



MG Grapevine

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NOTICE

**October 1st
MG Association
Meeting at Chamblee's
Rose Nursery
11:30 AM**

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Monthly meeting notes

If you live in Tyler you know that the month of October is Rose Festival time. It is only fitting that our October SCMG meeting be all about roses.



The October meeting **will not be at the Rose Garden Center** but instead it will be at **Chamblee's Rose Nursery** which is at 10926 Highway 69 North.

There is ample parking space at their business, but there is no meeting room. There will be a very short business meeting which will include the presentation of the list of nominees for SCMG Association officers for 2010.

Mark Chamblee is president of Chamblee's Roses and Gifts. His rose nursery is a family business that has been producing fine quality roses from its Tyler location since 1953. Besides the operation of the rose nursery in Tyler, he and his wife Sharon also own and operate the Lott Home Bed & Breakfast in Mineola. He is currently serving as the State Director of Region III of the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association.

Mark plans a walking tour showing his new propagation method and his water reclamation system. He will talk about the use of bio-pesticides and offer a sneak preview of new varieties to be introduced in the near future as well as an update on the Earth-Kind program. He is a long-time friend of Master Gardeners, contributing both his time and Earth-Kind Roses to the SCMG National Earth-Kind Rose Trails.

There is no after-meeting tour this month.

Fall Conference/Bulb Sale

The Smith County Master Gardener Association, will sponsor its annual Fall Gardening Conference at Harvey Hall in Tyler on Saturday, October 17th, 2009, 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

The bulb and plant sale following the conference at 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., will offer thousands of bulbs to the public with many varieties not often found in local nurseries. During the exposition local Master Gardeners will provide a help-desk and perform demonstrations for the attendees. This conference and plant sale has continued to grow in popularity each succeeding year with attendees coming from central Texas to the Red River in the north and as far east as Louisiana.

Conference presentations will be given by Denyse Cummins, currently working as an Area Horticulture Agent in northwest Louisiana and Master Gardener coordinator, housed in Shreveport. Other presentations include a slide show of bulbs for sale following the conference.

Volunteers Needed

Project leader for the Fall Conference & Bulb Sale, Merlin Eck thanks all of the Master Gardeners who make the event a success. Many have already spent many hours in preparation for the bulb sale and now more help is needed.

The bulbs will be bagged at Harvey Hall on Friday October 16th at 9:30 a.m. No sign-up is necessary. All members are invited to participate. Just show-up and lend a hand.

First Tuesday in the Garden

In the IDEA Garden October 6th at noon.
"The Bones of the Garden - Shrubs & Trees"



How about this weather? What a nice break from hot and dry. The slow soaking rain is just what our drought-stressed vegetation needed. And the cooler temperatures are enticing gardeners out of their air conditioned shelters. These weather

factors are also prime conditions to stimulate fire ants to resurface, rebuilding flooded nests. It will also stimulate cool-season weeds to start germinating (I've already seen some henbit in my yard), and provide optimal conditions for brown patch and take-all root rot disease development. If you have a lot of fire ant mounds (more than 4 or 5 per 1/4 acre), broadcast a fire ant bait to get better control both now and for the coming spring. For less than that number per area, do individual mound treatments rather than broadcast. If you want to go organic, there are fire ant baits available that contain the active ingredient spinosad. (Payback, Green Light Fire Ant Bait, and Safer are some brands with spinosad). For a complete list of all broadcast baits, along with their pros and cons, go to <http://fireant.tamu.edu/>

Chinch bugs have been pretty bad these last couple of months, so be sure you accurately diagnose any problem areas in lawns that you look at. Look in adjacent green areas – chinch bugs will not be found in the brown or almost dead areas. Grass that has been recently killed by chinch bugs will still be firmly rooted.

There are only 3 months left in the year for recertification, so be sure to take advantage of opportunities to volunteer in projects. The Fall Conference and Bulb Sale is a big one coming up (you can also get CE's by attending) – check with Merlin Eck to see how you can help if you have not already signed up. I'm thinking we'll have a good crowd this year – have gotten a few calls from the Metroplex from people anticipating coming to get some our bulbs. Also, if you have any bulbs you think you could donate, please contact Merlin. Every little bit helps!!

The Bedding Plant Research project at Texas A&M – Overton is doing things – contact Don Davis if you are not on his email list (you'd be getting notices if you were). Everybody can help with sales of the new 2010 NE Texas Gardening Guide and Calendar – check with Jean Hudgins for information on how to help out.

Of course, the Demonstration Gardens (IDEA, Heritage, etc.) always can use extra hands for the various chores, including planting cool season plants, pulling stray weeds, and any new projects they may have brewing. As you know, Tuesdays are workdays.

The Education Committee will be setting up at the Fall Conference/Bulb Sale, and at the Tyler Rose Garden Center during Texas Rose Festival. This is a great way to

earn hours, help people with gardening questions, promote the Master Gardener program, and fundraise through the calendar and Doug Welsh's gardening book. Contact Jan Moch to see how you can help!

Tips for the Tip of the Week project are always needed – you get both hours and CE's for tips (1 CE each up to 4 per year). If you are running short of CE's, don't forget the online Master Gardener Earth Kind training modules you can go through at any time. <http://earthkind.tamu.edu/MGtraining.html>

Thanks to everyone who has helped get Our Secret Garden in the AgriWorld exhibit at the East Texas State Fair ready for the crowds. There have been some major upgrades to a couple of the exhibits this year, including a dribbling faucet and a rainy roof with the water conservation and rainwater harvesting exhibits. The playhouse has a fresh coat of paint, and we have a "real" vegetable garden this year to help teach the kids where vegetables come from. This is another example where many hands made light work, along with some dedicated Master Gardeners who have devoted a lot of time and talent to make this another success. We are expecting a lot of kids to come through the exhibits this year on the tour days (9/29 – 10/2). If you want to help out, and there is still time, contact Hazel Bateman, who has done a great job coordinating this year.

Thanks again to all of you for your continued support of Texas AgriLife Extension Service's educational programs!! Keith

Executive Committee Notes

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 August 27th:

- Reviewed the financial aid policy presented by Bill Kelldorf on behalf of the Scholarship Committee. The policy was approved with corrections.
- Pat Welch presented the updated Policies & Procedures manual and following discussion the document was approved with corrections.
- Merlin Eck advised that the Fall Conference will be held in the west end of the large hall at Harvey Hall. The bulb sale will be in the adjacent smaller room, where it has been held in the past. Bulbs which have been ordered are now being received. Merlin will solicit members for home-grown bulbs.
- Review of the Bylaws is continuing with a report from Bill Kelldorf expected at a future meeting.
- The scarecrow project for the IDEA Garden is proceeding.
- Bill Kelldorf was thanked for his efforts locating, buying and installing the new computer for the MG office.
- President Cindy Harrington discussed her concern that no SCMG director attended the recent TMGA meeting. She expressed her desire that two members attend the next meeting.

See **Executive Committee** page 4 _____



Cindy's Comments

President, Smith Co. MG Association

I'm looking forward to seeing this year's scarecrows! What a talented and creative group the SCMGA is, so I hope each of you will find a chance to visit the IDEA Garden and decide which scarecrow you think deserves top honors. Last year there were multiple compliments from the public on the scarecrowess (all were females). The garden looked great last week before all this wonderful rain we have gotten, come visit. If you haven't been by the Shade Garden recently, check it out! Rhonda Rholes has been working diligently to shape it up. I've seen Ronnie Duncan, Chris Steavenson and Gary Dobbs working right along with her to make it look the best I've ever seen it. Anne Brown continues to amaze me with her knowledge and dedication to the Heritage Garden. The IDEA Garden remains to be my learning ground. While working in the garden, Sue Adee's mentoring and words of encouragement have made an impact on so many, especially me.

The East Texas State Fair starts on Thursday, September 24th. Hazel Bateman and the SCMGA volunteers have made this year's "Our Secret Garden" even better. "Our Secret Garden" is the SCMGA exhibit which is based on the Junior Master Gardener curriculum. The East Texas State Fair has even given a facelift to the building the exhibit is located in and renamed it as well, the Youth & Education Building was previously known as the Commercial Exhibits Building. This continues to be an outstanding display with plants provided by Texas Nursery and Landscape Association. The "Secret Garden" exposes thousands of fair goers to a part of the SCMG's objective which is: The better understanding of recommended gardening practices. Education is our goal!



Annually the Texas Master Gardener Association recognizes the outstanding work of local associations and individuals in multiple categories. The Smith County Master Gardeners Association and some of our members have been honored to be the recipients of these awards in the past. Help is needed to continue the tradition. Would you be willing? The awards process begins in November with a form submission by category. Were you given the gift to write? Have you benefited from your life experiences and know how to word things? Would you be willing to try? Please contact me at ckh300@sbcglobal.net.

Looking forward to the great things that will happen this year! Cindy

E-Mail Address Correction

The address printed in the Address Book for James & Laquita Showen is incorrect. It should be jshowen@att.net.

Garden Dirt

by Dee Bishop

Lettuce - A Lovely Little Veggie. Growing lettuces of all kinds is so much fun. I have wasted so much money on lettuce through the years. With only the two of us to eat it, I find about half goes to waste. By growing my own - I can harvest just enough for salads or sandwiches and there's no waste.

I grow mine in pots where I have no problems with slugs and insects. I don't think bugs have discovered my deck gardens yet. The pots only need to be 6-8 in. deep and the wider, the more you can grow. I like window box planters. They are a good size and look pretty with all colors of lettuces in them.

In the fall - late Sept. - early Oct. I plant my fall crop. They like warm temps of 70-80 degrees to sprout. Then cool temps to grow. They can take light frost and heavy if I throw a cover over them. Lettuce needs fertile moist soil and should not be allowed to dry out. I fertilize every 2 weeks with several organic fertilizers, usually liquids.

I start a second planting in late January inside and under lights. I plant them outside in late February. Last year, I had fresh lettuce of all kinds from October through May. They will take a little shade from the hot noonday spring sun. That early spring sun can be some of the hardest on tender leaves.

Lettuces come in many colors of green as well as reds, purples, and russets. They are truly beautiful to watch and a joy to eat. I love all leaf lettuces as well as the crunchy little heads of buttercrunch and romaine types. You can pull whole plants at first to thin them, then selectively pull the outer leaves and keep them growing fall-spring. They will freeze if the temp. goes below 25 or so unless you cover them well and remove the cover the next morning after it warms up. The white row covers give you an extra 5-7 degrees to play with.

Sooo- get a packet of lettuce seed. They are cheap and the rewards are many.

Someone Special Award

KTBB radio will be recognizing SCMGs on the air for their *Volunteer of the Day* awards. A list of Master Gardeners has been provided to them by Keith Hansen for recognition during the coming weeks.

Those being recognized beginning September 29th, include Cezanne Barnes, Hazel Bateman, Linda Billings, Sam Blankenship, Bibi Blonn and Wayne Blonn.

Volunteers can listen for their names on KTBB 600 AM during Mike Edwards' *Morning Magazine*, 5 to 8:00 a.m., as well as various times throughout the day on **both** KTBB 600 AM and 92.1 FM. They can also visit www.ktbb.com to see the *Volunteer of the Day* for that date.

Roses!

by Herb Coursey

Archeologists say fossil evidence that indicates the history of roses stretches back 35 million years. In 1933, a Rose Festival was created to recognize the new rose-growing industry of Tyler. It is now the Texas Rose Festival. Soon after World War II, as a New London Junior High School band member, we were excited to be marching in the Rose Parade of Tyler: I recall our stumbling as we tromped trolley tracks from the Catholic Church, up Broadway, to and around Court House Square, then back to the old Tyler High football field on Bois'Arc Street. (Pause with me for a moment, please, to lament the loss of those two incomparable Tyler treasures: the old Court House and the trolleys.) Garden cultivation of roses began some 5000 years ago, probably in China. Like all good things, it spread. In England during The War of the Roses of the 1600's, York was symbolized by a white rose, and Lancaster by a red one. Many garden walls of Tyler now display huge old plants of *Rosa banksia*, a.k.a. Lady Banks Rose, one of the earliest of the yellow varieties, and totally thornless.

The latest rose developments include varieties that are hardy to extreme cold, and - even more welcome to us Southerners - new varieties that never need spraying for diseases: the Earth-Kind Roses. They are the most popular of all for home gardeners today, and are widely available at Tyler nurseries. For growers who love to include roses, they seem to be a miracle come true!

I would not say that I am a rose-grower, at this time. (That last prepositional phrase is ... significant.) In the old days, I was. They needed spraying, sun, spraying, fertilizing, spraying, sometimes winter protection, spraying ... you discern my position, I think. But today, I confess to having and enjoying three plants of Double Knockout. It's a tough one! I like that! And it *is* beautiful and after all, we *do* live in Tyler. So why not? Nonetheless, I gag at the idea of going further at this time. It's too easy to drive down to "the corner," buy several dozen gorgeous varieties and bring them home to the little lady of my heart.



If I were going to go into more roses, however, Tyler is *thee* place to do it. I do admit that, driving toward I-20 yesterday on my way to Dallas, that I felt dangerous little twinges in my fingers along the steering wheel, those same little twinges that I feel when I'm driving right by a nursery that I know contains some fine varieties of Camellias that are not already in my collection. There! So I am both weak and strong, - strong, for I do not turn the wheel. Sometimes, though, I do turn in just to make a gift purchase. A large diamond, yes, certainly would be even more welcome as a gift! But - assuming you've snooped your way around to find out that someone you love, likes gardening and loves roses, and your pockets are not so very deep, - well, you could hardly do better than a magnificent, large-pot sized Earth-Kind rose in fresh flower! Oooh! Lordy, they are really somethin'!

But practically all of the above was not what I intended to write, concerning roses. I started it because I cannot help reminiscing, especially when there are people kind enough to listen to me, or to read what I write. Googling is what I do instead of driving gasoline to the library. When I am negligent of effort, I reminisce. There, I told you! I'm glad!

I adore propagation, and was going to write about it. But I've never propagated roses. Duh! So what I was going to use are:

1) Rose Propagation From Cuttings, by Dr. William C. Welch, Professor and Landscape Horticulturist, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

2) Rooting Rose Cuttings, from the Sept. 2002 issue of Miriam Wilkins' "Old Roser's Digest", reprinted from "Gold Coast Roses," October, 2002.

They are both absorbing, fascinating authorities, and I couldn't have done better than just to copy either or both. So please, now *YOU* Google, and enjoy, enjoy. And tell me if you're tempted by either of them more than you can resist! I might just have to try out Miriam Wilkins' "far-out method" for myself! Ha! - 'erb

Executive Committee continued from page 2

- Five members of MG Class 16 have volunteered to take over the new bed at the Rose Garden, pending confirmation of leadership/advisor.
 - *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants 2009* is now available. Pat Welch will order to add to MG library.
 - The regular monthly meeting location for October will be changed to Chamblee's Rose Nursery and the program will be a tour of their facility. A brief business meeting will be held at the nursery prior to the program.
 - The Executive Committee meeting date for November will be the 19th.
 - Keith Hansen has submitted names of outstanding volunteers to KTBB for their *Volunteer of the Day* recognition, which will be used sometime in the near future.
 - The Environmental Horticulture Committee's request for continued sponsorship for the Spring Conference was approved.
-

Need Volunteer Hours or CE Credits

If, with only three months left in the year you need more volunteer hours or CE credits, review Keith's Column on page two of this newsletter for opportunities available.

Scarecrows in the IDEA Garden

By the time you read this, the 2009 version of the scarecrows should be in place in the garden. One group and their creation is pictured below:



Those pictured are Patricia Frederick, Sue McGuire, Eloise Muxworthy, Brenda Ilschner, Scarecrow, Barbara Null, Janis Morris, Priscilla Evans and Sue Ann Ley, Others in the group, not pictured include: Sue Adee, Ann Smith, Shirley & Victor Long, Sandra Stanley, Betty Hicks and Ilene Healey.

MG Calendar & Gardening Guide 2010

The good news is our calendar committee has completed yet another outstanding publication for our Northeast Texas community to enjoy, learn and keep up with monthly events. Unfortunately the sales committee has only 5 volunteers for vendor contacts who are able to help this year. This limits our opportunity to provide the calendar to many gardeners in the surrounding communities.

If you are willing to be a vendor contact person, contact Jean Hudgins, at jlchone@suddenlink.net

The calendar is now available at the Extension office. The cost is \$7.00 each. For a preview of the cover, visit the SCMG website at <http://scmg.tamu.edu> "What's New?"



Fabulous Fall Festival Plant Sale

The SFA annual fall plant sale is scheduled for Saturday October 3rd at 9:00 AM in Nacogdoches. A link to their Plant List is available at "Coming Events" on the SCMG website.



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