



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

August 2014

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SCMG meeting
August 7th
Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

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Martin Davis, Editor

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SCMG Association Meeting Aug. 7—11:30 AM Rose Garden Center

Our speaker this month is Barbara Baker who is a former president of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and serves on the Board of Directors of National Garden Clubs, Inc. As a flower arranger she travels throughout the US. As a gardener she has attended landscape design seminars at Great Dixter, East Sussex, UK for 6 years.

Barbara's particular interest is color combinations and she will share her ideas in a power point program "Creativity Through Color".

Coming Next Month

If you have visited the SFA State University website you almost certainly saw the name Dawn Stover. She is a Research Associate at the SFA Mast Arboretum and in that position handles a long list of responsibilities. Next month at the September MG Association meeting, you will have the chance to meet her when she presents the program for that meeting.

Gourd Painting Workshop

A Gourd Painting Workshop will be offered at the Extension office on August 15 from 9 AM till noon taught by our own Wincie Caskey.



To register write a check in the amount of \$18 payable to SCMG and mail to Pat Welch, 19461 Sandhill Lane, Flint, TX 75762.

JMG Project at Bullard

Pat Welch and Jean Smith conducted a program during the Bullard Library Summer Reading Program in July.

They read gardening books and then made planters from cans. The children strung beads on wire to make handles to hang their planters. They discussed plant care and then each child planted their containers with sedum.

See pictures on page four.

David Gary sez..

Friends,

As I am writing this column on my back porch, it is 85 degrees in the middle of July in East Texas. It will be even cooler in the next few days with the lows in the upper 60's and lower 70's. What a relief!



If you're traveling to Dallas between now and August 15th, be sure to stop by Hamm's Peach Orchard on Highway 80 on the east side of Terrell for the freestone peaches and homemade ice cream. My wife usually freezes some to use for peach cobbler throughout the year. It's my favorite dessert!

There is a Gourd Painting class on August 15th led by our fellow Master Gardener, Wincie Caskey. After July 31, registration will be offered to the general public. The cost is \$18.00. Checks should be made payable to the Smith County Master Gardeners (SCMG) and sent to Pat Welch.

Remember to register for the last three East Texas Garden Lecture Series Programs for the fall, beginning September 13th. Check the Smith County Master Gardener web site for more details.

Try to stay cool this summer!
Best always - David Gary, President

2015 Garden Tour

Please be on "lookout" for gardens you think will work for the 2015 Garden Tour. If you see one that interests you, please contact either Sandy Abernathy at tsabernathy@yahoo.com or Sheryl Rhodes at sheryl_rhodes@sbcglobal.net. Thanx in advance for the help!

SFA Scholarship

Treasurer Bob McRae received a letter from **Amny Rose**, a student at Stephen F. Austin State University, thanking the SCMGs for our 2014 scholarship which she received recently. Go to <http://txmg.org/smith/scholarships/> to read more about Amny.



With August brings Master Gardener preparation work for upcoming programs. 1st 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 an hour by attending.**

David Gary will be the featured speaker at the September 13 East Texas Lecture Series program. The October program features Greg Grant, and in November, Dr. David Creech.

All of you should have seen the recent email regarding the planning meeting for our AgriWorld exhibit at the East Texas State Fair, called Our Secret Garden. (If you did not see the email, then you are not getting or perhaps not reading our email communications from Martin Davis – if you are not getting his emails, get with him to figure out what the problem might be. If you are getting them, please open and read them – there is a lot of good information and important communications in those. We do our best to try not to overload your email inbox). If you could not make the meeting, but are interested in helping with the project, please let Pat Welch know at grayball_234@yahoo.com or 903-530-4496.

AgriWorld/Our Secret Garden is a big project with a

big impact on a lot of people, especially youngsters who come to the Fair, and many helping hands make much lighter work, and a more enjoyable time for all involved in this educational program. This award-winning project (2011 1st 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. And the coordinators are working on ideas for the displays to make them as interactive as possible and changing things up to keep regular visitors interested and engaged.

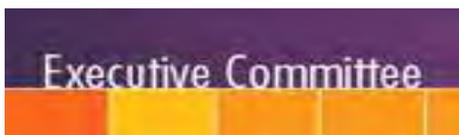
In October the Fall Gardening Conference and Bulb Sale is coming up, and as always there will be much to do in preparation for this event. Be watching for requests for help, and come forward to volunteer.

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 21 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.

Have fun, and stay cool.

Keith



The committee met on July 17th at the Extension Office.

Sandy Abernathy and Sheryl Rhodes have volunteered to co-chair the Home Garden Tour committee and they already have secured one garden for the 2015 tour. With that information, the committee's tabled discussion on the future of the tour was un-tabled and the tour will be held in 2015.

The August 15th Gourd Painting class had 15 registrants as of July 17th. The class is limited to 30 based on the number of gourds available to be painted. Since there is room for more people in the classroom at the Extension Office more participants could be included if they brought their own gourds.

The organizational meeting for the AgriWorld committee will be held on July 30th with Co-chairman Jean Smith and Hazel Bateman advising that they plan to scale back the offering to a more manageable size. Set up begins September 2 and the fair runs from September 19-28.

Jim Showen reported that Sandy Abernathy and Andie Rathbone have volunteered to collect "other plants" for the Bulb Sale.

The committee received a written request to support a new MG Juvenile Services Project. A group of MGs have been teaching selected JMG curricula to a group of 'at risk' youth. The group is seeking to expand the program, to fund the program and to involve more MGs. Hazel Bateman advised that the program is going well and has been well received by both the JV Services of Smith County as well as the young people. The project was approved and funded.



New Phone Number

Andie Rathbone
903-710-2134
Cell is unchanged
at
903-312-5118



Flowers for my Table

By Mary Claire Rowe

Gardening is a many splendored thing for me. It serves many purposes in my life. Home decoration, physical training, stress relief, alone time, food production, and climate control are just a few.

First and foremost, it is my way of almost always having beautiful blossoms on my table, even when there are no guests. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than pulling together as many different flowers as possible at the moment. Putting them into a container, and setting them where the sunlight or overhead light will brighten and showcase their beauty is the perfect culmination of years of work. When the gardenias were in bloom, their aroma filled my house. Every room had one or more nestled in a little vase. Sometimes, the plant of the moment does not possess all that pleasant an aroma, but that does not lessen my desire. I just showcase it a little further away from activity.

Of course, the rigors of gardening can compete with any exercises thought up by a physical trainer. I have learned to use discretion, however. Knowing when and where to bend to pull a weed is important.

A vigorous morning of digging, weeding, trimming, fertilizing, and cleaning up will certainly relieve the stress of any interpersonal relationship, or any other problem I might have been stewing about. When I am through with all that work, how can I really care about anything other than a bath and a nap?

Being alone in the garden for some period of time is almost as good as any medicine my doctor could prescribe. It gives me the time I think we all need to breathe deeply and better appreciate our lovely world. As I have aged the old saying, that I intellectually knew was true, has become viscerally true: "Life is short."

I would love to be able to say that I have a garden that produces food for our table. I do believe in the concept, and I do have a few things growing. Asparagus, figs, blueberries, ginger, onions, green beans, grape vines, and purple hull peas are about the extent of it this year. I must admit that so far, my harvest has consisted of a handful of onions, and two peas. One can see that my husband, Gilbert, and I would starve to death on that production. I do have a way to go for success there. I am not discouraged, just a bit daunted.

Since we gardeners know that we can affect our environment, I have spent a lot of time and money planting trees, shrubs, and perennials to shade and protect my home and garden. After 39 years in the same home, I am happy with the results. So, despite the food thing, I am a happy gardener. I hope you are, as well.

Summer in the Garden

By Dee Bishop



What a wonderful summer so far! How long has it been since we had rain in summer? I haven't had much as much as some, but I am thankful for every drop. While trekking about the garden, I have noticed some of my summer annuals just standing still, not growing at all; so I gave them a bit of 15-5-10 and watered it in. We have to keep an eye out for what our plants need and provide it before they scream in their death throes. With the wonderful cool weather and extra rain, fertilizer is needed to feed them through the worst of the summer to come. I cut back some before fertilizing and they should grow back and look beautiful as fall approaches.

Insects haven't been bad this year. I have so many birds not many can survive. I have much worse than insects, I have deer and rabbits. Rabbits eats those plants under two feet high and deer eat those over two feet high and all in between. It is so frustrating, just when a plant gets all pretty and blooming beautifully, zap and they're gone. I began to think they didn't like begonias but they did. I put out deer and rabbit repellent, soap, and coyote urine (yuck!) and nothing helped. I finally declared all-out war and built cages of chicken wire for my favorite plants. I even had some phlox to bloom. Of course the cages are not pretty. In fact they are pretty ugly, but at least I get to see some blooms. I am working on some dreamed up ideas for cages that will look better for next year. There is bound to be something that looks better than chicken wire.

If you plan to plant spring perennials or spring annuals from seeds, now is a good time to order seeds. Don't wait until time to plant them or you will be too late. It takes ten weeks minimum to get good transplants of perennials (that's after they sprout) ; so if they take ten days to sprout you have to add ten more weeks and eight for annuals. Any time now is good to plant perennials. If you want to seed wildflowers like bluebonnets, Drummond phlox, coreopsis, Echinacea, etc. order the seeds now and get them planted in October. That includes annuals like poppies and larkspur too.

Mid-summer is usually too hot to start cuttings, but when the weather cools in October, cuttings will root well. We had a wonderful spring for starting cuttings of everything. I had so much fun sticking down cuttings of all kinds of shrubs and perennials plus the coleus and impatiens. Usually it gets too hot in June to root most cuttings and shrubs won't root earlier than June (have to wait until the branch tips are crisp enough to break) but with the rain and cool temperatures we had ideal conditions.

If you are a seed collector like I am, I have found that if you let the seeds dry really well, then store them in paper envelopes. Plastic is okay if they are very dry, but I have had too many mildew in plastic. Cheap envelopes are great because you can file them in shoeboxes. I also like the little two by three inch brown envelopes you can get at office supply stores. For those of you who have never collected seed, be sure to allow them to turn brown or at least get yellow before harvesting and then let them further dry either in paper sacks or cookie sheets etc. Seeds are usually black or dark colored but not always.

I have an abundance of hummingbirds and am having trouble feeding them because of honeybees and bumblebees covering all the feeder ports. Very frustrating! I read to grease the ports and did, but no luck. I don't want to kill the bees; so guess I will take the feeders down for a while and see if they go elsewhere. It seems that whatever I try to do, my animals determine to thwart my every effort.

August is already here and let's hope we continue with the cooler than normal temps. and rain. Have fun in your garden!

COMING EVENTS

East Texas Garden Lecture Series

September 13

David Gary presents "Enjoy Your Home Landscape—Make Your Yard Fit Your Life"

<http://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>

Texas Master Gardener Conference

September 25-27

The 2014 Texas Master Gardener conference will be held in Odessa, hosted by the Permian Basin Master Gardeners.

<http://2014tmgconference.org/>

Fabulous Fall Festival at SFA

October 4

Southern Region MG Conference

October 21-24

Inviting all gardeners! 2014 Southern Region MG Conference at Baton Rouge. For information and registration go to...

<http://www.southernregionmgconf2014.com/>

Master Gardener Specialist Rainwater Harvesting

Monday, September 29 - Wednesday, October 1, 2014

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center - Dallas

This two day course is a combination of hands-on and classroom presentations that will teach you all of the basics of rainwater harvesting. **Cost: \$200.00** (includes manual, power points, etc.)

<http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses/2014/september-29-october-1-2014-rainwater-harvesting-specialist-training/>

MG Greenhouse Specialist training

There will be MG Greenhouse Specialist training in Victoria County, October 9-11. For more information and registration, please visit <http://txmg.org/event/greenhouse-management-specialist-training-victoria-county/>. Cost \$225.

Travel, Study, Learn program

This Travel, Study, Learn program is in Cuernavaca is a learning experience trip is offered through the University of Texas at Arlington, College of Nursing, Center for Hispanic Studies in Nursing and Health who have conducted study abroad for 23 years and only recently expanded to invite Master Gardeners to experience gardening in Mexico and why it differs so markedly.

January 2-9, 2015 \$1350.00 – plus airfare to and from Mexico

Master Gardeners who experienced the trip are also available to answer questions: Eleanor Tuck, Tarant MG etuck@sbcglobal.net
Ginger Bason, former State MGA Pres. gingerbasonbowden@gmail.com



Bullard Library JMG Project

..... Jean Smith & Pat Welch

