



# MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

January 2015

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

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**SCMG luncheon**  
**January 8, 2015**  
**Rose Garden Center**  
**11:30 AM**

**MG Grapevine Staff**  
 Martin Davis, Editor

#### MG Grapevine Contributors:

Dee Bishop, Anne Brown, David Gary, Keith Hansen, Mary Claire Rowe, Pat Turner & Pat Welch.

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#### Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980  
 Fax - 903-590-2984

### SCMG Association Meeting January 8, 2015 Rose Garden Center

The January meeting speaker will be James Wilhite of Wilhite Landscape & Lawn Care. The title of his talk is "Playing in the Dirt".



#### Notice

Since the 1st Thursday of January is New Year's Day, the association meeting date is changed to January 8, 2015.

#### Happy New Year

I want to take this opportunity to say Happy New Year to you and yours. In addition, I want to say welcome to a new year of Master Gardening.



When I moved down here eight years ago, I searched out the Master Gardening program to make new friends. As I sit here thinking about it, I look at all the friends I've made. I also wonder who I'll get to meet with the new class of trainees. I'm having a great time.

I'm hoping you will all be willing to join me this year in renewing old friendships, making new friends and stretch a little to try something new. I promise it will be a fun and exciting year with all the activities that are in the works.

I hope to see everyone at the January 8th Master Gardener meeting at the Rose Garden Center.

#### David Gary sez..

Friends,

It's hard to believe that 2014 is over. It was a great honor to serve as your president. So many of you were particularly helpful, and I very much appreciate it. The Smith County Master Gardeners are the best, and I am grateful for your encouragement and support. I know our new president, Pat Welch, and vice president, Susan Stone, will do a fantastic job this year. I will support them in any way I can by serving as the 2015 parliamentarian.

I hope everyone can attend our monthly Master Gardener meeting on January 8th to welcome the new officers for 2015.

I wish you all a prosperous and peaceful New Year, and I will see you in the garden.

David Gary, President 2014



#### Work Days in the Gardens

There are no workdays scheduled during January. A workday may be needed sometime during the month for clean up, to clip pansies and do other chores.

Thank you everyone for your help this past year, you know the gardens would not continue to look so good without your hard work.

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Garden Coordinators

#### Time to Pay Annual Dues

The time has come to pay the SCMG Association dues. Please bring your check for \$20, made out to SCMG to the January 8th meeting. This notice includes Class 21 who will begin to pay dues as of January 1, 2015.



Happy New Year! I hope 2015 will be indeed be a year filled with great things for both you individually, and for the Smith County Master Gardener program! Welcome to the new board members – I hope everyone will, as always, give the board your full support, and when one of them may come a-calling for help with a project, you would step forward and answer the call. We have a little saying that “many hands make light work” and each and every one of you play an important part in this great organization, helping educate Smith County residents in good gardening practices!

We will be starting up Class 22 on January 8, which falls on the same day as the January monthly association meeting. I will be at the meeting but will probably have to leave early to prepare for the new class. We have 30 applicants!! And if all applicants follow through, we will have a very full meeting room. I still invite anyone who is interested in auditing any class to attend – you do earn CE’s for doing so. It is also great way for the new class to be able to meet and get to know other Master Gardeners. However, we want to make sure that our new class trainees have the best seats and the best training experience. Therefore, auditors are asked to sit on the chairs lining the back wall, leaving seating at the tables for the new class. Also, with the larger number of folks in the room, we ask that you exercise proper etiquette and keep your “visiting” restricted to break times. Talking during the lectures is distracting to both the trainees and to the speakers. Thanks!!

I hope you learn more about the project we have with the Smith County Juvenile Center that

was started earlier in 2014. The project has a two-fold goal of 1) teaching horticulture skills to troubled youth with the view that they would see a potential “field” of work as they turn their lives around, and 2) these youth grow vegetable transplants to be distributed to community gardens in Tyler and the county. To that end, a hoop greenhouse was donated by a nursery, and through a 4-H grant, heating equipment has been acquired. Now, the greenhouse need to be covered with a double layer of plastic, and the heater and fan installed in January in preparation for sowing seeds in February. This will require some help, as we look for a warm and non-windy way to put on the plastic. If you are interested in learning more about this worthwhile project, please contact Anne Pattullo, Linda Sargent or me.

We will also be sharing more in the coming days about a new Junior Master Gardener project we intend to kick off in 2015 called “Learn, Grow, Eat & Go” – a multifaceted approach to helping kids learn about and grow veggies, learn how to prepare these veggies in to tasty and easy dishes, and engage in a more active lifestyle to help combat childhood obesity and diabetes. Master Gardener Jean Smith, agent Ashley Pellerin and I attended a 2.5 day training in College Station in November on LGEG, and will be seeking to find schools and teachers this spring to pilot this program in the fall. Talk to Jean about this easy and exciting program!

Interns, remember you only have until the end of March to complete your required hours. Be sure to turn in your hours regularly to Martin Davis, and if you anticipate being unable to fulfill your commitment by that time, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Have you filed your Volunteer Hours report? For any hours worked in previous months or just in December, your reports must be made by the end of December.**

### New Phone Number

Nelda Stanley—430-235-1064

### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meeting was held on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Extension office. The 2015 officers, who will take office in January, were invited to attend

(and many did).

Treasurer Bob McCrae advised that the 2015 budget had been sent to the membership via e-mail.

The Texas Master Gardener award entries for 2014 must be submitted by January 30, 2015. The committee discussed the possible entries and those who will write-up the information to be submitted.

A program to develop the Texas A&M Gardens & Greenway on the university’s campus was discussed. This ambitious project has asked the Texas Master Gardeners around the state to consider contributions in the amount of \$100,000 to obtain naming rights to one of the specialty areas of the Teaching Garden Complex within the Gardens and Greenway. Following discussion, the Executive Committee voted to make a contribution of \$2,000 to the project.

Keith advised that the MG new class, which begins on January 8<sup>th</sup> potentially, may have 30 students. If there are 30 who show up for the class, this will be the largest class in the history of the program.

### “...as lovely as a tree”

By Mary Claire Rowe



Joyce Kilmer was a poet who expressed our thoughts about the earth in a lovely way. His poem “Trees” is one we learn as young children. When I learned it, I was encouraged to look more closely at the trees I saw every day, and eventually learn to identify them by leaves, and bark.

Here in East Texas, we are surrounded by millions of trees, and as they turned color this year, I was once again in love with their beauty. We have such an amazing variety of trees: many are native, but many others have made their way here from all over the world.

One of my favorites for color is of course the Japanese red maples. However, our native red maple has such a great range of colors that it comes in a close second. The AgriLife SuperStar Acer Drummond is a beautiful tree for us to grow. I have a Texas maple, but I lost the nomenclature card. Now, I struggle to identify it. I know it is not a Drummond, but it is just beautiful. I hope I will see it grow to the magnificent tree it can be. It is only two feet tall at the moment.

In researching to identify the tree by its leaves, I found a very interesting web site called “Plant this, not that” by Annie Raup. The article showed pictures of trees and ornamental plants we used to think were good, but are now labeled as “invasive,” and she told why. Then she showed two alternative plants that were good for her area, with pictures and detailed information. [www.holdenarb.org/resources/Redmaple.asp](http://www.holdenarb.org/resources/Redmaple.asp). I wish the AgriLife web site had such an instructive list with pictures and an explanation.

I also have a fantastic Eucalyptus tree, which is now about 20 feet tall. It started as a sweet little shrub, but became a tree; therefore, I think it is a “Mallee.” I looked up the tree on <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus> trying to determine if it was going to retain the lovely grey-green round leaves, or if it was going to change to small elongated leaves. There are over 700 species of eucalyptus. I finally found what is obvious, it is E. Cinerea or “Silver Dollar Gum.” Disappointingly, it will likely change to elongated leaves, just like Dee Bishop said it would. She is just so smart!

There is a wonderful little book I want to recommend again: “The Incomparable Honeybee and The Economics of Pollination” by Dr. Reese Halter. If you have not read it, I highly urge you to do so. While we know a lot about bees, there are such amazing and vital little creatures for our world. You will be even more amazed by this study. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### 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 and pass the test may apply to their MG Chapter to receive 12 hours of credit toward their requirements for continuing education.

Registration for the course will be \$145.00 by February 1, 2015 (two lunches are included) – make check payable to [Landscape Design](http://LandscapeDesign). Registration will be \$165 after February 1, 2015.

Registration form and tentative schedule may be obtained from <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/>

### Hoses: The Good and The Bad

By Dee Bishop



Hoses are a given necessity for those who are hard core gardeners. We all have had all sorts of experiences with hoses---mostly bad. There are bad hoses and worse hoses. Let me tell you what I have learned, very painfully, throughout the years.

We purchased our first hose, as newly-weds to water our vegetable garden. Money being tight, we got a cheap hose, one hundred feet long --- big mistake! That hose was a monster. It kinked constantly and caused us untold aggravation. Later we purchased another, better looking hose. The tag said mid-grade. We thought mid-grade sounded to be a few steps up from cheap. We were further disappointed. Mid-grade still kinked and twisted constantly causing us much grief. Our dear old friend and neighbor came to our rescue. She told us that some cheap things are okay, but a garden hose that is used much at all needs to be top quality. She told us to go to Sears and get a Craftsman hose, five eighths in in diameter, made of sturdy rubber. We did and had that hose for over twenty years with nary a problem. Lesson learned.

Most of the cheaper hoses are made of nylon and are hard. They tend to stay curled up and are hard to manipulate. Rubber heats up in summer and is very pliable and stays where you put it. In winter, rubber remains pliable whereas nylon is harder. Rubber hoses are heavier, but they pull easier and coil up easier too.

Why 5/8” diameter? Smaller diameter hoses often do not put out enough water to water long distance areas or make it all the way to the end of soaker hoses to which they are often attached. The larger width hoses are used for commercial, dairy, utility type jobs where huge amounts of water and pressure are needed. The 5/8” hose is perfect for any gardener’s needs.

Watering is a necessity here and a good hose just makes sense. Look for a rubber hose, 5/8” in diameter, the length you need (they run from 25 feet up to 150 feet). Craftsman hoses are still available at Sears, but ones that are just as good can be found at the garden centers too. They will have a lifetime guarantee and will give you many years of faithful service.

### Officers for year 2015

President: Pat Welch

Vice President: Susan Stone

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Melva Hermes

Treasurer: Bob McRae

Assistant Treasurer: Linda Sargent

Historian: Bill Kelldorf

Parliamentarian: David Gary

At Large Exec. Comm.: Eloise Muxworthy & Trudy Menke

State Director: Harvey Collen & Rebecca Bullock

Alternate State Director: Hazel Bateman & Peggy Canant

**These people will be installed at the January 8th SCMG meeting. Give them your support.**

**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/>

**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/>

**Save The Date—June 6, 2015**

For the one-day Regional MG Conference in Tyler.

Nick Staddon will be the featured speaker.

**International MG Conference 2015**

International Master Gardener (IMG) conferences are held every two years. In fall of 2015, the conference will be co-hosted by Iowa and Nebraska. Master Gardeners from these states are pleased to welcome Master Gardeners from all over to get a glimpse of "Horticultural Horizons in the Heartland". Plan to come to Council Bluffs/Omaha September 22-25, 2015. More info. at: <http://mastergardener.unl.edu/imgc2015>



Are you interested in keeping honey bees? Want to improve our environment with honey bees? Let me introduce myself. I am Jim Burt, a Master Gardener in Kaufman County and also a 30 year beekeeper. I am a member of the recently formed North East Texas Beekeepers Association. We meet monthly in Wills Point.

Join us at Russell Memorial United Methodist Church (Dean Building, George Hall) at 201 South 4th St. (FM 47) south of US 80, Wills Point, TX 75169 the second Tuesday each month at 6:45 PM.

**East Texas Beekeepers Association**

Join us at Whitehouse United Methodist Church, 405 West Main St. on the first Thursday of each month, 6:45 to 8:45PM. The public is always invited to join us and learn about honeybees and their importance in our world.

This organization is very active (they are the ones you see at the E.T. State Fair in AgriWorld), and have an active educational program for both new and established beekeepers.

Their web site: <http://www.etba.info/>

**SCMG Luncheon—December 4, 2014**



Food Line



Keith's Girls



Future MG?