



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

June 2016

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

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The next SCMG Meeting
June 2, 2016
Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

MG Grapevine Staff
 Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Chad Gulley, Susan Stone, Brenda Strong, Kyle Tengler, Clayton Turner and Pat Welch.

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Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980
 Fax - 903-590-2984

SCMG Association Meeting June 2, 2016



The speaker for the June meeting is Max Nash, local orchid grower.

Behind Max Nash's home in northwest Tyler, Texas, two large greenhouses are filled from top to bottom with orchids of every shape, size and color imaginable. If the yard was larger, he would have more greenhouses.

He will present a program on growing and maintaining orchids.

1st Tuesday in the Garden

At the IDEA Garden
 June 7th at noon

New Address

Mary Claire Rowe
 5402 Carmel Court, Tyler 75703
 903-520-6196 (She no longer has a land line.)

Notice

Debbie Kellam (Secretary) is leaving the Extension office for other employment. Robbie Williamson will temporarily replace her at the Extension office.

Susan Stone Sez....



Despite the cool, rainy weather, we all know that a hot Texas summer is right around the corner. Sure, we take the month of July off; but once the Home Garden Tour is behind us, planning will start in earnest for AgriWorld and the Bulbs & More Conference.

As I write this, the Home Garden Tour is fast approaching. Based on the pictures I've seen on Facebook, these 5 gardens are truly exciting. Hope you get to visit each one. Special thanks to Margaret Herring and her team for all the hard work in making this year's garden tour a success.

Congratulations to all Smith County Master Gardeners for winning the Best Master Gardener Association award at the State Conference in McKinney, Texas. Congratulations, too, to Charlie Colman, awarded second place as Outstanding Individual Master Gardener. Charlie is an asset to our organization, especially for his dedication to the Overton field trials.

And finally, a note to all MGs who work on various projects and need help from the ladies in the AgriLife office: They are most gracious in providing help and assistance whenever needed. Please remember to be gracious in return and give them plenty of notice for any project request you may have.

Hope to see you at our next meeting, June 2.

Susan Stone
 SCMG Association President

Chad Gulley comments....

June is just around the corner. Vegetable gardens are growing and some are beginning to harvest a few early producing crops like onions and squash. Cooler weather lately is slowing down warm season grass growth. We are beginning to see samples of turfgrass issues such as take all root rot. Weed control of some undesirable weed species in home lawns is underway.



Spring has been busy. April and May have been busy with horticulture and other agricultural questions not to mention educational programs and workshops. Our recent Agriculture tour was held highlighting several Ag businesses in the area. Distant Lands Coffee, Brookshire's and Fresh, and a local vegetable grower all were stops along this tour. This is an annual tour we host in May along with Smith County Farm Bureau and Texas Farm Credit as sponsors.

Spider mites can occur on tomatoes, roses, junipers, marigolds and other ornamentals. Samples have come into the office with spider mites. Spider mites can be detected by taking suspicious leaves and rapping them over a white sheet of paper. Any dots which move are probably mites. Spider mites may be removed with a sharp stream of water or using insecticidal soap. For more severe problems, use an approved miticide to control these pests.

A wet, rainy June and lushly growing grass from high rates of nitrogen can lead to grey leaf spot, a fungal disease of St. Augustine grass. Symptoms include grey lesions outlined in black on the leaf blades. Areas staying wet, in the shade, in low spots, frequently watered, infrequently mowed and recently fertilized are the most prone to grey leaf spot.

If you suspect you have any disease or insect problems on your plants, we are always willing to help identify the issue to insure proper control. A good, close digital photo or the actual sample itself is helpful. This year has been interesting to say the least. We have seen numerous things this spring like Azaleas gall, crape myrtle bark scale, black knot on plum, and other plant issues.

Thanks for all you do. I will once again serve as Master Gardener Coordinator during the interim period between Kyle's leaving and the hiring of the new Agent. I appreciate all you do to help provide educational information to the clientele of Smith County. Plans are underway for late summer and early fall programs and events.

Kyle Tengler comments....

Being at the extension office means that you are the go-to person for plant problems. This necessarily means that Master Gardeners, extension agents, and others who are part of the extension system see a disproportionate amount of weeds, insects, galls, fungi, rots, the list goes on. As such I have seen diseases I had never encountered before. One such interesting disease is black knot.



Black knot (*Apiosporina morbosa*), a fungal disease, usually only affects plums and cherries, ornamental or otherwise, and rarely does it infect other *Prunus* species. A specimen was brought into the extension office recently and I have to admit I had no idea what it was. The woman who brought it in said the tree was normally covered in fruit, but during the winter she noticed these swollen branches all over the trees that turned black in the spring. She also said there wasn't a single fruit in the tree this year.

The best treatment is to remove the knots during the dormant season, by April 1st at the latest. If the knots are not removed the spores will mature during spring. The spores are shed during rainy weather, and they only need 6 hours of wet weather and temperatures between 70-75 F to infect new tissue. Infection typically occurs from April to June. When pruning out knots from a tree be sure to cut 3-4 inches below where the knot starts to insure that all of the infected tissue is removed. Knots can still be removed after April 1st, but this will risk the spores maturing and spreading before removal. Take care to remove the infected tissue from the area so that it won't spread any spores. A tree that has gone untreated for many years may be so infected that the best measure would be to remove the tree completely. Wild plums can also be a host to black knot so if you have any on your property check for symptoms as they can spread spores.

If disease pressure is high and you don't have access to the host plants that are spreading the infection it might be best to spray a preventative fungicide. Start spraying at bud break and continue spraying ever 7-14 days until mid-June. Remember, this is preventative and will not kill existing knots.

"I am sad to share that I will be leaving my position with AgriLife as of June 10th for family reasons." Kyle Tengler

The Smith County Master Gardeners wish Kyle all the best in his future endeavors.

Meet the Tiniest Crop Duster

A new strategy to keep plant pathogens at bay

By Annabel Edwards

To keep harmful pathogens, molds, and fungi at bay, farmers often spray crops with chemicals. But a company called Bee Vectoring Technology has developed an environmentally friendly alternative in which bees carry and deliver a fungus that kills off the bad stuff.

Normally, a farmer with an acre of apples sprays about 13 pounds of streptomycin to protect the fruit from fire blight, which can destroy entire orchards. But with the new bee system, a tray at the hive entrance coats the bees' hairy legs with a natural powdered fungus called BVT-CR7. The fungus acts as an endophyte, and grows harmlessly on the plant. It also prevents parasites and bacteria from taking hold.

As the bees forage for nectar and pollen, they deposit the powdered fungus—of which only 0.04 pounds is necessary—on individual apple blossoms. The delivery method is extremely efficient: A hive of 300 can cover 10 million flowers.

Michael Collinson, CEO of Bee Vectoring Technology, says field tests have shown the method is harmless to the bees. It might offer some relief by limiting the amount of pesticides they would normally encounter. Last May, the USDA said pesticides could be contributing to Colony Collapse Disorder, a phenomenon that wipes out a large percentage of a hive's worker bees.

"If you reduce pesticides," Collinson says, "you're going to help bee populations by putting less pressure on them."

This article was originally published in the May/June 2016 issue of Popular Science, under the title "Meet the Tiniest Crop Duster."

Contributed by Brenda Strong



Report from the TX MG Conference

By Pat Welch

As some of you may know by now, Smith Master Gardeners won first place for Association of the Year in the large division. FYI it's the third year in a row. Yeah for Charlie Colman! He won second place Master Gardener of the Year in the large division.

You missed a really an awesome keynote speaker. She was Amy Stewart who wrote and presented "Wicked Plants". She was both entertaining and informative. If you have the chance, pick up one of her books. I understand they are highly entertaining.

A couple other notes of real interest to all the members of our Association include:

If you are planning/thinking of going on the Cruise which is the 2017 State Master Gardener, your down payment needs to be in to the State Conference Com-mitter by no later than July 1, 2016.

The Earth Kind Gardens at A&M in College Station will be dedicated on June 17th.

Please mark your calendars for the Southern Region Master Gardener meeting which will be in Arlington on November 1-4, 2016.



The Green Roof Has Arrived

If someone asked you about a "Green Roof," would you know what they were talking about? Well, over the last 2 to 3 months I have been doing just that. I have been asking gardeners, both flowers and vegetables. The reaction has been interesting as most ask me, "Why paint a roof green?" They have no clue what a "Green Roof" is, do you?

A "Green Roof" or "Living Roof" is partially or completely covered with vegetation and a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane. It may also include additional layers such as root barrier and drainage and irrigation systems.

Some of the environmental advantages are:

- Reduces building energy consumption, 23% for heating and 75% for air conditioning.

- Makes for cleaner air by the capture of fine particles and CO₂.

- Improves rather than disturb the natural habitat of birds and insects.

- Retains rainwater, lessening burden of sewer system and ensuring fewer floods.

- Improves rainwater purification.

- Lowers ambient temperature by reducing city temperatures during the summer which are 5 -7 degrees C. higher than the countryside.

A "Green Roof" is NOW on display in the IDEA Garden. While not an elaborate system, it does demonstrate the principles necessary in building and maintaining one. The plants are drought tolerant succulents. The display can be re-configured and the plant selection will change as opportunities arrive. An irrigation system will be added when the current garden system is converted to a drip system. So consider checking it out a couple times a year just to see what's new. I hope you enjoy the "Green Roof" as much as we have enjoyed creating it.



Clayton Turner-Succulent Area Leader-IDEA Garden

Horticulture Field Day

June 23, 2016

Free Admission

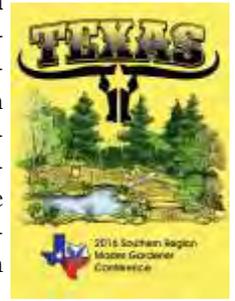
Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Overton

- **8:30 am** Registration opens at North Farm area.
- **8:30 – 10:30 am** Tour of Ornamental Trials at the North Farm Area
- **10:30 – 11:45 am** Tour of Ornamental Trials at the Demonstration Garden at the Main Building .
- **Lunch 11:45 am – 1:00 pm** Sponsored BBQ lunch by the arbor at the Main Building.



November 1-4, 2016 The Cowboy Experience

Come to the 2016 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference in Arlington and Fort Worth, hosted by Tarrant County. Master Gardeners from thirteen southern states will come together to learn from gardening specialists, tour local sites and gardens, partake in The Cowboy Experience and be treated to some good old-fashioned Texan hospitality.



Go to <https://2016southernregionmg.com/> for more info.

2017 TMGA Conference Cruise

Come join us aboard the Carnival Liberty™ for four special days of education and fellowship, along with sun, fun and ocean waves!

April 27-May 1, 2017

Guaranteed availability, choice of state-rooms and special pricing are only available until July 1, 2016.

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



Smith County Master Gardeners at the 2016 Texas State Conference hold the awards plaques won by the Smith Co. MG Association.