



# MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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**SCMG meeting**  
**November 6, 2014**  
**Rose Garden Center**  
**11:30 AM**

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## SCMG Association Meeting November 6, 2014 Rose Garden Center

Trish Whiting will speak to us about Winter Sowing which is an exciting and easy way to garden that utilizes used household items and harnesses nature's natural cycles to provide abundant plants with minimal work.



Trish and her husband Dave have 7 children on a 90 acre homestead in Jacksonville, TX. Together they own [AllThingsPlants.com](http://AllThingsPlants.com), a thriving gardening website with the most extensive database of plants online.

## Election of Officers

The slate of officers for 2015 was presented at the October SCMG meeting. Those nominated include: President elect/Vice President, Susan Stone; Secretary, Melva Hermes; Treasurer, Bob McRae; Asst. Treasurer, Linda Sargent; Historian, Bill Kelldorf; At Large Executive Committee, Eloise Muxworthy & Trudy Menke; State Director, Rebecca Bullock (2 yr. term); Alternate State Director, Peggy Canant (2 yr. term). Others can be nominated from the floor.

Not on the ballot are David Gary who moves to Parliamentarian and Pat Welch who moves to President.

Thanks to the Nominating Committee which included, Ann Smith, Jim Powell, Ann Kelley, Mack Humphreys and Deanna Olson, for their efforts to provide the slate of officers listed above.

## Work Day in the Garden

Beginning on November 2nd, the start time for work in the gardens each Tuesday changes to **10:00 AM**.

## David Gary sez..

Friends,

Fall is finally here! This is my favorite time of year to be a Garden Guide at the Dallas Arboretum. The Pumpkin Festival is going on now, and this year they have 65,000 pumpkins and gourds. A highlight of the Festival is four cottages built entirely of pumpkins. It is definitely worth a road trip to the Dallas Arboretum. Pumpkins also remind me that Halloween is coming up followed by Thanksgiving. My wife makes the best pumpkin pie from her mother's recipe. The recipe is in the Master Gardener Cookbook.



Additionally, a special exhibit called "The Twelve Days of Christmas" takes center stage this year at the Arboretum. Built by the Dallas Opera design team, this one-of-a-kind exhibit brings the beloved Christmas carol to life. The elaborate collection includes twelve life-sized Victorian gazebos filled with costumed characters. The Christmas exhibit runs from November 16 - January 4. Check the Dallas Arboretum web site for more information [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org).

Be sure to come to our Master Gardener picnic on Friday, November 7 at 5:00 p. m. at Cindy Harrington's house. She is providing the hot dogs, but it is a pot luck for everything else. Please check with Ann Smith about what to bring.

See you in the garden,

David Gary, President

## MG Picnic

Once again, Cindy Harrington has invited the SCMGs to her home at 16738 CR 192, Tyler, TX 75703. on November 7th from 5—7 PM. It is a potluck, so bring a dish and serving utensils. Hot dogs and water will be furnished, but you may bring other liquid refreshment if you wish.

Further information will be sent to all MGs via e-mail which will include a map to Cindy's home



The seasons are changing, and soon our landscapes and gardens will pass into winter dormancy. First freeze is usually around mid-November, but has been as early as the end of October, and as late as the end of December (which is very unusual). Get ready to protect tender plants. If you are bringing some indoors, de-pest them ahead of time. That includes not only insects, but other critters like snails on the bottom of pots or in the drain holes, lizards, tree frogs, etc.

What a busy and successful October was for the Smith County Master Gardener program. AgriWorld, with Master Gardeners creating and staffing Our Secret Garden was a big hit, with redesigned stations with more interactive educational content, and helped deliver messages about the role of agriculture in our everyday lives. Pollination and water conservation/quality were the 2 stations where hundreds of school kids were taught. Thanks to all the coordinators, teachers, and workers who helped create, build and staff the exhibits throughout September. Next we rolled right in to the Bulbs & More Fall Conference – another very successful program and plant sale. It was very well attended and received by the public. Everything went so smoothly, thanks to the wonderful coordination of a large committee headed up once again 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 most of the

remaining plants and bulbs. Thanks to Pat Jessie for her leadership, and again, all the helpers throughout the day!

We are now recruiting for the next Master Gardener class which begins January 8. We will have an information and orientation meeting on November 20 at 2:00 for anyone wanting more information about the program and for those who have turned in applications.

Another reminder that time is running out for currently certified Master Gardeners to obtain your minimum volunteer and CE hour's requirements to maintain your certification status. If you have hours, and not turned them in, please do it immediately. Do not put Martin Davis, our faithful hours recorder, in the position of dealing with a flood of backlog hours at the end of the year. If you need more hours, the demonstration gardens ALWAYS can use the help – we are frequently shorthanded. With the weather more uncertain in November and December, take advantage of Tuesdays when we are working to come and help out. Ask the coordinators of the gardens (Anne Brown, Sue Adee, Cindy Harrington and Eloise Muxworthy) where you could be of most help. Then there is the office help desk – lots of time slots available for you there. We will be short a secretary November 11 – 20, so that would be an especially helpful time to have some office help.

CE's become scarcer too – come to the Association meeting, and remember the online opportunities to get CE's by going through the Earth-Kind modules.

Have a great November, and Happy Thanksgiving!! / Keith



The Executive Committee met on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Extension Office.

Bob McRae advised that gross proceeds from the Bulb Sale are close to the amounts from the 2013 event, but since all of the expenses are not yet available, the net results cannot be calculated. He also reported that he has filed the annual report to the IRS.

Cindy Harrington and Joanie Matthews brought a report from the 2014 Texas State MG Conference in Odessa. They attended the Director's meeting where coming changes in the Texas State Bylaws were discussed. The sites for the Texas State MG Conferences for the future were announced; 2016 Colin county and 2017 Travis county. The 2015 conference is in Bell County in April. Plans for the proposed Texas A&M "Gardens & Greenway" were presented by Dr. Doug Welsh. The association directors approved making a financial commitment to funding the construction and long-term management of the gardens. To learn more about the Texas A&M Gardens and Greenway, visit <http://agrilife.org/texas-am-gardens-and-greenway-project/>.

Long range planning was discussed. The Executive Committee will form a committee to design a questionnaire whereby the MGs can participate with their ideas for the future of the SCMG association.

### State Awards

The 2014 Texas State MG Conference was held in Odessa. The statewide awards were presented Friday September 26<sup>th</sup>. The SCMG Association received the following TX State Awards for 2013:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Association
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Research (for the Overton project)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Individual (Joanie Matthews)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Education (AgriWorld)



### A Walk in the Wild Wood

By Mary Claire Rowe

Sometimes I feel like I live in a wild wood, even though I live a few blocks to the east of Broadway, and two miles from Loop 323. Two days ago a garden helper was cleaning out the overgrown, weed-infested space I fondly call a vegetable garden, and came upon a 5 ft. long snake. Only the evening before, I had stepped cautiously into that spot on top of the weeds to cut a few ginger blossoms to deliciously scent the kitchen. He had dispatched it, before he brought it to us to see; so there was no discussion about whether it was poisonous or not. It was not, but snakes are really not welcome in my garden. I know, I know, one should live and let live, but it had chosen to abandon the woods behind and move into our space.



We have lived in our home for thirty-nine years, and through those years, we have seen our share of "critters." Possums have briefly made it into the space between the floors. Don't ask, it is a long story. Raccoons, of course, have come and gone. We still have a squirrel visitor now and then in the attic. Flying squirrels inhabited the chimney we learned to our surprise, when the chimney sweep came to work one time. Of course, there is always the odd chameleon now and then that makes it way in with plants.

Occasionally we glimpse of one of the few remaining rabbits; and a red fox came by a few months ago. The boldest of all was the small pack of coyotes that came through one morning at 8:30, according to a neighbor, whose vision I trust.

And who could forget the hive of bees that lived between our floors, right below our bedroom. Everyone was absolutely flabbergasted by the number of bees and amount of hives removed by our favorite bee keeper.

The most wonderful wild creatures we have had for many years are the red shouldered hawks. A family is always nesting each year in the top of a pine back in the woods. We love to hear the pair calling to one another in the spring, and then the babies calling for food, as they mature. One sat for an hour on our back fence calling for a meal, when he was really big enough to fend for himself. They are spoiled that way. One could hear "mama" calling back from afar. I know she said, "Come and get it!"

Having a garden with plants is only the beginning. The insects, birds, butterflies, and animals that find their way into that space, make it all worth the effort. Isn't your garden your own little bit of Eden!

### 1st Tuesday in the Garden Lecture Series

The last presentation in this series will be on Tuesday November 4th at the IDEA Garden at noon.



Keith Hansen, our own Extension Horticulturist, will talk about "Lawn Prep for Winter". Certified MGs who attend may claim one CE credit.

The "First Tuesday in the Garden" programs will not begin again until March, 2015.

### HOW TO CARE FOR AMARYLLIS

By Dee Bishop

Amaryllis are such beautiful flowers and most if not all of us have some. Proper care of the very expensive bulbs is important to know. They are easily grown and multiply rapidly if they are happy.

When planting amaryllis bulbs, prepare the soil well, adding lots of compost and bone meal to the bed. Make sure the bed is well drained since the bulbs are susceptible to rot in wet winters if not very well drained. Plant the bulbs leaving the necks exposed. They grow very shallow thus need a good mulch throughout the year, especially in winter. Pine needles are the very best choice for this job. Part shade is okay, but they need several hours of good sunshine to bloom their best.



When actively growing----spring and summer, keep the bed moist and fertilize every two weeks or so with a complete fertilizer. They do like fertile soil. Some good manure or compost in spring is great too. Plant bulbs 12 – 15 inches apart. The bulbs get large and need room to split and multiply. Dig every 2-3 years and prepare the bed again each time. This is the way to have the largest and best blooms. My mom and grandmothers never did this and had lots of blooms, but I have tried it and it does work.

You want to encourage lots of leaves which, like other bulbs, feed the bulbs. Deadhead the old blooms for larger blooms next year. Some make seed pods and the seeds are easily grown, but do take a lot of strength from the bulbs. If you like to grow seeds, let one or two make seeds and clip the others off. Amaryllis bulbs can be planted in fall or very early spring when bulbs are available. They begin blooming in April.

Pot culture is different. When you buy bulbs with little plastic pots, the best thing to do is to get a good heavy clay pot to plant them in. They get very top-heavy and need good support. I love planting 3 – 5 bulbs in clay pots to make a real statement. I do not use the peat moss that comes with them other than to mix it into a good well-drained potting mix. Fill the bottom of the pot with enough soil so the bulbs necks stick up near the pot edge, fill to within a couple of inches of the rim. Water-in well and mulch with gravel. They will grow beautifully and look spectacular. Fertilize every two weeks with a complete fertilizer. After the blooms dry, clip them off and continue to care for the foliage. Once the weather warms, pots may be moved outside in a partly shaded place. In late summer, lay the pots on their sides or place where they get no water and allow the foliage to completely dry up. Six to eight weeks before you want them to bloom, begin watering and once the leaves appear begin fertilizing. You can do this until they need separating.

Amaryllis bulbs are so beautiful and will live for a lifetime with minimal care. They are sure to bring much joy to any gardener who owns them.

### New e-mail addresses

Jean Watson - [tis4jean@gmail.com](mailto:tis4jean@gmail.com)

George Ruth Johnston—[ogjohnston@gmail.com](mailto:ogjohnston@gmail.com)



The Texas Master Gardener Conference for 2015 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 will be available at <http://txmg.org/2015tmgaconference/>



International Master Gardener (IMG) conferences are held every two years and provide

an opportunity for EMGs and Extension specialists to come together and learn through seminars and tours, while also convening committee meetings and exchanging ideas and concerns. 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". To be sure, the states are known for their traditional row-crop agriculture of corn and soybeans, which feed a thriving livestock industry of cows and sows. But the same rich soil that fosters fantastic agricultural harvests also grows great garden plants. Plan to come to Council Bluffs/Omaha September 22-25, 2015 to see what we mean.



Go to <http://mastergardener.unl.edu/imgc2015> for more info.

**2014 THERESA & LES REEVES LECTURE SERIES**

Held at the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Center, 2900 Raguet Street, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. 6:30 refreshments/social, 7:00 PM lecture followed by an exciting plant raffle! For more information, contact us: [sfagardens@sfasu.edu](mailto:sfagardens@sfasu.edu)

**NOV 13** – Jenny Wegley, Dallas Arboretum – “I think if I hear the word “Color” one more time, I’m changing my profession.” Email: [jwegley@dallasarboretum.org](mailto:jwegley@dallasarboretum.org)

**DEC 11** – Dave Creech, SFA Gardens – “The true and unabridged story of this past year.” Email: [dcreech@sfasu.edu](mailto:dcreech@sfasu.edu)

**East Texas Garden Lecture Series**

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Smith County, invites you to the last seminar of this series.

**Register at 8:30 AM, program starts at 9:00 AM.** The lecture is approximately 2 hours. The program will be at the Tyler Rose Garden Center.

**Nov 15 - “Japanese Maples” & “Adapted Trees for Every Landscape” - Dave Creech** - Dave is director of the SFA Mast Arboretum in Nacogdoches, and has a passion for ornamental woody plants. The arboretum has one of the largest collections of Japanese maples in the region, and he’ll share his favorites. In addition, he’ll discuss a wide selection of other trees adapted to the East Texas region, many of which are not frequently seen in our area.

A Group of SCMG MGs attended the recent Southern Region MG Conference in Baton Rouge. Sandra Dugan also attended, but is not in the picture.



2nd Row: Hazel Bateman, Sandy Pannett, Inez Denison, Pat Welch, Anne Laville (Gay Baron’s sister), Gay Barron, Jean Smith.  
1st Row: Juanita Price, Susan Wiggins, Susan Stone, Peggy Canant



To see galleries of photos from AgriWorld and from the Fall Conference/Bulb Sale, go to:

- <http://www.pbse.com/mrd/agriworld2014>
- <http://www.pbse.com/mrd/fallconf2014>



Greg Grant spoke at the October 25th Lecture Series.

