



# MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

July 2014

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

Number 7  
Volume 21



### Inside This Issue

Keith's Column	2
Executive Comm.	2
New E-Mail Addresses	2
S. Region Conference	2
Slow Gardening	3
Summertime and...	3
2014 TX Association	3
Coming Events	4



**SCMG meeting**  
**No meeting in July**

**MG Grapevine Staff**  
Martin Davis, Editor

**MG Grapevine Contributors:**  
Dee Bishop, David Gary, Keith Hansen, Ann Kelley, Mary Claire Rowe and Jean Smith.

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

### SCMG Association Meeting

The association does not meet during the month of July. The next meeting will be on August 7th..

### Gourd Painting

A Gourd Painting Workshop will be offered at the Extension office on August 15 from 9 AM till noon. It will be taught by our own Wincie Caskey. Cost will be \$15. MG's will have opportunity to register before the public.

### AgriWorld

Once again the Smith County SCMGs will be part of the AgriWorld display at the East Texas State Fair. The fair does not open until September 19<sup>th</sup> but preparation of the Secret Garden display begins on the day after Labor Day. Master Gardeners will be given an opportunity to take part by signing up to help at the August SCMG association meeting.

### SCMG Cookbook

The book is in the final stages of proofing recipes and finishing other details which should be completed by the end of June.

Books will be on sale for \$15.00 at Bulbs & More in October.

### Bulbs & More

Looking ahead, "Bulbs & More" will be on October 11, 2014 at the Harvey Convention Center. More later.....

### JMG Day Camp

Master Gardeners, Hazel Bateman and Jean Smith recently attended the JMG specialist training at Texas A&M. As part of the requirements to finish their specialist training, they hosted a JMG day camp in conjunction with the Whitehouse YMCA summer program. A week of gardening, science, art, experiments and projects were enjoyed by 25 campers, aged 9-12. This is the first adventure into creating more youth gardening programs through the Junior Master Gardener program.

Thanks to all of the Master Gardeners who helped with the camp: Keith Hansen, Pat Welch, Nancy Roddy, Geri Roddy, Monette Colman, Jami Brumfield, Sandra Dugan, Pat Turner, Wincie Caskey and all MGs who contributed items for the various projects.

Visit the SCMG website and go to "What's New?" for more pictures.

### David Gary sez..

Well, the first day of summer is Saturday, June 21, and it is already in the 90's. In East Texas with the heat and high humidity comes Grey Leaf Spot Fungus on St. Augustine Grass. So remember not to water your yard in the evening as this can cause the fungus. Moreover, if you use yard crews, this fungus is often spread from yard-to-yard by their mowers. My yard has already gotten this fungus.



This year's Home Garden Tour was a success. Many thanks to Sheryl Rhodes for leading this project. She did a fabulous job. I also want to thank those who worked at each house on the tour. A project like this requires active participation from a good many to make it successful and so, many thanks to everyone associated with this important project. The success of this year's Home Garden Tour is due to you!

Jean Smith and Hazel Bateman were the leaders of the day camp at the YMCA in Whitehouse. This project was associated with the Junior Master Gardener Program. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this project a success, as well.

Remember--there is no monthly meeting in July, so we'll see each other in August. I hope everyone is having a great summer.

See you in the garden - David Gary, President





2014 has been an interesting year weather-wise as it relates to gardening. Delayed growth and bloom on many plants, cold spells and ice storms killing or injuring many plants in March, cool April and part of May, but thankfully timely rainfall and plentiful rainfall. By the end of May, Dr. Bob Peters' weather archive on KTBB.com indicated we (Tyler) were 3.76 in. less than normal year-to-date precipitation, and 80.5 % of normal year-to-date precipitation. I think we are right at normal with June's rainfall. Unfortunately, large portions of Texas still remain under critical drought conditions with dangerously low water reserves. You can check out a graphical map of the State's drought condition at:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?TX>

I want to thank everybody who helped plant and mulch the 33 trial camellias and rhododendrons in the Tyler Rose Garden. So many hands made light work! This is the case with all of our large educational projects. A big tip of the hat to Sheryl Rhodes for chairing this year's Home Garden Tour AND opening her own garden to the public! And thanks to everybody who helped at each of

the home gardens, worked selling tickets and preparing the excellent tour guide book. It is a great program.

Linda Sargent, Hazel Bateman and Jean Smith went to a Junior Master Gardener training in College Station, and if you get around any one of them, you will be infected with their enthusiasm for using this great program for teaching kids the wonderful world of gardening. They are our future gardeners, seeds planted at a young age, which may lay dormant for many years, will usually sprout and develop later in life. Jean and Hazel, along with several other Master Gardener helpers, held a Junior Master Gardener Day Camp at the Whitehouse YMCA. Lots of excited kids learning cool things, including "Suck a Bug"! Ask if you don't know.

Since there is no monthly meeting in July, I hope you will have a safe summer – watch out for heat stroke, and if you are travelling on vacation or visiting relatives, look for public gardens in your destination cities or along the way if you are driving. We can always get new ideas and be inspired by visiting other gardens.

Stay safe, wear mosquito repellent, sunscreen and drink plenty of water when working outside this summer.



#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met on Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup>. President David Gary

observed that the agenda was really quite short (almost nothing) so the meeting would likely be short. As it turns out, the committee discovered that there was more to discuss than they thought.

The recent Home Garden Tour was discussed. The turnout was down only a little from last year. This year the day was very hot which stimulated discussion of possible other dates for next year. An action concern-

ing next year's tour was tabled to a later date.

Two events which will be held next spring, the Plant Sale on April 25, 2015 and a special regional conference on June 6, 2015, were discussed.

Jean Smith, Hazel Bateman and Pat Welch commented on the Junior Master Gardener event at the Whitehouse YMCA. With the week nearly at an end, they advised that the event had been well accepted by the participants. Jean and Hazel recently attended JMG training and holding event like this is required for them to be certified as Master Junior Master Gardener specialists. Discussion followed regarding other JMG events that we might become involved with.

**New Address**  
**Patricia Turinsky**  
 – 4411 Kinsey Dr.,  
 Apt. 121, Tyler,  
 TX 75703 (no  
 change in phone  
 or e-mail)



### Southern Region MG Conference 2014

The [East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association](http://www.eastbatonrougemastergardener.org) of the LSU AgCenter's MG Program is proud to host the 2014 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference. When gardening enthusiasts from Texas to Virginia converge on Louisiana's capital city, they will be greeted with riveting speakers, entertaining tours and a trade show that promises to offer those 'one-of-a-kind' items.

This event will bring together master gardeners, vendors, horticulture professionals and others with a common interest in all aspects of gardening, the environment and plant sciences. Please join us in beautiful [Baton Rouge](http://www.batonrouge.com) from October 21<sup>st</sup> through October 24<sup>th</sup> at the [Crowne Plaza Hotel](http://www.crowneplaza.com). Hope to see you there! For more information, go to <http://www.southernregionmgconf2014.com/>

**Early registration is now available at their website. If registering for the entire conference the early registration cost is \$180, available until July 15<sup>th</sup>. After that the regular fee is \$220.**

### Slow Gardening

By Dee Bishop



I read a book by Felder Rushing called, SLOW GARDENING, and realized that what I am doing nowadays is pretty much slow gardening. Actually the book tells how older people can garden that is a little easier and a little simpler. I suggest you read it, for as always Rushing is witty and downright comical at times.

What he talks about is how we can simplify garden tasks, use easy (what I used to call garden hogging plants) plants that can survive without any help on our part other than an occasional whacking back. Many of you can remember a few years back I wrote several columns about plant monsters that take over your whole yard and ramble across your property like wildfire. Well, I have changed my mind. Nowadays, I think whatever grows rambunctiously and with little care is welcome here.

I remember my grandma told me once that the best thing you can have in your yard is a wonderful old althea. I thought it kind of funny, because even though altheas are beautiful, I didn't think of them as the most beautiful of all plants. Now I agree with Grandma, they are one of my favorites too. Plant them and they grow large and bloom all summer regardless of the weather. Then there are the wonderful old deutzias that were brought to Texas by German immigrants many years ago. They too are huge old shrubs that come to the front in mid spring, blooming profusely every year without fail. I also love my old English Dogwood, really a mock orange without the smell. It is gloriously beautiful with

large dogwood like flowers in spring. Then there are others like Flowering Quince which blooming every winter is a knockout when nothing else is, the beautiful and assorted large spring spireas that bloom from late winter through May when the summer blooming ones take over with their red and pink flowers. Other large flowering shrubs that I have had for years and treasure are: oakleaf hydrangeas with their huge white blooms that later turn pink, winter honeysuckle, witch hazel, several viburnums, of which the native ones are my favorites, that bloom winter through summer, and of course camellias for fall through winter, and azaleas (the huge old blousy Indicas), that announce spring's arrival. I have others, but these all survive floods and drought and require very little other than my admiration.



Do you see where I'm going? Large flowering shrubs are the way to go for color all year with practically no care. Some such as oakleaf hydrangeas give color in fall and winter too. So with these large shrubs, I have year-round color, privacy, bird food, and beauty for my yard all for an occasional trim and a bit of water in the driest months. Gone are most of the little beggars (plants that 'beg' constant attention) and small perennials that need cutting back so often. Give me my tried and true old shrubs and my bulbs interlaced with a few artemisias, maidenhair ferns, woods ferns, daylilies (for the deer), and native plants that stay no matter how hard the going gets. My yard has matured right along with me and I love it.

### "Summertime and the livin' is easy."

By Mary Clair Rowe

These lyrics from "Porgy and Bess" have always resonated with me. When I was a young girl, summertime meant the ice-cream man would soon be coming down the street on a hot afternoon. It meant catching fireflies at dusk, and putting them in my hair for a glowing crown. Softball with all the neighbor kids, "Hide and Seek," "Piggy wants a signal." "Captain May I?" and "Action Heroes" games were part of the fun. I was always Wonder Woman, of course!



Gardening was not something that my family did at that time. I had three younger brothers, so time was spent with other things. There was one and only one flowering plant in the neighborhood that I remember. It was a white flower with red center that bloomed every year; but I did not like it. Disappointingly, it did not have a lovely fragrance. In fact, I thought it smelled rather bad. Fort Worth was not the garden-spot of Texas

at the time, in my area, anyway.

However, my paternal grandmother had the most incredible vegetable and flower garden an hour's drive away in Burseson. Anything that is edible that can be grown in Texas, she grew. It was a magical place for me. I would get to help pick vegetables for our weekly Sunday lunch. I would get to help shell the peas, or beans, and wash the carrots, and potatoes. She made the most fantastic pound cake, and would serve it covered with her luscious strawberries.

I have often wondered about her boundless energy for the whole food process. As I have aged, I am even more impressed. She gardened well into her early nineties. I recently learned that she was the granddaughter of one of our pilgrim ancestors. Perhaps, the work ethic, that enabled them to come to this country and to make homes and gardens in the face of all their hardships, came to her naturally. She has certainly been an inspiration to me through the years of semi-successful vegetable gardening.

Maybe it is not too late to plant tomatoes?

### 2014 Texas Association meeting

The conference will be hosted by the Permian Basin Master Gardeners on September 25-27, 2014, at the MCM Grande Hotel and FUN Dome, Odessa. There will be numerous garden field trips, expert presentations, informative exhibits, fun times, and much, much more! Their website is at <http://2014tmgaconference.org/>.

Information on the schedule, the speakers and hotels is available at their website. Registration by mail or online is now available.

**Cost for the full conference is \$150 prior to August 16 and \$175 after that.**



**COMING EVENTS**

**East Texas Garden Lecture Series  
September 13**

“Enjoy Your Home Landscape—Make Your Yard Fit Your Life”

David Gary

<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/>

**2014 MVES Training Registration**

The 2014 training will take place in Austin, TX.

Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Training will include experts speaking on insect identification, integrated pest management, pesticide safety, insects in the garden and landscape, butterfly gardening, biting and stinging insects, collecting methods and preservation techniques. Participants will collect insects for a collection during the course. Master Volunteer Entomology Specialists will be expected to complete entomology projects within their respective counties to become certified.

Most of the course will be conducted at the Travis County Extension Office. There will be some local travel to sites for field trips and we are relying on participants to provide transportation for these trips. Please remember to dress accordingly for days we are taking field trips. Wear long pants and shoes with socks and bring a long sleeved shirt, sunscreen, insect repellent, flashlights and any other personal items you require.

**This training is for Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists and is NOT open to the public.**

You may register online or by telephone. Registration cost is \$280 (thru July 23) or \$295 (July 24 – 31) which includes: three lunches, one dinner, snacks and drinks during the week and insect collecting kit including insect net, collecting jars, vials, glassine envelopes, pinning board, pinning strips, insect pins, pinning block, micron pen, labels, soft forceps, straight forceps, aspirator, hand lens and other items.

Register online at <https://agrifleregister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty>

Register by phone: 979-845-2604



Touring the Home Gardens

June 7, 2016

Photos by Bill Kelldorf



Photos by Jean Smith

