



MG Grapevine

<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

MG Association Meeting

May 3rd 11:30 AM
Rose Garden Center

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keith's Column – pg. 2
- Facebook Conn. – pg. 2
- 1st Tues. in Garden – pg. 2
- A Word of Caution – pg. 2
- Sedums- pg.3
- Moses in Cradle – pg. 3
- Caladiums – pg. 3
- Ex. Comm. notes – pg. 4
- Home Tour book – pg. 4
- Conference code – pg. 4

MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Sue Adee, Dee Bishop, Jana Bowman, Keith Hansen, David Pierson and Jim Powell.

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.

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.



Improving Lives. Improving Texas

"Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education."

Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980

Fax - 903-590-2984

May Association Meeting

The meeting this month will have a presentation by Mark Tietz, City of Tyler Arborist.

His program for our monthly meeting is entitled "Leaving a Legacy: How to Protect Trees."



Address Book

Each Master Gardener who attended the April MG luncheon should have picked up a copy of the new 2012-2013 Address Book. For those who did not pick up a book or did not attend, you may pick up a book at the MG office. They are in the bottom drawer of the MG desk.

Some errors have been found, including the following:

Sunny Rogerson – The e-mail address should be sunni1sobblue@att.net (the number 1 follows sunni).

Ann Smith - The e-mail address should be smithvae@aol.com. The number 75707 is her zip code which somehow moved onto the line in front of the e-mail address.

Sherri Matthews – The e-mail address should be matthews1952@sbcglobal.net (the word global was misspelled.)

Jack Quisenberry – His last name is not Queensberry.

New Project Leader

Pat Walker has volunteered to be the Phone Tree coordinator. Those of you without e-mail will be hearing from her whenever messages are sent to the MGs.

Annual Awards

The April meeting, besides being a wonderful potluck, is the time for the presentation of awards.

The **Master Gardener of the Year** was Donna Cole and the **Interns of the Year** were Monette and Charlie Coleman.

Project of the Year was for the Tyler Day Nursery, awarded to Joann Adair.

A special **Friend of Master Gardeners** award went to Daniel Duncum, Urban Forester.

For a full list of all the honorees, go to: <http://scmg.tamu.edu/about/awards-recognition-3/>. Congratulations to all.

The MG with the most volunteer hours was Joanie Matthews and the intern with the most was Monette Coleman.

Others with outstanding hours included:

Over 400 hours – Pat Welch

Over 300 hours – Hazel Bateman, Martin Davis and Charlie Colman.

Over 200 hours – Anne Pattullo and Jean Smith.

Over 150 hours – Anne Brown, Scherel Carver, Gary Dobbs and Clayton Turner.

Over 100 hours – Jana Bowman, Donna Cole, Herb Coursey, Kay Dobbs, Ronny Duncan, Bill Kellendorf, Shirley Long, Victor Long, Sherri Matthews, Lynne Merryfield, Janis Morrow, Julia Randolph, Chris Steavenson, Pat Turner, George Weisser, Janet Cacho, Sharon Reiland, Peggy Canant, Susan Linnard, Susan Minatrea and Susan Wiggins.



KEITH'S COLUMN

Weather-wise, 2012 is starting out very different from last year. A warm March, followed by cooler spring temperatures in April, along with frequent rainfall, means increased disease activity on plants of all kinds, from trees to annuals. Leaf spot disease will probably be more common this year. Already we have been getting many calls about fire blight on ornamental and edible pears, and I wrote a short article on it which you can read on my blog (<http://agrilife.org/etg>). It is important that fire blight infected branches should not be pruned off until next winter. Doing it now can spread the infection.

Expect leaf diseases on some oaks (oak leaf blister) and on ash & maple (anthracnose). Powdery mildew has been bad on some rose varieties, and black spot may be a bigger problem this year. The good news, at least for trees, is that typically leaf fungal diseases, while making the tree look bad, are not a fatal blow to the tree.

Now that all trees come out of dormancy, we can tell much more easily which ones need to be removed due to the stress of last year's drought and heat. Keep in mind that the effects of 2011 on trees may not fully be known for a few more years. Some trees may have been stressed or weakened, but hanging in there. Any additional stress(es) might be the "straw that breaks the camel's back" and push the tree in a rapid downward death spiral.

Hypoxylon canker is everywhere, and can be seen in many oak trees that are dead or dying. If you are unfamiliar with what hypoxylon canker looks like, check out this link: <http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu/homegardens/hypoxylon.html>.

We're planning on a great turn out for the Home Garden Tour, thanks to some great publicity in the local papers. Thanks to Jean Smith and her fabulous committee for their hard work planning and putting on this educational event. The Tour Book is in full color this year, and includes some interesting articles. Great job everybody!! For those of you with Facebook, consider posting an entry and linking to the Smith County Master Gardener web site Tour page: <http://scmg.tamu.edu/mg-projects/home-garden-tour/>

I also wanted to recognize and thank Lee Nichols and Barbara Romine (Class 19) for jumping in to volunteer to help four **Habitat for Humanity** homeowners plan, and then later plant their landscapes in April. HFH staff got several youth groups to help do the hard work, and Lee and Barbara provided direction during a busy Saturday.



Facebook Connection

Do you want your Facebook friends to know about something you saw on the SCMG Association website? You could send them an e-mail with a link or now you can simply click on the Facebook icon which is on every page of the website, make a comment and hit enter. You can even include a photo, if one is available and you are so inclined. Try it – you may like it.



First Tuesday in the Garden 2012

Jana Bowman finally has a full slate of speakers for the 1st Tuesday in the Garden series as follows:

- May 1 A Rose is a Rose....Craig Reiland
- June 5 Herbs for the Garden & Table...Patsy Besch
- Sept. 4 Design a Garden Path...Sandy Pannett
- Oct. 2 Textures & Variation in the Garden. Barbara Null
- Nov 6 Trees for Every Yard....Susan Linnard

A Word of Caution

by Sue Adee

In last month's issue of the *Grapevine* Dee Bishop wrote an excellent article on vines. I would like to add a word of caution – a true story.

When entering south entry of the IDEA Garden, planted on the arbor is a **Coral Honeysuckle**. It was one of the prettier displays I have ever seen. When it was in full bloom visitors to the garden always wanted to know what it was. But one workday the coral honeysuckle looked wilted and some of the stems were dying back. We looked for the culprit but could not find any disease or insect on it. After studying and discussing what the problem could be, it was discovered that the stem had grown so large taking up all its space (thru the arbor) that the vascular system was shut off. Our beautiful vine had to be cut to the ground and let it renew itself. We are now tying the vine to the outside of the arbor. One day the coral honeysuckle vine will again put on a beautiful display as it once did for visitors to enjoy again.



So, a word of caution, when planting a vine on a chain link fence, trellis or arbor with small openings, keep in mind how large the vine is going to be after a few years. You too may want to tie the vine to the outside as it grows.

Sedums – Large & Small

By Dee Bishop

I have always loved tiny things especially tiny plants. I love looking at their magnificent little forms up close. I have caught myself collecting tiny plants wherever I go just because they are tiny, yet perfect. Sedums caught my eye for the first time when I was about 6 years old because they were so tiny. I saw them growing beside a sidewalk and asked Mama if I could ask the gardener who lived there for a start. We did and a new friendship was born and I walked away with a fist full of tiny sedum plants.

I love planting sedums in containers where I can enjoy them all around the garden without worrying about them becoming over-powered by larger plants. One of my favorite planters is an old cowboy boot with holes all around where I planted various little sedums. How sweet they looked pouring out of the old boot. I have made several hypertufa containers where I have planted gardens of sedums. I have planted small sedums in old rusty funnels, colanders, and in strawberry jars. I saw some planted in lava rock in New Mexico and the next time I went out there I took a pick and a sledge hammer to get a hunk of that rock. I got permission to get a piece from a rancher who had it protruding up in his pasture. He said I could have it all. I bet he laughed all the way home, because I hacked and picked for thirty minutes and couldn't budge it. I did finally find a piece piled up on the side of the road. I came home and worked for hours drilling holes in it. It is lovely, but oh goodness, next time I will buy one ready to use.

I love arranging sedums by color and form just as you would arrange flowers. Some grow fast and gobble up all the space they can grab; others take their time and clump. Some grow tall others barely an inch tall. They come in a rich array of color: gray, green, yellow, gold, blue-gray, almost white and all colors between.

Sedums ask only to be left alone. They like fairly poor soil. They do not like mulch unless it's rock. All they ask is perfect drainage. Some like 'Autumn Joy' will even forgive occasional wetness. They need several hours of sun, but will take half day of shade and do great. Clip them back once they stop blooming. In winter I put the containers up under the eaves of my house or under cover so they won't get winter rains. I use about half perlite and half potting soil. If they are more persnickety, I use some gravel mixed in. I mulch with gravel. I have found the pretty little Cape Blanco sedum from California to be the hardest to grow. It likes dry, dry, dry.

Try some sedums in your yard or planters. I think you will enjoy them as much as I do.



Plants from Around the World

By Jim Powell

Moses-in-the-Cradle—*Tradescantia*

spathacea, a native of Mexico, is known by a variety of names including Boat Lily and Oyster Plant. It received its unusual names from its unique blooms that form white small flowers tucked into purple bracts or boat-shaped structures at the base of its leaves. The flowers are not noticeable unless you look closely.

Moses-in-the-cradle is a favorite houseplant but it's also a popular plant for outside containers or hanging baskets. It is considered a tropical perennial but must be protected during our winter months. It's glossy sword-shaped leaves with deep green tops and purple undersides are very eye-catching. Eight or ten leaves overlap at the base, forming a rosette of leaves in clumps.



Moses-in-the-cradle can grow just about anywhere from full sun to full shade. It's easily propagated by dividing the offsets or by planting seeds.

Caladiums are also known by the common names



of Elephant Ears, "Angel Wings," or "Heart of Jesus." They are indigenous to Brazil and neighboring areas of South America and Central America. Their beautiful heart-shaped leaves add a splash of

color to gardens during the summer months. Their attractive leaves, ranging from 6 inch to 2 feet in length, provide a colorful contrast with evergreen shrubs.

Caladiums are basically shade-loving plants, but will tolerate some morning or afternoon sun. They grow from corms and can be propagated by dividing the tubers. Caladiums can be planted when the soil temperature is at least 60 degrees or warmer. Plant the corms 1" deep in a well-drained soil. Planting too early can result in poor growth or rotting. For an early start, plant caladiums indoors and transplant the small plants when the temperature permits.

Removal, or scooping, of the dominant bud with a dull knife will cause the tuber to produce more leaves (somewhat smaller) and a fuller plant.





The Executive Committee met on April 19th.

After hearing the normal reports, an update on the Home Garden Tour was heard. The Garden Tour booklet was passed out. The sale of advertising in the booklet was especially successful. Scherel Carver put the booklet together and she is to be congratulated for doing a superior job. As for the tour itself, Jean Smith advised that more help could be used but otherwise the committee is ready to go.

Clayton Turner and Victor Long reported on their review of the Treasurer’s records and commended Pat Welch for a job well done. They did recommend some procedural changes that will need further review. A special committee will be formed to come to the Executive Committee with their recommendations.

Vice-President David Pierson is seeking possible speakers for the monthly association meetings later in the year. Some suggestions were made and he will appreciate any others.

Home Garden Tour Book

The new 2012 Home Garden Tour guidebook, put together by Scherel Carver, is full of information. It is well done with color pictures and ads.

Please patronize our sponsors and thank them for the support of Smith County Master Gardeners. AAA Grass & Stone, AG Stump Removal, All Natural Stone, Bank of Tyler, Blue Moon Gardens, Bob Wells Nursery, Breedlove’s Nursery, Center Chemical, Chamblee’s Roses, EOG Resources, 5 Star Stone & Brick, FNC Ponds, Gardening Angel, Horaney’s, Hotel Fredonia, In the Wind, Kirkpatrick Hardware, Miller’s Power Equipment, Nix Landscape, Noonday Ace Hardware, Paul’s Tree Service, Petty’s Irrigation, R & T Nursery, Rambling Rose Nursery, Rubicon, Southside Bank, Tyler Chiropractic, Weems Landscape and Vital Earth.

Fall Conference Code

The Fall Conference/Bulb Sale event is changing and exactly what will be happening that day next fall is not yet finalized.

Many people are confused, as they work on various parts of the event, about what to use as the Project Code when submitting volunteer hours. It is simple – use CONF. It all happens on October 13th and it promises to be great.



Speaking at the April 5th meeting
 Top row - left to right
 Ronny Duncan, Jean Smith & Jim Powell
 Bottom row - left to right
 Keith Hansen & Joanie Matthews

Photos by Martin Davis