



MG Grapevine

<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

October 2010

Volume 17

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

Number 10

NOTICE

**October 7th
MG Association
Meeting at the Rose
Garden Center
11:30 AM**

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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.

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October Meeting Program

The speaker for the October SCMG association meeting is Dick Counts. Mr. Counts has been a beekeeper in the Tyler area for 35 years. He will talk to us about bees that swarm at our homes and bee safety.

Fall Conference/Bulb Sale

This October 9th event includes an educational program along with an opportunity to purchase heirloom and unusual bulbs not normally found at local nurseries and retail stores.

Greg Grant will offer landscaping advice and ideas with a presentation titled "Right Plant, Right Place, Home Landscaping 101." Greg Grant is Lecturer in the School of Horticulture at Stephen F. Austin State University. He is also co-author, with William C. Welch, of the *Southern Heirloom Garden* (1995, Taylor Publishing, Dallas, Texas) and a regular contributor to Neil Sperry's Gardens magazine.

Smith County Master Gardener Merlin Eck will present a slide show providing information on the many varieties of bulbs for sale following the conference. The Smith County Master Gardeners will be available to assist the public and provide answers to gardening questions via a Help Desk.

Saturday, October 9, 2010. Doors open for registration at 8:00 a.m. The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. The Bulb Sale will follow starting at 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The conference location and bulb sale is at Harvey Hall, 2000 W Front Street, Tyler, Texas.

A complete list of all bulbs which will be on sale is available on the SCMG website. At <http://scmg.tamu.edu/> Go to October Coming Events.

Lifetime Member Program

The Lifetime Member program has been approved for implementation by the Executive Committee. Persons nominated for this honorary status must be a certified Master Gardener for at least five years, served with significant active participation, such as; elected officer, project/committee coordinator, other leadership position and/or high volunteer hours.

Those who may be nominated include individuals whose ability to volunteer is limited by age or physical problems or those who have continued interest, but no longer wish to volunteer. Nomination forms may be obtained from Martin Davis. Nominations will be considered by a committee made up of SCMG past-presidents and coordinated by Keith Hansen.

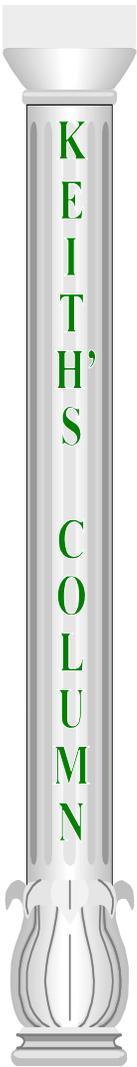
Those selected for this honor will be named at the annual Christmas luncheon in December. As Lifetime Members they will no longer be certified Master Gardeners, will have no requirement to volunteer on projects nor will they be required to pay association dues while they continue to participate in the activities of the SCMG.

Bylaw Change

The following change to the Bylaws of the SCMG is proposed for addition to Article III Membership:

"Section 5. Individuals, who have been named Lifetime Members under the program adopted by the Association, may participate in the activities of the SCMG. They will no longer be certified Master Gardeners, will have no requirement to volunteer on projects nor will they be required to pay association dues."

This proposed change will be presented at the October 7th association meeting and voted upon at the November meeting.



October is a busy month for us. But, it is full of the type of projects for which we are Master Gardeners – educating the public.

I hope you all can get over to the Fair before it is over on the 2nd and see first hand the Secret Garden in the AgriWorld Exhibit (it's in Building "E"). Hazel Bateman's leadership and vision has taken last year's great exhibit and with the help of so many Master Gardener volunteers, made it even better. Thanks to everybody who worked so hard this summer getting ready to lead the kids through "the garden", exploring what secrets are around the bend, teaching them where food comes from, the importance of water, how trees grow, the wonders of butterflies and metamorphous, and so much more. John Sykes, General Manager of the Fair, commented that the exhibit is "just wonderful, just wonderful".



The Rose Garden Docent training is October 4 – this is a great way to educate visitors to the Tyler Rose Garden about roses and gardening. Certified MG's earn CE's for attending the training, but you also have to agree to lead some tours over the next 12 months. Contact Lynne Merryfield today if you want to sign up!

We're also looking forward to another Fall Conference and Plant Sale. Greg Grant will be here and I'm looking forward to his new talk - "Right Plant, Right Place, Home Landscaping 101." The NE Texas Gardening Guide and Calendar is beautiful, and has hit the stands in many places. Thanks to everyone who produced the guide, and now to everyone involved in sales. Our goal this year is to sell them all, and everyone can help meet that goal.

Probably it will rain cats and dogs after writing this (I hope so), but it continues to be very dry across most of the area. Don't let your lawn and garden go into fall and winter in a stressed condition. Weakened plants are more susceptible to root rots and stem cankers, leading to gradual decline and potentially death. Be sure to renew mulch in your shrub and flower beds, and around recently planted trees where 3 to 4 inches should be maintained. Organic mulches break down quickly during the year.

We're getting ready to start recruiting for the next Master Gardener class. If you have friends who are interested, please be sure to encourage them to sign up. Just make sure they know about the volunteer requirements. Which reminds me, be sure to get your hours in. Time is running out! If you have hours, but not reported them, do so now, (stop reading this, get them on paper and send them to Martin – then you can keep reading). We can always use help in the office help desk (call first to find open slots). Remember that you can also get volunteer hours writing tips. If you are short of CE's be sure to attend the Fall Conference, 1st Tuesday in the Garden, and avail yourself to the online MG modules on Aggie Horticulture.

Glorious Fall, October At Last!

by Dee Bishop

There's lots to be done in October and 'Hallelujah', it's cool enough to do it. Flower beds need to be raked out. All the old diseased, droughty, and insect infested leaves that have fallen all summer need to be raked and disposed of (not composted).



Take cuttings of your treasured annuals and tropical perennials to carry through the winter. If you wait too long, the temp. will drop too low one night soon and they will not root. Coleus, begonias, impatiens, pentas, all do well in a sunny window and will bloom all winter. What better 'Christmas' flowers than red impatiens and begonias?

Dig caladiums if you haven't. Let them dry out for a week to ten days then store in old panty hose or mesh bags. Some make bags from nylon net to store bulbs in. Keep them in a warm dark closet. They do not like to be below 50 degrees.

October is prime bulb planting month. Buy your bulbs at our sale and get hoppin'. Refrigerate tulips and hyacinths for 8-10 weeks or more and plant in Dec. or Jan. They need cold winter to produce long stems and good blooms and we don't have it before December.

Sasanqua camellias come into bloom this month and now is a good time to choose new varieties for your landscape. There are many different ones. Some are very short, others are tall, while others are mid-size. Decide where you want them and choose accordingly. They are a marvelous shrub for our area if you can shade them from the hot afternoon sun.

October is prime time to plant hardy annuals and biennials for spring bloom. Hardy annuals to plant now are alyssum, larkspur, California poppy, annual poppies, annual phlox, pansy, viola, English daisy, cornflower, calendula, dianthus, daisia, nasturtium, snapdragon, stock, sweet pea, and a host of beautiful veggies that will rival the annual

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Coffee Walking

by Anne Pattullo - President SCMG Association



I had really hoped I would be writing this in cooler weather but no such luck! The extended heat and humidity with little rain has made a mess of my garden. The true tropicals are about all that look good – esperanza and lantana are my September stars. I will brag on the new Snow Princess allysm though. With a haircut in August, it is looking wonderful both at my home and in the

IDEA garden.

As I write this, the fair has just opened and our AgriWorld exhibit is outstanding! Hazel Bateman and her crew have done another wonderful job! They have been at work for several weeks creating a “stone” path throughout all the various rooms of the exhibit. Each room is full of valuable information for children and adults, as well as having a decorator’s touch! Even if you are not scheduled to work during our student days, please come out to the fair and take a walk through My Secret Garden. Many Master Gardener hands have helped put this together and the teamwork shows!

Calendar sales are going well also! To date we have taken in nearly \$2000! Mary Claire Rowe’s endorsements in her newspaper column have been most beneficial! Remember to think of them for gifts to helpful neighbors, hairdressers, and relatives. Take them to your organizational meetings and clubs. The Master Gardeners get the full \$7.00 when sold by members.

The Bulb Sale/Fall Conference comes right after AgriWorld! As soon as we clean up at the fairgrounds, we will start getting ready for our event at Harvey Hall on October 9th. We will need to be out digging bulbs the first week in October and need lots of strong backs. If you can help, please call Merlin Eck and volunteer your services. We will go as a group and dig where people have offered bulbs. There will also be the big bulb sacking day on October 8th at Harvey Hall and we need lots of hands for that! There will be a last minute opportunity to sign up at the SCMG Association meeting on October 7th, so check your calendars and plan to support the conference and sale as much as you can.

We have one more work event in October and that is The Rose Festival. We will be selling plants, answering questions and providing gardening information on Saturday and Sunday in the vendor area at the Rose Garden. Janice Suggs and her Rose docents will be guiding tours of the Rose Garden and Anne Brown, Dee Bishop and Craig Reiland will all be giving talks that weekend. I’d say the Smith County Master Gardeners will be well represented at the Rose Festival! Please sign up to help at the October general meeting or email either Sue Clark or myself if you can give some time.

We have had some great work crews in the Gardens the

last several weeks! Last Tuesday the AgriWorld workers and the garden workers all met for lunch at the Jalapeño Tree and we filled up half their patio!



Jean Smith snapped this picture of our group of tired sweaty people having a really great time! Come and join us, remember, many hands make light work and more time for FUN!



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

Anne Pattullo will again request the removal of the SCMG name from the Community Garden sign at McClendon House. (The sign has since been removed.)

Clayton Turner gave an update on the plans for the 2011 Home Garden Tour. Training curriculum for team leaders is almost ready for approval.

Martin Davis reported for the committee of past-presidents with plans for the Lifetime Member program. The program was approved, with the understanding that a bylaw revision is required. The bylaw amendment will be sent to the members, presented at the October meeting and voted on at the November membership meeting.

Craig Reiland reported on planning for the SCMG participation in Rose Festival Craft Fair. The MGs participation would include selling Earth-kind roses and other plants, similar to the spring Flower Market.

The 2011 Calendar is ready to sell. Jerry Mullins will be in charge of sales. The cost will remain at \$7.00.

The MGs will have a table with educational material at the Living Green Symposium on September 11th.

Donna Cole reported on the recent State MG Director's meeting which she attended.

Plant of the Month - Lycoris

by Herb Coursey

THEY'RE easily overlooked while their bud of tight clusters containing six to eight or more blooms creeps out of the ground and lifts slowly upward, each bud alone on the delicate, thin stem that requires only 3 or 4 days to reach its apogee, where the buds will overnight burst into a plethora of styles, stigmas, pistils, and stamens, all curling like eyelashes, that scream in a bright SCARLET COLOR. (Unnh!)



This is *Lycoris radiata*, a.k.a. "Spider Lily". Their bulbs are available from most nurseries, but in Texas the only source I know of for other colors is by ordering them from various bulb catalogs. *Radiata* is the cheapest - and I cannot imagine anything showier - but other colors include yellow (*L. aurea*), white (*L. albiflora*), and, of course the



most beguiling of all (*L. squamigera*), a luscious pink - a.k.a. "Nekkid Lady" - which indeed can completely inspire an early August garden, if you've enough of them! And, mind you, it is impossible to have enough *Lycoris* bulbs,

irrespective of color ... not to mention too many!

For one thing, those that seem to set seed, don't. Truth is, their seeds are nonviable. *Usually*. There are a few strains of *radiata* and of *squamigera* that do set, but - as with all the true legendary beauties of this world, don't depend on anything, just keep looking.

My Grandma Goggy had a few red ones in her garden in Trees City, LA, but I was too young to appreciate them. Many years later, when Josephine and I moved to Bloomington, Indiana, there was a front yard a couple of blocks down North Indiana Street that had a striking grove of what we were told were Nekkid Ladies. Well. Right there in the grass. No leaves. They were, of course, *L. squamigera* on 2-ft. stalks, and I have to tell you, they were unforgettable.

In Texas, *squamigeras* are scarce and far between, but 20-or-so years ago, there was an absolutely amazing display of the red *L. radiatas*, Spider Lilies, in Jefferson, TX. Practically the whole town. The bulbs that came to America originated from Asia (mostly China and Japan) and the Middle East, so whoever the early settlers were in Jefferson, they must've gotten them as pass-a-longs wherever they came from - East Coast or West Coast, maybe even Gulf Coast. In early Jefferson, they grew, multiplied, had divisions passed along to neighbors, and just kept on producing more bulbs. (Just as simply as daffodils and others did, until modern times.) The result is that, when you drive around in the old neighborhoods from about the 16th-to-25th of September in Jefferson, you get

to enjoy all those hundreds upon hundreds of "Spider Lily" descendants that line the front yard sidewalks, the flower beds in numberless old yards, and the other places that are just hither-and-yon in this dreamy old town that is nowadays little more than a village, really.

I believe that all people who talk about planting bulbs start from the bottom of the bulb, when they tell us at what depth the bulbs should be planted. Referring to Google and to bulb catalogs, some authorities say to plant any kind of *Lycoris* bulbs 6 inches deep. Others say to plant them 2" deep. Josephine say she thinks the smaller bulbs ought to go probably 3" deep, and somewhat more so for the mature bulb sizes. As usual, she consistently makes the most sense of anybody I know.

Other bulbs that sort of agree with "Spiders" about life in general are Oxblood lilies (*Rhodophiala bifida*) and Rain Lilies (*Zephyranthes* spp), native white marshy-area "Spring Spider Lilies" (*Hymenocallis*), *Amaryllis*, *Brunsvigia rosea*, and even the stem-bulbils from the stalks of Tiger lilies (*Lilium tigrinum*) 'ERB

Both *Lycoris radiata* and *squamigera* will be available at the SCMG Fall Bulb Sale as well as a number of the other bulbs mentioned above.

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flowers. Red mustard, colorful ~~cabbage and kale~~, Swiss chard, cardoon, salad burnet, and lettuces. Plant them among your flowers to accent their colors and snitch a few every so often for the salad bowl.

Divide and plant perennials, spray azaleas for lacebugs (if you had trouble), and fertilize chrysanthemums. A liquid fertilizer at 2 tbsp. per gal. every two weeks until color shows for mums.

SFA Gardens Hosts Fall Plant Sale

The annual Fabulous Fall Festival plant sale at Stephen F. Austin State University's Mast Arboretum will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, in the lower arboretum parking lot at 1924 Wilson Drive in historic Nacogdoches, Texas.

The event features the annual fall plant sale fundraiser benefitting the SFA Mast Arboretum, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, and educational programs hosted at the gardens.

According to Dawn Stover, Mast Arboretum research associate and sale coordinator, a wide variety of hard to find, "Texas tough" plants will be available, including proven perennials and Texas natives. This year's sale will feature the rare Mexican sugar maple (*Acer skutchii*), an SFA Gardens exclusive. Some of the better performing and hard to find azaleas will also be available, along with a large selection of drought tolerant plants.



Junior MG Group Visits Secret Garden

Earth-Kind® On-Line Master Gardener Training is designed to provide information on a variety of environmentally friendly (Earth-Kind®) practices for use in the home landscape and garden. As your interest and knowledge in this area grows you will have an increased awareness of the many programs, practices and activities that are Earth-Kind®.

Texas Master Gardeners can select from any of these on-line modules to obtain up to 3 hours of re-certification education credits in a calendar year. Each module is worth 1 hour of credit. Master Gardeners are not encouraged to seek re-certification credit for training modules they have completed in previous years.

Progress through the training program is tracked "on-line" and the results for each completed module are automatically forwarded to your county Master Gardener Coordinator.

Participation in the Earth-Kind® On-Line Master Gardener Training will assist Texas AgriLife Extension Service to promote principles and practices that help conserve and protect our state's valuable natural resources. Working together we can create a healthy and sustainable environment.



The Junior MG group from All Saints school visited the Secret Garden at the fair. The group leaders are George Weisser (pictured) and Jim Powell.

Changes

New e-mail - Herb Coursey courseyhj@hotmail.com
 New phone numbers:
 Debrah Golden 903-570-9204 (no longer uses land line)
 Jean Watson 903-316-5472 (no longer uses land line)

On September 7th the 1st Tuesday group moved indoors for the lecture by Anne Brown.



Photo by Bill Kelldorf

An unidentified MG relaxes at the Secret Garden.



Photo by Keith Hansen