



# MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

May 2015

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## Number 5



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**SCMG Meeting**  
**May 7, 2015**  
**Rose Garden Center**  
**11:30 AM**

**MG Grapevine Staff**  
 Martin Davis, Editor

**MG Grapevine Contributors:**  
 Sandy Abernathy, Dee Bishop, Anne Brown, Keith Hansen, Jean Smith, Susan Stone & Pat Welch.

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**Extension Office**  
 Phone - 903-590-2980  
 Fax - 903-590-2984

## SCMG Association Meeting May 7, 2015 Rose Garden Center



Our speaker this month will be Chad Gulley – Smith County Ext. Agent. His topic will be "Au Naturel... an overview of the Texas Master Naturalist Program".

Chad was going to give this presentation at our March meeting which was cancelled due to weather.

### Library Displays

When a creative job needs doing, who better to call than Pat Turner and Monette Colman? This duo of Master Gardeners created two displays highlighting the Smith County Master Gardener Association for the Tyler Public Library, 201 S. College Ave.

The displays are located on first and second floors of the library and will be available for public viewing the month of May. Stop by and check out the creativity of Pat and Monette who have done an outstanding job of promoting the SCMG.

### Bus Trip—May 13th

Still thinking about the bus tour to Clark Gardens? We have about 5 seats left on the bus and Clark Gardens has agreed to extend the deadline for final payment. So, one last chance to sign up!

If you want to go, please call Susan Stone at [903-526-1363](tel:903-526-1363) to get your name on the list. Payment of \$40 per person is due no later than May 6th. You can drop it off at the Extension Office or bring it to our monthly meeting, May 7th at the Rose Garden Center

## Welch's Words

What a nice day this has turned out to be after all the rain we've had. For a while I thought we were all going to have to grow webbed feet.

I want to take this opportunity to say "Thanx" to everyone who worked at the City Artesian Faire at Goodman Museum. The weather turned out to be beautiful and a good time was had by all.



It was awesome to see the wonderful turn out we had for the Graduation Luncheon. We had 140 registered to attend. With the 27 Trainees moving to Interns, 12 Interns becoming Certified Master Gardeners and all the awards given, it was fun to be there with all the energy in the room. Once again congratulations to everyone who got an award.

The Luncheon wasn't the only place we received awards. We managed to bring home a number of awards from the State Master Gardener Conference as well. Congratulations to Anne Pattullo who won Master Gardener of the year in the Large Association category. It was well deserved. We also won second place for JMG Youth "Whitehouse YMCA Day Camp", our Association received second place, third place for "First Tuesday in the Garden" and third for "What's Blooming in our Garden".

Everyone who attended the State Master Gardener Conference had a good time and learned a lot. I would encourage all of you to attend the Conference next year. It will be in McKinney.

The organization and planning of the Garden Tour is moving along very smoothly. Don't forget if you interested in selling your crafts, please contact Janette Ross for more information. Be sure to sign up to work at one of the gardens we need everyone's help that day.

Last but not least is the "Jewels in Garden" on June 6th. We are making progress with all the little things that go into making an awesome conference. Don't forget to get your registration in early because the cutoff date for the reduced price is May 15th.

Hope to see everyone at the next Master Gardener meeting on May 7th. Pat Welch, President



Congratulations to Master Gardeners recognized this past month. Congratulations to Sheryl Chester, MG Intern of the Year (who also had the most volunteer hours among the interns), and to Ann Smith – Master Gardener of the Year. At the State Master Gardener meeting in Belton, our Association was once again recognized with a number awards. First Place Outstanding Individual was Anne Pattullo – Congratulations Anne for your many accomplishment and service to both our organization and to our clientele! Other awards included: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Outstanding Association; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Youth JMG Program – Whitehouse Summer Day Camp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Education Program – First Tuesday in the Garden; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Written Education – *What's Blooming in our Garden* (weekly article in the Tyler Morning Telegraph written by Dee Bishop). Thanks to all who wrote the award nominations and to Mary Hamlin for editing and submitting the awards.

Anne Pattullo and Linda Sargent, who are leading the Smith County Juvenile Services youth gardening project, and the whole group of Master Gardener volunteers who have been faithfully teaching and working with the kids at the probation center on Morningside Drive in Tyler, were recognized by Smith County with the Betty Hayes Volunteer Service Award on April 14 at a nice luncheon. As of this writing, there is a photo and accompanying story on the <http://smith-county.com> website home page "County News" section about the award and the garden project. Criteria for the award are: Need - Volunteers contributed a needed service to staff, or juvenile, or juvenile's family; Action – Involvement of the nominees was voluntary and/or above & beyond; Achievement – Nominee accomplished desired results; Impact – The activity or service produced positive change and provided examples for other volunteers; and Time – Amount of time devoted to the activity or service was significant. They wrote "We feel the Master Gardeners group has gone ABOVE & BEYOND in all the above criteria." The group was recognized by the Juvenile Center's Director, Ross Worley at the luncheon. Congratulations!!



Plant Diseases. With all the rain we have been getting, coupled with mild spring weather, diseases should be more abundant in the coming months. Keep in mind the disease process (inoculation -> penetration-> infection-> symptoms). In other words, by the time you see symptoms, the problem has been going on for days, if not weeks. During the week of April 20, we've seen a few samples of Take All Root Rot on St. Augustine and centipede grass. I've seen some azalea leaf gall and camellia leaf gall, and will not be surprised to see all kind of leaf spot diseases on a wide variety of ornamentals and vegetables.



### Jewels in the Garden

The countdown has begun. One month to go until we host "Jewels in the Garden". This conference is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend, Sue Adee, who first envisioned a regional conference hosted by the Smith County Master Gardeners. The conference will be on Saturday, June 6 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Lunch is included.

If you have not registered, there is still time to get the early registration price of \$25. After May 15 the fee will be \$35. Visit the SCMG website, <http://txmg.org/smith/jewels/> to download the registration form, fill it out and bring it along with your check to the monthly May meeting. CE's will be given for attendance. The conference will be a fun event with great speakers, local vendors, and tours of the SCMG gardens within the Tyler Rose Garden. Speakers include: Nicholas Staddon-Director of New Plants, Monrovia; Tom LeRoy- Horticulture Extension Agent, Montgomery County (retired); and Steve Huddleston, Director of Fort Worth, TX Botanic Garden.

The committee continues to gain vendors to fill booths for the conference. If you are interested in having a vendor space, contact Jean Smith 903-316-8501 or [smithjean17@hotmail.com](mailto:smithjean17@hotmail.com) for details. Booth spaces will be arranged within the conference hall so vendors can hear the speaker presentations.

There will also be volunteer opportunities for the upcoming event so watch your email for information. It will take many hands to make this a spectacular conference so please consider helping us make it a great event for Smith County.

### Executive Committee Notes

The Executive Committee met on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Cindy Harrington advised that John Adee wishes to contribute a bronze statue to be placed in the IDEA Garden in honor of Sue. The committee approved the request. Also approved was a new bench for the garden, replacing a bench which has rotted.

A new policy for cancellation of SCMG Association meetings due to weather, to be the same as the Tyler ISD School closing, was approved.

Treasurer Bob McRae reported sales at the Goodman Museum Flower Market sale were somewhat lower than last year.

Information on the various projects included: An update on the Jewels in the Garden event which included some vendor commitment and early registration; The Home Garden Tour posters are out and more workers are needed for the day of the tour; and a few seats remain available for the bus tour.

Chad Gulley reported that the next AgriWorld will be on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fair which will run from September 25 to October 4. The layout will be slightly different. Hazel Bateman and Chad have begun plans.

A request to purchase a special stone honoring Don Davis, to be placed at the Overton Research Center, was approved.

Keith Hansen advised that a volunteer was needed to sit at a table at the Tyler zoo on Earth Day. Speakers to give talks on vegetable gardening in containers and rainwater harvesting are needed.

## Commonsense Gardening

By Dee Bishop



Magazine stands are full of beautiful and very expensive periodicals showing breathtaking gardens, pots that will knock your socks off and the most beautiful garden décor and landscaping techniques. It's all one can do to keep your mind on Texas gardening and what works here.

I was writing this article when I received my newest *Louisiana Gardener*. I sat in a chair one day just thinking about what I have done, what I have accomplished, and what I have learned while gardening in my current place. I have enjoyed gardening in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Dallas, and here in Tyler, not to mention in Chambers County where I was raised, all different, all interesting, and all introducing me to many useful and different gardening techniques and ideas. I have honed my 'Common Sense' gardening from day one, and after sixty-two years of good dirt gardening and hundreds of tips from wonderful gardeners such as my own parents and grandparents plus dozens of neighbors and other acquaintances, I have had great successes and a certain amount of failures. Everything I have learned has helped whether good advice or bad. You learn from mistakes as well as successes. In a nut shell, I have learned to use plain old common sense.

The first things you learn are that a plant needs soil, light, water, and air to live and thrive. That is really all we need to know. The rest is trial and error. Of course we can keep from committing so many errors by listening to others who have already, 'been there and done that'. I think the thing I have remembered is that you can't garden in Alabama like you do in Texas. Soils are different as are climates. You learn that by bringing things you love from Alabama and watching them die in our long hot sweltering days and hot nights. Even though we are both in zone eight, there is nothing alike. Dallas was a complete different story than any other place, but very rewarding just the same. I also found the things I loved there do not do well here. See--honoring my common sense with each move, learning what works and what does not.

In the IDEA Garden I learned that deadheading and pruning are among the most important things you can do to keep a garden blooming. All along the journey, you meet the most wonderful people who share experiences and laughs, problems, and aggravations. Gardening has to be one of the most lively and beautiful experiences to share with a whole host of friends. Watching things grow from tiny seeds, cuttings, or pots into gloriously blooming plants is so worth all the aches, pains, and failures. Just keeping in mind what the plant needs and wants, finding the perfect little piece of ground for it, and giving it all the TLC necessary to make that plant perfectly happy, is what makes a great gardener from just a gardener.

Isn't this just the most perfect year we have had in years? All this delicious rain has put magical life back into my poor previously parched yard. I am so excited and am having more fun than ever before. I feel this will be the best summer as well. It is about time we had a really good year. A little more sunshine may help, but we will get that soon enough; so I don't worry just enjoy this glorious spring while we have it. Good gardening to all of you.

## From Insects in the City

Submitted by Anne Brown

Are insecticides to blame for killing off the honey bee? That question has stimulated lively debate in both scientific and policy circles the past two years. At the heart of the controversy is a group of insecticides known as **neonicotinoids**. Neonics, as they're sometimes called, have risen over the past 20 years to become the number one class of insecticides sold worldwide.

Environmental groups contend that the case is cut and dry, namely that **neonics are the reason** for colony collapse disorder (CCD), a bee killing phenomenon that keeps commercial beekeepers awake at night. Yet, most bee researchers agree that the issues surrounding CCD are complex and technical, and that pesticides are certainly not the whole picture. In a newly reported study, conducted by researchers at the University of Maryland, field realistic levels of the popular neonic, imidacloprid, did not appear to have any detectable effect on bees.

Much of this debate about neonics has centered on what constitutes "field realistic levels" of imidacloprid and its neonic cousins. Industry representatives have contended that some recent critical studies, cited by environmentalists as justifying a ban on neonicotinoids, were flawed because they were based on unrealistically high levels of the insecticides.

Maryland researchers tried to address these concerns by feeding their bee's imidacloprid in protein supplement patties at doses of 5, 20, and 100 micrograms per kilogram (parts per billion). The lowest dose, 5 parts per billion, has come to be recognized as field realistic based on several studies of pesticide concentrations in the nectar and pollen of treated crops. The insecticide-laced protein supplement was provided to the bees over a continuous 12 week period. Even so this was, the authors contend, a higher exposure scenario than would likely occur in agricultural settings, where the contaminated pollen and nectar is not likely to be present continuously.

The research shows that as dosage of the insecticide in the food increases, colony survivorship decreases; however the field-realistic dose does not significantly affect key bee health indicators, including foraging, and winter survival. The major impact of higher imidacloprid exposures is increased periods when brood (bee larvae) are not produced due to weak and dying queens late in the summer. Such effects can lead to lowered overwintering survival, a character of CCD.

While not letting insecticides off the hook entirely, the authors conclude that although short term exposure to high imidacloprid levels (represented by 100 parts per billion dosages in this study) does occur in agricultural settings; it is not likely to occur continuously throughout a crop cycle. Also, data from the study show that bees are efficient in metabolizing imidacloprid, so that short term spikes in insecticide levels in nectar are likely to be quickly diluted and eliminated by the bees. They conclude that while imidacloprid might be a contributing factor to some overwintering losses in bees, seed treated crops with low residue levels are likely to have negligible effects on honey bee colony health.

In the ongoing debate over bee health, I'm pretty sure this study won't be the final word.

### 2015 Garden Tour - May 30th

The Home Garden Tour homes are:

Jill McIntyre & Dick Grubbs, 7020 Ridge Place Circle, Tyler

Sandy Pannett, 3612 Silverwood Dr., Tyler

Brian & Sue McGuire, 922 S. College Ave., Tyler

Kenneth & Joyce Roddy, 17317 Highway 31 East, Tyler

Gardens open from 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM

Sign-up to help at the May 7th meeting. Every member is encouraged to work one shift.

### Spring Plant Sale & Gardening Expo

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Cypress Basin Master Gardeners event is on Saturday May 2, 2015 from 8 AM to 2:30 PM at Mt. Pleasant. Seminars are scheduled each hour from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM with subjects covering: Beekeepers in your Garden; Raised Beds & Container Gardening; Garden Soils and Daffodils. Admission is free at Titus Co. AgriLife Extension Office, 1708 Industrial Blvd., Mt Pleasant, TX.

### MG Specialist - Irrigation Efficiency Training

June 22, 23, 24, 2015

Harris County Extension Office

Irrigation Efficiency training will cover hands-on practices for determining irrigation efficiency, setting controllers, soak and cycle method, minor irrigation repairs, system trouble shooting, etc.

### Address Book Changes/Additions

Mack Humphreys - [mackhumphreys@gmail.com](mailto:mackhumphreys@gmail.com)

Rebecca Ann Wilson - [bjbwil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjbwil@sbcglobal.net)

Sylvia Hofman - 719-646-422

Brenda Strong is an MG who trained in 1998 in Virginia and has been recently inactive, but is joining the SCMG to renew her active participation.. Welcome her. She lives at 19507 Copperoaks Drive, Tyler, TX 75703, phone 540-875-9652 and her e-mail is [bjstrong@verizon.net](mailto:bjstrong@verizon.net).

### 2014 Awards presented on 4/2/2015

MG of Year, Ann Smith; Intern of Year, Sheryl Chester; MG most hours, Jean Smith; Intern most hours, Sheryl Chester; Lifetime Award, Bill Kelldorf; Golden Work Glove, Cindy Harrington; New Initiative, Flavors from our Garden Cookbook; Certificate of Appreciation, Tim Krizan; No Problem, Ann Kelley; Friends of MGs, Mary Wilhite & Sharon Lee Smith (Blue Moon; Public Awareness, Carolyn Chalender; Media, Dee Bishop; Certificate of Appreciation, Rae Meinen; Youth Award, Anne Pattullo & Linda Sargent; Youth Award, Jean Smith & Hazel Bateman; Special Award of Excellence, Mary Hamlin; Helping Hand, Brooks Kerr; MG Project - Fall Conference & Bulb Sale, Jim & Laquita Showen; and President's Award, Ann Smith.

### Smith Co. MGs pick up awards at the TX State Conference (see Keith's Column for details)



MG of the Year  
2014  
Ann Smith

Intern of the Year  
2014  
Sheryl Chester

