



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

February 2014

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

Number 2
Volume 21



Inside This Issue

Keith's Column	2
Facebook after One Year	2
February in the Garden	3
I Didn't Know	3
Executive Committee	3
MG Training Schedule	3
Coming Events	4



MG Association Meeting
February 6th
Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

MG Grapevine Staff
Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:
Linda Billings, Dee Bishop, David Gary, Keith Hansen, Adie Rathbone, Jean Smith and Pat Welch.

Published for the Master Gardeners of Smith County, Texas under the auspices of the Smith County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 1517 W. Front St. Tyler, TX 75702.

Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension 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.

Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980

Fax - 903-590-2984



David Gary sez..

My fellow Master Gardeners,

I hope everyone's New Year is going well. We have sixteen Master Gardener trainees in the current class. Try to attend some of their

classes and introduce yourselves. Let's help them feel a part of our group!

We still need project leaders for two of our major money makers, the **Home Garden Tour** and the **Calendar/Garden Guide**. Our previous project leaders have willingly agreed to mentor and help anyone who volunteers to head-up these projects.

I will be contacting people for any ideas regarding the selection of homes for our Home Garden Tour on June 7, 2014. I am again leading this process, but we need an overall leader.

On another note, Jim and Laquita Showen have volunteered to be project leaders again for the fall "*Bulbs and More*" plant sale. We appreciate all the hard work they do to make it successful.

Please consider what you can do to help with these important Master Gardener projects. Your service will help make this a successful year for the Smith County Master Gardeners.

Time to Pay Your Dues

It is time to pay your 2014 Smith County Master Gardener dues of **\$20**. Bob McRae and Jean Smith will be available at the February 6 MG meeting to accept your dues. If you can't make the meeting, please mail dues to: **Bob McRae 3116 Birdwell Dr. Tyler TX 75701**. We have to report to the TX MG Association soon, so please help us by submitting your dues in a timely manner.

SCMG Association Meeting

Ed McGee will be presenting a program on vegetable gardening at the February 6th SCMG meeting.

Ed was a member of Master Gardener Class

2 in 1995. He is now a Lifetime member of the SCMG.



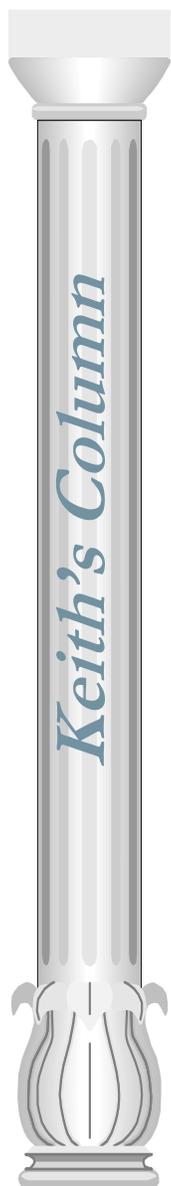
TX Master Gardener Awards

It is the time of year for the Smith County Master Gardeners to broadcast to the state of Texas all of our accomplishments for 2013. This year the award process has been revamped to create new awards, consolidate old categories, and bring the application process more in line with the International Master Gardener Awards.

The 2013 categories selected for award applications are: EDUCATION - Our Secret Garden/AgriWorld, RESEARCH - Overton Field Trials, WRITTEN EDUCATION - 2014 Calendar and Gardening Journal, PROJECT - IDEA Garden, Outstanding SCMG Individual - Joanie Matthews and Outstanding Association.

The committee members hard at work are Jean Smith, Mary Hamlin, Neysa Mueller, Pat Turner, Andie Rathbone, Pat Welch, Hazel Bateman, and Anne Pattullo. They are working hand in hand with project chairpersons: Joanie Matthews, Sue Adece, Dee Bishop, Cindy Harrington, and Charlie Colman to showcase our accomplishments.

The awards will be announced at the TX MGA conference in Midland/Odessa, September 2014.



The new gardening year really gets going in February with seeding, transplanting, pruning and educational programs. Here are some of the upcoming educational opportunities (all of these qualify for CE's). See the [Educational Programs](#) page on East Texas Gardening website

for times, cost, details, etc.:

- East Texas Turfgrass Conference – February 6 - Overton Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Research Center
- East Texas Garden Lecture Series:
 - Feb. 22 - "ROSES: AMERICA'S FAVORITE FLOWER"..... *practical advice about pruning, planting and new varieties*". Mark Chamblee at Chamblee Rose Nursery
 - Mar. 22 - "**Location, Location: (Right Plant/Right Place)**" (Keith Hansen) & "**Ask the Designer**" (James Wilhite, Laurie Breedlove, and Keith Hansen), Tyler Rose Garden Center
 - see [East Texas Gardening website](#) for list of all 7 lectures and details.
- Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop for Smith Co. Master Gardeners – Feb 20, Cindy Harrington's home
- East Texas Commercial Fruit & Vegetable Conference – Feb 25, Nacogdoches Expo Center (note new location)
- Texas Watershed Steward Workshop – Feb 17, Smith Co. Extension office
- Small Acreage Horticulture Crops Webinar

Series (all at Smith Co. Extension office)

- Aquaponics: Principles & Practices – Feb 20
- See East Texas Gardening programs page for the other 5 webinars this year
- 1st Tuesday in the Garden: March 4 - How to build your first vegetable garden, IDEA Garden
- Cherokee Co. Master Gardener Gardening Symposium (Greg Grant, Dave Whiting & Keith Hansen) – March 8, 1st Christian Church, Jacksonville

For more details, see the Educational Programs section of <http://EastTexasGardening.tamu.edu> . We also have a ET Garden Lecture Series Facebook page – if you have a Facebook account, please visit it and “Like It”, so your friends will also see and learn about this year’s series. <http://facebook.com/etgardenconference>

2014 is off to an interesting and very chilly start. The office has been plenty busy with citizens seeking information on gardening. At this time of year, many of the questions relate to food gardening (vegetables, fruits, etc.), pruning roses, and a great many are getting in to gardening for the first time (i.e.. novices with easy, basic questions). I would welcome your help in answering some of these basic requests for information. With the new Master Gardener class training in progress, and preparing for 3 major conferences in February, along with many other daily chores, it is easy to fall behind. Check with Rae or Carolyn, our secretaries, for available time slots (**only 1 day in February is currently scheduled!!**). Your help would be most welcome!! Have a great gardening month. / Keith

Facebook Page after One Year

By Andie Rathbone



In the year since the launch of the SCMG Facebook page we have 185 people who have become fans of the page. Plus, each month through people sharing our posts, we are seen by an average of 1300 additional people every month who are located in 37 counties of Texas, 24 different states in the US and 49 countries all over the world.

This year we'd like to extend our fan base and reach to others even further so people can get timely gardening tips and learn about all of our events and activities. And to do this we need your help.

So what can you do? Here's how you can help: If you haven't become a fan, go to our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/SmithCountyMasterGardeners>



and click the “Like” button at the top of the page.

- Share posts on your own Facebook timeline by clicking on the “Share” button underneath each post. That way your Facebook friends will see our upcoming events or be able to see our gardening tips.

Feel free to comment on posts. Having a dialogue makes the page a lot more interesting.

We try to post something of interest every day and also to inform you all of upcoming gardening events, not only of our own association, but also of other Master Gardening and general gardening groups in our area.

Thanks to all of you who have made our page such a success this year. Let's continue to make it a valuable contribution to East Texas gardening in 2014.

February In The Garden

By Dee Bishop



February is the time to begin planting gladiolus bulbs. Glads are easy to grow and grow well for us. They multiply and can stay in the ground year round. Glad bulbs planted on any one day will bloom all at once; so you need to plant some every week or two through March. After March, it's too late. They need cool but not cold conditions to grow and bloom well.

I researched planting glads and found some really good information. I plan to try all of these suggestions and plant some for myself. I have planted glads in the past and enjoyed the gorgeous flowers, and decided even though they only give color a couple of weeks, planting some every week or two for the next eight weeks should give me a beautiful spring bouquet for a couple of months.

Choose corms that are thick rather than flat even if the thicker bulbs are smaller. They will produce larger blooms. (I didn't know this.)

Choose a planting area in full sun that has very good drainage.

Dig a hole 6-8 in. deep, plant the corm, backfill with a couple of inches each week as the bulb sprouts and grows. Make sure not to cover the growing tips of the plants. Add more soil each week or two depending on how fast they grow until they are totally filled. Now mound soil up around the stem base. This will insure the stems will stand up without staking. (This from Old House Gardens.)

Glads can be grown in containers also. Use a fairly large container (3-5 gal. suggested) Fill to one half full. Arrange bulbs about 1-2 inches apart around the pot. Cover with 2-3 inches of soil and water in. As they grow, add more soil until they are 6-8 in. deep. Keep the bulbs moist and in full sun.

I plan to use nursery pots for mine and slip the container into a beautiful pot when they are in bloom. Or as suggested, plant pots every 2 weeks and plant pot and all into the garden, exchanging blooming flowers for those that are finished. What an easy fix for spots needing color before the summer plants are really performing well!

All the information came from Old House Gardens and an old article from Garden Gate by Scott Kunst of Old House Gardens.

What fun we can all have trying out growing glads!

I Didn't Know

By Linda Billings



Honey never spoils, ever. The buzz that you hear when a bee approaches is the sound of its four wings moving at 11,400 strokes per minute. Bees fly an average of 15 miles per hour. Worker bees have strictly regimented roles, including that of undertakers who drag their dead siblings from the hive. Drones, the male honeybees, live only for mating with the Queen; they die afterwards from a ruptured abdomen. Sex detaches their endophallus, which gets stuck inside the Queen. The Queen collects more than 70 million sperm from multiple mates. She lays about 600 to 700 eggs every day. Fertilized eggs become female worker bees and unfertilized eggs become male drones.

The Queen was known as the King until the late 1660's when Dutch scientist Jan Swammerdam dissected the hives big bee and discovered ovaries. Drones do not have a sting. Worker bees have a sharp sting and because they leave their sting in their victim its

organs are pulled out of its abdomen and it dies. Only the queen bee can sting multiple times and does not die.

A normal bees lifespan ranges from five to six weeks, but a Queen bee can live up to five years.

Honeybees are the most popular species of bees. Some well-known species of honeybees are Italian bees, Slovenian bees, Caucasian bees, German black bees and Africanized honeybees.

People began to domesticate bees about 3000 years ago. Honeybees have an amazing way of communicating among themselves. In 1943, Austrian zoologist Karl von Frisch published his study on the dances bees perform to alert fellow workers. He won the Nobel Prize for deciphering the bee dance. A round dance indicates that food is close by and a waggle dance means it is distant.

There are around 25,000 known species of bees worldwide. These species can be divided into over 4000 types of bees belonging within 9 groups or families.

Nature is full of interesting information. That's what I love most about my garden. It's full of polished and unpolished raw nature.

Executive Committee Notes

The Executive Committee met on January 16, 2014 at the Extension Office. Bob McRae, incoming Treasurer, offered a big thank you to Pat Welch for her five years of hard work as Treasurer.

The roster of Project Leaders was again reviewed. Several positions remain open, particularly the Home Garden Tour and the Calendar/Garden Guide.

Jean Smith led the discussion of the upcoming submission of information for the TXMG Association "Search for Excellence" Awards Program.

Clarification of the role of the MGs working with juveniles is needed since the program with St. Paul's ministry has changed.

A report on the SCMG Facebook effort, authored by Andie Rathbone, was offered for review.

The February meeting of the committee will be on the 20th at 1:00 PM.

Smith County MG—Training Schedule

Classes at the Extension Office, except as noted.

Feb. 4—Landscape Plants (Trees, Shrubs, etc.)—Keith Hansen

Feb. 11—Landscape Water Conservation—Dr. Dotty Woodson

Feb. 13—Turfgrass—Types, Culture & Maint.—Keith Hansen

Feb. 18—Annuals & Plant Propagation—Dr. Brent Pemberton

Feb. 20—Plant Diseases—Dr. Keith Ong

At Overton—full day—9 AM to 4 PM

Feb. 26—Home Vegetable Production—Dr. Joe Masabni

At Overton—1 to 5 PM (yes on Wednesday)

For the complete schedule, visit the SCMG website (on the Members page). Certified MGs earn CEs for classes

SFA Gardens to Host World Class Conservationist at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center

SFA Gardens will be hosting a very special lecture on Tuesday, **February 4, 2014** at 7 pm. Dr. Peter Raven, president emeritus of the St. Louis Botanical garden and renowned conservationist will be speaking on "Conservation in a Rapidly Changing World." Dr. Raven's lecture will be the inaugural lecture in the new Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building.

Comal Master Gardeners are presenting a "Specialty Gardens in Landscape" seminar

February 8, 2014 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at the New Braunfels Convention Center 375 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX 78130

Propagation 101

The Quitman Arboretum presents the Propagation 101 Workshop Saturday, **February 15**, from 9am to 12 pm. For details and to access the registration form, visit their website at: www.quitmanarboretum.com.

Landscape Design School Series XXIII, Course IV, February 17-18, 2014

NEW LOCATION: George W. Bush Presidential Library, theater in the Rotunda (free parking) College Station, TX.

Mrs. Diane Perez of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and Dr. William C. Welch, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service announce the latest in the series which is offered in four separate schools, approximately six months apart, each with 12 hours of instruction, in the Bryan-College Station area.

Registration for the course will be \$135.00 by February 1, 2014 (two lunches and a local bus tour are included) – make check payable to Landscape Design. Registration will be \$155 after February 2, 2014. The optional reference book, good for all four courses, is Stewards of the Land. It may be purchased for an additional \$40.00 by January 27, 2014. Go to: [Registration.pdf](#) for details.

Master Gardeners who complete a course can receive 12 hours of credit for continuing education.

Farming by the Yard

On **February 22nd**, the Master Gardeners of Kaufman County present their 2014 Spring Seminar "Farming by the Yard" at the First Baptist Church in Forney from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. The program and presenters include; Backyard Chickens – Jeff Raska, Trees for North Texas – Sm Keats, and Edible Landscapes – Dianne Kaufman. There will be a silent auction and vendors.

Registration begins at 8:30 AM, with programs at 9:00 AM. Cost is \$5 per person. Light refreshments will be served.

For more events and more details - go to—<http://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>

2014 SMITH COUNTY MASTER GARDENER CLASS



Back Row L to R:
Brad Childers, Jami Brumfield, Hannah Dietz, Sandy Abernathy, Joan Burns,
Nancy Roddy, Mackenzie Patton, Les Smith, Cindy Smith, Carolyn Chalender

Front Row L to R:
Gay Barron, Tony Johns, Sheryl Chester, Geri Roddy, Sandra Duqan, Sharon Senter

Photo by:
Bill Keldorf