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**November 2016**

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**The next SCMG Meeting**  
**November 10, 2016**  
 At the Tyler Public Library  
**11:30 AM**

**MG Grapevine Staff**  
 Martin Davis, Editor

**MG Grapevine Contributors:**

Greg Grant, Sam Griffith, Deanna Olson, Ann Smith, and Susan Stone.

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**Extension Office**

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**SCMG Association Meeting**  
**November 10, 2016**

Our speaker for the November 10th meeting will be Cody Goldman, City of Tyler Urban Forester. He will give an update and overview of the city's plan for trees and shrubs.

Rachel Northcutt, Keep Tyler Beautiful Co-Coordinator will bring us an overview of her responsibilities.

**Location changed to Tyler Public Library**

**New E-mail Addresses**

Greg Grant – [greg.grant@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:greg.grant@ag.tamu.edu)  
 Rebecca Wilson - [rawilson27@gmail.com](mailto:rawilson27@gmail.com).

**Work Day in the Gardens**

The regular Tuesday work days will continue during November, starting at 9:00 AM each week.

**MG Calendar 2017 Update**

The 2017 Northeast Texas Gardening Guide and Calendar will be available for sale once again at our monthly meeting, November 10. If you've not yet gotten your copy this will be a good opportunity to start your Christmas shopping.

The calendars sell for \$7.00 each and will soon be available at various stores throughout the area. You can also get at copy mailed to you for a total charge of \$10.00. Just call the extension office and order your copy. You will be mailed a calendar upon receipt of payment.

**Susan Stone Sez....**



Almost November. October turned out to be a very stressful month in many ways. From tweets to daffodils. Really, social media is such a force nowadays. I think we should ask our wonderful Facebook guru if she'd consider live-blogging our MG events. Andie Rathbone does a great job posting about everything we do, including what we should be doing. Should we tweet? Would anyone follow?

Our Bulbs and More Conference and Sale was a great success, and we will soon discuss plans for next year. If you have ideas about what was good or what was bad, let us know. This event is our biggest fundraiser and it truly takes all of us working together. Thanks again to everyone who helped out, especially Deanna Olson who managed our "left-over" bulbs sale in Southside Park.

Remember...our next monthly meeting has been postponed one week to November 10, same time, **new** place. It's also our very own election day, so be sure to come and vote.

See you there,  
**Susan Stone**, President

**2017 MG Class Signup**

Information on MG training, beginning in January 2017 and the forms to signup is available on the web at <http://txmg.org/smith/>

Tell your friends who may want to become part of this gardening community.



### Greg Grant Sez..

First of all, I want to say how incredibly impressed I was with the fall bulb sale and all the hard workers that pulled it off. You really are an amazing group and I'm very lucky to have you. I've been in love with bulbs since I was a child and spent a lifetime collecting, growing, and even farming them. I can't wait to get started planning the next sale. In addition to being the "Rose Capital of the World" I think we can be the bulb capital too! I have several bulb farming friends and former students than can probably help us.

I'm also proud as can be about the incredible Heritage Rose Garden and IDEA Garden. There aren't many Master Gardener groups in the state that have such beautiful gardens under their care for teaching and inspiration. Even the birds enjoy them as I couldn't help but noticing a white-breasted nuthatch bragging on it during the last work day I attended. Unless I'm scheduled to be away I hope to attend all the Tuesday workdays.

I do love to garden, however for those of you that don't know, I've had shoulder surgery, two neck surgeries, back surgery, and four hip surgeries leaving me with two fused artificial vertebrae and two artificial hips. As matter of fact my latest new hip will be one year old in December so be sure to wish it a happy birthday! I'm still pretty darned functional but just wanted to let you know so when you saw me squirming in a chair or lying on the floor you'd understand. I used to be able to lift just about anything but of course now I try to stick to light loads. Please forgive me. I promise I'm not lazy, just well worn.

I'll be speaking at the Antique Rose Emporium's Fall Festival of Roses on Saturday, November 5 on "My Life as a Rustler" if you have an opportunity to attend. There are talks and tours there the whole weekend. You can read more about it on their website, [antiqueroseemporium.com](http://antiqueroseemporium.com). My friend and mentor Dr. William C. Welch is speaking too. He and I just finished a book titled "The Rose Rustlers" with Texas A&M Press. I should be out sometime next year I hope. Thanks for all you do!!! **Greg Grant**

### PROPOSED OFFICERS FOR 2017

Members will be asked to vote at the November 10, 2016, meeting on the following slate of officers, or on a slate that may be changed by nominations from the floor. Because of special circumstances that occurred with this year's nominating process, some officers (if elected) will be serving longer than their original term. Those individuals are identified below.

President – Susan Stone\*

Vice President - Wayne Elliott

Treasurer – Linda Sargent

Assistant Treasurer – Henry Burch

Secretary – Sherri Matthews

Parliamentarian – Pat Welch\*

Historians – Jan Moch, Betty Atchley

At-Large Members – Ann Kelley, Linda Munn

State Director – 1st year – Jean Smith

State Director – 2nd year – Gay Barron

Alt. State Director – 1st year – Cathy Swindell

Alt. State Director – 2nd year – Sandra Dugan

\*New term will contain one additional year

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### Orientation for 2017 MG Class

On November 15, we will be having an orientation for the prospective new MG Class that will begin in January 2017. It will be from 1-3 PM in room 257. At this time, I do not know how many people we are expecting to attend the new classes.

The room is small. If you plan to join the "welcome wagon", please let me know so we will have enough chairs set up. We like to provide refreshments to help welcome these folks. So plan to bring a "treat" to add to the table.

Ann Smith [smithvae@aol.com](mailto:smithvae@aol.com)

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### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on October 20. The following items were discussed:

- **The October 8, Bulbs & More Conference.** No final accounting is available to date, although a net profit is expected.
- **Directors and Officers insurance.** The Committee agreed to purchase D&O coverage effectively immediately.
- **2017 Operating Budget.** The Committee approved the budget as prepared by Budget Committee members Susan Stone, Jeannette Ross, Deanna Olson, Linda Sargent and Pat Welch.
- **TMGA Awards for 2016.** The Committee discussed possible nominees in the categories for which SCMG is eligible. Potential award-writers were also identified.
- **Calendar sales.** The Committee discussed sales at area businesses and through the Extension Office.



## PLANTING FOR THE DECADES

Sam Griffith

As the growing season is rapidly rushing towards its seasonal end and a November frost, it is time to begin to think about the next season. The seed catalogues will be arriving in a month or so, tempting us with luscious tomatoes and prolific, beautiful squash/corn/cucumbers/whatever. Oscar Wilde once described a person's contemplation of remarriage as "the triumph of hope, over experience." After the unstable weather of the last couple years, with massive rains then droughts, and a pleasant spring that was quickly fried by a staggering sudden summer's heat, perhaps any gardener in east Texas who optimistically falls for the seed catalogues' imagery of abundant gardens are also experiencing the triumph of hope over experience. But, being gardeners, we nonetheless feel compelled to turn the eternal struggle of weeds versus will – Nature's weeds against our will to grow a beautiful tomato in the face of Texas heat- into our life's joy.

But let us consider a longer view of our garden. Rather than just look towards a couple months' production of beans or squash, think about the decades of provision. I am talking perennials, trees and fruiting plants. A few suggestions:

**PECANS:** If one has room, and time to wait – we are talking a decade or so, I strongly suggest planting a pecan tree. Native to the South, pecan trees are beautiful and prolific. I have begun to harvest this year's pecan crop, and will gather hundreds, and likely thousands, of pounds of pecans from under the pecan trees my grandparents planted around my house. I would add this caveat: if you live in town, don't consider planting a pecan tree with the expectation of harvesting many pecans. Those scampering "tree rats", those fuzzy tailed demons that some call squirrels, will devastate your crop. But if you live in a rural area, where one is permitted to control tree rats – fortunately the hunting season for tree rats parallels the pecan harvesting season – you can reap a nice harvest. And there are a couple hawks that loiter around the farm who seem to enjoy dining on pecan-fattened tree rats. But in the city limits, the squirrels will strip your pecan crop, when they aren't raiding your bird feeders, and all you can do is futilely shake your fist at them.

**FRUIT TREES:** November and December is the optimum season to plant fruit trees. In the winter season, although the trees are dormant above the surface of the land, well-planted fruit trees are busy spreading their roots, preparing the essential foundational nutritional source necessary to support optimal fruit production.

To plant the tree, dig a hole several times larger than the root system of the new tree. Stretch out the roots of the new tree. If the tree has been in a container, often the roots will have grown into a tight ball, as the growing roots have circled the confines of the container. If the tree is planted with the roots still in a ball, or worse, with the roots circling the tree, the roots will continue to grow in that circular pattern, choking the tree's growth, and sometimes actually cutting essential root growth and killing the tree. So spread out the roots. If a feeder root cannot be bent to point outwards, simply snip it off. New roots will quickly grow to replace it. The reason for the extra-large hole is that, if the soil is well packed, sometimes the tree's roots will grow to the packed soil, and finding resistance, will encircle the hole in the soft dug-up soil. But, with a large hole, you can point the roots out and give it a better change at thriving.

Plant the tree with the graft a couple inches above the soil surface. The graft is where the chosen fruit tree variety is attached to the vibrant root stock. It is where the tree comes straight up out of the pot, and then has a noticeable bend to one side, then continues up. Backfill the dirt on the roots. Discard and do not use the potting soil that came with the tree. Native dirt will be better for the roots. Water the roots in carefully. The water will also wash dirt into any air pockets you might have missed as you filled your hole. Building a little dam, a couple feet from the tree encircling the newly planted tree to help hold water was you continue to deeply water the tree for the next few weeks, and even longer if there is a dry spell. Place a two-inch layer of mulch around the tree to help retain moisture and to suppress grass and weeds from competing with the tree's new root system.

Prune the tree heavily at planting time. Remember: the tree's top should not heavily outweigh the root system. Study gardening books to determine how to prune your tree. Trees such as pecans, apples and pears are usually trained with a single-leader branching system: the later branches spiral from a single central upright branch. By contrast, peaches and apricots are trained to grow in a "cup" shape, with the central branch removed to open up the center of the tree for light and for air flow, both helpful to reduce disease.

So start thinking about planting fruit and nut trees now. Don't wait to plant your fruit trees when they finally show up at the gardening outlet in February. Seek out local fruit tree producers and plant in November and December for more abundant fruit in the summer. **Sam**

### ET Garden Lecture Series

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Smith County will continue its 2016 East Texas Garden Lecture Series at 9 a.m. Saturday, November 12 at the Tyler Rose Garden, 420 Rose Park Drive in Tyler, Texas. Dr. Jared Barnes, assistant professor in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University, will present "Foodscaping with Incredible Edibles."

In this presentation Dr. Barnes will share perspectives from food gardens and foodscapes around the world, his fun and engaging projects at Stephen F. Austin State University that are helping to connect gardening with students and the community, and techniques and cultivars that will perform spectacularly for east Texans.

### Earth-Kind Living Conference

East Texans will have the chance to learn about new environmentally friendly techniques around the home and ranch during the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Earth-Kind Living conference Nov. 18 in Sulphur Springs. The conference will be held at the First Baptist Church, 116 Oak Ave. and begins with registration at 8 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m.

Dec. 2 in Palestine. Registration at 8 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. inside Ben E. Keith Beverages, 2019 W. Oak St. For more information and to register, go to <http://agrilife.org/earthkindliving>.

## Looking Ahead...

Nov 1 – First Tuesday in the Garden -Ed Bryant –  
Put Your Garden to Bed  
Nov 12—ET Lecture at Tyler Rose Garden Center  
Nov 15– 2017 Class orientation  
Nov 18—Earth-Kind Conf. Sulphur Springs  
Dec 2—Earth-Kind Conf. Palestine

### 2017 TMGA Conference Cruise

April 27-May 1, 2017

**DID YOU MISS THE BOAT?** Although the deadline to register has passed, we still have access to a very limited number of staterooms. Don't delay - they will go fast! Register NOW!

Prefer to stay on solid ground? Join us in Galveston on Monday, May 1st for the AWARDS LUNCHEON at 12:00pm

and an afternoon of tours and experiences.

For more information visit the conference website at: <http://texasmgconference.com/>



### November 1-4, 2016 The Cowboy Experience

Come to the 2016 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference in Arlington and Fort Worth, hosted by Tarrant County.

Partial conference registration is available for those who want to attend specific dining events. Fees for each are: Wednesday (speakers, breakfast and lunch, \$100; Thursday (speakers, breakfast, lunch and dinner) \$130; Dinner on Thursday only \$50. Go to <https://2016southernregionmg.com/> for more info.



### IMGC 2017

Wherever your garden grows on this planet, you will find a wealth of new ideas at the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference in Portland, Oregon, July 10-14, 2017.

Early registration: **October 10, 2016 through January 13, 2017**

Website [blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/home-page/](https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/home-page/)



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