



# MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

March 2015

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

## Number 3



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**SCMG Meeting**  
**March 5, 2015**  
**Nature Center**  
**11:30 AM**

**MG Grapevine Staff**  
 Martin Davis, Editor

#### MG Grapevine Contributors:

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

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#### Extension Office

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## SCMG Association Meeting

February 5, 2015

### Nature Center

Speaker will be Chad Gulley – Smith County Ext. Agent.

Topic: "Au Naturel... an overview of the Texas Master Naturalist Program"



## Directions to the Nature Center

The March meeting is at the Native Center, FM 848. From Tyler, take Loop 323 to SH 248 (University Dr.). Go East on SH 248, past the UT Tyler Campus on to FM 848 (about 3 miles). Turn right on FM 848 and travel 0.7 miles. The Nature Center is on the right.

## Jewels in the Garden

By Jean Smith



Mark your calendars for June 6, 2015. The SCMG will be hosting Jewels in the Garden, a one day gardening conference, to be held in the Tyler Rose Garden Center. The conference will be dedicated in memory of Sue Adee, who first envisioned a regional conference for our area. Featured speakers will be Nicholas Staddon, Director of New Plants at Monrovia, CA, Tom LeRoy, past Horticulture Agent, Montgomery Co., and Steve Huddleston, Director of Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. Lunch will be included as well as the chance to shop from local vendors.

Visit the <http://txmg.org/smith/jewels/> web page for more information. It can be found on the SCMG web site. The conference will be open to the public and Master Gardeners from surrounding areas will be invited. It should be an educational and entertaining day. As the event gets closer, there will be many opportunities for volunteering your time and talents.

We welcome any ideas or suggestions to make this a great conference. If you are interested in helping with the conference, contact Jean Smith or Pat Welch.

## Welch's Words

What a busy year this is stacking up to be! We have 27 new trainees which means we need 27 mentors. I want to say "Thank You" to all those who said yes when I came calling.



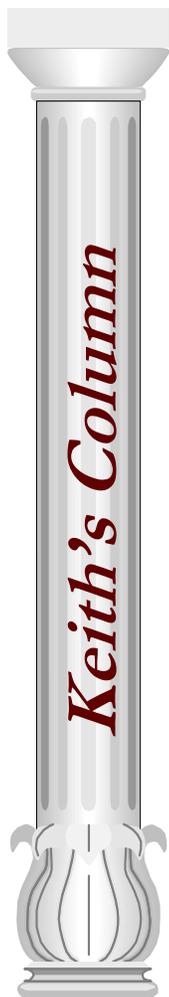
The Jewels in the Garden Conference is moving along at a rapid pace. Sponsorship letters are out and the vendor list is completed. The hotel block is arranged and the speaker topics are picked. Most important the lunch provider has been decided. Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting and got us to where we are today. Martin has set up a direct link for the Jewels conference on the Smith County website. Most of all a special "Thanx" goes to Jean Smith who is working miracles in a short amount of time.

The Garden Tour plans are coming together thanks to Sandy Abernathy and her right hand person Margaret Herring. The Gardens are confirmed. She has plans for a refreshment tent and craft area.

I was really pleased to see everyone who came to the IDEA garden planning meeting. Some great ideas were presented as a result of everyone's input. Please join all the workers on Tuesday mornings at 10 am to see the results and renewed energy happening in the garden.

In closing, I just want to remind you that the March meeting will be at the Texas Parks & Wildlife Nature Center at 11:30 am. It is located at 11942 FM 848 (Bascom Highway).

Hope to see everyone there! Pat



The weather for the next week or 2 looks like it will stay on the chilly side. As long as we don't have a seriously hard freeze, I'm okay with cool weather. A lot of temperate-zone plants have probably had their chilling hours satisfied in order to come out of winter dormancy. Warm, balmy days will only encourage flowering and shoot emergence, which can get set back by even a rather light freeze if it lasts long enough. Last year's late freeze after a warm spell really hammered a lot of plants, most notably many deciduous magnolias and roses, among others.

If you would like to see the current chilling hour accumulation for our area, check out Overton's A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center's weather website (<http://etweather.tamu.edu>). You'll see the Chilling Hour's tab – Method 1 No. of Hrs.  $\geq 32$  &  $\leq 45$  F is the more accurate of the 2 measurements, and as of Feb 20, 1030 hours, which is more than enough to satisfy most fruit varieties on our recommended list. Overton tends to be a bit cooler than urban areas with more heat islands, but is close enough to provide a good indicator.

While at that website, notice there is a PET tab,

which data is used for calculating more accurate irrigation. The website <http://texaset.tamu.edu> connects to the Overton weather station, and by selecting the Home Watering option in the texaset.tamu.edu site, you can really optimize your watering practices, save water, and reduce other problems related to over (or under) watering.

If you would like to learn more about some of the newest advances in rose breeding, the March 14 East Texas Garden Lecture Series has Mark Chamblee discussing Kordes roses, one of the innovative breeders that are releasing roses with increased tolerance to black spot fungus. Plus, he'll show how to prune roses, and proper planting techniques.

He will also explain the new American Rose Trials for Sustainability program (A.R.T.S.) which is a new national trial program for, as the name implies, evaluating roses for sustainable landscaping (using less pesticides, fertilizers, etc). The Tyler Rose Garden is one of 2 regional trial sites. We are still looking for a couple of people to participate in the monthly evaluation of the entries. If you are interested, please contact me.

The new class will be joining the meeting in March, so I hope you will introduce yourself and help welcome them to this wonderful Association of Master Gardeners.

## EAST TEXAS GARDEN LECTURE SERIES

### March 14 - Blooming With Kordes Roses & the American Rose Trails for Sustainability

– Chamblee Rose Nursery –  
Mark Chamblee

### April 11 – The Backyard Buffet – Eating Your Landscape – Blue Moon Gardens – Mary Wilhite

Registration 8:30 AM, program 9:00 AM. Season tickets \$45 per person, single event tickets \$15 per person.

Visit [www.Facebook.com/ETgardenconference](http://www.Facebook.com/ETgardenconference)



## New Address

Linda Sargent – 730 Charlya Dr., Bullard, TX 75757

## New Phone Number

Nelda Stanley – 430-235-1064

## Class 22 Training Schedule for March 2015

Classes that certified MGs may wish to audit include:

Mar. 3 — Soils & Fertility, Dr. Mark McFarland

Mar. 12—Diagnosing Plant Problem, Keith Hansen

**Classes meet at the Extension Office from 1 PM till 5 PM.**

April 2—Class 22 Graduation at the annual Awards & Recognition luncheon for all Master Gardeners.

## First Tuesday in the Garden Lecture

The 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the Garden Lecture Series will begin on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in the I.D.E.A. Garden with a presentation on vines presented by Mack Humphries. Mack has some ideas on constructing trellis.



## Furthermore...

We need Master Gardeners to give programs on "Keeping Critters out of Your Containers" on April 1st. Everyone who uses containers for gardening has helpful hints so pass them on so how about sharing. Programs are approximately 20 – 25 minutes and 10 minutes or so for questions. All lectures start at 12:00 Noon and move indoors if there is bad weather.

### The Best Time to Move Bulbs & Plants

By Dee Bishop



The very best time to move bulbs is when they are dormant. Narcissus, jonquils, daffodils, and other spring flowering bulbs come into dormancy in summer after the foliage has died down. That's the best time, but what if you are going down the road and see something blooming that you don't have? Do you leave it for the mowers to take down or do you dig them now while the getting is good? I carry a sharpshooter shovel at all times in the back of my car along with various plastic bags, hand shovel, clippers, and a plastic table cloth. I stay prepared in case I see something wonderful that I need a start of. Now some may try to shame me, but it won't work. I have seen hundreds of beautiful little Campernelles destroyed between Tyler and Canton with all the road construction the past two years, and other things in other places. Eventually road work will get nearly everything in the ditches; so I do not mind at all digging things when I see them. I am careful not to dig all of anything unless I know it will be destroyed, and I never dig right in front of people's houses. They may enjoy the little blooms as much as I do.

I dig straight down all around the clump of bulbs all the way the depth of the shovel. I lift the whole clump out in one piece and put it in a bag or on the table cloth. Once I get home, I transfer it to a nursery pot packing mulch all around it. Do not pull grass or weeds and do not disturb the bulbs. Let them grow until the leaves wither, then shake them out and keep in a covered dark dry place (garage?) to plant in fall. Be sure and label while they are blooming, because you probably won't remember what they are next fall if you don't.

I have had great success doing this with nearly anything I have ever seen bulb wise. When you are digging in ditches, there are too many tall weeds, snakes, and who knows what else in summer when the bulbs are dormant.

Iris are better left until late summer, but again, take them gently, grow them off until they go dormant. NEVER NEVER pull a plant up out of the ground, it will seldom ever live and if it does, it will take years to regain its strength and vigor.

February and March are perfect months to be on the lookout for native plants, bulbs, iris, daylilies, and who knows what! Be prepared and you will be able to save many lovely little plants from the bulldozers.

### Will Spring Arrive This Year?

By Mary Claire Rowe

Despite five pink hyacinths, and dozens of bright yellow daffodils helping us to think otherwise; this week, winter seems to have decided to stay cold, windy, and dreary a bit longer. We always know when a cold snap is coming by the bright aluminum palm trees in Barnes & Noble's parking lot. We gardeners can use those palms, wrong for this climate, as a reminder of what to plant in our area for the least amount of care. We can all probably remember becoming attached to a beautiful, beguiling plant and ignoring the growing and climate requirements; being swept up in the vision of it growing in our garden. Of course, that is how retailers like it, because we will eventually want to buy more to replace the pitiful one.

This situation highlights the incredible value of our IDEA Garden. Through the years we have planted wonderful interesting plants that will do well here, helping to educate gardeners and thereby, diversify the choices for plants carried by our garden retail shops. It is wonderful how knowledge can help people, and how often it is ignored. Therefore, we Master Gardeners keep on working to educate the public and the retailers on what is good for us here.

One of the best books I have read is "Founding Gardeners" by Andrea Wulf. This book tells how our founding fathers: Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and John Adams and others spent much of their time learning about the diverse plants that grow in our country, and incorporating them into their gardens. They shared their failures and successes, and were engaged in conversations with each other and writing about them to each other throughout their lives.

They shared a belief with Ben Franklin, who wrote in "Positions to be examined concerning National Wealth" that there were three ways by which a nation might acquire wealth. "The first is by War... This is Robbery. The second by Commerce which is generally Cheating, and The third by Agriculture the only honest Way."

Perhaps these wintery days have a purpose after all: to read and reflect on gardening and the founding of our nation, and marvel at the intelligent people on whose shoulders we all stand.



### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Extension Office and considered or discussed the following:

State Director Harvey Collen reported that he had attended a recent Texas State Director's meeting in College Station. The Gardens and Greenway project, a major project at A&M, was reviewed. A certificate, noting the SCMG contribution to the project, was presented to Harvey.

The "Jewels in the Garden" project was discussed. See Jean Smith's article, on page one, for more information.

There are four gardens now committed to the Home Garden Tour on May 30<sup>th</sup>. New and interesting innovations for the tour were discussed.

With the former Flower Market now being changed to the "Rose City Artisans & Flower Market, discussion centered on how the change would affect the SCMG presence. It was decided that MGs will be present and will continue to sell roses, in addition to a table offering educational information.

Susan Stone reporting for the Review Committee, advised that they have a form ready for distribution at the March meeting. It will be used to better understand the MGs interests and involvement and hopefully their participation.

Bill Kelldorf has resigned his position as Historian, due to health concerns. President Pat Welch advised that she will ask the Nominating Committee to seek his replacement.

**Rose City Artisans & Flower Market  
at Tyler's Goodman Museum—March 27 and 28**

Smith Co. MG's selling roses—Education table.

**Texas Forest Country—Azalea Trails and Gardens  
March 26-29, 2015**

The 2015 national Azalea Society of America convention, co-hosted by the Stephen F. Austin State University SFA Gardens and the Texas Chapter of the ASA, is coming to Nacogdoches, TX. Five speakers will discuss hunting for, growing, and gardening with azaleas.

**Wood County Spring Conference  
March 28, 2015**

The Wood Co. MGs Spring Conference is at the Quitman H.S. Door prizes and raffle.

Speaker is Steven Chamblee speaking about native plants, planting trees, perennials and more.

**Harrison County MG Plant Sale  
March 28, 2015**

The Plant Sale starts at 8:00 AM till 2:00 PM.

The sale is located at 105 N.E. End Blvd. Marshall, Texas in the SE corner of the Tractor Supply parking lot.

**Tyler's Azalea & Spring Flower Trails  
March 20 to April 5, 2015**



The Bell County Master Gardener Association is hosting the 2015 Texas Master Gardener State Conference April 16 –18 at the Bell Count Expo Center in Belton Texas.

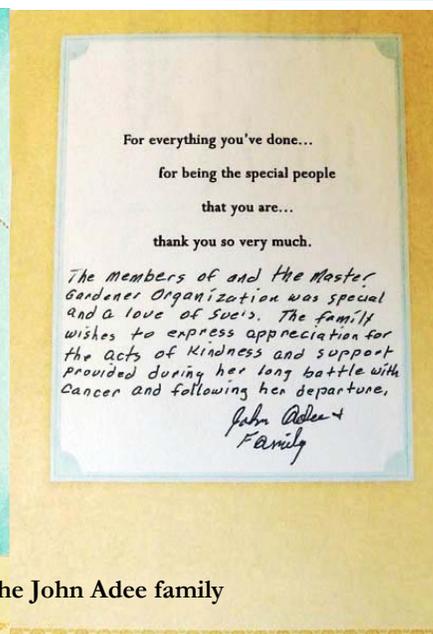
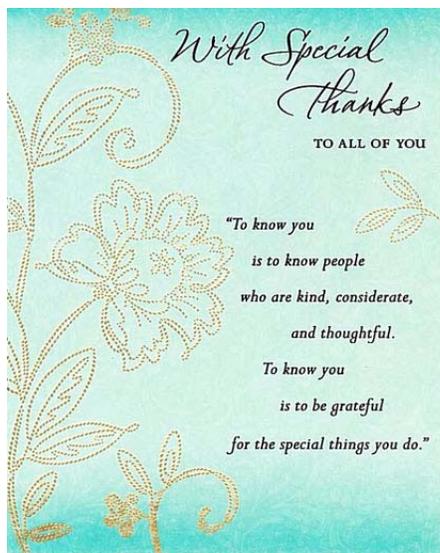
The Conference features amazing speakers such as Greg Grant, Felder Rushing and Peter Hatch covering the following topics: Bees, Bats, Water Rights, Olive Trees and Foraging. Workshops on Vermicomposting, Floral Design, Bee Hive Construction, Leaf Casting, Edible Plants and Native Plants for Birds are part of the Conference. Additionally, tours to Salado, Fort Hood, Railroad Heritage, Train Trip to McGregor and various local gardens will be offered.

**Registration is now open.** This Conference is open to all Master Gardeners and to the public as well! You can attend the whole Conference or just one day. Be sure to check out the Conference Website for complete information at:

<http://txmg.org/2015tmgconference/>

**International MG Conference 2015  
September 22-25, 2015**

Co-hosted by Iowa and Nebraska MGs. For a glimpse of "Horticultural Horizons in the Heartland" come to the Council Bluffs/Omaha area this September..



Thank You card from the John Adee family



Using recipes from the MG Cookbook, Carolyn Chalender prepared this food for IN Magazine.