



# MG Grapevine

<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

**MG Association Meeting**  
**August 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:30AM**  
**Rose Garden Center**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keith's Column – pg. 2
- Caladiums – pg. 2
- Plants are Wilting – pg. 3
- New E-mail – pg. 3
- Labradorean Violet - pg. 3
- Wildseed Farm – pg. 4
- Wildscape Demo - pg.4

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## August Association Meeting

Sharon Smith of *Blue Moon Gardens* will show us a Power Point presentation on "Texas Tuff" Perennials.



Sharon Lee Smith and Mary Wilhite started Blue Moon as wholesale growers of herb plants then expanded to cottage flowers and perennials. The retail location opened in 1993 and the 12 greenhouses on site are now used for growing herbs, perennials, old fashioned flowers and unusual annuals for the retail nursery. Read more about Blue Moon Gardens at [www.bluemoongardens.com](http://www.bluemoongardens.com).

## People's Picks 2012

The Overton Field Day was held on June 28 this year with a turnout of over 200 persons. Each person was given two flags to pick their favorite. The top vote getter was a favorite of past Field Days, Rudbeckia Denver Daisy (Benary). For second was newcomer petunia Surfinia Patio Indigo (Suntory). Next was begonia Sparks Will Fly (Burpee Home Garden).

Go to <http://flowers.tamu.edu/peoples-picks/> for a complete list and more information.

## Texas Superstars and Texas Native Plants

Master Gardeners - Do you have these blooming in your garden this summer? AgriWorld is looking for photos of superstars and natives in bloom for the exhibit at the state fair. We would like individual pictures of TX superstars and TX native plants. One picture of the bloom and one of the plant. If you have something growing and blooming in your garden, please snap a digital photo and email it to us with the plant name. The committee will print it and use it in the exhibit. We really need help with this part of the project so everyone get out your camera and photograph your beautiful gardens.

If you need to see a list of superstars, please visit the website:

<http://texassuperstar.com/plants/index.html>



Pictures can be of annuals, perennials, trees, woody shrubs, specialty plants.

Thank you for the help in making this project a success.

Contact us with any questions.

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As expected, we continue to see more trees crater and die this summer. What about all the rain we had this spring? For some of these trees, it was too late; the damage was already done. Most trees that died last year were probably already stressed and had other problems that made them susceptible to the brutal drought and heat. Of course, the summer stressed all plants, and those with pre-existing stresses were stressed even further. Hypoxylon canker is killing a lot of trees, especially oaks, but it needs weakened and stressed trees.

There's a good news release out today from Dr. Eric Taylor, Extension Forester at Overton, which discusses in more detail what is killing trees. Click the link and read up on this topic: <http://today.agrilife.org/2012/07/20/2011-tree-deaths/>

With August brings Master Gardener preparation work for upcoming programs. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the Garden starts up in September. I hope you would come out to learn, and to support, your fellow Master Gardeners who volunteer to provide this free educational information. **Certified MG's also will earn one CE hour by attending.**

All of you should have seen the request back in June for help for our AgriWorld exhibit at the East Texas State Fair, called Our Secret Garden. And the recent request for photos of Texas Superstar and/or native plants. I hope many more of you will respond to the call, and help out in one way or another. This is a big project, and many hands helping make light work, and a more enjoyable time for all. Hazel and Jean are once again planning improvements, making the display different from year to year to keep the attention of both the kiddos who participate in the school tours, and the adults and kids who stroll the exhibits. This award-winning project (2011 - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Project award at the Texas Master Gardener Conference) is a lot of fun to be involved with, from generating ideas, creating posters and displays, to setting up the exhibit starting in early September, to helping out during the Fair with the various jobs. Contact Hazel Bateman or Jean Smith to see how you can be involved and help!

And in October the Fall Gardening Conference and Bulb Sale, Bulbs & More, is coming up, and no doubt there will be much to do in preparation for this event. Be watching for requests for help, and come forward to volunteer.

Don't let the year whiz by without getting your volunteer and continuing education hours. And, please contact

Martin Davis or me if you have any concerns about where you are at regarding your status.

Class 19 interns – please regularly check your calendar, and keep your commitments for the Gardens and Office Help Desk dates. If you cannot make a certain date in the demonstration gardens, please let the Garden coordinators know. If you cannot make your appointed time for the Help Desk, contact the secretaries. We are counting on your participation, and you will always learn something new in any project you are involved with.

Speaking of secretaries, stop by and say “hi” to our newest secretary, Carolyn Chalender. She is the new Family & Consumer Sciences, Better Living for Texans (BLT) and Cooperative Extension Program secretary. Also, starting July 30, we will have a new staff member, Ashley Pellerin, Cooperative Extension Agent. She will be serving limited resource clients in the county. And, we have another new face in the office – Jessie Bell, whose title is Cancer Prevention Patient Navigator for the East Extension Region.

Have fun, and stay cool. Keith

## Caladiums

By Sue Adee

Caladiums are one of my favorite plants for shade. They add color and texture to the garden. So, after reading an article in Louisiana Gardener, I decided to plant some caladiums in hot west sun, to see if Professor Yan Chen's three year evaluation on caladiums for sun would work in the Tyler area.

I planted a strap pink named 'Candyland', one of his recommendations for full sun, and as of this writing it is doing just fine. I will let you know in September if the caladiums make it through August.



The other top performers he recommends for sun are:  
 Fancy red: 'Fire Chief'  
 Fancy pink: 'Elise' and 'Carolyn Whorton'  
 Fancy white: 'Moonlight' and 'White Queen'  
 Strap red: 'Lance Whorton' and 'Rosemary'  
 Strap white: 'White Delight', 'White Dynasty', 'White Wing' and 'White Wonder'

## HELP! MY PLANTS ARE WILTING

By Dee Bishop

Perhaps you have noticed certain plants, like hydrangeas, impatiens, tomatoes or other plants wilted nearly completely down. You look again in the late evening and find the plant turgid. What causes this and what do you do? It's quite common in summers that are very humid as well as hot. You feel the ground and find it moist. Does the plant need more water?



**DO NOT WATER!!!** If they are not wilting from lack of moisture, they do not need more water. Let them dry before watering. When temperatures reach the nineties and night temperatures reach near 80 degrees the plants begin gasping for breath---breath that is not there. They need cooler nights in order for their metabolisms to slow down. Plants need rest too you know; only they get very little in hot humid times. It is at this time they go into dormancy. Their growth slows down, bloom decreases or the blooms get smaller and fewer. **DO NOT FERTILIZE!!!** They are using all their energy to hold themselves up and cannot take up the nutrients in the fertilizer. Just keep them on the dry side, but not bone dry. Diseases like rhizoctonia, pythium, and phytophthora show up to cause root rot. Constantly wet soil in high temps and humidity are magnets for those dread diseases that are sure to kill.

A few tips to help them through the late summer: use some shade cloth or build a 'roof' over their heads with PVC pipe and shade cloth. Now is also a good time to use the Wilt Proof. Spray their leaves and the milky substance will shade them. Keep them mulched to cool roots. **DO NOT WATER** if the ground is moist at all.

If you have not cut back your perennials by now, do so. By cutting them back, you reduce the plant size and help it get through the heat. When the weather cools down, they will take off again. That's when you fertilize. Watch for insects and disease. While the plants are stressed, those things really take advantage of their weakened condition. Go around your yard and notice plant stress and take charge of the situation quickly so you can keep those plants healthy and happy.

### New E-mail Address

Sunny Rogerson – [claddaghsgirl@suddenlink.net](mailto:claddaghsgirl@suddenlink.net)

## Plant of the Month – Labradorean Violet

By Herb Coursey

About 3 years back I was browsing what I call the "oddities" table at Lowe's. Two little plants were there, decked with heart-shaped leaves, each of about an inch width, and of just slightly more length. Their rich green was mottled with deep veins shaded gradually into darkening purple near where the leaves join onto their petioles. So small and so simple the plants were, but their tops were



full of gorgeous violet blooms, each one about the size of your little fingernail. "Mm-Mmh! How much?" I mused. A buck each, it turned out. Hah! SO WHY NOT?

They live with us now: we've been close friends for a long time, now. They like mostly shade, but do fine even in Texas sun. They require decent drainage, but must, like us, have a sip of just water occasionally. They grow some 2" high, a bit more or less. They can bloom winter, spring and fall. The plant is beautiful in summer, too, but I think they feel it too hot for them to get romantically inclined. Nonetheless, they will grow splendid green carpet patches over your soil with the beauty of each plant. Most of the time - excepting summer - they will decorate themselves with blooms in every direction. In our 50 yd. wide backyard garden, during more beguiling seasons of weather, they have strewn seeds that seem to adore starting up new plants between the pathway stones, and alongside the 6" high railway ties that border and lift up our flowerbeds. We began our gardenscaping for this house with Dwarf Mondo Grass. And it's done well. But the Labradorean Violets have such charm! and beauty! and abundance! (And Lordy! They are CHEAP!) According to maps in *GOOGLE*, they seem to grow not only in Labrador, but just about anywhere they can get a handle!

We've started giving it away to select friends. Former Tylerites Linda and Richard Stallcup of Lawrenceville, Georgia were here last week visiting Annah and John Wright at Lake Tyler, and we dug up some healthy little plants and gave one to each couple for their gardens.

What a good time we all had! And so, why not give a dozen or so of our plants to interested MGs at the September meeting? Yeah! That's what we're gonna do! So if you somehow don't get one, give us a call at 903-581-2331, and tell us when you would like to come by (3405 Colgate Ave). To get yours, phone us when you plan to be here, and we'll have it ready for you! (I hope!) - ( 'erb) Enjoy!



**Master Gardeners of Texas - Please join us for the 2012 FALL PLANTING DAYS KICK-OFF**

**Free Seminar Series September 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Wildseed Farms Market Center near Fredericksburg, Texas will host its annual Fall Planting Days Kick-Off September 14 - 16, 2012. John R. Thomas, founder and president of Wildseed Farms, will lead an informative daily session and demonstration from 2:00 to 4:00 pm each day on how to successfully grow bluebonnets and other wildflowers.

Wildseed Farms is the largest family-owned wildflower farm in the United States. Wildseed Farms Market Center is located seven miles east of Fredericksburg on US Highway 290 and is open daily from 9:30 to 6:00 pm CDT. **No reservations necessary!**

[www.wildseedfarms.com](http://www.wildseedfarms.com) or call toll-free:800-848-0078

**New Wildscape Demo Site**

Take a short drive to Tyler's Nature Center, east of Tyler on FM848 and check out the new Native Plant demo garden at the Visitor's Center.



Recently planted by Tyler's Native Plant Society.



A friend told me about this and thought I might enjoy a visit, as you may also.

Martin Davis

**Chihuly Night**

A group of SMGs enjoyed a bus trip on June 28th to the Dallas Arboretum to view the Chihuly art display. Jim Powell sent along pictures he took that evening. Here a few for your enjoyment.

