



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

November 2013

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu>

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MG Association Meeting
November 7th
Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

MG Grapevine Staff
Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:
Dee Bishop, Anne Brown, Monette & Charlie Colman, David Gary, Keith Hansen, David Pierson, Mary Claire Rowe and Jean Smith.

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Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980

Fax - 903-590-2984

Our President Sez ...



Master Gardeners, as an old friend of mine says when things are real good, "the weather is getting "gooder and gooder." East Texas is a great place

to be especially this time of year.

Did you all see our own Jean Smith featured on the local TV recently (On CBS Channel 19 on Oct. 17th)? She and Joann Adair were teaching some youngsters at the Tyler Day Nursery about the benefits of gardening.

Monette Colman with a "little" (emphasize little) help from Charlie has received the shirts, caps, etc. which a number of you ordered. They came in on Thursday October 24 and are available in the "AgriLife Extension" office for your pick-up!

The annual "Bulb Sale" was a great success. Thanks so much to all who helped. We will need a leader for next year's effort. Please consider leading the effort for 2014 if you have the energy and time to do so.

Don't forget to plan to attend the "Pot Luck" dinner at Cindy Harrington's place on Nov 1. It should be a great time for all and a chance to meet some of our Gardeners you may not know personally.

Tyler Day Nursery

On October 17th, television station KYTX in Tyler aired a news report on the MG effort at the Tyler Day Nursery.

In part, the text of their report said, "Students at the Tyler Day Nursery are learning early why good nutrition and exercise are important to their health. The Smith County MGs are part of that powerful equation helping cultivate the little ones into growers themselves. The School and Master Gardeners are hoping what they learn in the garden now will help them as they grow.

The relationship between the Tyler Day Nursery and the Smith County Master Gardeners started 15 years ago. It has grown from two small gardens to a large garden where the students learn the importance of fresh fruits and veggies." See **TDN Page 2**

SCMG Association Meeting

Our speaker for the November 7th association meeting will be Mark Bickerstaff, who is the retail store manager at Petty's Nursery & Landscape Design.



He will be speaking on the benefits and challenges of growing Dogwoods and Crape Myrtles.

SCMG Candidates for Office 2014

At the October SCMG Association meeting the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Peggi Canant presented for nomination, the following slate of officers: President – David Gary; President-Elect/Vice President – Pat Welch; Recording/Corresponding Secretary – Pat Turner; Treasurer – Bob McRae; Assistant Treasurer – Jean Smith; Historian – Bill Kelldorf; Parliamentarian – David Pierson; At-Large Executive Committee – Charlie Colman & Trudy Menke; State Director – Harvey Collen (Jim Showen completing 2nd year of 2 year term); Alternate State Director 2 year term – Hazel Bateman and Alternate State Director 1 year term – Mary Green.

As required in the Bylaws, those nominated will be elected by ballot at the November association meeting.

Bulbs & More Wrap-up

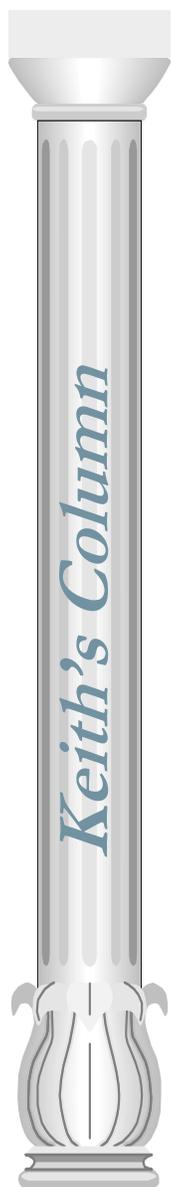
The conference and sale were very successful. Most of the unsold bulbs were sold at Bergfeld Park.

For those who wondered, the first Fall Conference was held in 1998, with the first Bulb Sale held in 1999. The two events were combined in 2001.

Photo Galleries

View photo galleries of pictures taken at [AgriWorld](#) and [Bulbs & More](#) by clicking on either of them.

You may also go to the [Smith County](#) website and select Galleries on the home page and then choose the appropriate gallery.



What a busy and successful October was for the Smith County Master Gardener program. AgriWorld, with Master Gardeners creating and staffing Our Secret Garden and the new ImAGination Station for preschoolers. were both a big hit and helped deliver the message about the role of agriculture in our everyday lives. Thanks to all the coordinators, teachers, and workers who helped throughout September. Next we rolled right in to the Bulbs & More Fall Conference – another very successful program and plant sale. It was very well attended and received by the public. Everything went so smoothly, thanks to the wonderful coordination of a large committee headed up by Jim and Laquita Showen. Everybody pitching in and doing their part, whether big or small is what makes for a successful event. Next weekend was our Education Table at Bergfeld Park, where we were able to sell the remaining yard art, and most of the remaining plants and bulbs. Thanks to Donna Cole and Ann Smith for being there Saturday, and again, all the helpers throughout the day.

The same weekend, a group of Smith County Master Gardeners went to the State Master Gardener meeting in Brownsville, representing our Association where we reaped accolades and recognition as the **BEST ASSOCIATION IN THE STATE** for our size. We also had **THE BEST MEMBER IN THE STATE – JEAN SMITH – Master Gardener of the Year!** First place for both categories! I am so very proud of all that you folks do for AgriLife Extension and thanks to Jean for her tremendously hard work and dedication to our program. She is involved in so many programs and projects, it makes me dizzy thinking about it. And she will be stepping back from some of her project leadership roles, and I do hope many of you will consider stepping forward to fill some upcoming vacancies.

Other awards received by the SCMGA include **2nd place and 3rd Place** in the following 5 categories: Second Place Education: Tyler Day Nursery Second Place Publication: Garden Tour Guide Book Second Place Mass Media: What's Blooming in our Garden (articles by Dee Bishop in the Tyler Paper) Second Place Graphic Bulb Sale Preview (PowerPoint put together by Merlin Eck) Third Place Project: Heritage Rose Garden

We are now recruiting for the next Master Gardener class which begins January 7. We will have an information and orientation meeting on November 21 at 2:00 for anyone wanting more information about the program and for those who have turned in applications.

I hope you have had a chance to see and purchase the new 2014 Calendar, Garden Journal and Planning Guide – “A Walk Through the Garden”. Bibi Blonn did an awesome job putting it together, and the new layout is awesome – turning it from a wall calendar into a useful everyday tool. We will miss both Bibi and Wayne as they migrate south.

Another reminder that time is running out for currently certified Master Gardeners to obtain their minimum volunteer and CE hour's requirements to maintain your certification status. If you have hours, and not turned them in, please do it immediately. Do not put Martin Davis, our faithful hour's recorder, in the position of dealing with a flood of backlog hours at the end of the year.

If you need more hours, the demonstration gardens ALWAYS can use the help – we are frequently short-handed. With the weather more uncertain in November and December, take advantage of Tuesdays when we are working to come and help out. Ask the coordinators of the gardens (Anne Brown, Sue Adece, Cindy Harrington and Eloise Muxworthy) where you could be of most help. Then there is the office help desk – lots of time slots available for you there. CE's become more scarce too – come to the Association meeting, and remember the online opportunities to get CE's by going through the Earth-Kind modules.

Have a great November, and Happy Thanksgiving!! / Keith

MG Picnic

Several e-mails have been sent to the MGs with information about the picnic on November 1st. If further information is needed, contact Ann Smith at smithvae@aol.com.



Cindy's address is 16738 CR 192, Tyler, TX 75703.

New Address

Mary Green—2019 Dueling Oaks Dr., Tyler, TX 75703

Tyler Day Nursery—(Cont. from Page 1)

Every Monday morning preschoolers at the Tyler Day Nursery make the garden their classroom.

"This is a very good educational lesson for the children. A lot of them will rarely come into contact with fresh vegetables or fruits, if it was not for this program," says Jaquita Lee, the Executive Director of Tyler Day Nursery.

Volunteers like Jean Smith explain the importance of eating fresh produce and how to sustain a garden themselves.

"We weed, we water, and we plant. We do it all and at the end of the year, we hope we harvest something and we can have a little celebration with what they grow," says Jean Smith

Together the Tyler Day Nursery and Smith County Master Gardeners plant seeds for a healthy future.

IT'S OKAY TO BE PICKY

By Dee Bishop



When you choose an article of clothing, you decide if you like the fabric and how it is made, and the color is of utmost importance. Choosing a plant is the same way. I have seen people grab up the first plant in a flat or in a group, never looking at the plant itself. When choosing a plant, pick it up and look at it from all directions to see if it is grown well. Look for a bushy plant that fills its cup and has its roots contained within the cup. Usually the corner plants (in a flat) are the best looking or at least the outside ones. They have had light from more directions than the inside ones. Look at each plant in a flat or a six-pack to see if each plant looks good. Look for a good full plant, flat, or six-pack. Make sure you have all six plants if you choose a six-pack. If the plants look small, pour one from the pot into your hand to check whether its roots fill the pot. Sometimes plants haven't grown in yet and all the dirt will fall off leaving you with a bare root plant which you do not want. After all you are paying the nursery to grow it for you. A nursery like Hughes grows their own plants and often has very small plants sitting near the good ones. Either wait to get them later, or take them home expecting to grow them out yourself.

When choosing a tree, look for one with a good straight trunk that doesn't fork into two branches. If you want a multi-trunk tree, choose one that has three trunks or five. Two trunks just don't look as good. A tree will be with you, or someone, for many years; so you want a well-formed tree. Look at the tree's overall shape. You may have to sit several pots out and look them over to choose the best one. Nurseries do not mind you doing this at all. Just be sure to replace them in their right spots. If you want a good shade tree, biggest isn't always best. A five gallon

tree will catch up and outgrow a large caliper tree that a nursery brings out and plants for you. I have seen it time and time again. A five gallon hole is much easier to dig too!

When choosing a shrub, think of several things. What size shrub do you need for the area you are planting? Do not get a shrub just because it's pretty. If it gets large and you have to spend lots of time whacking it back all year, you won't enjoy it. There are shrubs just the right size for your area. Again look at several shrubs to find the one that is bushy and well-grown. Sit several out and look each one over individually to select the most perfect one for you. If you see an overgrown plant that is bulging out the sides with roots growing out the bottom, choose another or go somewhere else that has better ones. Often times a nursery will have some last year's over grown plants to add to the new ones. A good nursery will re-pot last year's plants into larger cans and make sure they are ready before sitting them out. Make sure a shrub is grown in, by pulling it out of the pot to check the roots. You don't want to pay the price of a five gallon shrub when you are getting a one gallon shrub that has just been planted into a five gallon pot.

Nurseries buy thousands of plants from wholesale growers or they grow them themselves. They want your continued business; so they do their best to have their plants in prime conditions, but big garden centers often do not care for their plants as well as a true nursery does. They will pitch them rather than pay someone to water them. There is a way to water plants that is right and often garden centers do not take the time to teach workers the proper way to water. Just spraying a hose over the whole area doesn't work.

November is prime planting time for shrubs and trees; so enjoy shopping for the ones you need and carefully choose your plants. Get downright picky with shrubs and trees, because you will have to live with them a long time.

Anticipation

By Mary Claire Rowe

Eagerly awaited cool autumn weather arrived seemingly early this year, giving us glorious days for gardening. Each year, towards the end of our miserably hot summers, we fondly reflect on beautiful spring days in the garden. We impatiently anticipate the lovely days of fall, where we can once again get out into the gently caressing air, and do what we gardeners love best. Plants that were barely "hanging on" in the heat are blooming again. Bumble bees seem to be more active, and flowers are getting pollinated.

Cucumis sativus, which did just make it through the heat, producing only one or two cucumbers a week, now is making three or four. It might make enough for a jar of pickles yet.

Clematis hybrid, 'The President,' seemed to have died by August. Rather than cut it down, I trimmed off all the dead leaves, and repositioned the vines. Now it is covered in blossoms, and should be pretty until the first freeze.

Glorie Von Noordwijk, a large, orange 'Dinnerplate' dahlia bloomed frequently all summer long, as promised on the package. However, despite staking, the stems were unable to hold up the heads. Now in this cooler clime, it is producing more than one blossom at a time, and they are standing tall. It is supposed to bloom until the first frost.

There are three red-blossomed plants I can count on every summer: *Ipomopsis aggregata* 'Skyrocket,' *Hamelia patens* 'Firebush,' and *Asclepias tuberosa* 'Butterfly Weed.' The first two stay in place, and are easily propagated with cuttings, making nice plants to give to friends. Butterfly weed seems to move about on its own. It is always fun to wonder where it will turn up next.



The newest plant in my garden is *Clerodendrum ugandense* 'Blue Butterfly Bush.' Also known as Blue Glorybower, Oxford or Cambridge Bush; it is outstanding. This sprawling evergreen blooms all summer on current season growth, so trimming is not a problem. It will grow 10 ft. by 10 ft. and is not freeze hardy. Keep it in a moveable pot and trim often to make it more user friendly. Filtered or partial shade, morning sun with afternoon shade, and enriched, well-drained soil will make it very happy.

Collage of Photos

We would like the Master Gardeners to bring whatever photos they have to the MG picnic which they would like to share. The photos do not have to be on photo paper. Just a printout from their photo album will be fine.

The intent is not only to have something to talk about at the picnic and reminisce but it will also serve as a collage that can be displayed for Keith's new class next year. This way the new group can have an idea of the activities that we do throughout the year.

We will have the board at the next two monthly meetings so those who cannot attend the picnic can post pictures on the board as well. Monette & Charlie Colman.



2014 Calendar Guide & Journal

Sales of the new 2014 guide are going very well. With a new format the 2014 version is receiving compliments everywhere.

In Tyler the Guides are available at In the Wind, Petty's, ETMC gift shop, Harris Nursery, Chamblee Rose Nursery, Horaney's, and the TX A&M AgriLife Extension office in the Cotton Belt building. In Lindale the guides are at the following merchants: Cycles of Seasons and Flemings Farm Supply. They are available at Blue Moon Nursery, Noonday Hardware, Rubicon (Wild Birds and More), Joe Smith Farms in Jacksonville and Pandora's Box in Frankston.

The guides are also available by mail. Send your check for \$12.50 to Pat Welch, 19461 Sandhill Lane, Flint TX 75762.

Save the Date

You are cordially invited to join in celebrating Craig Reiland as he retires after more than 28 years of dedicated service to the City of Tyler.

Date: November 7th; Time 3-5 PM; Place Rose Garden Rose Room.

1st Tuesday in the Garden Lecture Series

The **last** "First Tuesday in the Garden" lecture series for 2013, will begin at noon on Tuesday, November 5th in the I.D.E.A. Garden in the Tyler Rose Garden.

This month's topic is "Time for Trees and Shrubs". Susan Linard, a certified Smith County Master Gardener will talk about planting and pruning in the home landscape.

The "First Tuesday in the Garden" lectures will not begin again until March, 2014, continue to June, then begin again in September.

Awards

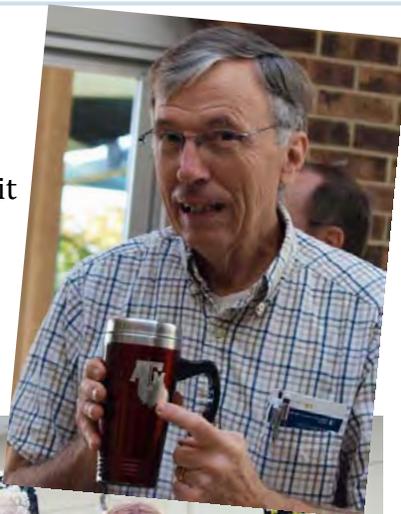
The Smith County Master Gardeners brought home several awards from the TX State MG Conference. Among them were **First place** awards for the SCMG Association and the Individual Master Gardener of the Year. Read about all the other awards in **Keith's Column** on page 2 where he offers his congratulations.

Smith MGs hold award plaques in picture below.

At Bulbs & More

October 12, 2013

Keith—What does it say on that cup ?



David Whiting & family



October 18, 2013

Holding the awards in the picture are: Front row, (from left to right) Jean Smith and Pat Welch; Back row, Sue Adee, Hazel Bateman, Laquita Showen and Jim Showen.