



MG Grapevine



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Inside This Issue

Keith's Column	2
Garden Signs	2
2014 TX MG Conf.	2
A Garden is....	3
Discussing Magnolias	3
Thankfulness	4
Executive Committee	4



MG Association Meeting
December 5th
Harvey Convention
Center at 11:30 AM

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Our President Sez ...

The old saying, "My how time flies" is once again appropriate as I recall the past couple years. It has been my pleasure to serve as an officer in this fine educational group; the Smith County Master Gardeners. I have learned a lot from many of you volunteers and especially from our County agent Keith Hansen. He, of course, was educated at a very fine University in College Station. Gig'em!

I first became interested in the program when I lived in San Antonio and listened to Bob Webster on Saturday mornings as he answered questions of gardeners in that area. He often mentioned the Master Gardener program. Since I have always enjoyed God's creation and like to have a decent yard with beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees I decided when I retired a few years ago that I wanted to be part of the Master Gardeners of East Texas. I have never regretted a moment and look forward to being active for many more years.

Let's all pitch in and help David Gary, the new President, Pat Welch the new Vice President, and all the other leaders and help continue to make the SCMG program an even better organization in the coming years.

Once again, I thank all of you who have worked so hard to make our group a success. May you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas Season! I hope to see you all at the Christmas party on December 5.

Looking Ahead to the New Year

With each new year, now his 21st, Keith Hansen begins to instruct the new class of future MGs. The first class of the new group will be on January 7, 2014 at 1:00PM at the Extension Office. The classes will meet regularly thereafter, mostly on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. For the entire schedule, SCMG members may visit the 'Members only' page on the MG website.

Certified MGs may visit any of the classes. Of special interest is the annual visit of Dr. Bill Welch which occurs on January 16th.

Officers for 2014

President – David Gary
Vice President – Pat Welch
Treasurer – Bob McRae
Assistant Treasurer – Jean Smith
Secretary – Pat Turner
Historian – Bill Kellendorf
Parliamentarian – David Pierson
Ex. Committee at Large –
Charlie Colman & Trudy Menke
State Director, two year – James Showen
State Director, one year – Harvey Collen
Alt. Director – two year – Hazel Bateman
Alt. Director – one year – Mary Green

SCMG Association Meeting

The meeting for December is the annual Christmas dinner. The dinner will start at 11:30AM at the **Harvey Convention Center**. Please notice the location change.

The dinner is a potluck, with the association providing brisket. Don't forget to bring a serving utensil for the dish, salad or dessert which you bring.

All MGs and their spouses are invited. Come and enjoy. You may even go home singing.

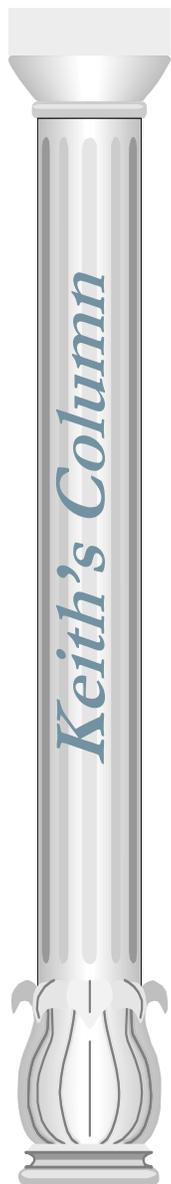
Work Days in the Gardens

There are no scheduled work days in the gardens during December 2013 and January 2014.

If work is needed, an e-mail will be sent out.

New E-mail Addresses

Donna Cole - dsctcole01@yahoo.com
Her cell phone is 903-522-3703.
Ann Carnley - eta@reagan.com



December and winter weather is already here. Tempus fugit! Thanks to all of you for a great year and many, many accomplishments, including Top Master Gardener Association in Texas for our size. Thank you David Pierson and all the members of the Smith County MG Executive Board for your time and leadership in guiding us through another year. I look forward to seeing everybody next week (December 5) at our annual holiday luncheon where we can relax and enjoy the fruits of our labor.

I hope each of you take some time at this time of year to remember the most important things in life, count and be thankful for all your blessings (not necessarily the material things), and to remember those in need. One of the things I am very thankful for is all of the support and friendship the Master Gardeners have given me over the years. You are a wonderful group of people to have as volunteers for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

As 2013 slips away, please take a moment to send in your volunteer and CE hours to Martin Davis. Your volunteer activity is needed for my year-end reports, and to be accurate and on time, I need the most up-to-date information. I want to count all of your valuable time that you have contributed to the success to this organization and our educational outreach for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. One of my most important reports is due on December 1, and included in that report are volunteer hours and of course, our educational efforts for 2013. So, please, while you're thinking about it, send in your report.

If you are short in CE's, here are a couple of easy ways to get some hours:

Write a Tip-Of-The-Week article (up to 4 per year). These should be short, little inspiring tips for passing along to readers. You also get volunteer hours for writing tips.

Master Gardener Earth-Kind Online Training (<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/>) select from any of the 12 on-line modules to obtain 1 CE (up to 3 hours CE's per year). You have to take the little quiz (see link) to get credit. Do not seek re-certification credit for training modules you have completed in previous years. Progress through the training program is tracked "on-line" and the results for each completed module are automatically forwarded to me.

Of course, Class 20 has until the end of March to complete your hours, and the above CE requirement does not apply to you.

If you have any concerns about your recertification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Garden Signs

A special project group has been discussing and planning for about three years for signs which will be placed in the gardens maintained by the Smith County Master Gardeners in the Tyler Rose Garden.



The signs will soon be ready for installation in the IDEA, Heritage, Sunshine and Shade gardens. These signs, which will be 18" x 14", will be attractive with a colored background, MG and AgriLife logos and information identifying the garden by name. The group working on the project includes project leader Cindy Harrington, Jean Watson, Eloise Muxworthy, Ann Kelley and Pat Welch.

Ladies, we can't wait to see the results!

2014 Texas Association Conference

The conference will be hosted by the Permian Basin Master Gardeners on September 25-27, 2014, at Odessa.

There will be numerous garden field trips, expert presentations, informative exhibits, fun times, and much, much more! Their website (which is under construction) is at: <http://2014tmgconference.org/>.

The conference is a long ways away, both in miles and in time, with more information available later.



A Garden is....

By Dee Bishop



I write a lot and came across an old notebook recently in which I wrote things I heard people say or things I had learned in one way or another. I thought these were interesting I thought you may enjoy them too.

A garden is a place where fruits, vegetables, and or flowers are found.

A garden is a place of beauty and tranquility in which to sit quietly and meditate, or to rejoice through your senses, the bounty of nature.

A garden is a place where plants are used to paint a picture in which one can spend time.

A garden is a pleasant way to use plants to paint lovely pictures in one's patch of the great outdoors.

A garden to some is nothing more than grueling work.

I like to think of my garden much like my house--it's an extension of my personality as well as a scrapbook of fond memories of people whom I have loved and enjoyed throughout my life. The plants are extensions of people long gone but not forgotten. Fun memories of how I got the plants with those dear old friends and the sharing of plants from family members who had gotten their plants from even further back, keep me in touch with the past, help me enjoy the present, and keep me in awe of the future. A garden connects generations in a way nothing else can.

December in the garden: The last leaves have fallen; so collect them all and either shred or compost them. Just do not burn or dispose of them. Use every one. There is nothing better to add to your soil.

Protect pots of plants. Double pot them by placing the smaller pot inside a larger one and mulch all around the inside. Wrap the outsides of pots with bubble wrap to prevent hard freezing of winter color. You could wrap a pot and place it inside a larger one also to give even more protection.

Make a square with PVC pipe and cover with plastic to make a protective structure for large shrubs like oranges. If it gets really cold, place a large light bulb inside the structure on freezing nights.

Pile up leaves or straw and place plants around in it.

Get hay bales, make an enclosed area, place plants inside and cover with plastic as a make-shift cold frame.

Peruse seed catalogs, order seeds to plant in Jan.—Feb., dig and move shrubs, plant trees, prepare beds for spring planting, make plans for an even better garden next season.

Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed and wonderful new year. Feed the birds!

Discussing Magnolias

By Linda Billings

Being from the South, I grew up thinking the only Magnolias in the world were the Southern Magnolia and that all Magnolias were evergreen. In High School I remember seeing a purple leaf flowering bush in a friend's yard and became aware of the Purple Tulip Magnolia. I loved the color but it was small and had no real leaves so quick decision told me I only like evergreens. Thirty five years later when I inherited my husband's retirement project, a young tree farm, I became aware of the most popular Texas landscape trees and I was growing DD Blanchard and Little Gem. A supplier mistakenly gave me some Alta Magnolias so my knowledge of Magnolias was up to six varieties ten years ago. I heard mention of Saucer Magnolia and thought it was similar to the Tulip Magnolia. Another deciduous hybrid that blooms in early Spring, but my interest in deciduous Magnolias didn't evolve until joining the Magnolia Society International in 2010. My first annual Spring Conference was in Rhode Island where I toured the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, the oldest public arboretum in North America and one of the world's leading centers for the study of plants. We visited many private gardens and nurseries among them, Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden Connecticut, one of my favorites because the owners have developed an outstanding collection of yellow flowering Magnolia hybrids, and many other Magnolias and unusual woody plants are growing on the premises.

A grower from Poland who will be hosting our 2015 Annual Conference was just as enthusiastic as myself for the yellow flowering Magnolia named Lois. We entered into a bidding war over Lois and my Polish friend didn't make it cheap for me. My cost for a tree small enough to carry home on the plane was \$110. Three years later Lois is growing very well in my back yard, but I wonder how many more years it will be before my first yellow bloom appears.



I am now aware that there are 80 different species of Magnolias and hundreds of different hybrids with many different features, colors, leaf sizes and growth habits. The Southern Magnolia is still my favorite. But I do love hiking through acres of trees, down in valleys and over hills looking for huge Magnolia trees in full bloom of solid pink, purple, white, yellow or red and two or three toned striped. They are spectacular to find and caused me to reevaluate my first opinion of deciduous trees. Another reason to love deciduous trees of any kind is of course to enjoy the beautiful Fall colors that we have appreciated this year. My drive to work every day in October and November was spectacular.

Thankfulness

By Mary Claire Rowe

Now that the first winter storm has rolled into town, our glorious garden season is over. While there are lovely winter plants to enjoy, they just do not compare to those found in the rest of the year. The extravagant blooms of spring, summer, and fall are now a sweet memory. How incredibly lucky are we East Texans to have this lush growing environment to enjoy for three quarters of the year.



Although we will miss the seemingly endless days of work and relaxation in the garden, there will be times when we can once again get out into the winter garden and enjoy. Gardeners are easy to please that way. Just give us a remotely nice day, and we will be out, finding something to do to keep a "hand in."

My delight this year has been the success of the moon vine and blue morning glory growing together outside my office window. Every morning I have been greeted with a profusion of big, beautiful blue blossoms juxtaposed against the morning sky. Every evening, and on until the early morning, large, sweetly fragrant white moon vine blossoms delighting the senses filling in between. I finally found the right place for this combination, and it has been such a pleasure. Now, I have dozens of big moon vine seeds to collect. The morning glory seeds are too small and too quick to fall, but I know they will be back next year for an encore. You have to love them or just don't plant them, for they will reseed. Happily for me, I love them

So, when the long grey days and nights seem to drag on and on, close your eyes and think about what you had to enjoy this last long season. Thankfully, abundance will begin again next spring. Lucky, lucky, lucky!



The Executive Committee met on November 22nd and discussed a variety of topics including:

The need for a leader for the Home Garden Tour 2014, which will be on June 7, 2014, was discussed. Contacts will be made of those who may wish to volunteer.

Jean Smith volunteered to handle drinks and ice for the Christmas lunch and Deanna Olson will purchase tablecloths. Pat Turner and Charlie Colman proposed that some sort of entertainment should follow the lunch. The group could sing songs of the season, possibly singing the "The Twelve Days of Christmas" with individual tables doing different days. An e-mail will be sent to the members seeking a person willing to share their talent to lead the group sing.

Keith Hansen mentioned that a new book entitled "The Bulb Hunter", co-authored by Chris Weisenger and Dr. Bill Welch is now on the market.

Sue Adee suggested that we should consider bringing in a speaker that spoke at the recent Texas State meeting. He is nationally known and comes from California. Information on his availability, topics and cost are being gathered. It is proposed that the event be on a Saturday afternoon in either June or July and open to the public. Sue Adee, Jean Smith and Pat Welch will spearhead the effort.

Fall Color in Tyler

