



# MG Grapevine



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**The next SCMG Meeting**  
**October 6, 2016**  
 At the Rose Garden Center  
**11:30 AM**

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 Wayne Elliott, Greg Grant, Sam Griffith, Chad Gulley, Sherri Matthews, Deanna Olson, Ann Smith, and Susan Stone.

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## SCMG Association Meeting October 6, 2016



MG Clayton Turner will present the program for October.

His program will be "Why Succulents?" "Why Now?"

## November MG Meeting Date Change

The Rose Garden Center will be unavailable on the regular November meeting date. The meeting is now scheduled for **Thursday November 10th** at 11:30 am at the Rose Garden Center.

## Work Day in the Gardens

The regular Tuesday work days will continue during October, starting at 9:00 AM each week.

## MG Calendar 2017 Update

The calendar is at the printer and will be ready by September 30th. We will sell it at the bulb sale first then will start distributing to vendors.

If you know of a business that would like to sell them, we need new vendor locations. We also need volunteers to deliver to vendors. I will send out the list of vendors we have used in the past so we can start getting volunteers to deliver. Contact me at [matthews1952@sbcglobal.net](mailto:matthews1952@sbcglobal.net) if you can help.

The calendar will be available at the MG Meeting on October 6th for \$7.00 each.

*Sherri Matthews*

## New Smith Co. Hort Agent Named

Go to Page 2 for more information.

### Susan Stone Sez....

Finally, a column that's not about the weather...

Greg Grant is our new horticulture agent! Greg has degrees in floriculture and horticulture and can call himself a plantsman. Are we lucky or what!



Next year promises to be new and exciting and something to look forward to. And no, everyone cannot attend all the new member classes at once.... we won't all fit in that tiny classroom.

All our fall projects are winding up. AgriWorld is exciting and impressive this year. The Calendar and Gardening Guide is colorful and has a new section on fun veggies. And I do believe (fingers crossed) that the Bulb Sale and Conference will succeed beyond our wildest dreams. Thanks to project leaders Wayne Elliott, Sherri Matthews, and Pat Welch for their dedication and leadership and to their teams who've worked hard to make these efforts succeed.

Remember First Tuesday on October 4 with Anne Pattullo talking about Bulbs and More. And "Change of Venue" - our annual picnic will be hosted this year by Jeanette and Joel Ross, 2702 Old Bullard Road. It's at 5 pm on October 28 so mark your calendars and let Ann Smith know if you're coming. And finally, be sure to attend the October meeting when the slate of proposed new officers for 2017 is revealed.

Hope to see you at our next meeting, October 6, at the Rose Garden Center.

*Susan Stone, President*



## Hello from the new Hort Agent

I would like to tell you how excited I am to be returning to my birthplace, Tyler, Texas. It really is a homecoming for me as the extension office is on the very same street where I was baptized and my dad has owned a music store for many years. There is no city in Texas that has as much horticultural history as Tyler and I can't wait to step into it. I'm honored to follow my friend Keith Hansen who I have known and admired for many years. Keith was the county horticulturist in Corpus Christi back when I was the county horticulturist in San Antonio. After being born in Tyler (my dad was the band director in Troup), I was raised in Longview, then attended Texas A&M University.

In addition to Extension, I also worked for retail and wholesale nurseries and several botanical gardens. I'm pretty sure I'm the only person to ever teach the Master Gardener program while also taking the Master Gardener program! Yes, I'm a former Master Gardener. I love growing everything including flowers, fruits, herbs, vegetables, grass, and trees. I also love birds, butterflies, chickens, dogs, and also sorts of critters. I especially love Southern bulbs and can't wait to participate in the wonderful bulb sale each fall. I even used to be a bulb farmer!

I love to write and in addition to several books, I also write for *Texas Gardener* magazine each issue and write a monthly blog at [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com). And appropriately enough, Texas AgriLife Extension horticulturist, Dr. William C. Welch and I just finished up writing *The Rose Rustlers* for Texas A&M Press which will be out in 2017.

Please bear with me as I get settled into life and work in Tyler and please bear with me as I slowly learn all your names. Just like you, I love to learn and I love to teach. I also like having a good time while I do it. Gardening is something that makes folks happy and it's my lifelong mission to share that happiness with others. Things don't always run smoothly in life, but there's always gardening, and it belongs to all.

*Greg Grant*

## OCT 1, 2016 FABULOUS FALL FESTIVAL PLANT SALE

Beginning at 9 AM, at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet Street, Nacogdoches, TX. Parking can be found at Raguet Elementary and at the Early Childhood Research Center. More space, more plants, and more fun than ever.

## Chad Gulley comments

October is upon us. The East Texas State Fair and AgriWorld are about to wrap up. Next up is the annual Bulbs and More Sale and Conference, October 8. Thanks to all of the hard work preparing for this annual event.

This year has been interesting. The weather pattern has been challenging for gardeners and homeowners alike. Heavy rainfall with a mild winter to start the year followed by hot, dry conditions in the summer months. Then the cooler, wet 10 days or so in August with the soaking rainfall was much needed and very timely.

Trees and other plant material have taken it hard during this time. I have seen tree limbs breaking or snapping off and I feel most of it is a stress related situation. Heavy loads of pecans on pecan trees also have contributed to some limbs having issues on some trees.

The 2017 Master Gardener Class schedule is 95% complete. We will take applications for the 24<sup>th</sup> class October through December. I have scheduled the orientation for any potential Master Gardener for Tuesday, November 15 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Extension Office room 257.

The 2017 East Texas Garden Lecture Series is being scheduled as well. We have several dates, speakers and topics scheduled for this annual educational series. Dates will be Saturday, February 11, March 11, and April 29 for the spring portion of the series. Fall dates for the series will be September 9 and November 11.

Topics for the 2017 Lecture Series include Bee Keeping, Native versus Invasive Plants, Cut Flower Gardening, Growing Wine Grapes/Wine Making, and Community Gardens. Speakers include Dick Counts, Greg Grant, Melinda at Meem's Gardens, at Dawn Leatherwood's Pella Legna Vineyard, and Dawn Stover. Hold the dates and more will come on this series soon. *Chad Gulley*



## SAVE THE DATE!

### Our annual MG Picnic is October 28



NOTE that the location has changed. Thanks to Jeanette and Joel Ross for hosting this year. Hats off to you two. The address is 2702 Old Bullard Rd, time 5 - 7:30 PM. Bring your lawn chair, your dish and serving utensil.

Remember to RSVP to Ann Smith ([smithvae@aol.com](mailto:smithvae@aol.com)) what culinary delight you plan to bring. We don't want everyone bringing cucumbers!

Water, hot dogs, buns, condiments, sauerkraut, chili, forks and napkins will be provided. So bring your appetite, yourselves and your good dish! See you soon. *Ann Smith*



## October Gardening

By Sam Griffith

The weather folks are talking fall-ish temperatures, with nights' temperatures that are supposed to drop into delightfully low 60 degrees. And there is a suggestion of rain. So it is time to start thinking about putting your garden to "bed" for the winter, and better, to begin to assess what you did right, and what you did wrong, in your garden this year. Careful planning helps you avoid making the same mistake next time.

It is also time to clean out any annuals out of your garden and flower beds that has run its course for this year. Start looking at your bushes and trees to determine which may need reshaping and trimming.

And, if you have any space, think about maybe planting some fruiting bushes and fruit trees. The fall is the right time to plant fruit trees. Though the trees may be dormant above ground during the winter, their roots are busy growing and reaching deeply into the soil, and will burst into active, vibrant growth with the first hint of spring's warmth.

If you can grow azaleas, you have soil suitable for blueberries, acidic and moist. Maybe you should plant some blackberries around the back edges of your garden. The old standard blackberry in Texas is the "Brazos" variety, which is a very prolific producer of large berries, but it has thorns. The University of Arkansas is developing a number of well-regarded new blackberry varieties, including "Neches" and "Ouchita".

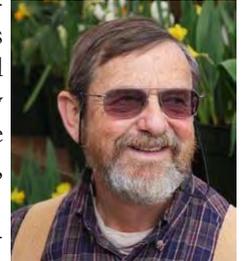
Think about fruit trees. With fruit trees, an essential decision is the rootstock. A standard rootstock produces a full-sized fruit tree. An apple or peach tree with a standard rootstock may produce a tree with twenty to twenty-five foot wide canopy of branches, too big for most backyard gardens. But the same variety of fruit tree grafted on a dwarf rootstock will produce a tree with only a ten-foot canopy. Less fruit, but less space needed.

Consider planting something unusual this year, perhaps a Japanese persimmon. Not only are the fruit delicious, but the trees are so beautiful in the fall that they are often planted as a specimen bush, their beautiful colorful fall leaves and the bright orange fruits planted alone in the open yard as an eye-catching display of color. And the Japanese persimmons are not astringent, that bitter taste that native persimmons have until the first frost, so the Japanese persimmons can be enjoyed as soon as they are ripe.

So, savor the last of the summer's bounty, and plan for next year.

## Bulbs and More Conference and Sale - October 8

Our annual Bulbs and More Conference and Sale is Saturday, October 8 at Harvey Hall. Registration begins promptly at 8 am and the first presentation will begin at 8:30 am. This year is a little different since we are partnering with the East Texas Horticulture Committee and our speaker is Brent Heath, co-owner of *Brent and Becky's Bulbs*. Brent will offer two presentations: "Bulbs for the Deep South" and "Bulbs as Companion Plants." In addition, there will be demonstrations on how to force bulbs, how to divide daylilies and how to plant irises. The bulb sale, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 11:30 am.



For Master Gardeners attending the conference with Brent Heath, please be sure to sign in at the table marked "Smith County Master Gardeners" and enter through a separate door. No admission will be charged for MGs who enter at the designated door. If you are working during the conference and sale, be sure to wear MG clothing and your name badge. As in the past, Master Gardeners who are not working are asked **not** to wear MG clothing if you intend on shopping the sale. Those in MG clothing will be able to shop once sale traffic has subsided and you are given the go-ahead.

Once again, the list of bulbs, trees and grasses available for sale is posted on our website: <http://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>. Please be sure to print off the list and bring it with you to the meeting. The bulb list packet will only be available at the door for those who sign in and pay at the main Registration table.

A lot of effort has gone into making this year's conference and sale a success. It's focused primarily on bulbs and features a presenter with lots of bulb expertise. We have a great variety of bulbs, including those grown by members. We also have Voodoo lilies dug and donated by Keith Hansen and Lycoris x elsiae dug and donated by Greg Grant. We look forward to seeing everyone on October 8 for a very special Bulbs and More Conference and Sale.

## AgriWorld—Our Secret Garden



I want to thank each of you that helped with the preparation for the "Secret Garden". It was a superb effort by all that were a part of the team. By the time you read this we will have taught hundreds of children and adults to appreciate the garden and even get some involved in

such a worthy pursuit.

We will need help with tear down of the exhibit on Monday, October 3. We start taking it apart at 8:00 am, I will need two trucks to move the landscaping blocks to the IDEA Garden. We will need as much help as possible to take the remainder of the "Secret Garden" apart and store it for next year. Please send me an email at [wpcef6@yahoo.com](mailto:wpcef6@yahoo.com) if you can help with tear down and storage of the "Secret Garden".

Play in some dirt this week! *Wayne Elliott*

# Looking Ahead...

September 23—October 2nd—AgriWorld at the East Texas State Fair.

October 1st—SFA Fall Plant Sale

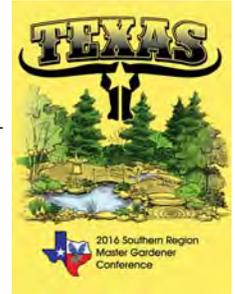
October 4th—First Tuesday in the Garden—Anne Pattullo presents at noon “Bulbs & More”

October 8th—Bulbs & More Conference at Harvey Convention Center

November 1st – First Tuesday in the Garden -Ed Bryant – Put Your Garden to Bed

## 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

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/>

## 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.



Early registration: October 10, 2016 through January 13, 2017

Website [blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/home-page/](http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/home-page/)

## Our Secret Garden at AgriWorld



Who are they?



Pictures by Pat Welch & Wayne Elliott