



# MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

November 2015

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## Number 11



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**The next SCMG Meeting**  
**November 5, 2015**  
**Rose Garden Center**  
**11:30 AM**

**MG Grapevine Staff**  
 Martin Davis, Editor

### MG Grapevine Contributors:

Hazel Bateman, Dee Bishop, Chad Gully, Clayton Turner and Pat Welch.

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### Extension Office

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

## SCMG Association Meeting

November 5, 2015



Our speaker for the November 5th meeting is Retired Senior Justice and Master Gardener Intern (Class 22) Sam Griffith.

The title of his presentation is "Feeding the Hungry in Your Backyard, Across Smith County, and Around the World."

### Welcome Kyle Tengler, County Extension Agent— Horticulture



Please help welcome Kyle Tengler to the staff of the Smith County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Kyle earned a Bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University in Computer Science. He completed his Masters of Science degree in Horticulture from Texas Tech University as well.

While at Texas Tech, Kyle worked at the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum as well as a research assistant in the Horticulture Department at Texas Tech. Part of the research conducted at Texas Tech was focused on breeding and improvement of Texas native wildflowers. Kyle also taught introduction Horticulture labs to college students while working on his advanced degree.

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## Welch's Words

Greetings,

As I write this I am looking forward to the rain they are promising for the weekend. Hope it isn't wishful thinking.



I want to thank everyone who helped us make it through this extremely busy timeframe for Master Gardeners. It is always really "neat" to see how everyone steps up to the plate when asked for your help to make an event a success.

Thanx Hazel Bateman and your AgriWorld crew at the Fair. It was an extra ordinary step back in time. The murals were gorgeous. The kids enjoyed everything from the working the hand pump on the well to the moon phases and everything in between.

From the Fair to the Bulb Sale and Conference all in one week. It might be horrible timing but great results.

A special Thank You goes out to Jim & Laquita Showen for chairing an awesome Bulbs & More Sale. Your committee did a great job of pulling everything together.

Thank you Pat Jessie and Ann Smith for making Bergfeld happen for two days. I understand almost everything was sold.

Our next adventure is the Member Picnic/Keith's Retirement Party. Hopefully the weather doesn't put a damper on the fun.

In closing, I can't say THANK YOU enough to everyone in our organization. You are awesome.

Pat

### Chad Gulley's comments...



November already, where did this year go? What a busy and successful October was for the Smith County Master Gardener program. AgriWorld, with Master Gardeners creating and delivering the message about the role of agriculture in our everyday lives was a huge success. More than 1,300 youth participated in AgriWorld through the various tours. Thanks to all the coordinators, teachers, and workers who helped throughout September and thanks to Hazel Bateman for coordinating the AgriWorld educational booths.

We rolled right into the Bulbs & More Fall Conference – another very successful program and plant sale. Everything went so smoothly, thanks to the wonderful coordination of a large committee headed up by Jim and Laquita Showen. Everybody pitching in and doing their part, whether big or small is what makes for a successful event. Next weekend was our Education Table at Bergfeld Park, where we were able to sell the remaining plants and bulbs. The Garden Lecture Series are also wrapping up for the year with one more in Novem-

ber. The 2016 Lecture Series is being planned and finalized.

We are accepting applications for the new Master Gardener class which will begin January 7. Orientation for the 2016 class will take place November 17, 1:30-3:00 p.m. at the Extension Office meeting room. The application is available at the Extension Office as well as online at the [Smith County Master Gardener](#) website.

I hope all of you enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday with friends and family. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. The Thanksgiving holiday has a rich agriculture heritage. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, annually United States farmers produce over 1.1 billion pounds of pumpkins, 2 billion bushels of wheat, 2.4 billion pounds of sweet potatoes, over 242 million turkeys, and over 856 million pounds of cranberries. Many other fruits, meats and vegetables are produced by farmers so we may enjoy the good food at Thanksgiving.

The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that over 45 million turkeys will be prepared and eaten on Thanksgiving Day alone. That equates to about one sixth of the turkeys produced annually in the United States. Another 22 million turkeys will be prepared and eaten for Christmas dinner. As I like to say, the three F's of Thanksgiving...Family, Food, and Football! Have a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!

### What About Succulents?

By Clayton Turner

I became interested in succulents several years ago because they are very forgiving for someone with a black thumb. I have discovered they are truly unique and varied plants. Because they are very drought tolerant, they will be useful for the future of gardening.

Recently I was asked to take over the drought tolerant section in the IDEA Garden which Joanie Matthews worked hard to create using succulents and cacti. Several MG's helped me add a short rock wall to further separate this area from the rest of the garden. We are planning to build a temporary cover for protection this winter. Going forward I plan to research and seek input on various ways to display succulents which my team and I will then implement. With over 20,000 succulents to choose from, opportunities for unique displays are endless. I believe the SCMGA can introduce and educate East Texans to this remarkable classification of plants.

Sound appealing? Consider joining the team and enjoy learning along with me. There will be opportunities for research (Pinterest is loaded with ideas) as well as opportunities to express your creativity. Thanks



**GARDEN DOINGS FOR NOVEMBER** roots go.

By Dee Bishop



November is the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs and of course bulbs. You can plant anything any time of the year if you are diligent in watering, but November begins the cool temperatures that make watering a breeze even if it doesn't rain.

Choose trees with shape in mind. If you are planting a shade tree or an ornamental flowering tree, choose one with a pretty shape—one strong central leader with a good top. If the top is damaged or broken, look for another. You want your tree to look lovely sitting in your yard. Never choose a tree with a double trunk or you will have to lop off one and it is painful to do that. If you want a tree with pretty fall foliage, wait until the trees turn so you can choose one that display the color you want. Keep in mind the trees that make huge roots on top of the ground----maples, magnolias, elms---you will be sorry when those huge roots ruin your mower blades or break up your house foundation, sidewalks, or patios. Oaks are your best bets as far as

Once you get your tree home, soak it good with a dash of fertilizer in the water to help it overcome any transplanting shock. Dig a hole as deep as the tree is in the pot (measure with a stick or the shovel handle) and two or three times as wide. Break up that soil well. Water the hole if it is dry. Pull tree out of the nursery pot and check the roots. Cut off any bruised or broken roots. Pull out all tangled roots and place in hole. It is good to get someone else to hold the tree upright while you shovel the soil back into the hole, being sure to cover all roots. Press down, but don't stomp it in. Water again enough to settle the soil. Add more soil if the root area is exposed, but never plant the tree deeper than it grew in the pot. Mulch well, keeping it a few inches away from the trunk. Keep the tree watered all winter if it is dry. You won't need to water if it rains as much as once every couple of weeks unless it turns off hot and windy. Just make sure to water if a freeze is predicted, if needed. Wait until spring buds appear to fertilize.

November is also a great time to plant shrubs and other perennials. Choose nicely branched shrubs and make sure they haven't been in nursery pots more than one growing sea-

son. You don't want to buy a plant that has strangled itself in a pot. Soak the pot well. Dig a hole the depth of the plant and twice as wide. Soak the hole if dry and plant your shrub. Mulch well. Wait until spring growth begins to fertilize.

Fruit trees may be bought both in pots and bare rooted. Plant as any other tree, but cut the trunk back for peaches. This makes them easier to pick, spray, and care for.

Other fruits that can be planted are: plums, apples, pears, persimmons, mayhaws, grapes, figs, jujubes, berries both black berries, blueberries, and strawberries, as well as several other lesser known fruits. Fall is the best time to plant them all.

Fall is just the best time for planting big things. Leave spring for the small things and annuals. The ground stays moister in fall making watering less frequent. Mulch well to keep the soil around the plants from freezing deeply should we have a really cold spell. Fall is also a great time to prepare beds for spring. Vegetable gardens prepared in fall, mulched with leaves and allowed to rest until spring tilling will make perfect seed beds for summer veggies, plus keep weeds at bay. Mulch perennials well for cold weather. Have fun!

**Welcome—continued from page 1**

He also worked with field trials in cotton. Kyle also maintained the greenhouse on campus working with various field trials as well.

Kyle focused his Master's degree in Horticulture working on sustainable vegetable and fruit production. While on campus he split time working with adult and youth education, focusing on natural resources, nutrition, and agricultural/horticultural products and how they are produced.

Kyle commented, "I'm incredibly excited for this opportunity. Horticulture plays an important role in the past, present, and future of Smith County and I am so thankful to be involved. The whole area is brimming with life and I can't wait to get my hands dirty, plant some seeds, and get to know all the wonderful gardeners, future gardeners, and everyone at the Smith County Extension office."

**E. T. Garden Lecture Series**

November 14th at the Rose Garden Center.



Dr. David Creech—*"The Winter Shouldn't be Boring."*

Registration 8:30 AM—  
Lecture begins at 9:00 AM.  
Tickets \$15 each.

**New E-Mail Addresses**

Betty Atchley [batchley123@centurylink.net](mailto:batchley123@centurylink.net)

Mike Engleman [mike@ranprofarms.com](mailto:mike@ranprofarms.com)

**Officers for Year 2016**

At the November 5th meeting, members will be asked to vote on this slate or a slate as changed by nominations from the floor.

- President: Susan Stone
- Vice President: Deanna Olson
- Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Melva Hermes\*
- Treasurer: Janette Ross
- Assistant Treasurer: Linda Sargent
- Historian: Jan Moch/Betty Atchley\*
- Parliamentarian: Pat Welch
- At Large Executive Committee: Charlie Colman
- At Large Executive Committee: Sheryl Chester
- State Director: Gay Barron (1<sup>st</sup> year – two year)
- State Director: Rebecca Bullock (2<sup>nd</sup> year – two year)\*\*
- Alternate State Director: Sandra Dugan (1<sup>st</sup> year – two year)
- Alternate State Director: Peggy Canant (2<sup>nd</sup> year – two year)\*\*
- \* Elected last year, agreed to serve second year.
- \*\* Elected last year, serving 2<sup>nd</sup> year of two-year term

At the SCMG Association meeting on October 1st the slate above, with one change, was presented. The change replaces Bob McRae with Janette Ross for the Treasurer position.



The committee met on October 115th. Hazel Bateman reported on AgriWorld that approximately 260,000 people visited the E.T. State Fair, with 17,000 visiting the AgriWorld exhibit. Registered students who heard the MG lectures totaled 1375.

Treasurer Bob McRae advised that receipts for the Bubs & More sale were down, compared to previous years. The unsold bubs will be taken to the Bergfeld Park sale, where most or all will be sold.

The annual picnic, scheduled for October 23rd, was discussed.

The proposed annual budget which had been put together by Pat Welch, Bob McRae and Janette Ross was presented. With expected income down, discussion centered on needed changes in expenses for a balanced budget. The group will meet again and present the final proposal at the November Executive Committee meeting.

The annual Texas State Awards were discussed.

Chad Gulley advised that new MG class orientation will be November 17th. The new Extension Agent has been selected and should be on the job December 1st.



Scenes from AgriWorld  
2015

