



MG Grapevine

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MG Association Meeting
June 7th 11:30 AM
Rose Garden Center

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June Association Meeting

David Gary will be offering a Power Point presentation about the Dale Chihuly Exhibit currently on display at the Dallas Arboretum.



He is one of only four Americans to have a one-man show at the Louvre Museum in Paris. Referring to his work, Chihuly asserts, "I want my work to look like it just happened as if it was made by nature."

Scholarship at SFASU

The SCMG Association offers two scholarships each year to deserving students, one each at Texas A&M and at SFA State University.

A note from Elyce Rodewald advised that, "We are excited to again offer the scholarship to Casey Thomas, who will be a senior horticulture major in Fall 2012. She works as a student assistant at the SFA Mast Arboretum, is an active member of the Horticulture Club and is an excellent student. Casey's home is near Lake Cherokee, so she is a Smith County neighbor as well.

Please extend our sincere thanks to your members for your continued support of our students and of the horticulture program at SFA." Elyce Rodewald

Numbers - Numbers

Some people just don't like numbers

very much. Maybe that is because math was always a pain when they were in



school or maybe it is a more recent dislike when they looked at the numbers on the gas pump as they filled the tank on their car. Having said that, the numbers we report each month as volunteer hours are important, no matter how we feel about numbers.

All of the volunteer hours reported since 1996 to the present are available as computer files. During those years 151,299 volunteer hours were reported. The dollar value of volunteer hours in the independent sector are published yearly and on the basis of their numbers, the Smith County Master Gardeners have contributed their time to the tune of over \$2,785,900. Wow! How about those numbers?

Master Gardeners, now that you know why it is important to report your volunteer hours – have you reported your hours lately? Don't procrastinate. If you have not done so lately, send in your report today.



Everyone hold out your right hand, and pat yourself on the back! This is for being recognized by your peers at the Texas Master Gardener Conference in San Antonio for the excellent programs you all have had a part in last year. We submitted 9 award applications and placed in all but the Association category. We received 4-1st place awards: Education Award for the Secret Garden project at the East Texas State Fair; Project Award for the Home Garden Tour; Mass Media Award for publicity related to 1st Tuesday in the Garden series; and Graphics Award for the IDEA Garden PowerPoint that used at the Spring Landscape and Garden Conference (by the way, that PowerPoint is available for anyone to use for a speaker bureau program). 2nd place awards: Publication Award for the Home Garden Tour Guide Book, Newsletter Award for the Grapevine you are currently reading; and Individual Master Gardener Award for Pat Welch; and finally, 3rd place: Web Site Award for our SCMG web site. With that great showing, we are scratching our heads why we did not place for the Association Award, but I think you are tops in that category! Thanks to all who wrote up the awards and to Mary Hamlin who did the final editing and prepared them for submittal!! It's a challenge to adequately describe in enough detail our programs and projects in only 150 words!

Be sure and mark your calendar for June 28 and head out to the Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center to attend the annual Horticulture Field Day. At this free event you will see the fruits (and flowers) of the hard work of several of your fellow Master Gardeners who have volunteered to help Dr. Brent Pemberton, AgriLife Research horticulturist and chair of the Texas Superstar executive board, seed and transplant thousands of plants in this extensive research and trial program. Morning is spent touring the fields and demonstration gardens, and following a complimentary lunch, indoor programs featuring what's new and hot, by Dr. Brent Pemberton and Jimmy Turner, Horticulture Director of the Dallas Arboretum. For more information, see <http://flowers.tamu.edu>

Speaking of Dr. Pemberton and Texas Superstars, they just announced the newest member of the Texas Superstars – gomphrena. While this has been an heirloom plant for generations (Thomas Jefferson grew and wrote

about it), breeding has increased diversity in plant stature and colors. It is a great hot weather plant for our typical summers.

Junior MGs Graduate

A group of Smith County MGs have been teaching a group of future Junior Master Gardeners during the fall and winter semester at All Saints Episcopal School in Tyler. On May 9th at a ceremony held during 3rd and 4th grade chapel service, seven students received their certification.



Pictured above, in addition to the students, are (from left; Dr. Lucy Perry, lower school science teacher, George Weisser, Harvey Collen, Jean Smith and Jim Powell.

In addition to those pictured above, Keith Hansen, Pat Welch, Anne Brown, and Ken Stegall also participated. Guest speakers included the Honey Princess Hayden Wolfe, Mike Norris of Tyler Water Dept., Bill Farrar of Rubicon Birds and James Wilhite of Wilhite Landscaping & Lawn Care.

Thank You

I appreciate the many calls and cards I received since my husband passed away. I enjoyed seeing you at the visitation and service. Thank you for being such wonderful friends through the years. Hope to see you again soon.

June McClain

Fall Garden Conference – New Name



For years it has been called the *Fall Gardening Conference and Bulb Sale*, but now that is changing. The new name is *Bulbs and More*.

Not only that, the event will have new and exciting things to offer. As details become available, we will let you know.

The date for the event remains October 13, 2012.

New E-mail Address

Gary & Kay Dobbs - kdobbs@nctv.com

NEW PLANTS TO LOOK FOR

by Dee Bishop

I went to the Hughes Plant Farm yesterday to pick up a few things for the IDEA Garden. As I hurried through, I was stopped dead in my tracks. There before me was the cutest little tuffet of white blooms. Looking closer, I saw it was an althea. "Lil Kim" is



her name and she is a dwarf!! This little gem was covered with white flowers with red eyes. The plant was about 18"x18" and the blooms were single and smaller than the old time one. So unique and perfect

for a smaller garden! The tag with it didn't tell me much except it is a dwarf. Will it be like the dwarf burford holly (15x15)? I don't know, but there is one in the IDEA Garden right now. We will be watching to see how it performs.

I also picked up a Trumpet vine that claims to be dwarf and well-mannered. It is really pretty. I know David Creech has a trial garden planted with trumpet vines. He says some are very well behaved. I hope this little gem is one of those. We need more well-behaved vines to use in our gardens. Most are so rambunctious and beastly.

We are trying Gloriosa Lilies this year for the first time. They are blooming right now and are fabulous. Of course whether they are spunky enough to take our summer remains to be seen. If they do, we have a new gem. They are tropical so we are hoping they are tough, even though they look delicate.

Aubrey King also had a new (to us anyway) porterweed. We have grown porterweed in the past and liked them, even though they get very large. They are especially loved by butterflies and hummingbirds. This one has bright red blooms whereas the others had either purple or salmon blooms. This little red one is also small. I saw one in Houston and it was wonderful, about 2'x2' and covered with blooms. You can purchase one at King's Nursery in Tenaha.

It always thrills me to find some new plant that will fill special areas with color all season. The althea should be a winner for sure, even if it doesn't stay 2'x2'. I think it will probably get more like 4'x4', still a dwarf compared to its parents. The trumpet vine is beautiful, even the wild monster is, and if this one remains well-mannered, it will be a real winner. The lily vine (Gloriosa lily) is new and a complete trial. We will see. The little porterweed is lovely and who cares if it gets 3-4' tall or remains the true dwarf it appears to be, it is a winner. FUN, FUN, FUN!



YELLOW-FLOWERED Texas Red Yucca (?!?!)

by Herb Coursey

Finding this plant growing and blooming in the desert of the Southwestern USA must have been a really exciting moment! Josephine and I had just a taste of that experience when we bought many different cactus-type plants from Blue Moon Nursery.



Before the MG Garden Tour visited us in 2008, we got enough cactus-like plants of different kinds to fill 4 identical square-shaped plastic pots, each being about 2 ft. x 2 ft. and 15" deep; each one having a 2-inch deep reservoir at their bottoms, to catch and contain surplus water. All 4 pots do still contain long, skinny foliage that is Yucca-looking. We thought we were planting Red-Flowered Yuccas in all of them. It turns out 2 of the pots annually do produce 1 or more sprays (up to 7) of red-blooms. The other 2 just did not bloom. Until now! (Josephine says she saw it before this year, but I did not.)

Description from High Country Gardens' catalog: "Hesperaloe parviflora 'YELLOW'": 4' x 3' wide (division). This is a rare and very desirable variety discovered by southwestern native plant expert Ron Goss of Phoenix, AZ. H.P. YELLOW blooms all summer with long wands of soft-yellow flowers. It is identical to the red form in its growth



and habit and hardiness."

Our pots are placed in the driveway to the side of our house, just before the carport. If you would like to see it, please come to our house, 3405 Colgate Ave., 75701, off Amherst and east of Broadway.

You can contact us at 903-581-2331 or hjcoursey@hotline.net. Please be sure NOT TO OPEN THE GATE: the dog may flee and it can take several miles and a couple or more hours to get him back!

Thank you! - 'erb

P.S. Come soon. It is at its peak of bloom now

1st Tuesday in the Garden Features Herbs

"First Tuesday in the Garden" is Tuesday, June 5th, at noon in the IDEA Garden at the Tyler Rose Garden.

This month's topic is "Herbs for the Garden and Table." Veteran Master Gardener Patsy Besch will share her knowledge in growing and using culinary herbs. Most basic herbs such as thyme, basil, sages and oregano grow readily in East Texas soils with some acting as perennials coming back year after year. Fennel and dill can be used in the kitchen and also to draw swallow tail butterflies to the garden. Some gardeners prefer to use the triple curled parsley to border their beds as it displays a wonderful rich green even through the winter months. Those wanting to add flavor to their culinary endeavors and to their gardens will enjoy this educational event.

This June program ends the first half of the Master Gardeners' Lecture series due to the forthcoming heat July through August. Lectures will resume on September 4th with a presentation on garden path design.

Smith County MGs Attend Regional Conference



Pictured above are Sue Adee, Juanita Price, Anne Pattullo, and Joanie Matthews who attended the Southern Region Master Gardeners Conference at Natchez Mississippi. The picture was taken on the Longwood Mansion grounds.

