



# MG Grapevine

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**NOTICE**  
**November 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**MG Association**  
**Meeting at the Rose**  
**Garden Center**  
**11:30 AM**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keith's Column - pg. 2
- SCMG Business. - pg. 2
- 2010 Guide/Calendar - pg. 2
- Garden Dirt - pg. 3
- New E-Mail - pg. 3
- Speaker's Bureau - pg. 3
- Work Day time - pg. 3
- Good Bug/Bad Bug - pg. 3
- IDEA Garden - pg. 4
- Ex. Comm. Notes - pg. 4
- MG Training - pg. 5
- Youth Development - pg.5
- Dallas Arboretum - pg. 5

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## Monthly meeting notes

We are in for a real treat on November 5th when our very own Dee Bishop presents *Holiday Decorations From Your Yard*. This will be a demonstration program using plant material Dee has collected from the IDEA garden and her own gardens throughout the past few months. She will show us how to make wreaths of both fresh and dried material as well as ornaments for our homes and trees.

Dee has loved plants and the outdoors since she was a tiny child. She spent her youth shadowing her parents and grandparents, learning all about planting, tending, identifying, harvesting and using the plants all around her. Even though her degree from East Texas State University is in Home Economics, it is sharing her love of plants that has been her passion for many years.

She has worked for both retail and wholesale nurseries but particularly enjoys retail, where she can share her knowledge with the public. Before moving to Tyler she taught classes on all aspects of herbs for Collin County Community College. She started a Native Plant Society in Louisiana, taught horticulture for 4-H clubs and has assisted many friends with identifying trees and native plant material on their property.

Dee is a tremendous asset to the Smith County Master Gardeners. A graduate of Class 5, she was instrumental in the design and layout of the IDEA Garden. Just come to the Garden one Tuesday and work alongside her for an hour. You will be full of new information and inspiration when you leave. Don't miss this opportunity to get a head start on inexpensive ways to make your home beautiful for the holiday season.

## Volunteer of the Day

During November John Brasher, Jana Bowman, Scherel Carver, Carl Caskey & Wincie Caskey will be recognized on radio station KTBB.

## After Meeting Garden Tour

After the November meeting we will tour the Goodman-Le Grand House & Museum and the Chamblee Rose Garden. The Chamblee Rose Garden was designed by Texas AgriLife's Dr. Steven George as the World's First Earth-Kind Botanical Garden in March 2008, so it is a new garden.

At 1:30 pm we will have a guided tour of the pre-Civil War Goodman-Le Grand House & Museum which is a delight for enthusiasts of historic homes and antique lovers. This Tyler landmark brings the past to the present with original family furnishings, photographs, Civil War artifacts, and memorabilia dating from the early 1800's.

The House & Museum is located at 624 N. Broadway. As tours are their only means to raise revenue for upkeep and projects, there is a \$2 suggested donation per person.

## Conference/Bulb Sale

At the Fall Conference we really enjoyed Denyse Cummins and her presentation on "Bulbs for the South" and the Bulb Sale following the Conference went extremely well. The weather was great, the crowd was very enthusiastic, and the number of unsold bulbs was minimal.



Thanks to the large number of bulbs donated by our members, we were able to offer a tremendous variety of reasonably priced items and the profits generated by the Bulb Sale exceeded expectations! Thanks to all Master Gardeners who participated in the event and I would like to especially commend the committee members who did such a fantastic job again this year.

Merlin Eck



Our hats are off once again to Fall Conference and Bulb Sale Coordinator Merlin Eck, each member of the Fall Conference and Bulb Sale Core Committee (Anne Pattullo, Cindy Harrington, Joanie Matthews, Rhonda Rholes, Ronny Duncan, and Sherri

Watts), and all the rest of the Smith Co. Master Gardeners, for putting on such a great program this month! Harvey Convention Center was a great venue, and there were many comments on how good it was to have everything all in one room. 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. The bulbs sold like hot cakes, and there were not too many leftovers this year! 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 all of you are appreciated!

I also want to thank and recognize all those who worked so hard on the Secret Garden exhibit for AgriWorld at the East Texas State Fair. We directly reached over 2000 youth during 4 days of scheduled tours, plus countless others who went through the exhibits at other times during the Fair. There were major upgrades this year including a

rainwater harvesting exhibit with real rain falling on the roof of the house (which got a fresh make-over), and a real dribbling faucet which really helped get the educational point of water conservation across to the kids. Mary Hamlin came up with an extremely clever way of demonstrating butterfly metamorphosis with finger puppets and a cocoon! And Harvey Collen and Victor Long supplied vegetable plants for a real garden, showing kids just where their food actually comes from.

Hazel Bateman did an outstanding job of coordinating the entire event, and our thanks to each SCMG member who helped in some way. Those helping with setup and break down included Ronny Duncan, Connie Farrar, Deborah Golden, Sylvia Hoffmann, Ann Kelly, Victor & Shirley Long, George Moses, Julia Randolph, Linda Sharp, Hazel Bateman, Harvey Collen, Gary & Kay Dobbs, Mike Norris (with City of Tyler Water Dept.), Clayton & Pat Turner, George Weisser, and Mary Hamlin. Our educators included Harvey Collen, Gary & Kay Dobbs, Mike Norris, Clayton & Pat Turner, George Weisser, Mary Hamlin, Betty Conejo, Lynn Merryfield, Jan Moch, Anne Pattullo, Art Phillips, and Pat Welch. And our dedicated "Icers" Chris Steavenson and Linda Sharp who kept the plants, which were generously donated by members of the Texas Nursery & Landscape Association, healthy and "watered" with ice during the 10 days of the Fair. Please forgive me

if I overlooked anyone, and let me know so I can add you to my list.

If you haven't seen the scarecrows in the IDEA Garden yet, be sure to go by and admire our group's handiwork.



One of the funniest ones is best seen approaching from the south gate – you get the full impact of a typical scene in the demonstration gardens every Tuesday. If you can't make it to the IDEA Garden, then check out the photos on the [SCMG.tamu.edu](http://SCMG.tamu.edu) web site that Bill Kellendorf took. The Heritage,

Shade and IDEA gardens are all looking fabulous, and ya'll are doing a wonderful job of showing what kind of gardening is possible in East Texas.

Speaking of the web site, Martin Davis is doing a marvelous job of keeping it up-to-date for both members and the world-at-large with upcoming programs, photos, and other important items. It really looks good, and usually receives 9000 to 10,000 page views each month. Check it out!!!

I'm looking forward to hearing SCMG Sharon Nelson give her Japanese maple talk at November's *1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the Garden* program in the IDEA Garden. Sharon is currently President of the North American Japanese Maple Society, has traveled the world visiting fabulous places that specialize in these wonderful trees, and has a yard chock full of Japanese maple varieties. Don't forget that you can get 1 CE by attending the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday programs.

### SCMG Association Business

Two important business items that will be on the agenda for the November meeting.

**Election of officers.** The slate of nominees presented at the October meeting for which you will vote at the November meeting are: President Elect/Vice President - Joanie Matthews; Treasurer - Pat Welch; Secretary - Jan Moch; Historian - Bill Kellendorf; Ex. Comm. At Large - Bibi Blonn; Ex. Comm. At Large - Clayton Turner; State Director - Victor Long (2 years); and Alternate State Director - Linda Sargent (2 years).

These people will be installed at the January 2010 meeting along with the current VP/President Elect Anne Pattullo who will become President.

**Revision and change to the Bylaws.** Written copies of the proposed changes and additions which will be presented at the November have been sent to all MGs. They will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

### 2010 Gardening Guide & Calendar

The 2010 Northeast Texas Gardening Guide and Calendar, written by the Smith Count Master Gardeners, is now in print and ready for purchase. Full details about the guide and its contents is available at the SCMG website <http://scmg.tamu.edu>. Just click on *2010 Gardening Guide & Calendar* to read about it. Also included there are all of the locations where the guide may be purchased. The cost this year is \$7.00 each.

## Garden Dirt

by Dee Bishop

November is such a beautiful month. Our weather is usually cool and brisk. We may have our first frost any time of the month, but usually around mid-month. It is a fabulous time to work outdoors.

Now's a good time to add compost to beds and to wrap up fall planting. Finish getting bulbs into the ground if you haven't already.

November is a great time to plant trees and shrubs. They will have all winter to become established and will take next summer's heat much better than spring planted ones.

Drive around and notice all the lovely sasanqua camellias blooming. Now is a good time to choose the colors and types you want. You need to do some research to see the ones that will perform best for you. They need good rich soil that is loose and well-drained. Sasanquas come in many shades of pink, red, and white and some grow taller than others; so you need to know the varieties that suit your planting area.

This is a good time to clean your bird feeders and baths really well. I like to get stiff brushes and some hot soapy water to which a little bleach has been added and scrub them inside and out. I have hard working birds here and I try to care for them any way I can.

If you have never planted flax seed before, I suggest you try some. You can get them at a health food store or in flower packages. Scratch up a place and throw them down and walk on them. Next March or April you will enjoy a sea of blue. They get 2-3 ft. tall and bloom right up into summer. I enjoyed the ones the birds planted for me a few years ago so much that I have started planting them every year.

Have a wonderful time outdoors this month and have a Happy Thanksgiving too!

### New E-Mail Addresses

Debrah Golden - [dhgolden@gmail.com](mailto:dhgolden@gmail.com)

Carol Hardin - [cdhardin@4hardin.com](mailto:cdhardin@4hardin.com)

George Moses - [geomoses55@gmail.com](mailto:geomoses55@gmail.com)

Rita Rasberry - [rasberry.rita@yahoo.com](mailto:rasberry.rita@yahoo.com)

Linda & Joe Whetsell - [lindajoewhetsell@gmail.com](mailto:lindajoewhetsell@gmail.com)

### Speaker's Bureau

During September the Speaker's Bureau folks have been busy. As reported to Harvey Collen, presentations were made by Joan Thorpe, Anne Brown, Bill Kelldorf, Georgia Ruth Johnston and Wincie & Carl Caskey.

Most presentations were to garden clubs with subjects including Fall Colors in the Garden, the Heritage Garden, Wildlife in Your Backyard, Growing Daffodils, Photography in the Garden, September Cuttings and Growing Iris. A total of 177 people heard their presentations.

### Work Day at the Gardens

The starting time for work at the gardens, each Tuesday, will be changed to 1 PM, beginning November 3 and continuing through the winter months.

## Good Bug/Bad Bug

by Anne Brown

Have you ever been in your garden and had a feeling that eyes, lots of eyes, were watching you? Well, they probably were.

All Master Gardeners know that spiders are not insects but spiders are included in classes about bugs since they are often encountered while gardening. Smith County, along with most of East Texas, really only has two spiders that should be avoided, the Brown Recluse and the Black Widow. Both have venomous bites that should be monitored but are usually not fatal. Since we hear so much about these two species I will gladly move on to other species that are beneficial to humans and birds. Spiders consume a large variety of insect pests and other spiders and birds will often feed on spiders.



Spiders are arachnids; they have eight legs, mouth parts with fangs, two body parts and up to eight eyes. Most spiders only live for one season, but some can live for decades, most often the larger species. After mating the female will produce an egg sac, which may be attached in a secluded area or carried around by the adult until the eggs hatch. Some species carry the young on their backs. The young (Spiderlings) go through several molts but always look like the adult. The spiderlings move around with help from the wind.

Often, while working among plants, small colorful spiders can be seen sitting quietly waiting for their prey. Some species will appear to jump from one location to another or jump to catch their prey and some species will actually inhabit a certain area their whole life; some hunt only at night. Most often we see the webs that spiders use to trap their food. Spiders are unique in being able to produce silk all the time and spider silk is one of the strongest materials known to man. Spiders spin webs with different patterns depending on the species. By looking at the web pattern it is often easy to know the type of spider who created it, especially beneficial with Black Widows. Several years ago a huge spider web was created near Lake Tawakoni that covered approximately an acre. Spider webs covered in rain drops or early morning dew are some beautiful pictures most I have seen.

Now that cooler, soon cold, weather is here spiders will be looking for shelter and will not hesitate to move into the house. Most spider bites occur because the spider is threatened or endangered so keeping a close lookout is important. Spiders like moist, dark conditions and will occupy bathrooms, bedrooms, closets and clothes that are not frequently used. Products that contain pyrethrin or labeled for use to control spiders can be used, but these will not necessarily get rid of all the spiders. Using a vacuum or broom to remove webs and their occupants is a much better control for these beneficials than using chemicals. Spiders do move around and will come back, just remember how much they help control the "bad bugs".

## IDEA Garden

by Sue Adee



Thanks to all the Master Gardeners who worked on the Scarecrows, which are being displayed in the IDEA Garden.

**What a great job you did.** Each scarecrow is unique, showcasing a different theme. You are so creative and your hard work shows in the detail each one of the scarecrows displayed. We have received a lot of compliments.

What a gardening year! Cool, then hot, then cool, then rain, then hot, then rain. In spite of it all, the garden has fared pretty well. The section leaders did an excellent job in designing their sections. Most of the new varieties of plants planted in the garden survived.

A big thanks to Chris Steavenson for building the bulletin board that has been installed on the storage building in the IDEA Garden. We have found he has many talents. It will be used to post information concerning the IDEA Garden and Master Gardener activities. Next time you visit the garden be sure to check it out.

Rain, rain and more rain. When will it ever quit? Because of the rain, we have not been able to start replacing spring and summer annuals with winter and early spring annuals plus the seeds we planted at Overton are just sitting there waiting for some sunshine. To add to all of this, the garden needs to be mulched. Once the weather cooperates, we need help getting everything done before cold weather sets in. So when a call goes out, please consider giving a couple hours of your time. It will be greatly appreciated.

### 1st Tuesday in the Garden

The tentative lineup for the 2010 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the Garden series is as below:

#### Spring Lineup

March: Salvias - Color Spring to Frost

April: Ornamental Grasses - Movement & Texture in the Landscape

May: Sowing Seeds for Economical Color

June: Wack it & Watch it Bloom (Prune to Promote More Flowers)

#### Fall Lineup

September: Scale, Lace Bugs, Spider Mites (Identify & Take Action on these East TX Pests)

October: It's Time to Plant Cool Season Annuals

November: Shrubs That Add Winter Interest

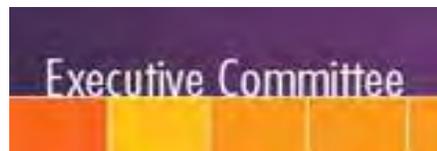
Any Master Gardener who may have interest in presenting a program should contact Jana Bowman to see if she can work you into a slot not already filled.

## Keith Hansen at Work

For Keith Hansen nothing could be better than to get away from his desk and get out into the garden. He even has been found out there doing manual labor. Bill Kelldorf found this 10 year old photo of Keith in action at the IDEA Garden. Does he look younger? He'll want to know!



For those who may have forgotten. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the IDEA Garden, which opened in May 1999.



The Smith County MG Association's Executive Committee, made up of the officers of the association, usually meets monthly on the fourth Thursday. The following notes are from their meeting on September 24th.

- Merlin Eck reviewed the status of the Bulb Sale. Barbara Null will be selling Iris and Daylilies and Judy Hill will sell rebar plant supports. It is up to the Fall Conference/Bulb Sale committee to decide what vendors may sell products at the event.
- Bill Kelldorf presented the final copy of the proposed change to the Bylaws what was approved. The proposal will be sent to members for presentation at the November SCMGA meeting.
- Ann Smith presented the Nominating Committee report with the slate nominated as officers for 2010.
- Pat Welch advised that she needs a dollar amount for the budget for development of the new bed at the rose garden. The amount of \$500 will be suggested to Janis Morris and Victor Long who will be taking on the project.
- Cindy Harrington asked Joanie Matthews and Anne Pattullo to serve on the Budget Committee for next year.
- Bill Kelldorf has asked the City Manager about installing handicap parking spaces near the Rose Garden Center. The City Manager agreed and the signs should be installed in the near future.

## Master Gardening Training 2010

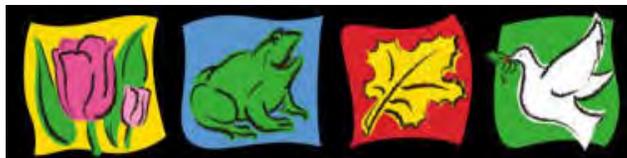
On the home page of the SCMG website there is a link to information for those who may be considering joining the 2010 Master Gardener training classes, including the application form. Those with questions concerning the training should call Keith Hansen at the Extension office. Master Gardeners who may wish to audit classes can check the schedule link on the "Coming Events" page.

### Youth Development Program

The Texas 4-H & Youth Development Program will initiate a program based on science and the scientific method. This project would allow youth to apply subject matter they have learned through various projects and programs. The scientific method is a process for experimentation that is used to explore observations and answer questions. Scientists use the scientific method to search for cause and effect relationships in nature. In other words, they design an experiment so that changes to one item cause something else to vary in a predictable way.

If somebody in the group knows of a young person (grandchild, etc) that might get involved and has an interest in fostering a young person in the field of science to learn the scientific method in an area of their choosing, please contact CEA-4-H Sarah Hindman or Keith Hansen.

## Dallas Arboretum MG Field Day



### Saturday November 7

Garden hours are 9 AM - 5 PM

This fall, the Arboretum invites the Master Gardeners and their families to enjoy a day in the garden. Late summer is one of the most beautiful times in the garden and we want to share this time with you! Admission to the garden for Master Gardeners and one guest will be complimentary when you present your Master Gardener badge. So pack a picnic and spend a day enjoying nature.

Find out what other Master Gardener organizations are doing when you visit their display tables.

During your visit you won't want to miss a trip through our award winning trial gardens. The three gardens include trials on container plants, shade plants, All American Selections and much more. If you want to get all of the dirt on our trial results, join us for the Field Day for Master Gardeners.



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