



MG Grapevine



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Inside This Issue

Keith's Column	2
SFA Scholarship	2
Year of the Slugs	3
Reporting Hours	3
Pollinators	3
Garden Tidbits	3
Coming Events	4



The next SCMG Meeting
August 6, 2015
Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

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 Welch.

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Jewels in the Garden - It's a wrap!

By Jean Smith

Once again, thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our Jewels in the Garden conference such a success. It takes many people to put together a great event and the Smith County Master Gardeners stepped up to the plate. We know how to run a great show. Beginning with the dedication of the bronze on Thursday to the clean up on Saturday afternoon, everything ran seamlessly.



The speakers were excellent, the gardens were stunning, the vendors were great, and the camaraderie was exceptional. There were over 200 people in attendance and only complimentary remarks were heard.

If there are Master Gardeners in heaven, I am sure Sue Adee rounded them up so they could enjoy it all also. What a great day to honor and remember our special jewel, Sue.

If you wish to revisit the conference, go to Smith/jewels/ to view random pictures taken that day.

Bulbs & More Sale

By Laquita & Jim Showen

The way this year is speeding by, October will be here in the blink of an eye! Please mark Saturday, October 10th on your calendar for this great fall event. In time, you will be given many opportunities to participate in many different ways. We will not let you forget that participation part! In the meantime, if you have bulbs of any kind and would like to share them, photo them, mark where they are in your yard, then dig and share with us later in the fall. We will keep you posted on that also.

If you have particular questions, call us or Linda Boucher or Rebecca Bullock who are in charge of the bulbs. If you have some wonderful member grown plants, call Sandra Dugan for further info. And, if you have been looking for a particular tree, shrub or grass, let Mack Humphreys know. There might be a possibility that they could be located.

Some beautiful purchased irises will be for sale this year too but if you have irises that have multiplied in your yard, this would be a super place to share them also. Remember just photo, (unless you already know the name) & dig. We do furnish some help digging if needed.

It all takes place in Harvey Hall. So far this year there have been some excellent MG events, plan to go out with a bang by either attending, participating, and buying at the 2015 Bulbs and More Sale on Oct. 10th! (Or do all three.) Looking forward to working with all of you again. Cheers!

Welch's Words

Greetings Everyone!

I can't believe that the Garden Tour, dedication of the statue in the IDEA garden, bus trip and the Jewels in the Garden Conference have come and gone. The rain has stopped and the "warm" weather has arrived. But never fear, there are more fun things to come: AgriWorld, Bulbs and More Sale and Conference, Bergfeld Park and the member picnic. Last, but not least, there is always the fun times of working in our numerous gardens and at Overton.



For an organization to accomplish all of the things ours does, it proves what a great group you are. As the various requests for help go out, there always seems to be an awesome turn out of helpers. I guess the old saying, "Many hands make light work" is true of all of you. My job as President has been made easier and very enjoyable. It's fun working with you.

Perhaps it's not said often enough but, thank you everyone for all your hard work and dedication. It is truly appreciated. Pat



It looks like it has stopped raining for a while; at least it's not raining every day. Everything is very lush and growing in response to abundant soil moisture. Rapidly growing plants need ample nutrients to sustain that growth. If you recall from the Master Gardener soils class, nitrogen is not only a major nutrient needed by plants, but also one of the most soluble in water. What that means is that it not only is used by plants to support vegetative growth, but that it is also easily leached out of the root zone of plants. So, pay attention to the older leaves on your plants. If the oldest leaves are pale green or even yellow, then suspect that they may need a side dressing of nitrogen. Nitrogen is not only water soluble in the soil, but it is also mobile within plants, which is why it will move stored N in the oldest leaves and transport it to the growing points to support new growth. Hence, the yellowing of the oldest leaves.

Now, if the youngest leaves are yellow, or yellow with green veins, that can be a symptom of several things. One thing to consider is whether the plant's root zone was staying too wet this spring with all this rain. If the soil stayed saturated with water, there is little oxygen in the soil pore spaces, and therefore the plant roots will not function well to pick up nutrients, which can lead to abnormal symptoms in the foliage, etc.

Now that it has gotten hot and drier, check your flower and garden beds for the thickness of the mulch. Of course if you are seeing a lot of weeds popping up, the mulch layer may be too thin to suppress seed germination. Just don't get your mulch too thick, and do not pile it up against the base of any of your plants, whether annuals, perennials, shrubs or trees.

A couple of years ago I wrote about visiting gardens while taking summer vacations. If you are taking a vacation, look for a public garden in the areas you are visiting. I find it fun and inspiring to visit gardens in various regions, to get ideas and

see new plants, even if we cannot grow them here in east Texas. The National Gardening Association has partnered with the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) to provide a database of their member public gardens across the country. Note that not all institutions and public gardens are members of APGA, but this is a great starting point. You can search for the location of a specific garden, or for a list of gardens in a particular area by city, state, zip code, or any combination of them. Here is the link to the search site: http://www.garden.org/public_gardens/

Finally, this abundant rainfall has provided ideal breeding conditions for mosquitos. There are many different types of mosquitos – some fly only short distances, others can travel miles. Take the time to locate and eliminate breeding areas in your yard. Anything that holds even a little water can hatch out mosquitos. Birdbaths, saucers under pots, buckets, cans and other trash that might hold water, tree hollows, tires, low-lying areas that hold water, are just a sample of things to look for. I use the Bt product for mosquitoes (formed into little donuts) for birdbaths and other locations that cannot be drained. They are quite effective and safe for birds and other wildlife. While some species of mosquitoes mainly feed in around the dawn and dusk hours, others can and do feed during daylight hours. So, protect yourself with a repellent whenever you are going to be outside for more than a few minutes. Consider keeping a repellent by the door you use to go outside to remind you. Repellents not only help prevent aggravation, but also greatly reduce the risk of acquiring West Nile Virus from an infected mosquito.

For more on repellents and other mosquito information, please visit a recent AgriLife news release: <http://today.agrilife.org/2015/05/28/texans-expect-mosquito-explosion/> Note at the end of the article are other links to Dr. Mike Merchant's citybugs.tamu.edu site where he frequently writes about mosquitoes, and also has posted 4 videos on mosquito control.

Stay safe this summer, and drink plenty of water!! Keith

Cell Phone Nos.

Sharon Reiland

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903-372-8098

The Reiland's no longer have a land line.

2015 SFA Scholarship

The 2015 scholarship at SFA was awarded to **Grant Lawson Priess** who is majoring in Turfgrass-Horticulture (known at other schools as Agronomy – the study of plant and soil science). In his letter to us he said, in part, "Thank you so much for your generosity. It has been an honor to receive the Smith County Master Gardener's Scholarship. I have had great joy in telling my parents and brother about my accomplishment. I really do appreciate the thought and hard work that made this scholarship possible. The fifteen hundred dollars means a lot to me." He further says, "Thank you again for the opportunity to help me get a lasting education that allows me to grow as an agriculturalist." For further information about the SCMG scholarships, you may visit Smith/scholarships/.

YEAR OF THE SLUGS

By Dee Bishop



Rain is wonderful after so many years of drought. Plants are thriving and growing like crazy. Enter SLUGS: bye-bye plants. My impatiens have been gorgeous and slugs do love impatiens. I put out slug bait, but the rain melted it down right away. I had read once to use copper to repel slugs; so I went searching for copper pot scrubbers because supposedly you could pull them out long and cut pieces to wrap around plant stems. I found the old Chore Boy scrubbers, still three to a package, and proceeded to wrap every impatiens with copper. Would you believe, it worked! Be sure to wrap a piece all the way around the stem and make sure none of the foliage touches the ground or they will crawl up into the plant that way. I am on my way to get more pot scrubbers to put in flower pots to keep slugs out of my pots as well. After a week free of slugs, the plants grew new foliage and continue after several weeks to be slug free. Just had to pass that on in case any of you are having the same problem. Now---what to do with slugs crawling all over the windows at night-----of course-----put a length of copper next to the window! They will not cross over it.

Do any of you have Stokes Asters? We have had them in the IDEA Garden forever and I have them in my yard as well. They are beautiful right now. I have a cultivar called

Peachy's Pick which holds itself straight up and blooms quite a while. They will take full sun or light shade.

This has been a glorious hydrangea year also. They have been magnificent. Unfortunately, the past two or three weeks of hot weather has caused the oak-leaf hydrangea blooms to turn brown. If it had stayed cooler, they would have been a marvelous deep pink by now. I guess we Texans must be satisfied with beautiful white blooms in late spring. If you wish to cut your hydrangeas back, now is the time to do so. If you have some of the newer varieties that bloom on new growth as well as old growth, you can cut them back anytime.

Every year brings a different gardening experience since no two years are alike. Being raised down on the coast, I remember many 'soupy' springs and summers. Mosquitoes were so bad down there. You just think you have mosquitoes here. They would come in clouds along the horizon of the marsh and we could hear them before they got to us. It was positively awful. Mama would get out the old 'spray-gun', load it up with Gulf Oil Mosquito Spray and spray all our bedrooms so we could sleep. I will never forget that smell. I am still very thankful for the rain. The beautiful trees needed a deep watering so badly. All our ponds and lakes are full for the first time in quite a while, and the grass is growing like crazy covering areas we've never had grass before, choking out the weeds as it grows thick and lush. Just wish I hadn't bought all these drought tolerant succulents, they are not doing well at all.

Reporting Hours

By Martin Davis

Every now and then it becomes necessary to remind you that we appreciate it when you follow some simple guidelines to report your volunteer hours. Lately some of you have been a bit lax, which is the reason for this note.

There is a simple *Excel* form available and for those who have the program Excel on their computer, it is easy to use. For those who are not able to use the form, you may put your information into the body of an e-mail so long as all of the data required for the form is included in the e-mail.

The Project Codes listed on the form are important to identify the area where volunteer work is performed. They are often not used or incorrectly used. Sometimes new codes have been invented, such as OVT (for OFT), HGT (for HT) or MISC (for MSC) and others not so easy to understand. If no code is used, the description of the work may not be easily understood. So, why not just use the proper project code? By the way, CEs are hours also and should just be included in the report totals.

One other reminder – even though you may have been asked to sign-in on the job or otherwise report your activity, you should always send your report to Martin Davis and include the "Clients Helped" if appropriate.

We have included a copy of the Volunteer Hours Report in this newsletter and for those who want to download the Excel file, it can be found on the Members page of the SCMG website.

One more thing – **FILE A REPORT EACH MONTH!** Thanks, Martin.



We could support this effort not only by encouraging planting appropriate plants, both native and non-invasive 'exotics', and directing folks to the site to register their garden plot, but also by periodically discussing plants for pollinators of all types for our area. Go to their website at <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/>

Dr. Mike Merchant's [City-bugs.tamu.edu](http://bugs.tamu.edu) blog posts on pollinators – has a great list of resources for all types of pollinators, etc. in the Resources tab: <http://www.texaspollinatorpowwow.org/>

2015 East Texas State Fair Horticulture Show

Thank you for your previous entry or interest in the **East Texas State Fair Horticulture Show**. 2015 is the 100th East Texas State Fair! It is also the third year of the show and **two new divisions have been added** – Botanical Beauties (Cut Specimens) and Grandma's Garden (Fruits, Nuts, and Vegetables – a great place to show off your pumpkins and gourds and other fall vegetables and fruits).

Rules for the contest are available on the Horticulture page. Go to www.etstatefair.com, click Events, then Competitions, then choose Horticulture Show.

You will also register for the show by September 15 near the bottom of the page where you will find a link to an online entry form. You will notice a difference this year. Only categories are listed in the potted plants; cut specimens; and fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Classes will be broken after entries are submitted.

The Southern Garden Symposium

Offering prestigious speakers amid gracious surroundings.

October 23 & 24, 2015—St. Francisville, Louisiana

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

Landscape Design School

The George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A & M University will be the site of Landscape Design School III September 21-22, 2015. The Schools are sponsored by Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. & the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A & M University.

Master Gardeners who complete a course may apply to their MG Chapter to receive 12 CE hours.

Registration for the course will be \$145.00 by September 1 (two lunches are included) – make check payable to Landscape Design School. Registration will be \$165 after September 1, 2015.

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

Questions: EMAIL Michele Wehrheim: texaslandscapesignschool@gmail.com

JMG "Learn Grow Eat and Go!"

The Junior Master Gardener Presents 'Learn Grow Eat and Go!' Summer Adult Training Class 9 training will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. July 28-30 in the Education Room of the San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio.

Attendees will learn how to establish a garden, gain knowledge on how to start a Junior Master Gardener group and will obtain the Learn Grow Eat and Go! curriculum.

Cost of the training is \$100. There will be no refunds after the application is submitted and accepted. **Application deadline is July 22, 2015.**

To access the application, contact Ruby Zavala by email at Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu or go to <http://bit.ly/1FOqjDX>.



Horticulture Field Day

Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center at Overton

June 25, 2015



Photos by Keith Hansen
and
Allen Owings