



MG Grapevine

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NOTICE
September 2nd
MG Association
Meeting at the Rose
Garden Center
11:30 AM

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September Meeting Program

Our speaker this month is Jeff Abt photographer and garden/travel columnist for the *Nacogdoches Sentinel*. Jeff is the owner of a landscaping consulting business, is on the board of the SFA Mast Arboretum, lifetime member of the Southern Garden Historic Society, plus on the boards and committees of many historic associations.

He will be speaking to us on "The history of Gardening on the El Camino Real". Jeff is a highly sought after speaker.

Notice

The regular start time for work in the Heritage and IDEA gardens will be 8:30 am beginning September 7th. **If temperatures remain in the high 70's in the mornings, we will continue to start at 7:30 am.** An e-mail will be sent to let everyone know the start time until temperatures cool and it is safer to work later in the morning. Please check your e-mail or call one of the garden coordinators to be sure when to be at the gardens.

Lifetime Member

If you are no longer able to volunteer on MG programs, but would like to continue to be a part of the SCMG association, we may have an opportunity for you.

For several months a committee made up of SCMG Association past-presidents has been meeting together discussing the appropriate program for those who might participate.

They have put together a program and will be presenting it to the Executive Committee for their consideration at their September meeting.

Help Wanted

Sign-up to help with the Secret Garden at the fair. Contact Hazel Bateman at 903-839-2221 to find how you can help.

Earth-Kind Rose Trials

In Lindsay Park in West Tyler the SCMG's planted 90 roses, 30 varieties in three beds, as an Earth-Kind Rose Trial. This is part of the national trials in which Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M University are participating. Dr. Steve George, Extension Landscape Specialist is directing these trials.

Three years ago, after soil tests and large amounts of finished compost incorporated into the rows, the roses were planted without fertilizer in sandy soil, had a drip irrigation system installed, and were mulched. Nothing else has been added since, no fertilization or treatment for insects or diseases. Since January, 2010 a monthly evaluation has been conducted on each rose. The rating scale is 0-10 and reflects the plant's overall landscape performance. The plants are evaluated for vigor, foliage quantity and color, blossom quantity and quality, fragrance, disease and insect tolerance/resistance, soil tolerance and growth habit. At the end of this third year a final evaluation for each rose will be calculated and included in the results from other trial gardens.



The Knockout Rose varieties have been some of the best performers, producing blooms and healthy foliage. The Blushing Knockout has been the

exception with problems most of the early spring, but is now recovering. The Fairy, only rose with 'The' included in its name, has been an interesting performer. All three bushes are totally different. One bush has sprawled to cover almost all of the area between the bushes on each side, one is totally upright, and one is a combination. One has lots of dead canes, one is blooming and the other is a combination.

See **Earth-Kind**, page 4

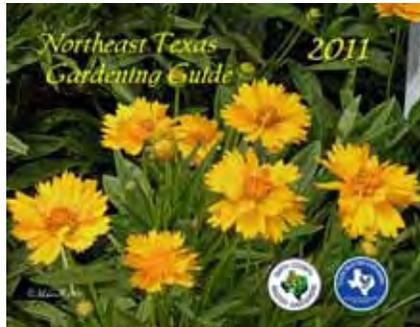


I hope you and your gardens are surviving this heat and drought. Hopefully September will soon bring relief. Thanks to all who continue to come out to help in the demonstration gardens. They are an important component of our educational programs, and they continue to look great despite the weather extremes, thanks to all you volunteers! Hazel Bateman and her crew are busy preparing for the Secret Garden exhibit in the AgriWorld exhibits at the East Texas State Fair at the end of this month. While many of the exhibit themes remain the same, more space and bigger ideas mean some changes to the displays. Hazel would welcome a call from you to see how you can help out, either in preparation or during the event itself. The Fair is from September 23 – October 2, and the school tours are the 27th – 30th.

Merlin Eck and his crew are also getting ready for the Fall Conference and Bulb Sale (October 9). This project has the dual function of a great educational program for the general public and an important fundraiser that helps underwrite our other educational projects and programs. Spread the word.

The *2011 Northeast Texas Gardening Guide and Calendar* is hot off the press. The calendar

cover features a photo by Mary Claire Rowe of bright yellow Coreopsis, sure to attract attention. Thanks to Shirley Hightower for all her leadership and hard work up to this point, and to Scherel Carver for her labor of typesetting. Also, thanks to the artists and writers to help make this a quality publication! This is another dual function project as the Guide is packed with educational information geared for our clientele in Northeast Texas, and is another important fundraiser. You'll be hearing more about how you can help by selling calendars to those in your circle of travels.



Want to learn more about some important garden pests? Attend the 1st Tuesday in the Garden, noon, September 7 at the IDEA Garden when Anne Brown will share about knowing and dealing with thrips, scale and mites (and who knows what else). 1 CEU awarded for attending.

Next time you're at the IDEA Garden, check out the new arbor and bench in the south section. Thanks to Gary Dobbs for his great fabrication work!! This is a nice addition to that section of the garden.

Have you checked out the SCMGA web site? Martin Davis is doing a fabulous job of keeping it up-to-date and attractive! Thank you Martin for all you do for our organization, including keeping track of all our hours and for editing the Grapevine Newsletter.

I hope to see you at some of our many upcoming activities and events. Keith

Very Small, Very Lovely Trees

by Dee Bishop

I just love tiny trees! They have so much to offer the landscape. Some can grow under story, some provide just the fullness needed without the 'hugeness' at corners of a home, or just add little exclamation points of interest throughout the garden.



I have a 'Traveler' redbud at the corner of my sidewalk and driveway. I needed something slightly tall, (10 ft.) and fairly slim there. My tree is about 6 yrs. old and maybe 5 ft. tall and 3 ft. wide, just perfect for its space.

There are of course crape myrtles that do not exceed 10' tall. They do get fairly wide. You can have beautiful flowers all summer and choose from a variety of colors.

There are so many Japanese maples that will fit into any space. Most of the shorter ones grow much wider than tall; so be sure and research before you decide which one is for you. I have several, all sizes from 2-3'x5', 10'x10', 15'x6-8', 5'x6' and three that are about 20' and 10-15' wide. They have lovely leaves, beautiful spring and fall color and such beautiful shapes. There is a perfect little maple tree for any space.

Styrax trees are lovely also. I have the native American one as well as a Japanese variety. Both are lovely, but the American Styrax or 'Snowbell' tree is by far the loveliest, I think. It is much smaller and tougher. I have one that has come through many hot droughty summers in fine fettle. It isn't a raving beauty, but has a lovely withsome sort of shape and pretty little white bell shaped flowers in spring.

Look for some of the small Japanese magnolias for beautiful bloom in spring. The little star magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*) is absolutely beautiful in late winter and early spring. It's bark and free form shape are pretty enough, but when it is covered in small white stars, it is breath-taking. It will get about 20' max. and maybe 12' wide. Plant some little yellow daffodils under it for a beautiful spring show. *Pilosa phlox* are also beautiful under it.

There are many more pretty little trees. Look for them and use them for emphasis in your garden.

Coffee Walking

by Anne Pattullo - President SCMG Association



That time of year has arrived when it is hard to come up with topics for a gardening column. After being gone for 25 days, I arrived home to more weeds than I would have believed possible. The phlox had succumbed to mildew, the Goldsturm Rudbekia was all stalks and black seed heads, my toad lily had burned up and the lawn was suffering from cinch bugs. One

pleasant surprise was the dwarf Firebush I had completely given up on has a 6 inch sprout! I guess Firebush is an apt name – it has to be hot as fire for it to grow! Thanks to good neighbors, though, all the container pots looked great and Ellie had obviously been well fed! She also found a new friend while we were gone. Now we have a little gray kitten going on our coffee walks. Often it's a threesome with the lab, the cat and the cocker. I tried to get a picture of all three together but just too much movement!

I was sure it would be cool in Russia but no such luck. They were having one of the hottest summers on record there. On the last day in country, we got to experience the terrible smoky air covering much of Russia due to raging forest fires. I caught a stomach virus and spent the day in a 9th floor hotel room with no air conditioning or even a ceiling fan. Things improved when we went to Michigan. We spent a day on beautiful Mackinac Island. The temperature was perfect and the many cottage gardens were in full bloom. I am glad to be home, though, and truly did miss my Tuesdays in the IDEA garden. I was pleased to find it looking really lovely and hardly a weed to be found.

Master Gardeners have lots of events coming up in the next couple of months. Please try to give a few hours to help at AgriWorld the last week in September. Plan to stay and enjoy the East Texas State Fair after you help out. We will provide an education table at the second annual Living Green seminar on September 11. You could earn hours helping with that. October means the bulb sale and we will need all hands for sacking and working the sale. Then, right after the bulb sale there will be an opportunity to help with the Rose Festival activities. Give a Tuesday morning and come help with fall planting at one of the gardens, then join the work crew for lunch and fellowship. If you can think of a retail outlet in your area that might be willing to sell our calendar, please let Shirley Hightower or Jerry Mullins know. It is here now and looks great! We want to put it in as many places as possible. Lastly, be thinking about scarecrows. They have been a big hit in the IDEA garden the last two years.

Let's hope the heat abates soon and that we get some nice rains. I'm looking forward to October, one of the nicest months to live in East Texas and a great month for gardening!

Good Bug – Bad Bug

by Anne Brown



Mites are not insects but are real pests in all of North America. They are related to chiggers and ticks, are mostly microscopic, have eight (8) legs and mouth parts adapted for piercing plant tissues or skin on humans and animals and sucking fluids or blood. Their colors can range from yellow, yellow-green, red or spotted. In mild climates mites can be active year round, over wintering on host plants, in cracks in the soil and/or in garden debris. The spherical shaped eggs are laid on the underside of plant leaves or in webs and are clear to yellow in color. After several instars, the adults mature in as little as five to twenty days, mate and the cycle starts again, meaning several generations can be produced in a year. When the food supply diminishes the adults spin threads to float on the wind to new host plants. Most gardeners are familiar with Spider Mites, tiny mites that cause plant leaves to turn yellow, then bronze and then drop off the plant. Using their mouthparts they pierce the plant cells and suck the contents. They concentrate along the leaf midrib or large veins which causes a stippling. When the plant is heavily infested mites will often spin webs on the foliage. Another spider mite is the Southern Red Mite which is active in our cooler seasons. To determine if mites are a problem on your plants, place a piece of white paper under the leaf and tap the leaf. Often there will be small red spots on the paper. Use a miticide or heavy sprays of water to disrupt the life cycle of the mites. These treatments must be repeated several times before the mites are gone.

The Two-Spotted Mite is the most damaging worldwide with a wide range of host plants, and is very common on household plants. They are straw-colored with dark blotches on each side of the body. Broad Mites are a particular problem in greenhouses.

Many people are infected by House Dust Mites that feed on shed human skin cells. These mites can cause bronchial asthma, nasal and skin allergies. Dust mites can lay up to 50 eggs each that mature in three weeks.

Recently there has been a lot of concern about honey bee colonies that have been infected by the Honey Bee Mite. These mites, white colored, invade the bee's respiratory system, puncture the breathing tubes and suck blood. Another bee mite is Varroa. This mite can be seen with the naked eye. They are brown colored, resemble a tortoise on the bee and also feed on body fluids. Both can weaken and/or destroy a colony.

Texas AgriLife Extension
A Field Guide to Common Texas Insects-Drees & Jackman
Garden Insects of North America - WhitneyCranshaw

Executive Committee

The planned picnic at Jim Powell's lake site has been rescheduled to October 21st.

The Community Garden sign a McClendon House will be removed, inasmuch as the SCMGs no longer participate.

The committee heard a report from the Emeritus/Lifetime member group which has been meeting. They will continue to meet and plan to have a more complete report at the August meeting.

Rhonda Rholes reported that the Fall Conference/Bulb sale will include reblooming iris and daylilies this year. Greg Grant will speak at the October 9th event.

Pat Welch advised that the Human Resources notebook was now complete and available for reference in the Master Gardener office area. All of the files included in the book are also on the MG computer. A backup copy of the data will be kept on a thumb drive or a CD.

Craig Reiland spoke to the committee concerning SCMGs involvement at the Rose Festival this year. He proposed a Flower Mart, similar to the spring event, selling roses and other plant material. Craig will provide more detail at the August 26th Executive Committee meeting.

New Address

Julia Squibb - 102 Lake Lou Ella Dr., Bullard, TX 75757

Earth-Kind - continued from page 1

Penelope is fragrant, had lots of blooms in August but also had dead foliage and canes. The same rose in another bed had healthy foliage and blooms.

There are several rose bushes that have died and some not so well known varieties have done as well as the Knockouts. This article cannot cover all 90 bushes but it will be very interesting to see which roses receive a high score at the end of the year. Please visit the rose trials to see for yourself, especially in October when they should be in peak bloom. Anne Brown

See <http://scmg.tamu.edu/mg-projects/assisting-research/> for the story of the development/planting and pictures of the roses.

Coming Events

Sept 7th **1st Tuesday in the Garden** - noon in the IDEA Garden

Sept 11th **Living Green Seminar** - Harvey Hall 9 AM - 4 PM

Sept 23rd-Oct 3rd **AgriWorld/Secret Garden** - ET State Fair

Oct 2nd **Fall Plant Sale at SFA** - 9 AM-2 PM

Oct 9th **Fall Conference/Bulb Sale** - Harvey Hall doors open at 8 AM, Conference 9 AM, Bulb Sale 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM.

For more details on any event, visit:

<http://scmg.tamu.edu/coming-events/>



1517 West Front St. Suite 116
Tyler, TX 75702



Site for new arbor



Jim Powell & Gary Dobbs prepare site



Checking out the new arbor - nice!

On August 17, 2010 SCMGs gathered at the IDEA for a Tuesday workday. Some did their usual thing, while others installed the arbor built by Gary Dobbs. See the pictures above.



Sue Adee directs



Cindy Harrington prunes

Photos above by Bill Kelldorf

Back home at Anne Pattullo's house, her dog Ellie has a new friend. Read about their friendship in Anne's *Coffee Walking* column.



Ellie & Snickers
photo by Anne Pattullo