



# MG Grapevine

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## NOTICE

**November 4th  
MG Association  
Meeting at the Rose  
Garden Center  
11:30 AM**

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### MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

### MG Grapevine Contributors:

Dee Bishop, Anne Brown, Keith Hansen, Joanie Matthews and Anne Pattullo.

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### Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980

Fax - 903-590-2984

## November Meeting

The business meeting will start at 11:30 am. At noon the SCMG will host a lecture followed by a question and answer session by world renowned authority and author



Peter Gregory on Japanese Maples. This lecture is open to the public. Heavy attendance is expected, and it is requested that those who plan to attend call the Smith County Extension Office at 903-590-2980 no later than Nov. 2.

Master Gardeners DO NOT have to register for this lecture.

Peter Gregory is retired manager of the world-famous Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire, England. He has researched maples and other trees for more than 40 years. He began a career in tree research with the Forestry Commission Research Division and conducted various projects for more than thirty years, including provenance studies, species trials, and experiments on various plant establishment techniques, especially on difficult areas such as exposed sand dunes, mountain slopes, peat bogs and infertile soils.

For five years he managed the Royal Forests of Yardley Chase and Salcey in Northamptonshire before being appointed as Manager of Westonbirt Arboretum, one of the largest collections of trees in the temperate world, especially famous for its wonderful variety of maples of all species, ages, shapes and sizes. He has continued his studies of maples since his retirement, becoming Chairman of the International Maple Society, which he helped found in 1990, and is Editor of the Maple Society's quarterly journal. Mr. Gregory also serves on the North American Branch board. He is recognized internationally as one of the leading authorities in all aspects of maples. His book, *Japanese Maples: the Complete Guide to Selection and Cultivation*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, was just released this past March. If

you own Mr. Gregory's book, feel free to bring them as he would be happy to autograph it for you.

A special thanks to MG Sharon Nelson for making Mr. Gregory's visit possible.

## SCMG Business

Two important items are on the agenda for the November meeting.

**Election of officers for 2011.** The slate of nominees presented at the October meeting included: Vice President/President-elect - Ronny Duncan; Treasurer - Pat Welch; Secretary - Jean Smith; Historian - Bill Kelldorf; Executive Committee at large - Anne Brown and Jim Powell; State Director - Clayton Turner (2 years); and Alternate State Director - Jean Watson (2 years).

These people will be installed at the January 2011 meeting, along with the current VP/President elect, Joanie Matthews who will become President.

**Bylaw revision.** The change concerning the Lifetime Member status, presented at the October meeting will be voted upon.

## Notice

The scheduled start time for the Work Day in the Gardens, beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup> will be **9:00 AM**

## First Tuesday in the Garden

The last First Tuesday program for 2010 will be presented by Herb Coursey at noon November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The 2011 series will begin again on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The complete 2011 schedule is available on the SCMG website at <http://scmg.tamu.edu/coming-events/2011-events/>.



October was a very busy month for Smith County Master Gardeners, with AgriWorld, the Fall Conference and Plant/Bulb Sale, Texas Rose Festival educational talks, and sales/education table project, plus the Rose Garden docents leading tour groups. Not to mention our many other ongoing projects, such as the four demonstration gardens in the Rose Garden, Tyler Day Nursery project, Texas A&M Overton bedding plant project, Jr. Master Gardener classes, calendar sales, and more - - Wow! The picnic at Jim Powell's should have been the perfect way kick back and relax after all your hard work. I was sorry I had to miss due to a conflict schedule.

I want to again thank Hazel Bateman for her inspired leadership in bringing the Secret Garden up another notch in its content and quality. Check out the photo gallery at <http://pbase.com/mrd/secret10/>. We had at least 30 Master Gardeners helping in the planning, designing, building, conducting tours, icing plants, and tear-down. There were many compliments from teachers, the Fair folks, and Texas A&M administration. Here is one from a Kilgore teacher:

"I just wanted to tell you, again, how much Kilgore Intermediate enjoyed their day at the

East Texas State Fair! About half of our students had never been to fair and they were thrilled! ... your Agri-World Tours were perfectly aligned with our fifth grade science TEKS! The whole day was wonderful. It is difficult sometimes for teachers to give up a teaching day in the classroom, but yesterday was a day well worth missing class time for! Thank you and all of your volunteers who made it such a wonderful day!! We hope to return every year. With much appreciation, ... KIS 5th grade teachers"

Merlin Eck and his team once again put on a great Fall Conference and bulb sale. A lower than typical attendance is something I heard was common for many other events both that day and in general, so don't be disappointed. This continues to be a very worthwhile educational event! Again, so many of you were involved in putting on such a major project, and you should feel proud of your accomplishments.

Janice Suggs and her team took up the challenge of tours during the Texas Rose Festival, including a large group of hearing-impaired folks.

If you are involved in coordinating a project, please be

thinking about ways we can do formal and informal evaluation of what we do. It is helpful to get feedback from the clientele that we serve, so we can continue to improve our programs to meet the need of our clientele.

New MG training class applications are ready and available on our web site and at the Extension office. If you know of somebody who has expressed an interest in the program in the past, encourage them to apply. The schedule will be pretty much the same, but I am still trying to get some specific dates settled with some of the guest speakers.

Please remember to get your hours in to Martin every month. We're coming to the end of the year, and don't get caught short, and don't wait to report all at once - that just makes it harder on Martin, and we want to help him since he helps us so tremendously with record-keeping and the *MG Grapevine*. Please contact me (Keith) if you have had issues that have prevented you from being able to complete your basic annual requirements for recertification. Interns, you have until the end of March to finish your required hours, but do not put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

I won't be at the meeting in November, so have a good time. / Keith

### Frost-Free Color

by Dee Bishop



We all want year-round color in our gardens and here in East Texas, we expect it, even in winter. We had a lady from Pennsylvania visit our IDEA Garden one time and thought it odd that we were working so hard

planting things in October. "Aren't you wasting your time?" she asked. We explained that the garden is very colorful in winter, since so many plants that love cooler climates do well in our mild winters. I hope she came back in January to see.

The normal pansies, violas, and snapdragons do wonderfully and compose most of our plantings. We also add many beautiful winter veggies among the flowers. Of course the colorful kale and cabbage are lovely and provide a riot of color all winter, plus you can use the leaves in salads. Other veggies that do well are the mustards, especially the showy red mustard, mizuna a pretty frilled mustard, swiss chard of which there are several colors like bright red, purple, white, and deep red, not to mention the bright lights series which runs from pinks to reds and yellows to oranges. Very pretty and oh so showy, plus they're doggone delicious in winter salads.

Other lovely winter flowers are dianthus of all kinds. They bloom all winter in mild winters and off and on before and after winter cold snaps. Toadflax is a sweet little flower that does well in mild winters as is nemesia, but both will

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## Coffee Walking

by Anne Pattullo - President SCMG Association

Whew!! October has been a very busy month for the Smith County Master Gardeners! All the major projects for the year have been completed and we just topped it off with a wonderful picnic at Jim Powell's cabin in the woods. Thank



you Jim and Ann for a delightful evening in your whimsical wonderland!

Ellie hasn't been much company on our morning coffee walks due to her new

friend who comes walking past our window every morning about 7:30. She and the cat play tag and wrestle while I do my garden inspections. I've made some interesting discoveries though, while she has been off playing. One day I found a cardinal flower blooming in the cage with a poblano pepper. Then all of a sudden the other morning, I found a pink Rock Rose blooming where one had died and disappeared at least 3 years ago. Hardly a morning goes by when I don't notice something that I haven't seen before.

The October garden stars at my house are the beautiful purple asters. I often wonder if it is worth it to put up with two big green mounds all summer but when they bloom I know it is. They look really pretty with the bright Mexican Mint Marigold just now coming in to bloom. It is the last perennial to bloom and will last until that first frost turns everything to brown.

October has been a moving month in my garden. We had a gigantic oak taken out last year at this time and my hostas suffered in the sun all summer. I had to find new homes for them deeper into the shade. Three Encore azaleas planted early in 2009 have never bloomed so I moved them into the sunnier spot where the Hostas were. One thing I have learned, a garden is never finished. But I have also learned that most plants rather liked being moved around. New neighbors and fresh soil sort of give them inspiration.

I want to thank everyone who participated with all the projects in late September and October. This is a great group of people with ideas and energy and enthusiasm. We had a large presence at the Rose Festival through our Docent program, talks in the IDEA garden and the plant sale. Many Tyler residents and out of towners visited our demonstration gardens and expressed delight in all they saw! Hopefully, now we will all have a little more time in our own gardens to get them cleaned up and put to bed for the winter. If you have been busy dividing and moving don't forget to share some of your bounty. Members always welcome freebies at our meetings. November promises to be a special one with our program on Japanese Maples. I hope to see you all there!



## Good Bug / Bad Bug

by Anne Brown

Sometimes you just have to laugh when Mother Nature plays a trick on humans. Have you heard about the stink bug invasion of Washington, D.C.? It seems that stink bugs are invading our nation's capital and causing a real stink. In Texas most gardeners are familiar with stink bugs when they show up in our gardens. Stink bugs have a distinct shield body shape and vary in color from green to dark brown, may have red, pink or

yellow markings, are winged and some have spots. They all emit a sharp odor when handled or mashed. Most stink bugs are pests on vegetables, fruit and (along the coastal areas of Texas) on rice and sorghum. Stink bugs penetrate plant cells and inject toxic saliva killing the cells which causes distortion on immature plants and discoloration of the mature fruit. In rice, the interior of the seed head is removed and causes a reduction of the harvested crop.

The Southern green stink bug is found throughout the southeastern U.S. and is a major pest of vegetables, field and orchard crops. Adults are approximately 1/2 inch long, dull green while the nymphs are pink. The barrel shaped eggs are laid in clusters on foliage, the nymphs mature in about 35 days depending on temperatures and five generations can be produced before cold weather.



The Spined Soldier Bug is another in this family of bugs, Hemiptera: Pentatomidae, *Podisus maculiventris* (Say) and no, I cannot pronounce it. This bug is a good bug because it eats other bugs, caterpillars and grubs, the larvae of fall armyworms and the Colorado potato beetle. Be sure to identify the Spined Soldier Bug by its yellowish to pale brownish color, covered with small black specks and a short black line on the wing tips. They have a conspicuous spine on the middle of the front leg segment and are about 1/2 inch long in length. The eggs are metallic bronze, in clusters of 20-30. Each female can lay up to 1,000 eggs and the adults live approximately five to eight weeks.

Most stink bugs winter over as adults in leaf or grass litter so be sure to clean up debris in your garden or yard. It is hard for home gardeners to control stink bugs. Scientists are experimenting with a parasitic wasp that attacks the eggs but it may be several years before they can be introduced as a natural enemy that will not harm other beneficial insects. A home remedy offered on the internet follows: 1. don't plant too close together; 2. try a trap crop, millet or sunflowers. The bugs will feed on the millet and sunflowers and leave tomatoes alone; 3. use duct tape to remove the bugs and drop them into a bucket of soapy water (just one more use for duct tape, will they ever run out?); 4. Crazy as it sounds, use a hand vac. I haven't tried any of these methods so I don't know if they work. If you do any or all of these suggestions, let me know how it works for you. Spraying the bugs with insecticidal soap while on the ground is one biological control that is recommended. Pesticides are tricky because of the timing. Be sure to read the labels on any product you consider using.

University of California UC IPM Online  
Dallas Morning News

Garden Insects of North America; Whitney Cranshaw  
A Field Guide to Common Texas Insects/ B. Drees, Pd.D. & J. A. Jackman, Pd.D.

**FROST- FREE continued from Page 2**

get nipped back in really cold spells. African daisies as well as calendula do great, especially calendulas which bounce back after a heavy frost and bloom right up until hot weather.

Now just imagine beds of purple, yellow, pink, and all shades in between backed with frilly mustards, red, purple, and white chards or rosettes of pink, purple, or white kales and cabbage? Add some black Tuscan kale to bring out the whites and lights and you have unsurpassed color---even in winter.

Go out to the garden on a sunny winter day and revel in the color and notice the heavenly aroma all those pansies give us. We are so blessed here in winter. January is our longest and usually coldest month, but even in January the sun shines some days and the flowers bloom, so grab a few winter lovelies for your yard or at least a pot or two and enjoy blooms all winter too.

**New on the Website**

Go to <http://scmg.tamu.edu/garden-notes/> to view a new addition to the SCMG website. An educational article will always be there and links to other educational material are there for easy access. The information will be changed monthly so that it is relevant and current.



The committee met on September 30th. Old business discussed included: the Rose Festival Craft Sale; the Living Green Symposium; the success of AgriWorld Secret Garden; a MG scholarship recipient who has moved into Joanie Mathews neighborhood; the good sales of the 2011 Calendar and the schedule for the Fall Conference/Bulb Sale.

New business items included: 2010 TMGA Awards and the planning for submission of entries; approved research of signs for the Tyler Rose Garden to better identify the MG projects and plans for the hot dog picnic on October 21st.

Other business included: Approval of purchase of a book, at year-end, for the SCMG library in memory of family members lost during the year and approval of sponsorship of the Spring Garden Conference.

The November Executive Committee is scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM



Keith Hansen, Anne Pattullo, Hazel Bateman at the Secret Garden



Powell's Cabin in the woods.



Chris has bulbs



Clayton, Craig & Harvey roast wieners.

Photos by Martin Davis & Bill Kelldorf