



MG Grapevine

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MG Association Meeting
November 3rd 11:30 AM
Rose Garden Center

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Joanie Matthews says,

This is my easiest article as it is one BIG THANK YOU!! Each year we worry about the Bulb Sale...what bulbs do people want?...how many should we buy???



Joanie Matthews
SCMGA President

We sure do not want a lot left over. Anne Pattullo, after hours of worry and research, got it perfect. Cindy Harrington was able to get Dianna Harris for the best speaker ever. THANK YOU to Cindy, Anne and the Bulb Committee and to each of you who helped pull off a very successful bulb sale. It takes all the Smith County Master Gardeners to hold a big event like this.

The following week several of you helped Pat Welch at the Bergfeld Park's Rose Festival Craft and Plant sale. We were able to get rid of a lot more bulbs! Thank you, Pat and crew. Working together two weeks in a row is a lot of dedication, but that is what makes SCMGA so successful and fun.

To unwind and celebrate our success we had our Picnic. I want to add my THANK YOU to Ann Smith for the wonderful food. I want to THANK Ann Smith for co-coordinating the picnic and a HUGE THANK YOU to Cindy and Gary Harrington for hosting the picnic at their beautiful new home. Gary needs his



See Joanie – page 3

November SCMGA Assoc. Meeting

Our new County Extension Agent Chad Gulley has a program that he calls "A day in the life of a county extension agent". Chad was a county agent and the Master Gardener coordinator in Nacogdoches for five years before he came to Tyler. He will show us what he and the Master Gardeners were involved in at Nacogdoches.



Chad Gulley

He is the Smith county agent in charge of agriculture and range land management. I think that his slide show will be interesting and it might inspire us to start or change the way that we are doing some things. In other words, we might get some new idea that we might be able to incorporate into our business. We need to always be on the lookout for new ways and things to do that will add more spice and enjoyment in educating the public about gardening.

Hope to see you at the meeting,
Ronny Duncan

Officers for year 2012

The following were nominated at the October meeting and will be on the ballot at the November meeting: Pres. - Ronny Duncan, V. Pres. - David Pierson, Treas. - Pat Welch, Sec. - Jean Smith, Historian - Susan Linnard, Parliamentarian - Joanie Matthews, Ex. Comm. at Large - Jim Powell & Bill Keldorf, State Director - Ken Stegall, Alt. Director - Sherri Matthews. Continuing (2nd year of two year term) State Director - Clayton Turner and Alt. State Director - Jean Watson.



What a couple months we've had! A busy time of year with great educational programs, a successful bulb sale, and topped off with such a nice picnic at Cindy Harrington's place. Thanks to Cindy and

Gary for a great time at their home and to Ann Smith for arranging everything. Master Gardeners had a good showing at the Arts and Crafts Fair at the Texas Rose Festival, and the Fall Conference and Bulb Sale was another great success. Plus, the new 2012 Calendar has hit the streets chocked full of great educational content.

The 2012 MG Training schedule has been finalized and is on the web, so if you know of friends, who have been considering becoming a Master Gardener volunteer, encourage them to sign up. There will be an orientation meeting on November 30, 2:00 PM at the Extension office for all applicants, and for those wanting more information about the program.

We have a couple of opportunities for you to get involved with youth educational projects. One of the schools in Whitehouse is looking for help in planning their vegetable gardening project. If you would be willing to act as an advisor to this group, please contact Keith a.s.a.p.

Also, Joann Adair, long time coordinator of the Tyler Day Nursery gardening program, will be stepping down from her active role, and Mary McGee, who has been serving there, is moving away. This is such a great program, and we would like to see it continue, so if you have any thoughts about getting involved with this rewarding project, please contact either Joann (especially if you would like to know what all's involved) or Keith. We would need at least a couple of folks to get involved. Joann said she would be glad to help the new project leader for a period of time.

The year is drawing to a close, and if you have unreported hours, don't wait, please send them in now. Certified Master Gardeners have to the end of December to complete their required continuing education and volunteer hours. Remember that CE opportunities are listed in the MG Address Book, along with the hours requirements. You can get volunteer hours on Tuesdays by helping out in the demonstration gardens, and helping here in the office any day of the (but call Deana or Candy at the office to be sure there is an open time slot). Interns have until the end of March to get their required volunteer service hours.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of Texas AgriLife Extension!

Keith



Northeast Texas Gardening Guide & Calendar

The 2012 Northeast Texas Gardening Guide and Calendar, produced by the Smith County Master Gardeners, is now in print and ready for purchase. The theme of the 2012 Calendar and Gardening Guide focuses on education of the "what and how" to make your garden beautiful and prolific. Each month brings an easy-to-read calendar with enough space to write daily reminders and also a full page of helpful tips and educational information. A "Things To Do" section identifies plant care and bed preparation, when and what to fertilize, along with pests and diseases to be on the watch for. It also provides ideas of what you could be planting within that particular month.

The "Plants of the Month" were chosen from the list of Texas Superstars for their reliability and toleration of our extreme temperatures with minimal soil preparation and water.

Other articles of interest provide information on such topics as proper watering techniques, the benefits of mulch and compost, keeping your garden pest-free without using harmful chemicals, plus an article on landscaping with white plants to ensure interest both day and night. There is also a list of the best web sites for all your questions on gardening, landscaping and pest management.

The 2012 Northeast Texas Gardening Guide and Calendars make great gifts and are available for \$7.00. Calendars will always be on hand at the Smith County AgriLife Extension Service office located in the Cotton Belt Building on Front Street in Tyler. Calendars can also be ordered by mail at \$10 each via check sent to: Calendars, AgriLife Extension Service, 1517 W. Front St, Suite 116, Tyler, TX 75702.

MGs – Need Volunteer Hours?

Check the November calendar and notice that there are open dates on the calendar where you might volunteer to answer the Help Desk office phone. Call the office and get your name on the calendar.



Tell a Friend

They too can become a Master Gardener. Go to <http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu/programs/MGapplication2012.pdf> for an application form.

What's Bloomin'?

By Dee Bishop

NOVEMBER, TIME TO PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS

Planting anything at this point in time is very risky, but if you have access to plenty of water and can handle watering them enough, November begins our best planting time for trees and shrubs. Before you start cutting trees and yanking out shrubs, wait awhile to confirm their demise. Many are using the only means of self-defense they have, dormancy, to survive this drought.

Dig a hole several times the width of the container, but only as deep. Water the hole and let it soak thoroughly. Soak the plant thoroughly too. Never put a wet plant in a dry hole or a dry plant in a wet hole. Mulch 2-4 inches deep all around the area you dug up, but keep mulch away from the trunk of either trees or shrubs. Just 2-3 inches away from the trunk will work. Water well to settle the mulch. Water often enough to keep the plant moist but not overly wet. Keep in mind the need to water all next summer also.

Water your trees well all around the drip line and slightly beyond. Since the weather has cooled down, the ground will stay moist longer, but don't forget to water weekly if we do not get rain.

Water houseplants well, clean pots and plants, and look them over for any little hidden chompers that may be lurking under leaves or mulch. You may want to use some systemic insecticide on plants that are prone to getting mealy bugs and whiteflies.

Try not to go overboard with planting this fall. The drought is not over and may even go into next summer. Enjoy the cooler temperatures and wonderful fall days.



GOOD BUG – BAD BUG CRICKETS

By Anne Brown

Now that cooler temperatures may be with us for the balance of the year, our homes become havens for many insects that are usually found outdoors. One of these insects is the Cricket.

There is a long history of humans and crickets. The most familiar is probably the relationship of the Chinese and the insect. Crickets were kept in cages especially designed and constructed to house the cricket. The Chinese believed that crickets brought good luck; they even had cricket fights. The number of chirps a cricket makes can help to determine the outdoor temperature. In 1897 Professor A. E. Dolbear at Tufts College developed the formula that is used today.



There are many varieties of crickets, the most often seen is the Field Cricket, shiny black and up to an inch long. Crickets are normally outdoor insects preferring cool dark areas and eat at night. They can cause damage to clothing if they are permitted to remain in the house or cause damage to plant material, especially to small seedlings. The chirp is made by the male rubbing his wings together. The sound is used to attract females. After mating the female lays her eggs in cool, moist soil. In northern areas the eggs remain in the soil during the winter, then emerge as nymphs and mature in two to three months. In southern areas the nymphs remain under rocks or garden debris.

The safest way to remove crickets from the home is to capture them and release them outdoors. They do not bite or sting so handling them is not a problem. Crickets are a good food source for other animals and are excellent fish bait, at least that is what my sources say.

First Tuesday in the Garden

The last monthly "First Tuesday in the Garden" lecture for 2011, will begin at noon Tuesday, November 1st, in the I.D.E.A. Garden.

Veteran Master Gardener and horticulture enthusiast, Herb Coursey will present November's topic, "Aristocratic Camellias, Sasanquas and Japonicas." Camellias are a genus of the family Theaceae. One of the most well-known plants of this family is the common Tea plant that brings us southerners so much drinking pleasure. Herb's lecture about Camellias is a great opportunity to learn about a plant that is a rapid grower and one providing vivid color during the fall and winter season.

Joanie (Continued from page 1

special THANK YOU for being such a good cook!!

THANKS for making my year so pleasant, easy and fun. You have been a wonderful group to work with.

Just a reminder- at the November meeting to sign up for the Christmas luncheon on December 1st. Now that you have had your cookbooks out for the picnic what is the next scrumptious dish you are bringing?? SCMG will provide turkey, dressing, gravy and rolls. Can't wait!

Again, I cannot THANK YOU enough. I appreciate each and every one of you.



Joanie



The Executive Committee met on September 26th and considered the following:

The 2012 calendar is printed and will be available at the Fall Conference/Bulb sale.

The bulb sale schedule for labeling and bagging bulbs was reviewed.

Cyndi Phillips, who is retiring, introduced Deana Miller who will be the new secretary in the Extension office. A gift certificate was presented to Cyndi in appreciation of her assistance to the SCMG.

The setup for the table in Bergfeld Park on October 14 and 15 was discussed. There will be an education table and bulbs will be sold. Volunteers needed.

AgriWorld is all set, with teaching to begin on September 27th. All teachers are in place.

The Rose Garden Signage project has been developed for presentation to the Tyler Parks Department and then funding will be discussed.

All Saints school has been advised that this will be last year that SCMG provides instructors as the Junior MG program is designed to be taught in school with MG support.

The MG picnic will be October 21st at Cindy Harrington's home.

Two potential new projects were discussed, but no action was taken since more information is needed about both of them.

From Caterpillar to Butterfly

Charlie and Monette Colman put together a butterfly display for AgriWorld at the East Texas State Fair. On September 21st sixteen tiny caterpillars, about 3/16" long, were received and placed in Tupperware containers with milkweed cuttings. As they grew, the cuttings were changed to potted milkweed. During the run of the fair those who visited "Our Secret Garden" could observe the caterpillars as they grew.

Following the fair, the Colman's took the display home where they have continued to observe the caterpillar's life cycle as they created their chrysalis's and finally began to emerge as butterflies.

The first chrysalis was completed on October 9th and that butterfly appeared two weeks later on the 23rd. The next day that butterfly flew off into the wild, on her way to Mexico, we hope. As this is written, the Colman's are not suffering with the empty nest syndrome because there are six more chrysalis's from which more Monarch butterflies are expected to emerge.

To see pictures of the entire evolutionary process, go to <http://scmg.tamu.edu/whats-new/>.



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