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The next SCMG Meeting
January 5th
 At the Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

MG Grapevine Staff
 Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

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SCMG Association Meeting
January 5, 2017

Greg Grant will be our January speaker. Title "Rose Rosette .. A Dreaded Disease".

The 2017 association officers will be installed.

2017 Dues

Please come to the January meeting prepared to pay your 2017 dues which are \$20.



Hours Reports

As we come to the end of 2016 it is especially important that reports of our MG hours be complete and timely. Pat Welch asks that you send reports to her as soon as possible. If you have not been sending her your reports monthly, now is the time to get up-to-date.

Completion of at least the minimum hour requirements is critical to recertification as a Master Gardener for another year. For those who are uncertain, Pat can advise you of your status.

Just send a report or note to Pat Welch at grayball_234@yahoo.com

TX MG Newsletter

The TX MG newsletter is always available on the SCMG website on the home page. The December issue arrived belatedly on December 22nd.

Susan Stone Sez....

She's baaaack! But at least your president now knows what she's doing. Maybe. Hopefully.



This new year is 2017.... just 3 years away from the new "Roarin' 20's". And just a few years away from the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Smith County Master Gardeners Association. Maybe we should plan a big celebration, start a new project, and/or spend some money. Start thinking about that.

In the meantime, we will soon be in the thick of planning for the 2017 Bulbs and More Conference and Sale. Part of the team is in place, but more sub-committee chairs are needed. Work will start in earnest on the Home Garden Tour early in the new year. We are late in getting gardens signed up, so consider offering yours. Gardens planned and maintained by Master Gardeners are always a draw. And finally, don't forget AgriWorld and our Secret Garden. That's a perfect outlet for those of you who are especially creative.

I am really looking forward to the New Year and I hope you are, too. Last year was challenging in many ways, but now we turn to the future and start planning to plant. Maybe we can borrow from Greg's philosophy and "fling" something! What a great way to start a new year.

Please plan on coming to our first meeting of the New Year on January 5. A great speaker is on tap and your new officers for 2017 will be installed. We look forward to seeing you there.

Susan Stone, President



Rose Rosette Disease

By Greg Grant

As some of you know, we recently had a case of this dreaded disease in Tyler. This disease is sometimes referred to as “witches broom,” because of one of its distinguishing characteristics. It was first found in Canada and Wyoming in the 1940s and appeared in Texas in the 1990s. Though rose rosette has been documented in the both the Houston and San Antonio areas as well, it is by far most prevalent in the Dallas area, especially on the wildly popular Knock Out® roses. I have seen lots of it in roadside and public plantings in the north Dallas and McKinney areas. It also occurs throughout the entire South.

The symptoms of this disease are quite distinct and shouldn't be confused with anything other than broadleaf



herbicide damage. The most noticeable sign of this disease is a deformed, dense clustered “witches broom” growth habit, with an abnormal bright red coloration. The plant basically goes crazy, as if it had been sprayed with 2,4-D herbicide. The stems might also be flattened, enlarged, or elongated, with excessive leaf growth or thorniness. Don't confuse the burgundy-red, normal-shaped new growth of most China and tea roses as rose rosette. Also, be aware that the typical symptoms of rose rosette disease might only occur on a single or a few shoots at first, not the entire plant. The rose may die or may linger stunted for years, affecting other roses in the area.

So, what causes Tyler's nightmare? Rose rosette disease is generally spread to other roses in two ways. In gardens and the wild, it is spread by a tiny eriophyid mite that feeds on

an infected plant then spreads it to an uninfected plant that it later feeds on. These mites are so small that they can be spread by the wind. To be on the safe side make sure roses are spaced so that they do not touch each other. Though pesky, the mite itself doesn't cause the disease. It only spreads it. The other common way of spreading this deadly disease is through plant propagation. Any rose rooted from an infected plant will have the disease as well, as the virus is coursing through its sap and inner tissue. And any rose budded or grafted from an infected plant or onto an infected plant will have the disease too.

Is there a cure for this dreadful disease? Unfortunately there isn't. Viruses are fairly common in the horticulture world; some deadly, some only slightly disfiguring, and some hardly noticeable at all. But one common trait among them is there isn't a cure for them in your garden, no matter what quack advice or miracle remedies you hear. I've been gardening all my life and have two degrees in horticulture. This is very common knowledge about viruses. Pruning out the noticeably infected branches won't cure a bush, killing the mites on an infected plant won't cure it either, and treating the plant or soil with assorted concoctions won't cure this disease. By the time you see the symptoms, the disease is being replicated inside the plant with no way for you to rid it.

The *only* option you have is to completely remove and dispose of the entire plant, roots and all, when you know you have it, preferably at the very first sign of infection. If you allow an infected plant to live, you unfortunately are risking the life of all your other roses along with everybody else's as well. I don't care how special the rose is or how much you paid for it. An infected plant, no matter how few branches seem infected, is a “Typhoid Mary” that can infect all other uninfected roses. If you remove infected plants but have others roses in the landscape, you would be wise to treat them with an appropriately labeled miticide to make sure they aren't spreading it to your other plants. It is absolutely essential for cities, municipalities, businesses, and botanical gardens to remove their infected plant too. Master Gardener groups, Master Naturalist groups, garden clubs, rose societies, and other civic minded organizations need to be diligent about scouting their towns and gardens along with providing sound education and advice on this horrible disease. Our rose gardening heritage depends on it.

I would also be very diligent in not only removing all infected roses but also when propagating new plants or purchasing new plants. Rose plantings near naturalized stands of *Rose multiflora* along with those in highly developed urban areas heavily planted with roses are most at risk. Do all you can to stop the spread of this disease and let me know if you suspect it or locate infected plants. **Greg**



New Year—Forgetting the Past

By Sam Griffith

A new year is upon us! And for gardeners, inextricably linked to changing seasons, the passage of the year provides a clean break from last year's successes or its failures. Tomatoes/snapdragons/peaches did not do well last year? It doesn't matter - the recent killing freeze was a huge eraser that cleared the table of last year's crops. The Apostle Paul summed up our better attitude: "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before..." (Philippians 3: 13) So let us forget the past disappointments, and to use a popular phrase, let us "lean in", to reach towards the new opportunities that a new year, a new growing cycle that are before us. Let us forget last year's too much rain in May, and far too little rain from July until late November. So, forget the dried-out lawns and the tomato failure.

It is a new year. It is time to start seriously perusing the seed catalogues that will soon be cascading into out mailboxes. It is time to start musing about new plants to try and new configurations for our flower beds.

It is time to go to the nurseries and buy new fruit trees, new nut trees, and new shrubs, to expand our gardens or to replace those lost in last year's rain/drought. Just remember to plant them soon after you get them home - the sooner the plants are in the ground, the quicker the plants can begin to grow and flourish. Remember: the plants will put out new roots long before they put out leaves.

It is time to begin to prepare portions of your vegetable garden. If you have planted a cover crop to benefit your garden soil, you can turn under and prepare only a small portion of the garden, and let the cover crop continue to grow in the rest of the garden.

And start, if you haven't already, planting onions. Onions around here grow best in the winter and early spring. The onion farmers in Noonday have already planted their onions. So get to the gardening stores and get those onions in the ground. And it will soon be time to plant potatoes - not sweet potatoes but what used to be called "Irish" potato where I grew up. When I was a kid, farmers suggested planting potatoes on February 14, Valentine's Day. That is a reasonable target date. And it will soon be time to plant greens, like turnip, collard and mustard greens and lettuce, and winter sugar peas (what we used to call "English" peas in the 1950's in east Texas).

So, get out your Master Gardener notebook and look at the planting date charts, and get busy planting. It is a new year, so forget the past year and eagerly reach towards the new opportunities before us. And then it will truly be a "Happy New Year" !!! **Sam**

Master Gardeners in the Library

This new series of five lectures will be presented in the Tyler Library's Taylor with the first of the series on Friday January 13th at 11:30 AM.

Trish Whiting will make a presentation entitled "Winter Sowing". In addition to home schooling her children, she is CEO of the National Gardening Association. <https://garden.org/>



2017 Class XXIV SCMG –Training Schedule

Classes will be held at the Extension office, Room 257 from 1:00—5:00 PM, unless otherwise noted.

Jan. 5—Registration/Orientation; MG Projects

Jan. 10—Plant Growth & Development—Keith Hansen

Jan. 12—Turfgrass—**at TAMU Overton**

Jan. 17—Soils & Fertility—Chad Gulley

Jan. 19—Home Fruit Production—Greg Grant

Jan. 24—Trees—Types, Establishment & Care (some hands-on outside—dress accordingly) Cody Goldman

Jan. 26—Plant Diseases—**at TAMU Overton all day** 9:00-4:00 PM—Dr. Kevin Ong

Jan. 31—Landscape Water Conservation—Dr. Doty Woodson

Certified Master Gardeners earn 3 CE credits for each class audited.

The schedule of classes for February and March will be in newsletters for those months.

Landscape Design School

The George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A & M University will be the site of Landscape Design School II, **February 27-28, 2017**. The Schools are sponsored by Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. & the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A & M University. This course is popular with Texas Master Gardeners and can now be utilized by them for continuing education credit.

Registration form may be obtained from: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDFeb17/>

Gregg Co. MG Spring Gardening Seminar

March 4, 2017

Conference speakers include: Tom LeRoy, Vegetable Gardening in Containers and Steven Chamblee, Shade Gardening and Peace, Love & Milagros.

Doors open at 8:00 AM. Cost is \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For information, call 903-236-8429.

At First United Methodist Church, 400 North Fredonia St., Longview, TX

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.



We're offering lots of choices for the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference including 44 concurrent session classes and 16 tours to choose from; extra events such as the opening reception and 3 movies in a film festival. With this many choices, it can take some time to consider your choices and register.

Register before January 13, 2017 Master Gardener \$330 after \$380. General Public before January 13, 2017 \$380, after \$430.

Website blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/home-page/

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.

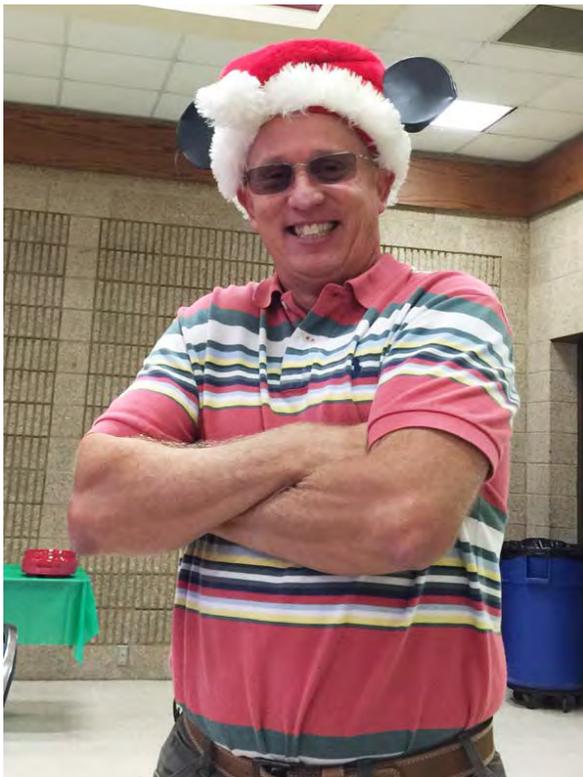
For more information visit the conference website at: <http://texasmgconference.com/>

Work Day in the Gardens

The regular Tuesday IDEA Garden work days will continue weekly during January, starting at 9:00 AM each week.

The Heritage Garden work days will begin on January 10th and will continue weekly, depending on the weather.

Did this Santa visit your house recently?



Decorating the IDEA Garden for Holiday in the Park

