



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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MG Association Meeting
October 3rd
Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

MG Grapevine Staff
Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Dee Bishop, Linda Billings, Bibi Blonn, Anne Brown, David Gary, Keith Hansen, David Pierson and Jean Smith.

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Our President Sez ...

We couldn't get enough "Customers" for the proposed bus trip to the Dallas Arboretum so it was cancelled. We'll try again next spring to arrange for a Master Gardener's excursion. If you have any ideas please see David Gary.

If anyone has the time, Jean Smith and her crew could use some help to dismantle our AgriWorld Secret Garden exhibit at the Fair, on Monday September 30.

We are planning on conducting a budget meeting on October 24. It will take about three hours, from about 9AM to Noon, to do our work to complete the budget for our next fiscal year. If you are interested in serving on the committee please give me a call. We need two additional members.

Ann Smith still needs a few hands to help with our bulb sale next month. If you can help in any way please call her.

Pat Welch told the Executive Committee that 2014 calendar sales are off to a great start and have sold 85 calendars.

Don't forget to save November 1 for the "Pot Luck" dinner at Cindy Harrington's house from about 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM. It's always a good time of fun and fellowship.

Monette Colman hopes to have samples of Master Gardener shirts and such at our October meeting.

David Gary has a good program scheduled for our monthly meeting on October 3. Hope all can attend.



MG Picnic

Once again, Cindy Harrington has invited the SCMGs to her home for an evening picnic on November 1st from 5—7 PM. It is a potluck, so bring a dish and serving utensils. Water will be furnished, but you may bring other liquid refreshment if you wish.

Cindy's address is 16738 CR 192, Tyler, TX 75703. Further information will be sent to all MGs via e-mail.

SCMG Association Meeting

Our speaker for the October 3rd SCMG Association meeting is Mark Chamblee president of Chamblee's Rose Nursery. Mark works closely with Texas A&M University and Texas AgriLife Extension in promoting the horticulture industry on local, state, and national levels.

Chamblee's Rose Nursery is a family business that has been producing fine quality roses from its Tyler, Texas location since 1953. On the web at: <http://www.chambleeroses.com>.

Bulbs & More

The event is at Harvey Convention Center on October 12th. The conference is free, from 8:30AM to 1:00PM. The bulb and plant sale begins at 11:30AM.

David Whiting will present "Fifty Best Gardening Tips for East Texas". Whiting is the creator of gardening websites, including:

<http://allthingsplants.com/>

<http://davesgarden.com/>.

For those MGs who want to help and have not notified anyone yet, sign up at the SCMG Association meeting on October 3rd. There are numerous opportunities to help. Plus it can be a lot of fun.

On Friday, Oct. 11th SCMG members should bring all donations of plant material to Harvey Hall by 9 a.m. All who can, should plan to stay and help package, label and participate in the set-up of Harvey Hall. Many hands make quick work.

New Grapevine Writers

Our request for those who might like to write a column for the Grapevine has been answered by two MGs.

Linda Billings' first effort can be found on Page 3 of the October newsletter.

We look forward to the November Grapevine when Mary Claire Rowe will have her first column.

Thank you ladies and welcome aboard.



Everybody needs to check out the Secret Garden exhibit at AgriWorld at the East Texas State Fair. If you don't want to pay to get in the gate, Monday – Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. is free admission. Jean Smith and Pat Welch and all of their awesome volunteers yet again stepped up the quality and innovation of the Secret Garden, and have done a fabulous job organizing every aspect of this really big job. They have put a tremendous amount of time and work into this project, it really shows, and they are to be commended and recognized for their efforts. The educational content has increased once again, and Tuesday through Friday mornings there will be 4 stations where elementary school kids learn about water conservation and quality, pollination, and herbs and composting during organized school tours. Hazel Bateman is still very involved but has shifted her emphasis at AgriWorld this year, and pulled together the ImAGination Station, a new area just for little kids. Several Master Gardeners also helped her create an area that engages kids while exposing them to various agricultural themes. Learning by playing. Thanks to all who helped make this the best AgriWorld yet.

Looking forward to another fall conference and plant sale. This is another “all hands on deck” event, and the committee has done a tremendous job of getting things ready for the big day. It will be fun!!

Please remember that we should take steps to evaluate all of our programs and projects to measure our impact. Where appropriate, surveys/evaluation instruments can be given to participants to fill out and return. Please contact me about evaluation instruments for your project.

We are coming up towards the end of the year, and opportunities for certified Master Gardeners to gain your required volunteer hours and CE's start becoming more limited. The fall conference and bulb sale is one opportunity for CE's and volunteer hours. Of course, you are always welcome and encouraged to help out on Tuesdays in the demonstration gardens, and in the office on the help desk (call first). And for CE's, don't forget to look on page 24 of the Address Book for other ways to earn hours.

New E-mail Address

Craig & Sharon Reiland – creiland1952@wildblue.net
 Betty Atchley - gatchley123@centurylink.net new phone 903-825-2425

WOW, check out the Heritage Garden!!



They are huge, a rainbow of eye-popping color and a magnificent draw for bees, butterflies and hummers. What are they you

ask? Old fashioned Zinnias planted this spring in our center bed; they have even been graced by a host of royalty – the Monarchs.

If you haven't been to see **your** amazing garden in a while, it is definitely worth your time to check it out. Better yet, now that the weather is cooling off (somewhat), why not join us on Tuesday mornings.
 HG Coordinators

AgriWorld News

Thank you to all who helped put together this project and to all of the teachers. The MG Secret Garden is a big educational event at the East Texas State Fair and the SCMGs are justifiably proud of it.



Also thank you in advance to all who will be coming to help on September 30. We will start the breakdown of the AgriWorld exhibit. With many volunteers, this job can be accomplished quickly. Go to building E on the fairgrounds.

Texas State MG Conference

The conference is coming up on October 17-19. It is not too late to register. Check it out at <http://2013tmgaconference.org/>

Best Wishes

After more than 28 years, Craig Reiland is leaving employment with the City of Tyler at the end of October. His plans are somewhat uncertain, while he considers opportunities in the horticultural field.

The Master Gardeners who have worked in the gardens will miss his support and advice. Our best wishes to him for the future.

SEEDS: THE WAY TO GROW

By Dee Bishop



After a long hot summer that seems to go on forever, I can't wait to plant colorful flowers and fall veggies. It seems that the weather doesn't cool enough to plant much before the middle of Oct. anymore, but you can start plants to put out that time right now. Now is the time to plant calendula, stock, English daisies, snapdragons, petunias, dianthus, plus Swiss chard, red mustard,

flowering kale and cabbage all of which add as much color as the flowers themselves. If you plant seeds, you will have to be willing to keep them watered well until they come up. The easiest way I have found is to place the planted flat into a plastic bag until the plants sprout. I use the flats you can buy with the plastic lids. They allow plants to get a good start before you have to remove the lid.

The most important thing is to provide good light for the plants to sprout and grow into stocky plants. I have a light table that my wonderful husband made me. I can raise and lower the lights as the plants grow. The lights need to be kept about 2 inches above the top of the leaves to provide proper light. I can start plants in the heat where I couldn't without the lights. I have them growing in my dining room where the temperature stays in the mid-seventies.

Other plants to start now are nasturtium. Plant some in hanging baskets. They will provide color until it freezes hard. If you bring them in on cold nights, you can keep them going all winter. Now is also a good time to plant fall herbs namely cilantro, parsley, chives, dill, fennel, and thyme among others. It is a good time to plant basil seeds for a fall crop. Just sift a few seeds on top of the soil and keep damp and they will sprout in a few days and grow rapidly. You have time to harvest lots of basil before a freeze. If you have some basil, try rooting some in water or soil for a new plant.

Fall is also the time to plant poppy, larkspur, bluebonnet, and other wildflowers that bloom in spring. Hopefully we will get fall rains, but if we don't you will have to keep them watered to get a good stand.

Planting a little seed and watching it grow into a beautiful large productive plant is just beyond fun!

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

by Linda Billings

Magnolia Fishing: That's what my father told me I was doing, about 60 years ago, when he put a long nail onto the end of an old broom handle and asked me to fish all the Magnolia leaves out of the front lawn. I would catch 5 or 6 big Magnolia leaves on the end of my pole and transfer them to a large bench that I called my Fish Tank, after which I pretended to sell them.

The Southern Grandiflora Magnolia was my favorite childhood tree. I didn't know, at the time, that I would eventually grow up to become a tree farmer and sell Magnolias. Or, 50 years later, I would be on a train traveling through Italy and see mile after mile of fields or Nursery's growing Mag-



netolia trees in the shape of a Christmas tree. The unusual sight of those Christmas tree shaped Magnolias, in various sizes, really peaked my interest. I was so intrigued, that I joined the Magnolia Society International in hopes of meeting someone who could explain or tell me what kind of Magnolia trees are shaped like a Christmas tree.

Our most knowledgeable Magnolia aficionado Dick Figlar, considered the world's foremost authority on the genus Magnolia, believes they are Grandifloras pruned that shape, but I find that hard to believe and remain curious for the correct answer. Maybe another trip to Italy will satisfy my curiosity unless one of you East Texas gardeners know of these trees I viewed in the Italian Countryside and can correctly identify them for me.

The Magnolia Society International is a non-profit organization devoted to the appreciation and study of magnolias. According to its website www.magnoliasociety.org, its mission is to inform, educate and inspire people from backyard gardeners to botanists to learn more about the cultivation, conservation, taxonomy and propagation of Magnolias.

My favorite benefit as a member is the invitation to the annual meeting each Spring, a rare opportunity to tour public and private gardens containing spectacular Magnolia collections. This year we toured many great gardens in Cornwall and Southeast England including the Royal Botanic Gardens. In March 2014 we will be holding our annual meeting in Athens, GA one of the South's premiere horticultural destinations and home to world renowned plant gurus Dr. Michael Dirr and Dr. Allen Armitage. We will enjoy a University of Georgia campus arboretum tour by Dr. Dirr and visit the wonderful Atlanta Botanical Gardens among other private garden tours.

Other items discussed included the AgriWorld exhibit, the Texas State MG Conference and the October 12th Bulbs & More event.

Monette Colman brought an array of possible shirts that may be offered for sale to the MGs. The committee picked out their preference for a variety of items including caps, visors and shirts. She hopes to have samples ready for the October membership meeting so that orders can be taken.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on October 21st instead of the usual third Friday.



The Executive Committee met on September 23rd and considered the following:

David Pierson reported that several MGs provided help to the Heart of Tyler committee on September 14th planting Sweet Potato vines in pots on the downtown square.

Reports were heard concerning the cancelled trip to the Dallas Arboretum and the November 1st MG party at the home of Cindy Harrington.

 Coming Events

1st Tuesday in the Garden

The next 1st Tuesday in the Garden lecture will be October 1, 2013 at noon. Anne Pattullo will be speaking on *Bulbs & More*.

These presentations are made in the IDEA Garden located in the southeast corner of the Tyler Rose Garden. They are free and open to the public.

Earth-kind® Landscape Design

During this unique educational experience, you will learn how to design, plant, and manage a landscape that is beautiful, low maintenance, drought tolerant, and the ultimate in environmental responsibility.

This 2.5 day course will take place in Dallas the weekend of October 4-6. Dr. Steve George, Professor and Extension Landscape Specialist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is the lead instructor.

The cost only \$295 per household. For more information and to enroll, contact Ariel Peña Ariel.Pena@ag.tamu.edu.

2013 Southern Garden Symposium

The 2013 symposium (a 2 day event) at St. Francisville, LA will begin with a series of workshops on **Friday, October 18** at 9:30 a.m. Featured speakers include John Brookes from London, England, noted authors Scott and Lauren Springer Ogden, and Longwood Garden's Curator of Plants and Dr. Tomasz Anisko.

For information, visit www.SouthernGardenSymposium.org.

MG Tree Care Specialist

This training program will be presented by the Tarrant County Master Gardeners in Ft. Worth on October 28-30, 2013. The Tree Care Specialist training is a hands-on, intensive two-day event. The registration fee is \$225 with a maximum of 2 people per county. **Deadline to register is October 1, 2013.** For further information and registration materials, contact Keith Hansen.

Irrigation Efficiency Training

This hands-on training will be offered on Nov. 11-12-13, 2013 and will include practices for determining irrigation efficiency, setting controllers, etc. It will be held at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, Dallas, TX.

The registration fee is \$200 with a maximum of 2 people per county. For further information and registration materials, contact Keith Hansen.

Rainwater Harvesting Training

This MG Specialist Training will be offered at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center at 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX on November 13, 14 and 15, 2013.

This two day course is a combination of hands-on and classroom presentations that will teach you all of the basics of rainwater harvesting.

The registration fee is \$200 with a maximum of 2 people per county. For further information and registration materials, contact Keith Hansen.

To see the list of Bulbs & More available on October 12th at Harvey Hall go to <http://txmg.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/smith/files/2010/05/2013-Bulbs-More-list.pdf>



AgriWorld
at the
East Texas State Fair
Our Secret Garden



There is a whole lot of
learning going on!