulb Sale Committee (Sam Blankenship, Bibi and Wayne Blonn, Jana Bowman, Linda Childress, Harvey Collen, Joan

Cook, Nadine Grabow, Cindy Harrington, JoAnne Huffman, Joan Matthews, Anne Pattullo, Julia Randolph, Rhonda Rholes, and Ann Smith) for putting on such a great program this month! Everything went so smoothly like clockwork, which testifies of the tremendous amount of time, effort, thought, hard work, and dedication each of you put in to this major educational program and fundraiser. And, also thanks to the general Master Gardener membership, each of whom played an equally important role in carrying out this program. It is always so gratifying to see everybody pulling together to conduct our educational programs. I can't thank each of you enough, and want you to know how much you are appreciated!

I spent the day last Friday looking at the National Earth-Kind Rose Trial at Farmers Branch city park near their city hall. It is just a few blocks off of the north loop 635 near IH 35 E. in the Metroplex, so if you are in the area, take a look at what they are doing there (I can give you more specific directions if you are interested). It is pretty impressive. They have 100 different rose varieties, replicated 4 times (ie. 400 plants) in the trial. It was planted this last February, and they are growing like weeds with no fertilizer and no compost and watered only 12 times this year (of course, they have the heavy clay soil typical of the Metroplex).

I also met with horticulturists from Texas, Iowa State and Minnesota State who are cooperating with Earth-Kind rose research, and the EK concept is now being expanded to identify Earth-Kind perennials and also shrubs on a region-by-region basis. Which means we have an opportunity to participate in some more exciting research. More on this in the near future as plans are developed.

Have you driven by our Earth-Kind National Rose Trial site at Lindsey Park lately? Those 90 itty-bitty roses (30 varieties replicated 3 times) spaced 8 feet apart 12 months ago took hold (most of them) and are putting on some very good growth. We'll start evaluating them next March, once a month for the next 2 years. Like any research trial,

not all are going to be good candidates, so it will be interesting to see how they do. One different aspect of our trial site is that it is on very deep sandy soil, so we are also interested to learn how they perform with only the initial compost addition, supplemented by the continued breakdown products from the municipal tree trimmings mulch that will be added as the mulch thins. No fertilizer is being added, and of course, no spraying for disease or insects. These roses have to be tough to be Earth-Kind.

### Kelldorf Donates Books

Bill Kelldorf donated 26 books to the MG library (he is not the first one to do so, and we are remiss in not recognizing previous such actions, but starting now is better than never). Thank you Bill.

### E-Mail Address Correction

Marva Lanier - [MBLanier\\_1@msn.com](mailto:MBLanier_1@msn.com) Incorrectly listed in the MG Address Book.

### 2009 Spring Home Garden Tour Seeks Interesting Gardens

The garden tour committee has begun its search for home gardens to exhibit in the 2009 MG Home Garden Tour. If you know of a beautiful garden with plantings adapted to our area, please send info about the homeowner, home address, and telephone number to Scherel Carver, committee chair at [eddiecivr@aol.com](mailto:eddiecivr@aol.com) or 903-245-1269.



### Old Word

Those of us who do crossword puzzles sometimes run into words we've never heard before.



Recently the clue was "Rabbit". The word was **Cony** and its definition is: The mammalian cony is a small, guinea pig-like relative to the rabbit; it is more commonly known by the name pika. The name cony was once applied to the rabbit and is still

sometimes used in the fur business to indicate rabbit fur. The cony of the Old World and the Bible is an unrelated mammal, the hyrax.

### Thank You, Thank You

Thanks to Janice Suggs for coordinating the tours during the Texas Rose Festival, and all the MG's who helped give tours on that Thursday and Friday - they report a total of 65 attending tours for both days, some from as far away as China and Africa. Also, Jan Moch and Anne Pattullo staffed an education booth at the entrance of the Rose Garden Center, and over a 2 day period talked to 112 people, along with selling some calendars and book.

## F the CORNER R O M



I did it the “right” way. I think.

I was deadheading some plants today and I began to wonder if I was doing it the “right” way.

Then the next thought was; What is the “right” way?

Most everything we do has several possible ways it can be done. Is only one of those ways the “right” way? If only one way is the “right” way, then why do we have more than one option? Now that will get your mind to spinning if you let it.

Back in my BMG (Before Master Gardener) days I just jumped into whatever I was doing in the garden (which was very little by the way) and did it the best way I knew how. Since I only knew one way to do anything I just assumed that was the “right” way. Usually that worked just fine. If it didn’t work out “right” I assumed something else caused the problem and went blissfully on my way.

While being schooled as a MG, I learned the “right” ways to do things. That made me feel good because I wanted to learn the “right” way to do things whenever possible. Unfortunately as I continue to read, study and learn I find there are quite often more than one “right” way to do many things. Of course professor Hansen’s schooling will always be the right way for me but all the other “right” ways sure do make things confusing.

For instance when deadheading I’ve been told that the proper or “right” way is to move back to the first 5 lobe branch and cut the stem there. I’ve also been told the “right” way is to move back to the first branch on the stem and cut. Are both methods “right”? Some experts think the 5 lobe is the only “right” way while other experts think it’s “right” to cut at the next stem whether it’s a 5 lobe or not. Who is right, 5 lobe or first stem? Both maybe. I feel sure some of you know other methods to determine where to cut the deadhead off.

There are other things that can be more than one “right” way. For instance transplanting bedding plants can be done several different “right” ways. Some experts say to completely bury the rootball, other experts say to leave the rootball slightly exposed and still other experts say to leave 1/3 of the root ball exposed. Are all the experts correct? I’ve done all three and I can’t say that I can tell the difference.

Recently a well-known garden writer talked about the rules for deadheading. He used the example of his two grandmothers. One grandmother used the 5-lobe method for deadheading and she always had a very beautiful garden. The other grandmother simply snipped off the deadheads anywhere that was convenient and she had a garden every bit as beautiful. Both “right” ways seemed to be equally effective.

So now you’re asking what’s the point. I guess what I’m trying to say is that there is no one single “right” way to do most things in the garden. We all usually have our pet ways of doing things and even though they may not be the exactly

“right” way according to one expert or other they work for us and we plan to continue doing it our way. Trying to find the absolute perfect “right” way to do things is a lost cause.

For most of us whatever we’re doing is giving us the results we want. That means we’re doing it “right”, whatever that means.

Happy gardening everyone.

### Good Bug/Bad Bug

by Anne Brown

While centipedes and millipedes are not insects they occur often enough in our gardens and homes to merit some attention. Both centipedes and millipedes are distant relatives of lobsters, crayfish and shrimp but are terrestrial, living in almost all sub-arctic areas. These



critters do not carry diseases to humans, animals or plants. Millipedes and centipedes can be found in cool, moist areas, under rocks, rotted logs, leaves and bark, in compost piles and some can even survive in desert conditions. Knowing the difference between centipedes and millipedes is important before handling these arthropods. The name centipede means “hundred feet” and each trunk segment has two legs. The last legs extend backward and may be modified for sensory, defensive modes or used to capture prey. Centipedes will and can bite, injecting venom that can cause distress in people who have allergies to insect bites. It is best not to handle centipedes with bare hands. Some species use coloration or camouflage for defense and can even detach some body parts when held by predators, then running away. Centipedes are carnivores, feeding on small insects. One centipede in Texas lives and reproduces in houses. This centipede feeds at night on cockroaches, moths, house flies and other house insects.

Millipedes are referred to as thousand-legers but none of them really have a thousand legs. What they do have are four legs on each trunk segment, and two body parts, a head and trunk. Millipedes feed on decaying plant material and can damage seedlings by feeding on stems and leaves. Millipedes fill an important function in soil by burrowing into the soil and aiding microbial decomposition and soil nutrient cycles. Millipedes are harmless if handled correctly. Their primary defense is a toxic fluid secreted to repel predators, but these fluids can cause allergic reactions and an odor that can last days. Be sure to wash hands with soap and water until the odor is gone. They also (like centipedes) use coloration to warn predators.

If these creepy crawlies are bothersome, removing trash and/or compost piles, rocks and other living spaces will help keep them away. Sprays or dusts with diazinon, Malathion, carbaryl and pyrethrin applied around foundations can help with control while granules work best in turf areas.

Information compiled from American Tarantula Society, Rowland M. Shelley, Ph. D. and Texas AgriLife Extension Service, J. W. Stewart, Extension Entomologist



## Garden Club Flower Show

The Tyler Area Council of Garden Clubs (Smith County Master Gardeners is a member) is hosting a flower show on Friday, March 20, 2009 and Saturday, March 21, 2009 during the Azalea Trail.

All Master Gardeners are invited and welcome to enter horticulture exhibits. Entries must be at the Woman's Building on Broadway no later than 11 AM on Friday morning.

All plant material must be fresh and grown by the exhibitor. Exhibits must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for no less than 90 days. Combination plantings must have been grown together for no less than 6 weeks. There will be divisions for potted and cut specimens. Exhibits should be correctly labeled with the botanical name and entry cards can be gotten from Anne Brown (903-566-4459) or Charlene Mizener (903-566-1019). The horticulture schedule will give important information to increase the probability of winning a blue ribbon and help will also be available that morning before 11 AM.

The public is invited to the show so come on Master Gardeners, this is a great chance to show off all your hard work and knowledge.

## This 'n That

**2009 Calendar/Garden Guide** - The guide went on sale at the Fall Conference and continues to be available around town at various locations. Buy one or more next time you visit the Extension Office or for the list of other locations, visit the SCMG website. Cost is \$5.00 each.

**2009 Texas Master Gardener Conference** - Plan ahead for the April 23-25 event to be held in Marshall this year. Visit the SCMG website and go to Coming Events to find a link for the official website of the conference. Information is already there and registration information will be added soon.

**2009 Master Gardener Training** - Tell your friends who are considering training to become a Smith County Master Gardener, classes will begin January 8<sup>th</sup> and continue through March 19<sup>th</sup> on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Again, visit the SCMG website, go to Coming Events for information and a link to the application form. Deadline for applications is December 15, 2008.



Don't miss the last ***First Tuesday in the Garden*** for this year on November 4<sup>th</sup> at noon at the IDEA Garden.



1517 Front St., Suite 116  
Tyler, TX 75702