



# MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

**October 2015**

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The next SCMG Meeting  
**October 1, 2015**  
 The HUB Center  
 11:30 AM

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 and Pat Welch.

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## SCMG Association Meeting October 1, 2015

Our speaker for the October 1st meeting is Dawnvolynn Callahan, owner of Big Chicken Daylily Farm in Brownsboro. The subject of her presentation will be, naturally, "Daylilies".

Reminder: The October 1st meeting will be held in downtown Tyler at the HUB Center, located at 304 East Ferguson. The HUB is on the east side of the railroad tracks across from the Jury parking lot. Parking is available on the street or in the Jury lot. Just look for the Green Geese.

### Bulbs & More

Bulb Sale is Oct.10th. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the Conference beginning at 9 am. It takes many people to pull this off successfully so we are thanking and appreciating you in advance as well as afterwards. All of you are a hard working bunch of volunteers.

The bulb sale committee will be wearing bright orange shirts. The people who are helping in any other way are asked to wear any color of MG shirt with your name tag. IF you are not involved with helping in any way, please do not wear MG apparel. The reason is so people will know who to go to ask a question(s) if needed.

There will soon be a listing of all items, with links to photos, available for sale. This link will be on the website. Jean Smith has spent many hours on this. Jim & Laquita Showen

## Welch's Words

Greetings!

Can you believe it? September is almost over! You know what that means? It time for the East Texas State Fair. The fair is celebrating its 100 year Anniversary. If you haven't stopped in to check



out a stroll back in time that Hazel Bateman and her "crew" have put together, you really need to. It's very different from anything else she's done. Great job everyone!

You've heard the old saying "no rest for the wicked"? I guess that's us. We go from AgriWorld right onto the Bulbs & More Sale and Conference on Saturday, October 10th. We will need all the help we can get. If you haven't signed up to work yet, please contact Ann Smith. OOPS! I almost forgot to mention set up and sacking on Friday, October 9th.

Next comes Bergfeld Park on Saturday, October 17th. We'll sell all the "left over" bulbs. If you have a couple hours to help out that day, please contact Pat Jessie. She'd love to hear from you.

Finally it's time for some fun for you and your "guest" of choice. Our annual Master Gardener picnic is Friday, October 23rd at Cindy Harrington's house. It will be from 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm. It is our Farewell to Keith Hansen! It's going to be a blast. SCMG will furnish water, hotdogs, buns, condiments and desert. Please bring a dish to pass. Ann Smith certainly is popular because she is taking names, number of attendee's and your choice of a dish to pass.

Hope to see everyone at the membership meeting on Thursday, October 1st at 11:30 am at "The Hub" at 337 East Ferguson, Tyler. Note the change of venue thanx to the fair. Pat Welch

### Chad Gulley's comments...



September and October are busy months. Many people right now are winterizing their lawns, gardens, and landscape. The average first frost date is on average around November 15 in our area, but with the weather this can vary. Now is a good time to soil test your lawn, garden, or landscape to prepare your soil adding lime or other nutrients to amend the soil as needed.

AgriWorld at the East Texas State Fair once again is a successful program because the hard work and dedication to the volunteer groups especially the Smith County Master Gardeners. Youth and adults alike learn first-hand what Agriculture is about and was like over one hundred years

ago. Many people today are removed from the farm and do not realize where their food and fiber comes from.

The Annual Bulb Sale and Fall Conference is fast approaching. The Master Gardeners again have put in a lot of work on this annual program. It is hard to believe we are already into the fall of the year when the new year, it seems, just began. Thanks for all hard work on this and other programs offered to the citizens of Smith County.

**Don't forget the Garden Lecture Series.** There are two left on the year. October 24 is Dr. William Welch presenting on redesigning your garden—give your landscape pizzazz at the Tyler Rose Garden Center. November 14 will be Dr. David Creech presenting on camellias the winter garden shouldn't be boring. These are excellent programs and will wrap up the 2015 year. The 2016 Lecture Series is being planned and more information will be forth coming.

As we get into fall, if you have any questions feel free to contact our office. I again look forward to working with everyone during the transition from Keith retiring to the new Horticulture Agent. I appreciate all you do for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Smith County.

### News from the IDEA Garden

By Anne Pattullo

We have enjoyed a great summer in the IDEA garden! Participation, both from the Interns and "old" members has been phenomenal with lots of work getting done each week with a minimum of exertion from anyone.

We have all enjoyed a little educational time during our break each week and appreciate all the good suggestions people have contributed. A big thank you goes to Monette Coleman for reminding our Interns each week and to all our Section leaders for taking such good care of their areas.

We have been talking with City personnel about how to improve our irrigation system and hope to have some ideas to share with the membership soon.

The plaque for Sue Adee's memorial sculpture has been ordered and will be in place in the next few weeks. We are doing our best to have everything looking fabulous for the Rose Festival.

As soon as that is over we will begin cutting back and planting for the winter season. The IDEA Garden is divided into 10 different sections. Following our big meeting last

spring, we added leaders or crew chiefs for each section. We still have a few slots to fill. If you would even consider becoming a section leader or partnering with someone to be a section leader, please call Cindy Harrington at 903 570-1183. You don't have to be an expert at anything, this is a team effort. The biggest requirement is enthusiasm and love for the Garden, but we do ask that you be there whenever you possibly can be.

If you haven't visited lately, come by and see the beautiful Candlestick trees towering over the flowers.



### New Address

Janice Suggs – 2235 Dietz Ln., Tyler, TX 75701 (phone not changed)

## WELCOME THE POLLINATORS

By Dee Bishop

Nearly every garden magazine you pick up lately, has had an article about pollinators and how they are disappearing at alarming speeds, starting with the honeybee and now others as well. I have thought about the whys and have wondered what we can do. I know since chemical warfare against insects began shortly after WWII, all sorts of things have happened to the natural world that has been detrimental to say the least. I know people have some of the strongest herding instincts of all creation and when someone starts a trend, so many follow blindly.

I have seen some of the craziest trends in gardening come and go just in my lifetime; it makes me wonder why we do what we do, just because someone tells us it is the thing to do. Remember when everyone planted little green hedges around their houses and spent hours every year trimming them just so; or when people plant shrubs and spend endless time shaping them into round balls or perfect blocks or worse yet---poodles? Why would any sensible human being do such a thing? The same ones who worry about what to plant where and if the colors match the brick---or pay any amount to have 'the in' plant. Remember all the redtips everyone planted in the 1970's or the crape myrtles they're planting now? Disease comes soon enough and with a vengeance and all those shrubs begin to disappear. Likewise when we plant so many of the same plants all over an area, why wouldn't certain pollinators not disappear? There is nothing for them to eat.

Flowers that bloom and produce nectar and pollen invite insects to dine for the free pollinating service they bring. Flowers are brightly colored, particularly shaped, have enticing scents, or have unusual markings in order to invite the particular pollinator most suitable for each individual plant. If you ever sit beside a patch of bright flowers on a sunny day, you will be amazed at all the activity. There will be dozens of insects going busily and sometimes loudly doing just what they are intended to do. They are pollinating, snaring other insects, catching and eating smaller insects, and doing heaven only knows what else. The noises they make fill the air with a symphony of sound and the endless activity provides fascinating dramas to watch. (It doesn't take much to entertain me!)

I for one have seen no shortage of honeybees in my yard; in fact they become pests when I hang my hummingbird feeders out each spring. I see so many little native bees, bumble bees, and flies all working feverishly while the weather is warm and sunny. Of course I always have something in bloom--- not necessarily the most beautiful flowers, but flowers they like. I love native plants, herbs, and lots of old-time perennials --- pollinators do too. You want butterflies? Just plant basil, goldenrod, asters, yarrow, tansy, sunflowers, zinnias, dill, fennel, ---plain ordinary little flowers that beckon important insects to do the business of pollinating so seeds will form for a new generation next year and in the meantime produce fruits and seeds that feed a whole host of other little critters.

Maybe we have gotten too super sophisticated in our gardening traits that we plant the 'IN' plants and shrubs instead of the old fashioned plain and ordinary ones that the pollinating insects expect and demand. I just wonder, I do.



## E. T. Garden Lecture Series

At the Rose Garden Center on October 24th, Dr. William Welch will present *Redesigning Your Garden—Give Your Landscape Pizzas*.



Registration 8:30 AM, lecture at 9:00 AM. Tickets are \$15 each.

## AgriWorld

Lots of members have come to help with the AgriWorld project and it looks fabulous. Many thanks to all who have participated. Opening day of the fair is September 25 with free admission until 6pm. I urge you to come out to celebrate this 100th fair. And, I heard fair food has no calories!

Hazel Bateman



## TX Master Gardener Newsletter



When we found no regular TX MG Newsletter available for September, we contacted Donna Hagar, our state President. Her answer is as follows: "There was no "formal", separate newsletter PDF file this month. The newsletter 'was' the email. This is a format similar to what we hope to migrate to in the near future. But it is all still a work in progress! We intend to utilize the blog feature of the TMGA website to carry the articles for the newsletter and include them directly within the emails.

You may also let your folks know they can always subscribe directly to the TMGA newsletter system via our website. Go to <http://txmg.org/news-letter/newsletters/> where you can subscribe by clicking the link on the right side of that page."

Donna Hagar, President

## SFA Gardens Fall Plant Sale

SFA Gardens at Stephen F. Austin State University will host its annual Fabulous Fall Festival Plant Sale from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at the SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center, [2900 Raguet St.](#) in historic Nacogdoches.

A wide variety of hard-to-find, “Texas tough” plants will be available, including Texas natives, heirlooms, tropicals, perennials, shrubs, trees, and exclusive SFA introductions. This popular event benefits the SFA Mast Arboretum, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, Gayla Mize Garden and educational programs hosted at the gardens.

For a complete list of plants available, click the link below:

<http://www.sfagardens.sfasu.edu/images/stories/PDF/FALL%202015%20SALE%20LIST-1.pdf>

## The Southern Garden Symposium

October 23 & 24, 2015

With featured speakers like LSU Ag Center's Allen Owings, award-winning floral designer Scott Hasty, and noted author Larry Mellichamp, no other gardening program brings together top quality speakers and historic plantation settings as well as the Southern Garden Symposium in St. Francisville, Louisiana.

For complete program information and registration forms, visit [www.SouthernGardenSymposium.org](http://www.SouthernGardenSymposium.org); call 225-635-3738 or email [luciecassity@bellsouth.net](mailto:luciecassity@bellsouth.net). For information regarding overnight accommodations in St. Francisville, visit [www.stfrancisville.us](http://www.stfrancisville.us) or call 225-635-4224, toll free at 800-789-4221.



## Quick List of Coming Events

Oct. 3—S.F.A. Plant Sale at Nacogdoches  
 Oct. 10—Bulbs & More—Skip Richter conf. speaker  
 Oct. 23-24—South. Garden Symposium—Francisville, LA  
 Oct. 24—Garden lecture Dr. William Welch  
 Nov. 14—Garden lecture Dr. David Creech  
 May 17-19, 2016—Texas MG State Conf. McKinney

For more details visit:

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



The Bulbs & More morning conference featured speaker is Skip Richter, Harris County Extension Agent – Horticulture. The subject of his presentation will be “Building Soil & Controlling Pests Nature’s Way”. His lecture begins at 9:00 PM

## Plants for Pre-Order

Plants listed below will be available for pre-order by MGs only. Pre-orders will be taken at the SCMG meeting on October 1. Payment must be received at this time. Check or exact cash only. Pick up for these items will be Friday, October 9.

Okame Cherry Tree \$45  
 Kwansan Cherry Tree \$45  
 Desert Willow Tree \$45  
 Vitex, Angus Castus \$30  
 5 N 1 Apple Tree \$50  
 Improved Meyer Lemon Tree \$45  
 Ayers Pear Tree \$30  
 Fan Stil Pear Tree \$30  
 Crape Myrtle - Ebony Fire \$30  
 Crape Myrtle - Ebony Ivory \$30  
 Arapaho Thornless Blackberry \$20  
 Brazzleberry Jelly Bean Blueberry \$20  
 Brazzleberry Peach Sorbet Blueberry \$20  
 Brazzleberry Shortcake Raspberry \$20  
 Piglet Dwarf Fountain Grass \$10  
 Zebra Miscanthus Grass \$10  
 Lindenheimer Muhly Grass \$10

## Pictures from AgriWorld Setup

