



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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Inside This Issue

Public Gardening	2
Learn, Grow, Eat, Go	2
SFA Lecture series	2
Gone for Summer	3
Specialist Training	3
Ex. Committee notes	3
Coming Events	4
Becky Wilson award	4



**The next
SCMG Association Meeting
will be August 3rd
at 11:30 AM**

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There is NO SCMG Association Meeting In July

I want to thank those that made the trip to Waldo Way Guernsey Dairy Farm. We had great fellowship and a great, informative visit.

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 carpool.

The subject is birds and a representative from the Audubon Society will be our guest speaker.

Have a great July and we will see you in August. **Wayne Elliott**

Thank you Anne Brown

After many years of selfless dedication, Anne Brown is retiring as coordinator of the Heritage Rose Garden. Over the years Anne has given tirelessly of her knowledge and skill, teaching Master Gardeners and transforming and maintaining the beauty of a very special garden.

We are immensely grateful for her many years of dedicated service to the Heritage Rose Garden and to Smith County Master Gardeners.

Susan Stone Sez....

Wow. Was that a great Home Garden Tour or what? Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a great success. Even the weather cooperated for the most part. Our next big adventure is AgriWorld and as Buzz Lightyear would say, "To Infinity and Beyond!" Well, really just to the near future. What will your garden look like with much less space and much less water? What innovative practices will be in place to help us garden smarter? This year's AgriWorld will explore the future of Agriculture in more ways than one.

And, of course, fall will bring our somewhat newly designed bulb conference, "From Bulbs to Blooms" featuring heirloom bulbs for Southern Gardens and our favorite keynote speaker, Greg Grant. We'll also have our 2018 Calendar and Gardening Guide available for sale at the conference...a good time to start Christmas shopping.

Maybe I'm getting ahead of myself. Half of 2017 is still left and a lot of it will be very, very hot. Stay cool, enjoy your garden and hopefully some well-deserved downtime.

I'm off to the land of giant Hostas for some family time, but I'll be back for our next meeting, August 3, at the Native Plant Center. See you then.

Remember, we don't meet in July. Stay cool and hope to see you at our next meeting, August 3.

Susan Stone, President

Phone No. add and/or correction.

Susan Stone – cell phone – 903-952-7506
Valerie Swords – 847-942-7560 (correction of number in Membership Directory)



Public Gardening

by Greg Grant

For those of you that don't know it, I was previously employed at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, Mercer Arboretum, and SFA Gardens. Each of these public gardens is a member of a group known as the Texas Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, which has an annual meeting at one of its member gardens each year. The 2018 meeting will be held February 21-23 at Chandor Gardens in Weatherford, with my big buddy Steven Chamblee hosting us.

I would like for us to be more involved with this group as we, the Smith County Master Gardeners, are in charge of public gardens as well. Hopefully those managing of each garden or section of garden will consider attending the meeting. The beauty of the annual meeting is that each garden, both large and small, presents their last year's activities and projects providing plenty of ideas, both good and bad. It's also the only time these directors, horticulturists, volunteer coordinators, and staff get a chance to take a deep breath and be with like minded friends.

We do a very fine job with our IDEA, Heritage, Shade, and Sunshine Gardens, and provide a valuable service to both locals and visitors alike. But I'd like us to embrace our position as a public botanical garden even more.

We've got maintenance and presentation down, as our gardens are always tidy and beautiful. However, I would like us to take on several projects that are standard in the public garden world. The first is a mission statement for each garden. All gardens need a mission statement to know what fits in the future and what doesn't. It needs to be in writing. Our IDEA Gardens is pretty self explanatory, but I'd like to make sure we accurately and thoroughly feature all of Texas A&M AgriLife's signature programs like Earth Kind and Texas Superstars. The Heritage Rose Garden came with a mission statement as well; to show how old garden roses evolved into modern roses, surrounded by

companion "period" heirloom plants to further enhance the experience. After working at the Antique Rose Emporium early in my career, getting to help install a number of Bill Welch cottage gardens, becoming a lifetime member of the Southern Garden History Society, being in charge of the old-fashioned gardens at the San Antonio Botanic Garden and the SFA Mast Arboretum, then owning my own historic home and cottage garden, this style of garden is naturally one of my favorites. Our Shade Garden and Sunshine Gardens need updates to their mission statements along with some planning and revision. This brings us to master planning. Most gardens have written master plan so they'll have a road map for implementing their mission statement and long term goals.

I too would like for us to have in print the goals for each garden and the plans we have for implementing them. I also very much want us to have an accurate plant list (an inventory) for each garden. These accession lists are typically kept in an Excel file with details like date of acquisition, where the plant came from, and when it died or was removed. It's never wise to have plants in a garden that you don't know the history of much less the name of.

An accession list is very important for knowing how well plants are adapted and whether or not to plant them again or recommend them to the nursery industry or to the public. They are also extremely critical when it comes to accurate signage which all public gardens need. At the top of the list for most garden visitors is generally "What is this?"

I dearly love gardening and I truly love education. Thank goodness those are the ultimate goals of our wonderful Smith County Master Gardener gardens. Hooray for us! -
Greg



Learn, Grow, Eat, Go

Learn, Grow, Eat, Go training is to be held in Nacogdoches County on July 19. The training is open to teachers, school administrators, and volunteers as well as agents. There is a \$25 registration fee and lunch will be provided. It should be a fun and informative day.

Join us on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Nacogdoches County Annex Building 203 West Main Street in Nacogdoches. For questions, please call 936-598-7744 or email jlmcswain@ag.tamu.edu

THERESA AND LES REEVES LECTURE SERIES

Held at the Agriculture Building, 1924 Wilson Drive, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. 6:30 refreshments/social, 7:00 PM lecture followed by exciting plant raffle!

On **July 13, Greg Grant**, Smith County Horticulturist, Tyler, TX – A Bright Spot in the Heart of Tyler - The IDEA Garden.

For those who have considered going to the SFA monthly lecture, but have never gone, this month may just be the month to go, considering the speaker.



Gone for the Summer

By Sam Griffith

Fun times in Africa, if you don't mind: Genocide, enslavement of black people by the Muslim government in Khartoum, Sudan, and land mines, and starvation, and way too many machine guns in everyone's hands but mine.

East Africa, --- like central Africa, North Africa, western Africa, and southern Africa (look up Zimbabwe and tyrant/dictator/"President " Robert Mugabe)--- is a horrendous nightmare, pestilence (in some areas, the HIV infection rate is over 85% of the adults, so in 5 years, the society will collapse with widespread deaths of adults with institutional knowledge of how to farm, how to build a mud hut, etc.), and tribal warfare and genocide (in Rwanda in 1994, the Hutu tribe massacred 800,000 to 1 million men, women and children in less than 100 days - there are still human bones scattered around, and too often, you accidentally step on a human vertebrae or other bone, heavy sigh). Interesting place!

So, what do they grow? The Sudanese make "pucho", a pasty glop of supposed "food" , made from mataka, which looks like green bananas. But once they began to grow corn, they replaced the mataka' with corn flour. Thus, I have suggested making homemade cornbread with the corn flour.

It'll be my 4th trip through east Africa (Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, etc.). So, until September, keep on gardening.

Sam

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 information go to <http://agrilife.org/insectspecialist/>

JMG SPECIALIST TRAINING

There will be a JMG Specialist Training August 1-4 in Denton County. The Junior Master Gardener® Program is growing good kids by igniting a passion for learning, success, and service through a unique gardening education. This **dynamic and intensive 3-1/2 day training conference** is designed for Master Gardeners coordinating or supporting JMG programs at the local, county, and regional level.

Please see the website below for registration and hotel information.

<http://dcmga.com/events/2017-junior-master-gardener-specialist-training/> .

MG Vegetable Specialist Training

Hosted & Conducted by Bexar County – San Antonio

When: **October 17-19, 2017** Registration Fee is \$200 (includes 2 lunches, 1 dinner, snacks, and other goodies).

Class space limited so register early. Registration Deadline: Thursday, October 5, 2017 To reserve your spot, contact Denise at dsperez@ag.tamu.edu

TEXAS MG SPECIALIST TRAINING

Plant Propagation taught by Tom LeRoy

8:00 am October 30 through 5:00 pm October 31, 2017
Hill Country Master Gardeners – Kerrville, Texas .

Deadline to register is October 1st. For additional information please contact Duane Robinson 936-355-8215 or @ ddrobinson55@windstream.net.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

The Executive Committee met on June 16, 2017. The following action items were discussed:

- Project Status – The Committee congratulated Jean Smith and her team on a very successful Home Garden Tour. Profit from the tour is anticipated to be approximately \$3500. All other projects are being successfully managed and are on track to meet deadlines.
- CD Renewals – The Committee approved the renewal of two CDs with Edward Jones, each for a 12 month term.
- Display/Exhibit Board – Pat Welch agreed to spearhead a group to develop a display board and related materials to facilitate MG presence at various events and shows.
- Policy and Procedure – The Committee approved a new policy, #1011 Nomination and Election of Officers, as well as revisions to policy #1008 Awards. Both policies will be posted online.
- Heritage Rose Garden – Greg Grant will assume responsibility for managing the Heritage Rose Garden upon Anne Brown's retirement, June 30.

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.

[Click here to download the 2017 registration form.](#)

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

2017 East Texas Garden Lecture Series

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service invites you to their 2017 Garden Lecture Series. Registration will begin at 9 AM.

Ticket Information: Single tickets on sale the day of the lecture are \$15 per person.

Sep 9 – Pella-legna Vineyard/Winery “In Vino Vertias” at Pella-legna Vineyard

Nov 11 – Dawn Stover, SFA Gardens “Designed Plant Communities-Planting for Pollinators in a Pest Wild World”

Would like to make it standard Tuesday/Thursday 9-11 for helping Dr. Masabni in Overton unless he says otherwise which he sometimes does. **Greg**



Congratulations to Becky Wilson on being selected by the Texas Master Gardener Association as the Outstanding Individual Master Gardener for 2016! Becky joined SCMG in 2015 (Class 22) and in her short tenure has contributed substantially to the East Texas community sharing her gardening knowledge and skills. She is a co-leader of a section of the IDEA garden, has worked with a local FFA Horticulture program educating youth how to grow annuals from seed, and was instrumental in locating and acquiring heirloom bulbs as well as helping to manage our recent Bulb Sale and Conference. Becky is currently a vital member of the team at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center in Overton. Congratulations, Becky, on a well-deserved honor!