



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

October 2014

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

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SCMG meeting
October 2, 2014
Water Treatment Plant
11:30 AM

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 Keith Hansen, Mary Claire Rowe, Laquita
 Showen, Jean Smith & Pat Welch.

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 ating.

Extension Office
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SCMG Association Meeting

October 2—11:30 AM

Lake Palestine Water Treatment Plant

Please note the location change.

Mike Norris will speak to us about Water & Waste Water treatment operations for the City of Tyler. There will be the opportunity to tour the plant as well.

The meeting will be at the Lake Palestine Plant, located at 14792 CR 192 (Old Nooday Rd.) Traveling west on W. Grande Blvd. (57), turn left on Old Nooday Rd. (192) and travel south to the sign for the treatment plant on the right. When on Grande, please look for the green geese. They will be on the corner where you need to turn.

When you arrive at the plant, you will see this sign.



David Gary sez..



It is hard to believe that summer is nearly over. The East Texas State Fair starts on September 19th. Be sure to check out the Master Gardener AgriWorld Exhibit--Our Secret Garden. Your fellow Master Gardeners have done a lot of hard work to make this a successful project.

Our Fall Gardening Conference and Bulb Sale is on October 11th at the Harvey Convention Center. We still need volunteers to help us with the sale. Please contact Ann Smith if you can help. Your time spent on this is greatly appreciated.

The East Texas Garden Lecture Series program I presented on September 13th was attended mostly by those who were not Master Gardeners. At my presentations, I always promote our MG Program, and I tell them about our IDEA Garden, too. The next lecture is on October 25th. The speaker is Greg Grant from the Piney Woods Native Plant Center. He offers an outstanding program. I hope you can attend.

This time of the year also reminds me that the trees will be changing to fall colors. This is a great time to drive through the East Texas countryside to enjoy Nature's colorful landscape and the cooler weather.

See you in the garden—David Gary, Pres.

Bulbs & More

One of the most important events of the year is the annual "Bulbs & More" scheduled for October 11th at Harvey Hall with registration at 8:30 AM. The program begins at 9:00 AM with Denise Cummins, a retired Horticulture Agent at the LSU AgCenter, speaking on "How about building a sustainable garden?"

Keith Hansen will offer a PowerPoint presentation on trees, shrubs and grasses in addition to some of the bulbs being offered for sale. Especially interesting are the trees, such as "Summer Sun" Red Maple and Red Bud "Rising Sun". The grasses offered include Orange Carex, Pink Muhly and "Shenandoah" Switch Grass. There will be Native Azaleas and Pink Lemonade Blueberry shrubs, all new to the event.

The full list on bulbs, trees, shrubs, perennials and other plants can be found on the SCMG website at [Coming Events](#).

Continued on page 3—**Bulbs & More**



Our big fall educational program and fundraiser is right around the corner. This is always an exciting and busy time, as we get to bring such high quality service and products (plants and education) to the folks of Smith County (and beyond) through the Fall Conference and the Bulbs & More Sale. Thanks to everybody stepping up and doing their part for this involved program/project. The Showen's are doing a great job heading everybody up and trying to keep us all on track. All the committee leaders and helpers have been hard at work ordering plants, recruiting volunteers for the many tasks, and preparing all the logistical things that need to be in place for this event. Also, thanks to members who provided some of their own treasures to be offered. Every contribution means a lot!!

Today we are once again in the middle of the East Texas State Fair, and Our Secret Garden exhibit in the AgriWorld exhibit is once again is top quality. Hazel Bateman and Jean Smith have once again put their heart and soul into creating a great teaching venue for our next generation to learn about plants, gardens,

water and agriculture in general. Thanks to all the Master Gardeners and our partners who made this great program happen. There are 4 sections this year: Master Gardeners section, created by Inez Denson, Margaret Herring & Carolyn Chalender; Water section, created by Peggy Canant and Susan Stone; Pollination Station, created by Sherry Matthews, Geri Roddy and Nancy Roddy; and the Junior Master Gardener section, created by Jean Smith and Hazel Bateman. Others helping throughout the week included John Brasher, Julia Lamberth, Ronny Duncan, Chris Steavenson, Pat Welch, Mary Hamlin, Brooks Kerr and Trudy Menke (if I left anybody out, please let us know!!). It is always interesting see how wonderfully things come together as people come together for a common cause.

We are coming up towards the end of the year, and opportunities for certified Master Gardeners to gain your required volunteer hours and CE's start becoming more limited. The fall conference and bulb sale is one opportunity for CE's and volunteer hours. Of course, you are always welcome and encouraged to help out on Tuesdays in the demonstration gardens, and in the office on the help desk (call first). And for CE's, don't forget to look on page 24 of the Address Book for other ways to earn hours.

1st Tuesday in the Garden Series



The "First Tuesday in the Garden" lecture series for 2014, a monthly educational program sponsored by the Smith County Master Gardeners, continues at Noon on Tuesday October 7th. when Anne Brown will present "*Not Your Usual Winter Plants*".

There will be one more 1st Tuesday on November 7th the subject will be "*Lawn Prep for Winter*".

Work Day in the Garden

Start time in the gardens each Tuesday is now 9:00 AM.

2015 Garden Tour

Please be on "lookout" for gardens you think will work for the 2015 Garden Tour. If you see one that interests you, please contact either Sandy Abernathy at tsabernathy@yahoo.com or Sheryl Rhodes at sheryl_rhodes@sbcglobal.net.

New Phone Numbers

Carl Caskey—903-752-5274

Wincie Caskey—903-752-5275

They plan to disconnect their land line in the near future.

New Addresses

Sunny and/or Mary Rogerson

3707 Lake Vista Circle

Tyler, TX 75707



The committee met on September 18th.

Treasurer Bob McRae advised that he and the budget committee are compiling the 2015 Budget. He suggested that the organization should take a hard look at long range planning especially as it pertains to the use of reserve funds. He asked the committee for thoughts on the proper use of those funds. It was agreed that any use of the reserve funds should be for community education which is the purpose of the Master Gardener program.

According to Jean Smith, the AgriWorld display will be completed today (September 18th) just in time for the opening of the fair on September 19th. SCMG has four areas in Our Secret Garden, with two being teaching areas and the rest are interactive. She advised that the AgriWorld looks better than it ever has and encourages all to visit it. The Fair ends on September 28th and teardown will be the following day, Monday September 29th.

The Bulb Sale still needs a few people to fill jobs and Ann Smith is making phone calls in an effort to fill them. In addition to bulbs, plants, such as trees, bushes and grasses have been selected to be provided on consignment by a local nursery.

David Gary has asked Anne Kelley and Susan Stone to serve on the Audit Committee.

Once again Cindy Harrington has volunteered her home for the annual picnic. The board agrees that the picnic is good venue for getting to know each other better. It will be on November 7th at 5:00 PM.

Thryallis

By Mary Claire Rowe



Thryallis, aka, Galphimia gracilis (gal-FIM-ee-uh GLOCK-uh), is an unusual name for a lovely plant.

It is also called Rain-of-Gold. Hundreds of little yellow flowers, bunched together in groups of ten or so, cover the shrub from early summer until frost. It loves the hot sun and will do best, if it has six or more hours of that sunshine a day. Thryallis, pronounced “threya alicé”, can grow to be eight feet tall by six feet wide. It likes to be semi-moist, in well-drained sandy soil, which makes it pretty perfect for Smith County.

Thryallis needs fertilizing annually, and will grow fast. It is not winter hardy here, if we have a bad winter. It can tolerate cold weather 30 to 25 degrees. It is really suited best for Zones 9 and south where it remains evergreen. In 8B it will die to the ground and will come back in the spring, if very well mulched. I had a Thryallis in the past, but forgot to protect it, so it died.

It is such a pretty plant, I am trying again. I picked up a pot of Thryallis at Lowe’s “old plants section” for half price. I realized that there were two plants in the pot. What a bargain. Sometimes, it pays to rescue these plants.

So now, I have two, and plan to roll one into the warm garage, when a cold snap is forecast. The other one will be in a well mulched and well protected position in the landscape. I am hoping that even though it will die back in the winter, it will return in the spring.

Right now, they make lovely container plants, especially in the bright sunlight. They just seem to glow. I love looking out and seeing these bright yellow blossoms gleaming in the sunshine. They have doubled in size in just six weeks. I am sure I will be trimming them back again and again; but in the meantime, what a joy. Give them a try next year. You just might like them.

Bulbs & More—Continued from page 1

Many have already worked on this project. The leaders are listed below. The Bulb Sale steering Committee includes:

Jim & Laquita Showen – overall project leaders

Keith Hansen – tech support

Linda Boucher & Rebecca Bullock, Jean Smith --bulb ordering

Margaret Herring & Rae Meinen --speaker, Harvey Hall arr.

Sandy Abernathy & Mack Humphreys -- trees, shrubs & grasses

Sandra Dugan -- member plants

Ann Smith -- coordinator of all the table duties

Pat Welch; Bob McRae--cashier; instructors on working the tables

Anne Brown -- publicity

Ronny Duncan -- member bulb collector

Merlin Eck -- Power Point presentations

Pat Jessie -- Bergfeld Park coordinator

Deanna Olson -- Education table at sale & Bergfeld Park

Barbara Krizan -- bulb placements on tables on day of sale

Pat Turinsky -- coordinator of refreshment table

Many others will be volunteering on the day of the sale.

Our thanks to all—Jim & Laquita Showen

HELPFUL NARCISSUS (daffodil) CULTURE

By Dee Bishop



I have been pouring over a book I found on line about daffodil culture in Florida. We have it a lot easier here than they do, but nevertheless there is some good things for us to know too.

I found these 10 rules that may help us give our narcissus bulbs the best start in life as well as the best care possible. Here they are: Of course we all know that good bed prep is essential. Dig up planting area deeply---10-12 in. deep and add bone meal. Dig in well, but DO NOT add compost to the bed. Microbes that break down the compost can cause the bulbs to rot. If your soil is too heavy (clay) add sand. If too sandy add some clay.

1. NEVER refrigerate daffodil (or Narcissus) bulbs of any kind.
2. NEVER leave bulbs lying out in sun for any length of time.
3. NEVER put fertilizer in planting holes.
4. Do not pull offsets apart. (You may damage the base of the bulb. When it is ready to leave ‘Mama’, it will do so on its own.
5. Pinch or clip off dead flowers, but leave the stem. (It provides much needed nutrients).
6. Leave foliage alone for a very minimum of 6 wks. 8 wks. is better and until the foliage turns yellow is best. Do not twist, bend, or braid foliage---it needs all the sun it can get to make food for next year’s bloom.
7. Remove excess tunic (the brown papery stuff) at planting.
8. Water in bulbs immediately after planting and MULCH! Chopped leaves or pine straw is the best mulch.
9. Water an inch every week after foliage appears until bloom occurs if it doesn’t rain.
10. Over plant if you do not mulch. Plant drought tolerant flowers and perennials that do not require high nitrogen fertilizer or tons of water in summer. The dormant Bulbs need to grow dry. The plants will use up the rain that falls and the bulbs will remain happy and dry.

If you notice that your bulbs do not bloom well or at all, hot spells in winter, many hours of below 20 degrees in winter, too many tree roots vying for nutrients, or mowing while foliage is green and dirt is shaken off. They do not like change and will sulk until they acclimate themselves to your place.

Bulbs may be moved at any time of year, but must keep foliage til it turns brown. Use a spade or sharp-shooter spade to dig deeply all around the clump of bulbs. Lift out the whole clump and place in a nursery pot to continue growing, weeds grass and all. Once the foliage is dead either plant the bulbs immediately, store in a cool dark dry place til fall, or allow them to live in the bucket until planting time, keeping the bucket dry all summer. Shake off the dirt along with the weeds and grass and plant the bulbs soon. (Remember no. 2.)

I thought you all would enjoy knowing these little bits of information. We all know a lot of it but there are some things new to me and probably to you too.

COMING EVENTS

East Texas Garden Lecture Series

October 25th

Greg Grant presents "Forgotten & Underutilized Plants for East Texas"



http://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/

Fabulous Fall Festival at SFA Plant Sale

October 4—9 AM—2 PM

At the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet Street, Nacogdoches, TX. Parking can be found at Raguet Elementary and at the Early Childhood Research Center.

To find the list of plants available at the sale go to http://www.sfagardens.sfasu.edu/

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/

MG Greenhouse Specialist training

There will be MG Greenhouse Specialist training in Victoria County, October 9-11. For more information and registration, please visit http://txmg.org/event/greenhouse-management-specialist-training-victoria-county/. Cost \$225.

MG Specialist—Plant Propagation

October 17-18, 2014—Conroe, TX

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Center, Montgomery County

The purpose of this training is to become part of the state corps of Plant Propagation experts and educators.

Cost: \$200 For more info. contact Kim Bartholet, 936-539-7824 or kbartholet@ag.tamu.edu.

MG Vegetable Specialist

November 4-6, 2014—San Antonio, TX

Registration fee: \$250.00 (Lunch (2), snacks, drinks, equipment, jump drive, and resource materials distributed during course).

Deadline: Friday, October 17, 2014

We must order supplies in advance so there will be no refunds after October 17.

For more information Contact: David Rodriguez dhrodri-guez@ag.tamu.edu



Bulbs & More

These Grasses and Trees will be available at the sale on October 11th.

Pictures by Keith Hansen



Gulf Muhly Grass

AgriWorld



Getting ready



Red Maple - Summer Sun



Orange Carex



Shenandoah Switch Grass



Our leader gets well needed rest.