



# MG Grapevine

<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

October 2008

Volume 15

Number 10

## NOTICE

**MG Association Meeting  
October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
See location at right  
11:30 AM**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keith's Column - pg. 2
- Crows - Watch Out - pg. 2
- Habitat for Humanity - pg. 2
- New e-mail address - pg. 2
- From the Corner - pg. 3
- Flower of the Month - pg. 3
- The Daffodil - pg. 3
- Irrigation Specialist - pg. 4

## MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

### MG Grapevine Contributors:

Carolyn Bonifay, John Brasher, Cindy Harrington, Keith Hansen, and Anne Pattullo

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

## October Meeting

Speaker for the October meeting will be Mike Norris the Water Quality Chemist for Tyler Water Utilities. We were invited to hold our meeting at the conference center at the Water Treatment Plant located at 14792 CR 192. A tour of the facility will follow for those interested.

From the Grande Extension between Old Jacksonville Hwy. and Hwy. 155S, go south on County Road 192 (across from the new Exum's paint store) approximately 1.5 miles to water plant on right. Enter gate and stay to right and park in 1<sup>st</sup> lot on left. See map below:



## Garden Visit

Following the SCMG meeting you are invited to see the garden of Ed & Jo Helen McGee in Flint.

They live on seven acres and most of this is planted around their home. They have more

plants than most of us will ever have room for and some I've never seen before.

Directions: Go south on Old Jacksonville Highway past Gresham to the 4-way stop at Flint. (A Chevron station is on the right). It's 1.8 miles to the McGee's from this corner. Turn right onto 346W. You'll zigzag several times before turning left onto FM346 toward Teaselville. Their house is on the right (#11956) and their name is on the mailbox. The house is white with red brick.

Hope to see you there. Carolyn Bonifay

## Fall Conference, Bulb Sale, Calendar

It is not just the annual Rose Festival that makes October special in Tyler. For Master Gardeners, the annual Fall Conference and Bulb Sale on October 11<sup>th</sup> is a more important event.

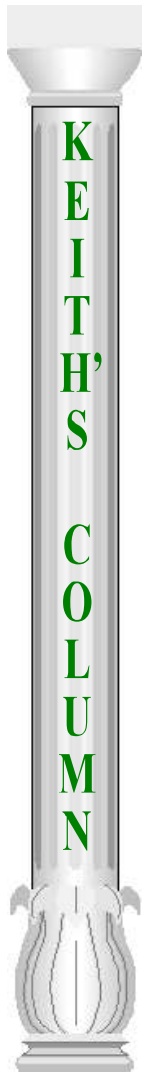
The conference this year is at Marvin United Methodist Church in downtown Tyler beginning at 8:30a.m. Speakers are Dr. Bill Welch presenting, "Garden Ideas from Near & Far" and Chris Wiesinger discussing "Bulbs are the Best Investment". Doors open at 7:30a.m. for registration.



The Bulb Sale & Expo is at Harvey Hall, with the doors opening at 11:45a.m. The full list of bulbs and plants (which can be printed) is on

both the SCMG website and at Keith's site East Texas Gardening.

The *2009 N. E. Texas Gardening Guide* will be on sale at the conference and bulb sale. They sell for \$5 each and will be available all around town, as listed in the September *MG Grapevine* and on the SCMG website.



Our big fall educational program and fundraiser is right around the corner. This is always an exciting and busy time, as we get to bring such high quality service and products to the folks of Smith County (and beyond) through the Fall Conference and Bulb Sale.

Today we are in the middle of the East Texas State Fair, and Our Secret Garden exhibit in the AgriWorld exhibit is once again is top quality. Thanks to all the Master Gardeners and our partners who made this great program happen. It is always interesting see how wonderfully things come together as people come together for a common cause. And our programs show the hard work and effort that goes in to producing such programs.

Jayla Fry, the new Texas Master Gardener State Coordinator, sent this following reminder to all the county extension agents coordinating county Master Gardener programs, and I thought this would be a good time to forward her comments on to you, as you work with the public. The bottom line is to remember to identify yourselves, not only as Texas Master Gardeners, but also as part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

#### Jayla's memo says:

"The Texas Master Gardener Program is among the most visible educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. County Master Gardener Programs in over 115 Texas counties deliver horticultural information through highly trained, talented, and dedicated volunteers known as "Master Gardeners."

County Master Gardener Associations (often with 501C3 status) support the County Master Gardener Programs through contributions of leadership and coordination for educational projects and events and through securing and delivering financial resources to support these activities. The Association



Jayla Fry

might be an independent organization, but the Master Gardener program is an Extension program.

Identification of educational programs with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service (versus "A&M," "Texas A&M," "the Aggies," etc.) is essential to future funding support for Extension. Proper "branding" is even more critical for highly visible programs like Master Gardeners and 4-H. We all have an essential role in the continual education of legislators, county officials, partners and stakeholders, and the general public as to the "home base" for all Extension's educational programs.

The Texas Master Gardener logo incorporates the agency name, Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Other examples of using associating AgriLife Extensions brand with the Master Gardener program include:

- + Master Gardener program sponsored educational activities should include the Texas AgriLife Extension logo and/or name, Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- + Introductions of Master Gardeners as speakers or in media should include: *Jane Doe, Texas Master Gardener with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.*"

We need to work on getting new name badges for everybody that will have the proper branding. Thanks to all of you for all your hard work and dedication to the Smith County Master Gardener program and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Hoping to see you all at the meeting and/or Conference – Keith

---

#### Crows - Watch Out!

Finishing touches are being made to the scarecrows being created. Tuesday, September 30th the 3 scarecrows (a female scarecrow) and one male scarecrow will be put in place in the IDEA garden.

Help is always need in both the IDEA and Heritage gardens, why don't you come on out and lend a hand and while you're there, pick out your personal favorite scarecrow. During October work time in the garden begins at 8:30 am.

#### Habitat for Humanity

Master Gardeners Bob Leffingwell and Cindy Harrington recently helped with another Habitat for Humanity home landscape. The Arieas family is soon to move into their new home on Alice Street with attractive beds and lawn.

#### New E-Mail Address

Marilyn Helm - [marilynhelm@live.com](mailto:marilynhelm@live.com)

## F the CORNER R O M



### Thanks To You

Thanks to everybody who worked on the AgriWorld project. I continue to be amazed at the willingness of our members to volunteer, especially on a project like AgriWorld. AgriWorld is still evolving. Last year was the first year for AgriWorld. We started with a dedicated group of volunteers and a directive to make something new. We had no pattern to work from. We had no

guidelines to work with. Thanks to Keith for suggesting we use the JMG program as a guideline to create a display.

With this guideline the volunteers each chose a topic to develop and started brainstorming. Soon ideas began to come together and shortly exhibits began to appear. To make a long story short, a dedicated group of volunteers created, designed and built a great educational and entertaining showplace.

We learned a lot last year and came away with new ideas for this year. With these new ideas and some new volunteers this year we again started the brainstorming process and developed new ideas and new exhibits for this year's displays.

We will glean new ideas from this year's production and apply them to next year's production to once again develop a great, but at the same time new and improved showplace.

This is a long and roundabout way of saying thanks to all of you for all that you do, for AgriWorld and for all the other projects we do each year. Your willingness to volunteer, to take responsibility for projects, and your fantastic creativity make this a great organization.

Thank You All - John Brasher

**The Daffodil... the flower that means spring.** Daffodil, Narcissus, Jonquil. First, let's settle the names. The official botanical name of the whole genus is *Narcissus*. Daffodil is the common name. *Jonquil* is a "species name" within the *Narcissus* genus. This means that certain daffodils are called *Narcissus jonquilla*. Some people, particularly in the Southern states, use Jonquil as a common name for the whole genus, but it's really the species name for a minor group having multiple smaller flowers on each stem. So when you're using the common name, all colors, sizes and types are Daffodils. If you get into the botanical or Latin names, they all begin with *Narcissus* (the "genus") and end with a different "species" name. The Poet's Daffodil, for example, is *Narcissus poeticus*. And as mentioned, a small, multi-flowered yellow daffodil type is botanically *Narcissus jonquilla*. Of course, you don't need to know the botanical names to enjoy daffodils. Just choose the colors and types you like. *Editor's note - from the web - author unknown.*

### Flower of the Month

by Anne Pattullo



The Bulb Sale is just about here so I decided to write about one of my favorites, rainlilies.

These little bulbs have popped up everywhere with the good rains we have had this past

summer. Most of the familiar ones belong to the genus *Zephyranthes*. They are *Z. candida*, the common white flower with yellow stamens, *Z. grandiflora*, the giant pink rainlily and *Z. citrina*, a bright yellow variety.

We will have all three of these for sale at Harvey Hall on October 11

Another rainlily belongs to the genus *Habranthus*.

This one is known as Copper lily and is a

Texas native. Keith had noticed it growing along the median on Glenwood Boulevard just east of the Cotton Belt building. He came in to our bulb committee meeting and told us that the seeds were ripe and ready to harvest. So out we all went, following our fearless leader, and plucked every seed we could find. Some of us brought them home and planted them. Mine are all up and I will have rain lily grass for sale October 11. Copper Lily is only about 6 inches high and has a bright golden bloom.



Most of the rainlilies are deciduous but *Z.candida* has thick reedlike glossy foliage that stays green all winter. It likes a little more moisture than some of the others, especially in the heat of summer. It will grow in just about any soil. Very fresh bulbs can be planted in the fall and may bloom the next summer but if your bulbs are on the dry side, it may take a full year for them to bloom. Although they may bloom sporadically anytime during the summer, they really put on a show in August and September.

The giant pink rainlily is probably the most prolific bloomer. Mine start blooming after a rain in early summer and reappear several times over the next few months if we get rain. This one likes rich soil and enjoys fertilizer.

**See Flower, Page 4**

**Flower** Continued from page 3



*Z. citrina* has not bloomed as well for me. It has spread very slowly and never has but a bloom or two at any given time. Nevertheless, it is a bright golden yellow and a nice surprise when I spot one. It is

reported to be very winter hardy.

All rain lily seeds do not stay viable for long. They should be planted as soon as possible after harvesting. I sow them thickly in a shallow pan and cover them with just a thin layer of soil. They look like grass when they come up. I keep the grass outside in a protected place all winter, watering when needed. In the spring when the foliage is thick, the little bulbs have formed. I then plant them in my borders. Clumps of established bulbs can be easily propagated by division. Bulbs should be planted in the fall, 1-2 inches deep and about 3 inches apart. The exception is the Copper lily. It does best when planted in the spring, putting the bulb tips at soil level. They will sprout and bloom quickly.

### **Irrigation Efficiency Specialist Training**

Tarrant County Extension is offering a Master Gardener Specialist Training for Irrigation Efficiency in Tarrant County on October 14, 15, 16, 2008. This training will cover: Understanding state and regional water supply problems and the relationship and importance of landscape irrigation conservation; Learn how to identify the most common problems and landscape irrigation systems from a water conservation perspective; Learn how to measure the precipitation rate of sprinklers to use along with ET to produce an irrigation schedule, including run times and number of irrigation runs per week; Learn what types of controllers are available and how to use/program them; Learn how soil preparation, plants selection and mulch will make a difference for irrigation efficiency; Learn how drip irrigation is more efficient, easy to install or convert a regular irrigation system to drip.

MG Irrigation Efficiency Specialists will volunteer 12 hours above their current volunteer obligation, train MGs in their county, present the information to at least 2 other groups and do a catch-can demonstration for MGs and a garden club, neighborhood association or civic organization.

Cost for the class is \$150 and only 15 participant spots are available. Deadline for enrollment is October 10<sup>th</sup>. Contact Keith Hansen for more information.



**1517 Front St., Suite 116  
Tyler, TX 75702**