



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

February 2015

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

Number 2



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SCMG luncheon
February 5, 2015
Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

MG Grapevine Staff
 Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

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Extension Office

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SCMG Association Meeting

February 5, 2015

Rose Garden Center

The speaker will be Anne Brown. Her topic is "Beneficial Insects".



Work Days in the Gardens

There will be work in the gardens each Tuesday during February. Start time in the **IDEA Garden, 10 AM** and for the **Heritage Garden, 1 PM**.

1st Tuesday Garden Lecture Series

The SCMG presentations in the IDEA garden (**1st Tuesday**) will begin on March 3, 2015. The topics chosen for this Spring are March 3rd - Vines; April 7th - Keeping Critters Out of Your Containers; May 5th - Getting Ready for Hot, or Not, Weather; June 2nd - Garden Terminology (Did She Say Cut Off Their Heads)? The presentations will continue in September.

Master Gardeners are needed to give these presentations. It only takes about an hour and you receive credit for your time. About 15-20 people come and look forward to the information that is presented. If you would like to learn more about these lectures or volunteer to give one of the lectures, please contact Anne Brown, 903-566-4459 or abr-n525@att.net or Susan Nelson, 903-561-2179 or snelson300@gmail.com.

Annual Dues

Have you paid the SCMG Association dues for 2015? If not, please bring your check for \$20, made out to SCMG, to the February 5th meeting. This notice includes Class 21 who will begin to pay dues as of January 1, 2015.

Welch's Words

What a beautiful day! As I sit here thinking about all the things that are needed to be done in my garden, my mind wanders to Sue Adee. She was always there to answer a question or dream up a new project. She will truly be missed.



The Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2015. Planning is well under way. At this time Sandy Abernathy and her right hand person Margaret Herring have things moving at a rapid pace. They have a couple of new things planned for the tour. Please stay tuned for more information.

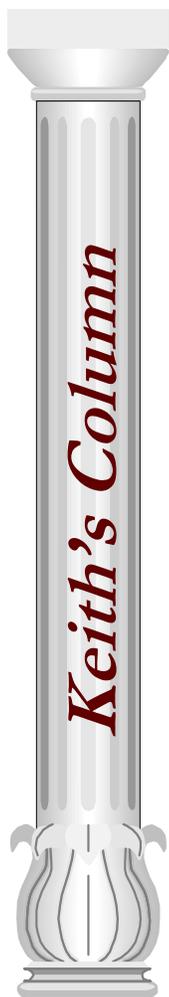
We have begun work on the "Jewels in the Garden" conference on June 6, 2015 at the Rose Garden. It is a huge commitment on our part as an association, but I'm absolutely positive we can do it. We have so many generous members that are willing to give of their time and talents. That can only mean the conference will be awesome.

In my first newsletter "blip" I mentioned stretching to reach new heights. I guess I was thinking about these two major events (Home Garden Tour & the Conference) back to back. I know doing these two events is a huge undertaking for our organization and I am asking a lot. We are "**GREAT**"! We can to this.

I hope to see everyone at the February 5th Master Gardener meeting.

Pat Welch
 President





Spring is almost here, and the winter has been plenty cold enough to give our temperate zone plants the chilling hours they need. I don't know about you, but I am ready for warmer weather, and so are our plants. Which also means you might need to be on the watch for later hard freezes if some of our plants begin to come out of winter dormancy.

There is a new rose evaluation program that has taken the place of old AAR trial program, and they are seeking volunteer evaluators. Read on for this exciting opportunity. This new program is called A.R.T.S., which stands for American Rose Trials for Sustainability. As the name implies, roses will be evaluated for being sustainable in our landscapes, needing less pesticides and other inputs because they have superior genetics, while at the same time having outstanding landscape qualities (i.e. they are pretty, too). Simply put, the goal of the program "is to identify strong, easy-to-grow roses for 8 U.S. climatic regions". Another goal statement is: "The goal of A.R.T.S.™ is to identify and promote the most regionally-adapted, environmentally responsible roses for consumers and others in the horticulture community so that they can experience success in incorporating and

growing roses in their landscapes."

There are currently 13 trial gardens, and in our region, the Tyler Rose Garden is one of those trial sites. If you are interested in being an evaluator, I can provide you with a lot more detailed information on the program. This includes a call for evaluators letter describing the A.R.T.S. program, its goals, and the evaluation process. A second document is the evaluation protocol that they use which includes appendices full of photos that will make the evaluation process easy to learn and to implement. The third document is a monthly evaluation form that volunteer evaluators can use if they wish to enter data on a hand written form. Site coordinators (Tim Norris, Tyler Park Maintenance Manager for the Tyler trial site) can also provide volunteers with a link to an electronic evaluation form which could be used if they wish to enter evaluation data using cell phones, tablets, computers, etc. They stress that multiple volunteers can share the work load in various ways.

If you are interested in getting in on the ground floor of this exciting program, please contact me.

We are off to a great start with the new Master Gardener training class (Class 22), with 27 in the program. Drop by and meet them during one of the classes. Remember you can earn CE's for auditing any of the training programs (as a refresher).

See schedule below

EAST TEXAS GARDEN LECTURE SERIES

Floral Smackdown - February 7 - Tyler Rose Garden Center - Three floral designers will give quick lessons on floral arranging, the arrangements will be raffled, proceeds to the East Texas Crisis Center.

Blooming With Kordes Roses & the American Rose Trails for Sustainability - March 14 - Chamblee Rose Nursery - Mark Chamblee

The Backyard Buffet - Eating Your Landscape - April 11 - Blue Moon Gardens - Mary Willhite

Redesigning Your Garden - Give Garden Pizazz - September 19 - Tyler Rose Garden - Dr. William Welch

Herbaceous Design - Incorporating Annuals & Perennials into Your Garden - October 24 - Tyler Rose Garden - Dr. Jared Barnes

Camellias - The Winter Garden Shouldn't be Boring - November 14 - Tyler Rose Garden - Dr. David Creech
Registration 8:30 AM, program 9:00 AM. Season tickets \$45 per person, single event tickets \$15 per person.

Visit www.Facebook.com/ETgardenconference

Class 22 Training Schedule for February 2015

- Feb. 3 — Landscape Water Conservation, Dr. Dotty Woodson
- Feb. 10—Entomology/Pesticides & Safety, Dr. Mike Merchant
(all day at TAMU Overton)
- Feb. 12—Perennials & Roses, Dr. William C. Welch
- Feb. 17—Soils & Fertility, Dr. Mark McFarland
- Feb. 19—Rose Pruning Class (Heritage Rose Garden) 9 AM
- Feb. 19—Annuals & Plant Propagation, Dr. Brent Pemberton
- Feb. 25—Home Garden Production, Dr. Joe Masabni
(all day at TAMU Overton)

All classes meet at the Extension Office from 1 PM till 5 PM, except as noted above.

Photos for the 2015-2016 Address Book

On **March 3rd** Class 22 will have their pictures taken for the 2015/2016 MG Address Book.

For others who would like to have their picture freshened up or added to the book, please check in at the Office Phone desk between 1 PM to 2 PM on March 3rd.

Primulas/Primroses, Tis the Season!

By Mary Claire Rowe



Just like clockwork, the Primroses have arrived at our local garden stores, luring us with their lovely bright colors and subtle sweet fragrance. The clouds have been heavy and grey; the rain has come down in buckets; and the cold wind has chilled us to the bone, but this bright vision has pulled us back from the brink of the winter blahs. They bring joy and color and a hint of what lies

ahead – Spring!

In colder climes, they can be perennial but here, the heat of the summer is just too much. For us they are a lovely annual to enjoy for a very brief, but pleasant time. A Canadian grower prescribes the following: plant in sun/partial shade in well-drained soil; prevent rain and overhead water from falling on flowers, as it will destroy them; plant in a well-sheltered location; frequently clean out the under-leaves that die and rot or it will spread to the whole plant; and deadhead all the way to the plant, leaving no stem, or it will rot its way into the core of the plant. Since they are grown in a hot house, leave them out in a cooler area before planting, so they can acclimate to colder weather. Finally, if they last long enough, when the days grow longer, apply liquid fertilizer every two weeks or so.

Or, if you are like me, nurture them as long as possible and just enjoy their fresh bright beauty.

We lost an exemplary woman and amazing Master Gardener this month. Sue Adee has been a shining example of what a great Master Gardener can be. She helped create our IDEA Garden and has worked tirelessly all these years to make it a beautiful showplace of which we are all proud. Her knowledge of plants and her determination to create and maintain this wonderful teaching garden will long be remembered. She is missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and close friends who will miss her every day. Perhaps a walk through our garden will be a comfort to them in the days and weeks and months ahead.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The **Executive Committee** met on January 15th, for its first meeting of 2015. They discussed

the following:

The “Jewels in the Garden” regional one-day conference is scheduled for June 6th. A planning meeting was scheduled for January 16th to work on the details and to get commitments for leadership of the various parts of the conference. It was agreed that the conference will be to the honor of Sue Adee, who had led the planning of the conference before she passed away.

Keith Hansen offered information on several projects which will happen this year, including: The E.T. Garden Lecture series; the Juvenile Center which will need help to assemble the greenhouse; “Learn, Grow, Eat, Go” which may be implemented in local schools; the Food Bank garden which is being planned; and the Rose Garden renovation will which begin with work to comply with ADA standards.

All of the MG projects were discussed and evaluated as to their value to the community and their continuance in the coming year. A committee will be formed to exam the members’ involvement in the MG projects.

NEED INSECTICIDES OR FUNGICIDES?

MAKE YOUR OWN

By Dee Bishop



We lived at the end of a road and town was far enough away that we learned to be pretty self-sufficient. If we needed something, we made it ourselves.

We learned how to make our own bug spray and fungicides from the plants that grew in our herb gardens or with weeds that grew in the ditches around our place.

We knew that a good gardener checks his plants every day for bug eggs, or signs of disease before those things get out of control. We had those big ugly Mexican grasshoppers and our (the kid’s) jobs were to catch them and smash them under heel. I hated touching those ugly things, but tough, that was one of my jobs.

Grandma used to say, “Find some real strong smelling plants or weeds, chop them up and boil them a few minutes (or steep them overnight) strain and spray on the infested plants.” We had lots of garlic, chrysanthemums, tansy, and marigolds which we grew for this purpose. We also gathered willow twigs and horsetail to make sprays for fungus. There was always a big pickle jar of willow tea to soak cuttings in before planting. There was something magical in that tea that wouldn’t let a plant refuse to root. I worked for a lady (Odena) once who used this same method to start cuttings of hard-to-root plants.

Making a tea is as easy as adding chopped plant leaves and stems to a pot of simmering water. Let it steep a while, strain, and spray. How much? How long? The formulas aren’t scientific; so just use your own judgment. I know that willow tea could sit in Odena’s hot shed and never turn rancid nor did it spoil. You can also make dry herbs to sift on plants. I use pecan shells, sweetgum balls, and pinecones under my hostas and other slug hosts, to deter the slimy little beasts before they chow down on my prized plants. I know it works, I have done it for years now with great success.

Another little trick I learned when I had my greenhouse was to make sticky traps. Coat a bright yellow index card with Vaseline and either hang it low over your plants or use a plastic fork to attach it to and stick it among susceptible plants. White flies are the bane of all greenhouses and these little sticky traps really do work.

Some of the best herbs to use to deter bugs are: artemesias (all kinds), mints, garlic, hot peppers, chamomile, chrysanthemums, mustards, and horsetail. Anything that has a strong odor will deter insects that are out hunting their favorite plants to munch.

Gardening should be fun, not work. Now of course it’s work, but pleasant work that in this world of rush and push, keeps us grounded and secure. Have fun in your garden this spring and try some homemade teas to discourage insect dam-

New E-Mail address:

Mike Engleman—mwecdi@hotmail.com

EAST TEXAS GARDEN LECTURE SERIES

Floral Smackdown - February 7 - Tyler Rose Garden Center - Three floral designers will give quick lessons on floral arranging.

Go to page two of this newsletter to see the entire schedule.

MG Specialist—Irrigation Efficiency Training

This hands-on training will include practices for determining irrigation efficiency, setting controllers, etc.

Cost: \$200.00 (incl. manual, power points, two lunches, snacks and drinks) Monday, March 23 - Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at the San Antonio Botanical Garden

Registration & more info. at <http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses/>

Rose City Artisans & Flower Market at Tyler's Goodman Museum—March 27 and 28

Smith Co. MG's selling Chamblee's roses—Education table.

The Texas Master Gardener Conference for 2015

The conference will be held at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas. This event will start April 16 and conclude on the 18th. More information available at:

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

Regional MG Conference

Jewels in Garden

At the Tyler Rose Garden—June 6th

Speakers include: Nick Staddon, Tom LeRoy & Skip Richter.

National Azalea Convention

The 2015 national Azalea Society of America convention, co-hosted by the Stephen F. Austin State University SFA Gardens and the Texas Chapter of the ASA, is coming to town for our best weekend azalea bloom time—the end of March. Five speakers will discuss hunting for, growing, and gardening with azaleas. We will visit four SFA Gardens, including the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, the largest in Texas, and six private gardens in town. The Texas Chapter of the ASA is also selling azaleas and hydrangeas that have been SFA Gardens favorites. Read all about the offerings and registration information—including ASA new member (\$30/yr.) application—at the following links: www.sfagardens.sfasu.edu www.nacogdochesazaleas.org or the national ASA Web pages www.azaleas.org

Landscape Design School Series XXIV

The George W. Bush Presidential Library at Texas A & M University will be the site of Landscape Design School II February 23-24, 2015. **Master Gardeners** who complete a course receive 12 CE's. Registration for the course will be \$145.00 by February 1, 2015 (two lunches are included) – make check payable to Landscape Design. Registration will be \$165 after February 1, 2015.

Registration form and tentative schedule may be obtained from:

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/>

2015 Smith County Master Garden Class



Back Row L to R: Cathrine Swindell, Linda Munn, Karen Nance, Randy Danner, Henry Burch, Lee Rhodes, Craig Conner

Middle Row L to R: Janie Fowler, Vickie Hammer, Cheryl Black, Robin Coon, Connie Ashwood, Nelwyn Smith, Rebecca Wilson, Mary Bollier, Sara Waggoner, Noel Coon

Front Row L to R: Joy Leblanc, Mildred Witte, Laurie Graham, Dr. Jackie McVey, Teresa Palzes, Wayne Elliott, Eileen Gottschalk, Sam Griffith, Dana Anderson, Marilyn Middleton