



# MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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### Inside This Issue

Bulb Sale	2
AgriWorld	2
From Bulbs to Bloom	3
Home Garden Tour	3
Ex. Committee notes	3
Specialist Training	3
So. Garden Symposium	4
From Bulbs to Bloom	4



SCMG Association Meeting  
August 3rd  
at 11:30 AM  
at the Nature Center

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## SCMG Association Meeting in August at the Nature Center in Tyler

The SCMG meeting on August 3rd at 11:30 will be at the Nature Center in Tyler. The address is: 11942 FM 848 Tyler, Texas.



Direction to the Nature Center are: In Tyler take Loop 323 to SH 248 (University Drive). Go east on SH 248 past the UT Tyler Campus to FM 848 (about 3 miles). Turn right on FM 848 and travel 0.7 mile. The center is on the right.

There is limited parking adjacent to the center. Please limit this parking to those needing to park close. Everyone else is being asked to turn right into the parking lot as you enter the Nature Center. Follow the walking path around the pond to the Nature Center. You may also want to car-pool.

The subject is birds and Tania Houmayoun from the Audubon Society will be our guest speaker. We are in for a treat!

Hope you all had a great break and looking forward to seeing all in August.

*Wayne Elliott*

## First Tuesday in the Garden

The noontime lectures in the IDEA Garden will resume this fall with the following schedule:

Sept. 5 - "Fall Vegetable Gardening" with Greg Grant

Oct 3 - "From Bulbs to Blooms" a preview of the October 14 sale event

Nov. 7 - "All About Trees" with Henry Burch

## Susan Stone Sez....



Hope your summer is going great and you've been able to get in some fun time (out of the heat, of course). August is time to get back into the swing of things and planning will start in earnest for our next two big projects: AgriWorld and our annual Bulb Sale.

The AgriWorld team will start their creative construction process in late August to be ready for the Fair which starts September 22.

And "From Bulbs to Blooms" is gearing up for the October 14 conference and sale. We've added a few new things this year such as plants and shrubs for member pre-purchase, the sale of Greg Grant books for our Scholarship Fund, and vendor booths to browse before the sale.

And, that's not all that's going on. A group of people from the Executive Committee have worked over the summer revising our Bylaws to better reflect some of the changes that have occurred over the last decade or so. The revised Bylaws will be available for review by the membership beginning in early August. We hope to vote on the final revisions at our September 7 meeting. As I said, the revisions are fairly extensive, so please take the time to review and comment before the vote. The Bylaws are the backbone of how we operate as an association and everyone's understanding and buy-in is important.

Remember, our August 3 meeting is at the Native Plant Center. Hope to see you there!

*Susan Stone, President*

## Bulb Sale

by Greg Grant

This past week we had a bulb sale committee meeting and yesterday I dug 50 *Lycoris x incarnata* for our October 14



sale. This peppermint spider lily is rare. The last time it was offered mail order, they were \$25 each plus shipping. I will provide other bulbs like it. I also posted our first flyer about the sale on Facebook which was shared 25 times overnight across Texas. I anticipate a larger crowd this year with buyers from towns around Texas and even Louisiana. Anne Pattullo and I have been meeting regularly to secure bulbs for the

sale. This year and in years to come we are going to have a very specific mission when it comes to the bulbs we offer. We want unique, properly identified, supremely adapted bulbs. Luckily, I've spent my lifetime collecting, trialing, and farming bulbs and many of the gardeners that come to our sale know that.

This puts an extra burden on us, but one that we can take advantage of. After all, the more people that come to our sale, the more we get to teach about truly adapted Southern bulbs and the more money we make for our wonderful Master Gardener organization. Thankfully, I've had the opportunity to participate in many successful specialty plant sales in my life and know what it takes to create interest and draw participants. My mentor Dr. Jerry Parsons taught me the basics years ago in San Antonio...entertain them and provide something new, different, and better that they can't get elsewhere. Even if it's one thing, they will come. In San Antonio our rose society sold the first 'Belinda's Dream' roses the world had ever seen. At LSU, my horticulture club sold the first 'LSU Purple' figs that had ever been mar-

keted.

I followed the same approach for years, starting by supplying the plant sale selection for Neil Odenwald's Southern Garden Symposium in St. Francisville; then Aubrey King and I did the same for Dr. Welch's Oktober Gartenfest for a number of years in Roundtop. And I spent a number of years at SFA Gardens where we would sell \$50,000 dollars worth of plants in one morning, about \$20,000 of that coming from my little Pineywoods Native Plant Center nursery where my student workers and I propagated and grew high quality, hard to find items, including my own introductions that couldn't be purchased elsewhere.



High quality and hard to find are the keys. Like it or not, we are competing with Dutch bulbs. They have it down to an art...big beautiful bulbs in mass at relatively cheap prices. But sadly, most aren't adapted to Texas and the South. That's where we step in. We will specialize in bulbs uniquely adapted to the South, that aren't available through the Dutch bulb trade. We will mainly use a network of friends and farmers I've come to know over the years. We will also use my extensive bulb collection to provide items they can only purchase through our sale.

We want to distance ourselves from other sales...no tulips, no repackaging and reselling things they can order from Holland, no unknown varieties, no "grab bags," and nothing that looks like a plant swap. Our reputation is on the line. What visitors tell other gardeners is on the line. The number of people we get at future sales is at stake. Our sale will be one of a kind and we want everyone to know that. But always remember, our main goal is teaching, not making money. We want every person that leaves our sale to know more about beautiful, long lived bulbs that live on rainfall alone and don't need pesticides or fertilizers. I'm excited and they will be too! - Greg

## It's Time for AgriWorld

It's time again to start planning and constructing "Our Secret Garden" exhibit for AgriWorld. This year's theme is "The Future of Agriculture" featuring technology, innovation and other hot topics focused on the future. "Our Secret Garden" will take place in rural, urban and suburban settings demonstrating how we can garden in the future with less space, less water, and other climatic and resource challenges. We will have roof top gardens in the city, xeriscape and vertical gardening in the home landscape, as well as a drip irrigation and aquaponics systems.

Set up for AgriWorld will begin right after Labor Day, September 4. We need people to help set up, painters, carpenters, and just general all-around workers, as well as teachers for the four educational tours for school children. Please join us if you can help. More information will be available soon about how to sign up and where to go. If you have any questions or want more information, call Susan Stone at 903-526-1363.



## From Bulbs to Bloom

Holy Moly is summer still here!? Eager for falling leaves, but not the ones due to drought! Our "From Bulbs to Bloom" extravaganza will be here before we know it. This is your alert to think of the roll you might want to play during this fun day. There will be SIGN UP sheets at our August meeting. I have added a brief synopsis of each duty. This is our biggest event and we need **ALL HANDS ON DECK**.

**REGISTRATION** – we will need 8 people to be present at 8 AM. Registration always begins at 8:30 AM, but there are always those who want to come early and get a choice seat. Registration will open until Greg's his second talk begins at 10:30 AM. Registration folks can sign up for another duty once registration is closed.

**SALES** – we will need 30 people. Even if your knowledge of bulbs is scant, Anne Pattullo will give you instructions on the bulbs you will be responsible for. She thinks 10:30 AM prior to our meeting September 5, will be a good time to meet for instruction.

**WAGONS** – If you have a wagon to loan for the day, please sign up. We hope you can get it to and from on your own.

**TICKET WRITERS** – 16 people needed to work with each cashier to expedite check out.

**TRANSPORTATION/SECURITY** – 6 people needed. If you have never worn an orange vest before, now is your chance. Orange is in! You will observe folks who have large purchases and get a wagon to them -- after they have paid. Once they are checked out, you will transport their goods on said wagon to front entrance, load their car and return wagon to station. You will also need to be aware of people exiting. If they have paid for goods, they will have a particular color of bag (to be determined later). If not, you will need to redirect them to the cashier lines.

Our sale is not until October 14, but a lot of preparation and participation go into making it successful. If you would like to shoot an e-mail to me securing your slot, send to [smithvae@aol.com](mailto:smithvae@aol.com). This is such a fun undertaking as well as our biggest money maker. It takes all of us to pull it off. Thanks in advance for your participation. *Ann Smith*

## Successful Home Garden Tour

A huge thank you to all of the Smith County Master Gardeners who helped make this year's garden tour a success. The gardens were beautiful, the home owners were more than enthusiastic, and many favorable comments were heard from tour attendees. Guests included many out of town visitors as well as Tyler area gardeners. This year's tour hosted close to 400 guests on June 3 and 40 Master Gardeners during the pre-tour. The best blessing was that the weather held until 3:30 allowing most MG's to get home before a torrential downpour.

There is a list of prospective homes for 2018 already in the works. If you enjoyed working on this project, please consider stepping up to chair the Garden Tour. It is a great opportunity to view different gardens, meet some great homeowners, and showcase beautiful landscapes as well as the Smith County Master Gardeners. *Jean Smith*

## MG Entomology Specialist Training

Applications are now being accepted for the 2017 Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist class to be held at the Texas A&M AgriLife Center at Dallas from September 18-21. The purpose of the Entomology Specialist program is to provide advanced insect-related training. Registration fee is \$200. For more info. go to <http://agrilife.org/insectspecialist/>



## Executive Committee Notes

The Executive Committee met on July 21 2017. The following action items were discussed:

- Project Status – All projects are being successfully managed and are on track to meet deadlines. Greg will speak at the August meeting and address specific changes related to this year's bulb sale.
- CD Renewals – The Committee agreed to add the balance in the Edward Jones Cash Account to the CD which matures on July 31, 2017.
- Bylaws Revisions – The Committee approved revisions to the current Bylaws, which will be presented for review at the 8/3/17 membership meeting. The revised Bylaws will be voted on at the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting, 9/7/17.
- Policy on Nominations and Election of Officers – Because of proposed changes to the Bylaws, the Committee approved a change to the policy to allow the Vice President/President Elect to serve as an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee. The policy change will be effective subsequent to the approval of the Bylaws.

**29th Annual  
Southern Garden Symposium & Workshops**  
October 20 & 21, 2017  
St. Francisville, LA

With featured speakers like Monticello's Peggy Cornett, popular Mississippi author Margaret Gratz, and Jenny Wegley, Director of Horticulture for The Dallas Arboretum, no other gardening program brings together top quality speakers and historic plantation settings as well as the Southern Garden Symposium in St. Francisville, Louisiana. Known as much for its engaging social events and historic venues as for its outstanding gardening lectures and workshops, the Southern Garden Symposium - now in its 29th year - has become an annual tradition for gardeners.

We are unable to accept registration online. Please click on the link below to download and print a registration form. Mail the completed form with your check made payable to "Southern Garden Symposium" to P. O. Box 2075, St. Francisville, LA 70775 Pre-registration is required. To print registration form, go to <http://www.southerngardensymposium.org/registration>

**Smith Co. Master Gardener Association Annual  
"From Bulbs to Blooms Conference and Sale"**  
October 14, 2017

Registration 8:30 AM, Program 9:00 AM, Sale 11:30 AM  
Harvey Hall, 2000 W. Front St, Tyler TX

Key Note Speaker: Greg Grant, Smith County (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service) Horticulture Agent, noted author and bulb expert.

Sale to follow: Hard to find Bulbs and Bulbs good for the South, perennial shrubs, trees, and more!

Great Door prizes!

Local businesses and artisans will have booths with their merchandise available for purchase.

Free and open to the public.

Visit <https://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/> for more information



MG's Craig Reiland and Henry Burch visit with Garden Tour guests.

Photo: Courtesy of Jan Moch

Go to page 3 for story about the June 3rd Home Garden Tour