

January 2013

Number 1
Volume 20



Inside This Issue

Keith's Column	2
Plants Around the World	2
Arums	3
Getting to Know Us	3
Calendar/Gardening Guide	3
New Phone Number	3
Association Dues	3
Ex. Committee notes	4
1st Tuesday Series	4
Volunteer Hours Reports	4
Work Day in Gardens	4

MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Sue Adee, Dee Bishop, Keith Hansen, Joanie Matthews, David Pierson, Jim Powell and Pat Turner.

Published for the Master Gardeners of Smith County, Texas under the auspices of the Smith County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 1517 W. Front St. Tyler, TX 75702.

Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

MG Association Meeting

January 3 - 11:30 AM
Rose Garden Center



Improving Lives, Improving Texas
"Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education."

Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980

Fax - 903-590-2984



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

The Way to a Happy New Year

To leave the old with a burst of song;
 To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
 To forget the things that binds you fast
 To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
 To have the strength to let go your hold
 of the not worthwhile of the days grown old;
 To dare go forth with a purpose true,
 To the unknown task of the year that's new;
 To help your brother along the road,
 To do his work and lift his load;
 To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
 Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.

Author Unknown

Pruning Class

On Wednesday, January 30th at 1:00P.M. Texas A&M Forest Service - District Forester Daniel Duncum will conduct a class on Shade Tree Pruning at Fun Forest Park.



Please sign up at the January meeting as enrollment is limited. Certified MGs earn two CE's for attending.

Keith Hansen will conduct a Fruit Tree Pruning class on a February date to be announced.

Lifetime Member Program

This program was approved for implementation by the Executive Committee in 2010. At that time three people became Lifetime Members and none have been so honored since. We now have a request from one person to be considered.

Others will be considered if they wish to submit their name, using a form available from Martin Davis. For consideration, the completed forms must be returned to Keith Hansen by February 1, 2013.

Persons nominated for this honorary status must be a certified Master Gardener for at least five years and served with significant active participation, such as; elected officer, project/committee coordinator, other leadership position and/or high volunteer hours. Those who may be nominated include individuals whose ability to volunteer is limited by age or physical problems or those who have continued interest, but no longer wish to volunteer. Nominations will be considered by a committee made up of SCMGA past-presidents and coordinated by Keith Hansen.

Individuals, who have been named Lifetime Members, may participate in the activities of the SCMGA. They will no longer be certified Master Gardeners, will have no requirement to volunteer on projects, nor will they be required to pay association dues.

January Association Meeting

The January meeting of the Smith County Master Gardener Association is at 11:30 AM on January 3rd at the Rose Garden Center.

The first order of business will be the installation of the officers for 2013 which were elected at the November meeting.

The pictures of the 2013 officers can be found on the SCMG website at <http://txmg.org/smith/about/>.

Anne Pattullo will show the award winning PowerPoint presentation featuring the IDEA Garden in all seasons of the year! It won first place at the Texas State MG Conference in the graphic presentation category for 2011. It has an accompanying script which enables individuals to use it for community presentations even if they are not completely familiar with the IDEA garden. Members needing a program for their clubs and organizations may check it out from the office .





Happy New Year to everybody! Thanks again for being such a great bunch of volunteers! Mark February 16 on your calendar for the Spring Garden Conference, which has been renamed, East Texas Garden Lecture Series.

This morning program will feature Scott and Lauren Ogden, authors of several popular garden books. They will give 2 talks, one based on the title of their newest book, Plant-Driven Design. The other is the Moonlit Garden. For more information on the program and the Ogden's, go to facebook.com/ETGardenConference.

This month starts another round of training classes (Class 20), and it looks like we'll have 19 in the class. Remember that you can earn CE's by attending a training class – can be a good refresher. Once again, we will be having 2 extended sessions at Overton on Entomology and Plant Pathology. These are great refreshers, even more in-depth than in previous years, and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to get updated in these 2 important topics:

Dr. Mike Merchant, Extension Entomologist from Dallas will be doing a 6 hour training at Overton (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) on January 17; and Dr. Kevin Ong, Extension Plant Pathologist and head of the Plant Diagnostic Lab at A&M will give a 6 hour training at Overton (9:00 – 4:00) on January 31. Both should be excellent, and expand

your current knowledge base in both subjects. Handouts will be limited to class trainees (but if I get pdf versions, I can pass them on to you post-training). Be sure to sign in on the Certified sign-in sheet. The schedule of classes is on the easttex-asgardening.tamu.edu web site under Educational Programs.

We are seeking someone(s) to serve as leaders for 3 of our great projects: 1) Home Garden Tour, 2) Northeast Texas Gardening Guide, and 3) the Fall Conference and Plant Sale. The previous leaders of each of these projects are stepping down, but will gladly shepherd new coordinators with their experience and knowledge, so you won't be "reinventing the wheel". Having 2 (or 3) persons to co-chair a project also helps with spreading the planning and coordinating duties, so don't feel like you have to do this alone. For more information about what is involved, please contact the leaders of these 3 projects (they are listed in the Address Book). If no one comes forward, then the projects will probably be cancelled this year. If you are interested or have more questions, please contact, as soon as possible, David Pierson (President), David Gary (VP) or me.

Interns, remember you only have until the end of March to complete your required hours. Be sure to turn in your hours to Martin Davis, and if you anticipate being unable to fulfill your commitment by that time, please contact me as soon as possible.

Have a great and happy new year!! - - Keith

Plants Around the World

By Jim Powell

White Butterfly Ginger Lily—



bedyichium coronarium is also called Ginger Lily. It's a tropical perennial that is

native to India. Its green stalks, with lance shaped leaves, grow from thick rhizomes to a height of 3 to 7 feet. From midsummer through autumn these stalks are topped with long clusters of wonderfully fragrant white flowers that look like butterflies. These flowers produce a gardenia-like scent. The flowers eventually give way to

showy seedpods full of bright red seeds.

The Butterfly ginger is easy to propagate. Simply dig it up, cut the root into eight inch pieces, and replant. A hard frost will kill it to the ground but it will re-emerge in the spring.

Turk's Cap—*malvaviscus drummondii*,

a native of South Texas, has been grown in Texas for generations. It was designated a 2011 Texas Superstar because



it's a very tough and versatile plant when it comes to climate and soils. Early varieties had red or white flowers but a new variety, "Pam

Puryear" has pink flowers. The Turk's Cap gets its name from its small flowers that look like Turkish turbans. These flowers are like magnets to butterflies and hummingbirds.

Turk's Cap, fairly drought resistant plant, produces a showy profusion of flowers for the summer that continue to bloom until the first hard frost. Propagation is accomplished from seeds or better yet from the small seedlings that pop up around the plant.





by Dee Bishop

ARUMS – LOVELY GREENERY IN WINTER

Add arums to your garden for some outstanding foliage. Their large arrow shaped leaves are dark green with white veins. They remind you of a hosta only they are green in winter. I bought some tubers fifteen years ago and have several large patches now and I have given many away.

Arums are easily grown here in East Texas. They only ask good rich soil and moisture in winter. They disappear in summer but leave behind a lovely little seed head. Looking like a small ear of bright red corn, the seeds are very showy in late spring into summer. The seeds may be planted to provide more little arums.



I have Arum italicum 'Pictum' which is variegated. The leaves are very dark green with white veins. Very showy. I have read that up North, people grow them for house plants. I may try that. They would be very beautiful.

Arums go dormant in summer and the good thing is they will take water during dormancy, like hostas, which means they will grow well in the shade garden with caladiums and hostas that need much summer water. Arums tubers should be planted in late summer and fall. They may be purchased from many bulb catalogs.

We are always searching for interesting plants for winter color and arums are an outstanding addition to the winter garden.

Getting to Know Us

By Pat Turner

This month we are getting to know Master Gardener Bob Ellis better. From Class 12, Bob is active in MG projects such as the Home Tour and mentoring interns. He served as my husband, Clayton's mentor. Bob was born in Brownwood but grew up in a small West Texas farming community, Seagraves. Somewhat of a renaissance man, Bob has a bachelor's degree in biology from SFA and a Masters in Health Care Management from Southwest Texas. He spent four years in the Air Force, one in Korea and the rest in Hawaii - hey someone had to do it.

He maintains he has changed careers more often than some people change underwear but he did spend the last twenty five years of his working career in the insurance industry. Taking a giant leap of faith Bob bought an independent agency which he expanded to three agencies and later sold to a nephew.

After retiring he got bored and returned to work with the Texas Department of Health performing food establishment inspections. Needless to say, Bob no longer eats at some of



his former favorite places. In his second retirement Bob reads Vince Flynn political thrillers, loves sports, and is an avid though, he says, not so great golfer. His community involvement includes serving as treasurer of the Hideaway Kiwanis and of the Lindale Educational Foundation.

Bob's gardening interests are turf grass and plant diseases, chemicals and insect control. While he says he hardly knows a pansy from a petunia Bob enjoys simple, low maintenance gardening.

His gardening philosophy is "If something comes up, let it grow!"

Now you know why I called Bob a renaissance man – a person with knowledge and proficiency in more than one field.

Calendar/Gardening Guide

The 2013 NE Texas Gardening Guide & Calendar is now available for \$8.00. In addition to the Extension Office, calendars can be purchased at the following locations: Blue Moon Gardens; Breedlove Nursery; Center Chemical; Chamblee Rose Nursery; Cycle of Seasons, Lindale; Dory's Garden; ETMC Gift Shop; Fleming Farm and Ranch, Lindale; Harris Nursery, Hwy 69; Horaney's; In the Wind; Joe Smith Plant Farm, Jacksonville; Kirkpatrick Hardware, Gresham; Neal's Nursery, Lindale; Noonday Ace Hardware; Noonday Feed; Off the Wall; Pandora's Box, Frankston; Petty's Nursery; Potpourri House; Roquemor Hardware, Whitehouse; Rubicon; Senter Nursery, Whitehouse and Southland Feed..

New Phone Number - Anne Brown – 903-566-4459

2013 Association Dues

Treasurer Pat Welch will begin the collection of dues for 2013 at the January 3rd meeting. Give your check for \$20 to her at the meeting or mail it to 19461 Sandhill Lane, Flint, TX 75762.

Class 19, please be aware, you will begin paying dues with the 2013 year.

Dues are payable annually by January 31st each year.

Executive Committee Notes

The Executive Committee met on November 29th and considered the following:

The 2013 SCMGA Budget was reviewed and approved. The budget is available for viewing on the SCMG website Members page.

The submittal of award's applications for Texas State awards was discussed, including a list of possible submissions. The 2013 State Conference is in October, but the deadline for submission of applications is still February 15th.

Keith Hansen had met with Ronny Duncan, David

Pierson, and David Gary about project leaders for 2013. The most pressing positions to fill are NE Texas Gardening Guide, Fall Conference and Bulb Sale, Home Garden Tour. David Pierson will contact other leaders to confirm they are continuing.

Eloise Muxworthy will attend the State Directors meeting in College Station December 1.



2013 1st Tuesday in the Garden Lecture Series

The schedule is set, but presenters are still needed.

March 5 - Azalea Care; April 2 - Tomatoes, How, When, and Where; May 7 - Blooms for Butterflies; June 4 - Natives Beat the Heat; Sept 3 - Planning the Fall Garden; Oct 1 - Bulbs for Spring Color; and Nov 5 - Time to Plant Trees & Shrubs.

Volunteer to make a presentation. Contact Jana Bowman.

Volunteer Hours Reports

Some of you may have volunteered more hours than our records show. The reason for that may be that you just have not reported them. Another reason may be that you believed that signing in to work or to a meeting meant that your hours would be recorded. Not true! In order to get credit you must make a report, hopefully each month.

Please be reminded that we will close out the year 2012 spreadsheet on January 15, 2013. Don't miss out on being recertified because you just did not make a report.

Work Day in the Gardens

No workdays are scheduled during January 2013. If work is needed, notice will be sent via e-mail and phone.



Birds in my Yard

Martin Davis

