



# MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

September 2014

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

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**SCMG meeting**  
**September 4th**  
**Rose Garden Center**  
**11:30 AM**

**MG Grapevine Staff**  
 Martin Davis, Editor

### MG Grapevine Contributors:

Dee Bishop, Anne Brown, David Gary, Keith Hansen, Mary Claire Rowe, Laquita Showen, Jean Smith & Pat Welch.

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### Extension Office

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## SCMG Association Meeting

**Sept. 4—11:30 AM Rose Garden Center**

Dawn Stover will present a program entitled "Sexy Plants". **Her presentation will be about an hour long.**

She is a Research Associate with the SFA Mast Arboretum on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University. As a Research Associate, Dawn currently maintains the living plant collection within the SFA Mast Arboretum. She is responsible for maintenance of the arboretum and the horticulture greenhouse facilities, and two annual plants sales that raise money for the SFA Gardens, as well as coordinating student workers and volunteers.



## Don. You will be missed!



Don Davis passed away on August 18th. He is shown here 10 years ago in the field at Texas A&M Research Center at Overton, where he was the MG Project leader/coordinator for many years. Shown in the background are Dr. Brent Pemberton and Keith Hansen both of whom greatly appreciated Don's leadership.

## David Gary sez..

This summer has been great so far because of the cooler-than-normal temperatures. The chinch bugs have not shown up yet in my neighborhood--thankfully!

The East Texas Garden Lecture Series starts up again this fall with the first program on September 13 at the Rose Garden Center. There are two programs after that--one in October and one in November. You can check our Smith County Master Gardener web site for more information about the programs. I hope you can register for these. We had a good turnout for the first four programs.

Remember the Master Gardener Bulb Sale is on Saturday, October 11. We still need some more people to sign up to help. You can contact Ann Smith for more information on where you are needed. Her email is [smith-vae@aol.com](mailto:smith-vae@aol.com). Please help us out with this because it is a large money maker for SCMG. Your help is greatly appreciated!

I enjoy being your president, and I am always open for suggestions on how I can serve you better. See you in the garden, David Gary,



## Flavors From Our Gardens



**Cookbooks.** They are here! We will have them available for you at the September 4th MG meeting. Each book is \$15.00. We will have forms available to order additional copies of the book to be mailed. The cost of

mailing is an additional \$6.00. Please be prepared to pay by check or cash.

The book will be available at all MG events and always available at the Extension Office. Contact Carolyn Chalender at 903-590-2986 for further information.



We received a request from a non-profit daycare nursery in north Tyler (North Tyler Day Nursery – not the same as Tyler Day Nursery) for help designing a raised bed garden(s) and educating the staff on growing vegetables, with the goal of their showing children (and their parents)

how to eat healthy with fresh vegetables. They want to start this fall, and have the funds for whatever it is needed, but they need help with what to grow, how to grow, when to grow, etc. They'd like to get started right away. If you have ANY interest in helping train the staff on growing vegetables for the kids, please contact me or Rae ASAP, and we'll get you connected.

Remember that David Gary is the featured speaker at the September 13 East Texas Garden Lecture Series program. Greg Grant is in October, and David Creech in November.

Dr. Mike Merchant, Extension Urban Entomologist in Dallas reported a new pest this month – this time on Rose of Sharon (Althea). They are called Hollyhock thrips, and are easy to identify (even though they are small) by their bright red

color. The insect is apparently native to California, and this is the first report in Texas. They did a number on the plant in Dallas, and Dr. Merchant would be interested if anyone else is seeing them on altheas or other mallow plants. For more information and photos, check out his blog: <http://citybugs.tamu.edu/2014/08/23/hollyhock-thrips-found-in-dallas/>

Speaking of mallows, if your rose mallows look like Swiss cheese, you'll no doubt find worms on the bottom of the leaves chewing them up. They are the larvae of hibiscus sawfly, which is a wasp relative in the hymenoptera family. This is important related to control, since the organic insecticide that is used to kill Lepidoptera larvae (butterfly and moth larvae) does not work on sawfly larvae. I have one mallow that blooms great despite the fact that it hardly has any green leaves. It is coming out of the garden, though, because this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year I've put up with this.

Remember, Class 21 interns – please regularly check your calendar, and keep your commitments for the Gardens, and Office Help Desk dates. If you cannot make a certain date in the demonstration gardens, please let the Garden coordinators know. If you cannot make your appointed time for the Help Desk, contact the secretaries.

#### New E-Mail Address

Nadine Grabow  
grabow3@suddenlink.net



The Executive Committee met on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

They reviewed the very successful Gourd Painting class which had a turnout of 29 would-be artists including two children.

The preparations for the October bulb sale are well organized, but more volunteers are needed. Sign-up sheets will be available at the September and October MG meetings.

David Gary reminded the committee that the East Texas Garden Lecture series will begin again on September 13<sup>th</sup> with more lectures this year, one each in October and November. The average attendance at the lectures earlier this year was 60.

Keith Hansen presented a request for support from the North Tyler Day Nursery as they work to develop a vegetable garden at their facility. Keith will gather more information.

There was discussion of the need to appoint a Nominating Committee and the time table for nominating a slate officers for 2015. It is also time to appoint an Audit Committee to perform an internal financial review of the Treasurer's records.

Keith discussed some of the things he learned at the recent national meeting of the Garden Writers, especially concerning the use of the social media on the internet. There are a number of ways to get the information to the public, which continue to change as the use of the internet's social media opportunities continue to evolve, sometimes quickly.

### Landscape Design School Series XXIII, Course IV, Sept. 29-30, 2014

The course will be offered at the George W. Bush Presidential Library on Texas A&M campus. This is course number four of four in the series and which may be taken in any sequence.

**Master Gardeners** who complete this course and pass the test will receive 12 CE credits.

Registration for the course will be \$135.00 (two lunches are included) –make check payable to Landscape Design. The text, good for all four courses, is Stewards of the Land. It may be purchased for an additional \$40.00.

Registration form and schedule may be obtained from <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southern garden/LDFeb14>



## Cestrum aurantiacum Lindl

By Mary Claire Rowe

A Giant Swallowtail caught my eye, as I walked out to the curb for the mail. She flew quickly away from me, circled the mailbox ahead and then looped back towards her goal – the almost ever-blooming

*Cestrum aurantiacum* Lindl. (Pronounced: SES trum aw-ran-ti-AYE-kum). It is in the family Solanaceae (so-lan-AY-see-ee)

Curiosity got the best of me – why do some plants have “Lindl.” after their name? Of course, the Internet had the “readi-answer.” John Lindley (1799 – 1865) was an English botanist, gardener, and orchidologist, who achieved great knowledge, fame, and position, despite his lack of formal higher education; because of his interest in and lifelong study of plants, especially orchids.

Lindley’s largest work, “Encyclopedia of Plants” published in 1829 showcased 15,000 species of flowering plants and ferns. So, the abbreviation “Lindl.” is used to indicate John Lindley as the author of the botanical name. His “Rosarum Monographia” also known as “A Botanical History of Roses” is available on Amazon, or free to download and print at [www.biodiversitylibrary.org](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org). It is rather dry reading, but has some really beautiful illustrations, which he painted.

Back to the Giant Swallowtail – I called her a “she” because I suspect she was planning to deposit her eggs on the ever-enlarging *cestrum*. Gulf Fritillaries also love *cestrum*. I certainly will not mind the chewed leaves, if we can host some lovely butterfly babies in our garden.

I have really loved the *cestrum* plant. It is covered with blossoms from early spring until winter sets in. It will lose its leaves here in our zone. From Zone 8 southward, it is ever-green. I did not realize how large it would grow, but it has plenty of room where it lives. I think it is about 8 feet tall, which might be the maximum. We’ll see! It loves our hot weather, and in my garden gets morning and late afternoon light shade. As long as it gets regular moisture, it can take an even sunnier location, even being good for xeriscaping.

It is often referred to as “jessamine,” because some varieties are fragrant and they are similar to jasmine in aroma. Some, which do not appear to be fragrant during the day, are fragrant at night. Mine is not in that category. It does not smell good at all. Also, all are toxic, if ingested, and that might be why butterflies deposit their eggs there. When the caterpillars eat the leaves, they sequester the toxins and become unpleasant to predators.

All in all, a big, green, odd-smelling tree/shrub, covered in golden-yellow clusters of blossoms for three-quarters of the year with big butterflies flitting around it – it’s a good thing!

### Nominating Committee Appointed

President David Gary has appointed Mack Humphreys, Ann Kelley, Deanna Olson, Jim Powell and Ann Smith to the committee. They will be seeking nominees for officer positions for 2015. Give them your cooperation.

## Choice of Color Determines a Garden’s Mood

By Dee Bishop



People used to tell me they wanted a garden for relaxing after a long day at work, or a white garden for night enjoyment. Some wanted lots of color and others wanted a simple, easy-to-care-for garden with texture and just simple green foliage. Personally, I have always wanted to use my gardens to trial everything I see with scarcely a thought as to its design. Some want a garden that is impressive to others; while others garden for the sheer joy of watching things grow. I learned years ago in design classes I took in college that colors determine the mood of an indoor space as well as an outdoor space.

Yellow is the first color you see. If you look at a flower garden where yellow is absent, you need something spectacular (hardscape, or floral) to draw attention. Yellow is the color of sunshine and demands attention and you only need a bit to be noticeable. Yellow will lead visitors’ eyes to notice what you want. Everyone should have some, even just a touch in a strategic place.

Red is the most dynamic as well as energizing color. Red is NOT relaxing. It is stimulating and can be overwhelming if over-used. Red attracts hummingbirds and beneficial insects thus seem to be alive with motion. Red is a hot color, but often in our intense heat it will fade and disappoint. Some reds can take our hot summers and look wonderful, but you must choose wisely.

Orange is another HOT color and can be harsh depending on the light intensity. Our climate is intense; so orange does not usually overwhelm a summer garden. In fact orange is a good summer color. Heat doesn’t usually phase orange flowers, but can be overly harsh depending on the light. Orange can be softened by blues and purples.

Green is easy on the eye, gentle, and relaxing. If you choose an all green garden, make sure to use many textures and sizes of leaves or you will find your landscape extremely boring. All gardens need good bones and green shrubs and small trees add those.

Blue, the most favored color by a majority of people. Blue is soft, gentle, calming, and cooling. In cool climates, blue is gorgeous, but is often pasty in extreme sun and heat. Blues reign in spring when the sun is softer and blend with other pastels of spring. Blue in summer here needs to be in shady areas or at least shady evenings or it can be overwhelmed.

Purple and lavender are wonderful mixers. They blend well with most other colors and tone down orange and yellow in high summer. Notice the purple salvias rest the eyes while the hot colors vibrate and can irritate the mood. Put them together and all is well in the garden.

White depending on where it is used can be extremely hard on the eyes or very restful depending where it is used. White in sun is very harsh but in shade is soothing and peaceful. Think stark white in full August sun. Then think white in a shady area. See the difference?

I came across this article I had written years ago and decided to share it with you. Color is important in every aspect of our life, but where and how you use it is even more important. We can battle the intense summer heat by using the right colors in the right places.

## Speaker's Opportunities

By Anne Brown



Master Gardeners, there are so many worthwhile projects that we do for the benefit of our group but also for the public. One that takes sooo little time and probably has to do with something that your enjoy anyway is the Speakers' Bureau. Project Chairperson, Susan Nelson, is always getting calls from different groups in our area for Master Gardeners who will come to their meetings and give a short (maybe 20 minutes or so) talk about a topic that the MG and/or the group is interested in and wanting more information. Often the topic may be some-

thing that you have already taken the time to research for yourself. If you are concerned about your speaking abilities this is an excellent opportunity to improve. Most often the group is hoping their speaker can give them guidelines to learning more about the subject of the presentation so if you have lists of websites or books they will think you are a genius.

If you have a topic that you would share with others, give Susan a call, text or e-mail and tell her you are ready to help out.

First Tuesday in the Garden programs are on the First Tuesday of March, April, May and June, September, October and November. These presentations are only 30 to 45 minutes with perhaps ten minutes for question and answers. So, in less than one hour you can give an educational program to perhaps 20 or so members of the public. If you have any questions about this project or to volunteer, contact Anne Brown. Susan is also willing to help find speakers for this project so she would be glad to hear from you too since this adds possible volunteers and subjects to her list too.

### 1st Tuesday in the Garden Lecture

This popular series of garden lectures resumes following a summer sabbatical. The first lecture, at noon September 2nd in the IDEA Garden is entitled "*Herbs for Fall/Winter*". Master Gardener Patsy Besch will present the program.



### 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

### Texas A&M Scholarship

The recipient of the SCMG scholarship awarded to a student at Texas A&M University was Emberlen Binford.

She says in a recent letter to us, "I am currently a junior horticulture major at Texas A&M University. It is such an honor to receive the Smith County MG scholarship. This scholarship will help aid me financially in completing the last year of my education. Upon my graduation next May, I hope to begin working in urban horticulture and landscape incorporating sustainable practices. Thank you so much for your generosity and helping me reach my future goals."

## AgriWorld

By Jean Smith

It is that time of year. The East Texas State Fair will be here soon. Once again, the SCMG will have a display in the AgriWorld building. "Our Secret Garden" is the largest educational display at the fair. Approximately 800 children visit the fair and attend mini learning sessions hosted by different organizations involving agriculture, horticulture, and farming. The display is open during all hours of the fair and will have exhibits and interactive displays for all visitors to enjoy.

This year "Our Secret Garden" will feature a section highlighting water. In partnership with the City of Tyler, Mike Norris will once again present a program about what happens to water when it goes down the drain. Peggi Canant, Sandy Pannett, and Susan Stone have joined forces to update and enhance this section.

There will also be an insect display with an emphasis on pollinators. Taking the lead on insects is Sherri Matthews. Students visiting the exhibit will get a chance to play "Insect Bingo".

Two additional sections will be expanded this year featuring Junior Master Gardening and the Smith County Master Gardener Association.



## Bulbs & More

By Laquita Showen

The lecture and sale are at Harvey Convention Center on October 11th. Registration begins at 8:30 AM with the program and speaker starting at 9:00 AM. This event is free and open to the public.

The speaker this year is Denyse Cummins who is a recently retired Horticulture Agent at the LSU AgCenter. She is a well-known public speaker and has spoken at the Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas state master Gardener conferences, as well as for cut flower and sustainable agriculture organizations. In retirement, she is developing gardens in Shreveport, Colorado and Costa Rica and has returned to her first love, growing horticultural crops. Her topic: "How about building a sustainable garden?"

Merlin Eck will do a power point presentation of trees, shrubs and grasses which will be followed by a break.

In the sale room and in the lobby, there will be a continuous power point presentation that will show all the bulbs being sold. This is something different.

The sale will begin at 11:00 AM, with doors opening a few minutes later for those who have chosen not to attend the lecture and program.

**Special Note to all MG's**—the bulb committee needs cloth shopping bags (**cloth only**) for the bulb sale. The cloth bags are for shoppers to utilize as "shopping carts" at the sale. Bags can be dropped off at the Extension Office or at the September monthly meeting.

## COMING EVENTS

### East Texas Garden Lecture Series September 13

David Gary presents “Enjoy Your Home Landscape—Make Your Yard Fit Your Life”

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

### Texas Master Gardener Conference September 25-27

The 2014 Texas Master Gardener conference will be held in Odessa, hosted by the Permian Basin Master Gardeners.

<http://2014tmgconference.org/>

### Fabulous Fall Festival at SFA October 4

### 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/>

### Master Gardener Specialist Rainwater Harvesting

Monday, September 29 - Wednesday, October 1, 2014

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center - Dallas

This two day course is a combination of hands-on and classroom presentations that will teach you all of the basics of rainwater harvesting. Cost: \$200.00 (includes manual, power points, etc.)

<http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses/2014/september-29-october-1-2014-rainwater-harvesting-specialist-training/>

### 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](mailto:kbartholet@ag.tamu.edu)



Gourd Painting Class—led by Wincie Caskey

August 15, 2014

A good time was had by all!

Photos by Bill Kelldorf

