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SCMG Meeting
April 2, 2015
Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

MG Grapevine Staff
 Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:
 Dee Bishop, Anne Brown, Keith Hansen, Ann Smith, Jean Smith & Pat Welch.

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SCMG Association Meeting
April 2, 2015
Rose Garden Center



POTLUCK DINNER

April 2nd Graduation Luncheon

The April meeting is the annual luncheon where the current interns (Class 21) will be certified and Class 22 will be graduated.

Please contact Ann Smith if you plan to attend, tell her how many are coming so that the committee will know what to plan for.

Don't forget to bring a serving utensil for whatever you bring to the potluck.

Address Book Changes

The new 2015-2016 Association Address Book will be available at the April 2nd meeting. While we would like it to be error free, it is possible that there will be an error or two in the book. Should you discover an error, please advise Martin Davis at mred2853@sbcglobal.net so that necessary changes can be published in the May MG Grapevine.

Jewels in the Garden

By Jean Smith



Invite your local gardening friends as well as out of town friends.

The event is June 6th. Registration is open. Find the form on the Smith County MG web site at <http://txmg.org/smith/jewels/>. You can turn it in with payment at the April luncheon to Jean Smith or Pat Welch.

Welch's Words

Finally the sun has come out. What a beautiful day this has turned out to be. I for one am ready for more of these kinds of days.

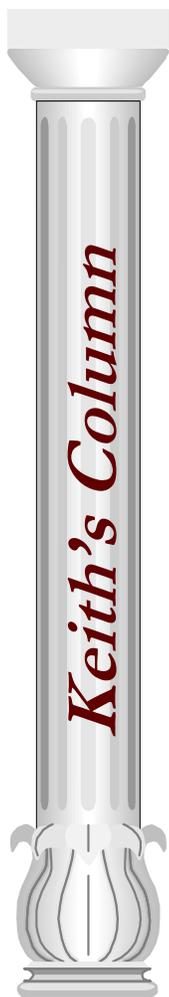


As I write this, I have just finished talking to Trudy Menke about the Rose City Artisans & Flower Market at the Goodman. It is Friday, March 27th and Saturday, March 28th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you haven't signed up to work and would like to please contact Trudy. We are again going to be selling Chamblee Roses. Please keep your fingers crossed for good weather. It's always a fun event.

On April 2nd is the Graduation luncheon at 11:30 am at the Rose Center. It is our first real opportunity to welcome the new trainees. Don't forget to bring a dish to share. If you are planning on coming either solo or with a guest, please contact Ann Smith so we can get a set-up count.

Plans for both the Garden Tour and Conference are moving along rapidly. It will be time for both of them before we know it. Please look for sign-up sheets for the Garden Tour and registration forms for the Conference at the luncheon.

Susan Stone and Joanie Matthews have done a great job planning a bus tour for Wednesday, May 13th to Clark Gardens with a shopping excursion to North Haven Gardens Nursery in Dallas. You can sign up at the office or at the Luncheon. Sounds like fun ladies. Hope to see everyone on April 2nd!
 Pat Welch, President



of color and growth!

I'm looking forward to seeing everybody on April 2nd at our annual Class Graduation and Awards Luncheon. Congratulations to Class 21 who made it to this point, and welcome to the 27 members of Class 22! We have such a great organization with great volunteers and I appreciate all the support you all provide to the educational mission of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service!

Please be willing to answer calls for help in various programs and leadership (coordinating) positions. We really appreciate it when new faces step up and get involved in planning programs and projects. Your fresh ideas and input are valued and welcome.

I'm hoping to get a couple of volunteers to help with the new rose variety evaluation program (American Rose Trials for Sustainability – or A.R.T.S). This is the first year of this new, science

-based, unbiased evaluation program to identify roses that are not only beautiful, but also hardy and disease resistant. The goals, as stated on their website are: "To identify, through regional evaluation and testing under low input conditions, the most disease and pest resistant, hardiest and best garden-worthy rose cultivars and to provide objective, accurate and reliable information about the cultivars tested for each region to industry and the public." You can read more about it on the new A.R.T.S. website (<http://www.americanrosetrialsforsustainability.org/>), and if you have questions about requirements for being an evaluator, please contact me. Of course, this will count as volunteer hours.

The 3rd East Texas Garden Lecture Series program is April 11 on the Edible Landscape. It will be held at the Blue Moon Gardens, starting at 9:00 a.m. Contact our office for more information.

Planning for and work on the spring regional conference, first envisioned by Sue Adee, called "Jewels in the Garden", is progressing nicely, and should be a very informative and interesting program. I'm sure you will hear more about opportunities to help in various functions before and during the conference. It is being widely advertised and promoted, and we are hoping to attract a good number of folks from a wide area.

Help Wanted

Mary Kay Lust at the **Heart of Tyler** is requesting our help! On Saturday, April 11, 2015 our expertise is needed to plant the pots around the Square in downtown Tyler. She needs us around 9:00 am to begin planting. Everything will be furnished except trowel and gloves. Keith says you can count this as one hour of work toward your hours.

If you want to help please contact Mary Kay Lust at mklust@suddenlink.net or 903-520-4004.

Consider This

Would you like to help keep the SCMG website up-to-date? Are you computer savvy and thought it would be interesting to try your hand? If so, you are the person we are looking for. Since Keith first set it up, Martin Davis has been the only MG who has maintained the site. The time has come for someone to back him up. Are you interested?

If so drop a note to Martin Davis at mred2853@sbcglobal.net.

Congratulations to...

...Mackenzie Patton (MG Class 21) who has been accepted to Grad School at UC Davis where she will be pursuing her doctorate in Plant Pathology.

Juvenile Services Award

We are planning our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon for Thursday, April 16 from 11:30 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. It is with GREAT pleasure to announce that the **Master Gardeners Group** is the recipient of the Betty Hayes Award this year.

The criteria for this award is: Need - Volunteers contributed a needed service to staff, or juvenile, or juvenile's family; Action – Involvement of the nominees was voluntary and/or above & beyond; Achievement – Nominee accomplished desired results; Impact – The activity or service produced positive change and provided examples for other volunteers; Time – Amount of time devoted to the activity or service was significant.

We feel the Master Gardeners group has gone ABOVE & BEYOND in all the above criteria. The group will be recognized by our Director, Ross Worley at the luncheon. **Congratulations!!!**

Planting an Area with Poor Drainage

By Dee Bishop



With all the rain we have had (hallelujah) some of you may realize areas in your yards that drain slowly. There may be standing puddles or mud for days after a good rain sometimes making the ground smell rotten--- like a sewer. If that is happening and you are losing plants, you may want to consider replanting with things that will take periodically wet soils. It seems that Texas either has drought or floods never much in between; so if you have low places that need planting you will either have to raise the soil level, put in French drains, or replant with plants that will take whatever the weather dishes out.

Using plants suited to your planting area is always the best even though you may really want azaleas. Rolling with the punches always works whereas fighting the situation may work for a while, it usually isn't permanent. Let's talk about some plants that will take drought or periodically wet areas and do fine. Most of these will be natives because that's what Texas has----droughts and floods!

A very partial list follows:

Small trees-large shrubs: Yaupon holly (all types), Possum haw Holly, Parsley Hawthorn, Indian Cherry, Sweet Almond Verbena

Vines: Carolina Jessamine, Coral Honeysuckle, Crossvine

Shade Trees: Willow Oak, White Oak, Black Gum, Drummond Red Maple, Longleaf Pine, Sweet Bay Magnolia

Perennials: Virginia Sweet Spire, Scarlet Sage (*S. coccinea*), Obedient Plant, Gulf Coast Penstemon, Cardinal Flower, Louisiana Iris, Hymenocallis (White Spider Lily), Wood fern, Muhly Grass.

For a greater selection look in Sally Wasowski's *Native Texas Plants*.

Just remember, if you work with Mother Nature, you will have better success.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee met on March 19th for its regular monthly meeting. They reviewed current active projects, including the Jewels in the Garden Conference, the Home Garden Tour and the Flower Market at Goodman Museum.

Jan Moch and Betty Atchley were approved to fill the Historian position, replacing Bill Kellendorf who had resigned last month.

Details of the bus trip on May 13th to the Clark Gardens in Weatherford were reviewed. A 57 passenger bus has been reserved, with at least 46 participants needed to break even. Sign up for the trip will be available at the April 2nd meeting.

Considering the problems of cancelling an Association meeting, President Pat Welch suggested that a policy be written to handle the situation should it occur again, often on short notice.

The next Executive Committee meeting date was changed to April 15th, since some of the officers will be attending the Texas State conference which begins on April 16, 2015.

For Monarchs, not all Milkweeds are Equal

From—*Insects in the City*

Submitted by Anne Brown

Graceful and beautiful at the same time, the sight of a Monarch butterfly never fails to lift my heart. In Texas, Monarchs are harbingers of both spring and fall. In the spring, Monarchs are seen traveling north to exploit the emerging crop of milkweed plants favored by their caterpillars. In the fall, Texas serves as a flyway for southward migrating butterflies, as most of the U.S. eastern population of Monarchs heads toward their overwintering habitat in Michoacan State, in the Sierra Madre mountains west of Mexico City.



In recent years, however, numbers of Monarch butterflies have been in decline, leading many biologists to express grave concern for the survival of Monarchs in the eastern half of the United States. In hopes of supporting the beloved Monarch, many gardeners are choosing to include a few milkweed plants in their landscape plans. The idea is that by providing Monarchs with food plants in urban areas, we might be able to provide the butterfly population a boost, and increase their numbers throughout the warm season.

But not all milkweeds, it turns out, are equally good at sustaining Monarch caterpillars. Researchers at the University of Georgia have found that the year-round blooming tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassivica*), favored by many gardeners, may be harmful to the Monarch's traditional migration patterns. It seems that one of the benefits of migration, as exhibited by the Monarch, is that it effectively weeds out weak or diseased individuals, while at the same time removing the population temporarily from local pathogens. Tropical milkweed encourages Monarchs to stay in one spot and form sedentary (non-migratory) populations.

Dara Satterfield and her colleagues used field and laboratory studies, along with citizen scientist observations to look at relative infection rates of sedentary vs. migratory populations of Monarchs. They concluded that widespread planting of tropical milkweed, which stays green through the winter months is leading to populations of monarchs that give up their migratory behavior. They also found that disease rates were higher in these "lazy" Monarchs.

It's unclear whether such plantings have an overall negative or positive effect on the U.S. Monarch population; but if you're considering planting milkweed in your backyard or as part of a conservation effort, it may be best to stick with one of the many native species.

April 7—Keeping Critters Out of Your Containers
1st Tuesday in the Garden Lecture—Noon at the IDEA Garden

EAST TEXAS GARDEN LECTURE SERIES

April 11 – The Edible Landscape – Blue Moon Gardens – Mary Wilhite

Registration 8:30 AM, program 9:00 AM. Season tickets \$45 per person, single event tickets \$15 per person.

Come learn from Mary how you can incorporate edible crops into an existing landscape.



April 11—SFA Plant Sale & Earth Day Celebration

At the Piney Woods Native Plant Center, from 9 AM until 2 PM. A wide variety of hard to find, “Texas tough” plants will be available, including Texas natives, heirlooms, tropicals, perennials, shrubs, etc.



The Bell County Master Gardener Association is hosting the 2015 Texas Master Gardener State Conference April 16 –18 at the Bell Count Expo Center in Belton Texas.

The Conference features amazing speakers such as Greg Grant, Felder Rushing and Peter Hatch covering the following topics: Bees, Bats, Water Rights, Olive Trees and Foraging. Workshops on Vermicomposting, Floral Design, Bee Hive Construction, Leaf Casting, Edible Plants and Native Plants for Birds are part of the Conference. Additionally, tours to Salado, Fort Hood, Railroad Heritage, Train Trip to McGregor and various local gardens will be offered.

Registration is now open. This Conference is open to all Master Gardeners and to the public as well! You can attend the whole Conference or just one day. Be sure to check out the Conference Website for complete information at:

<http://txmg.org/2015tmgconference/>

International MG Conference 2015

September 22-25, 2015

Co-hosted by Iowa and Nebraska MGs. For a glimpse of “Horticultural Horizons in the Heartland” come to the Council Bluffs/Omaha area this September..

The Texas A&M Gardens and Greenway is a major project, underway on the campus in College Station. The Texas Master Gardeners Earth-Kind Garden, within the larger project has a goal of \$100,000, to which the MG Associations across Texas may make their contributions. The Smith County association has made a contribution and received the certificate below. For more information on the overall project visit <http://agriflife.org/gardens-and-greenway/>.

