



MG Grapevine



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Inside This Issue

Keith's Column	2
Speaker's Bureau	2
New E-mail Address	2
Rose Garden Master Plan	2
Improve Your World	3
Plants Around the World	3
Looking for Writers	3
Coming Events	4



MG Association Meeting
September 5th
Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

MG Grapevine Staff
Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:
Dee Bishop, Anne Brown, David Gary, Keith Hansen, Bill Kellendorf, Susan Nelson, David Pierson, Jim Powell and Jean Smith.

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Our President Sez ...

Gardeners: How about that cool spell we had during the week of August 12? Can you believe the weather was actually comfortable in East Texas for a time in August? Unfortunately, the local weather men say its back to the "Dog Days of Summer" for a few more weeks before our usually wonderful fall weather sets in.

The time is nearing for a Nominating Committee to start recruiting officers for our organization for next year. If any of you are willing to serve in any capacity, please let me know.

We also need several coordinators for the various projects that we undertake each year. Two of our most important projects are the Home Garden Tour, which is a very important fund raiser and AgriWorld, our most important educational exhibit. Both projects have benefited from the leadership of Jean Smith and she has advised that this is her last year for both positions.

We definitely need someone to "step up to the plate" and volunteer to take charge of these events. Jean Smith has done a terrific job this year, with the help of several others, and she is willing to tutor anyone who is willing to take on these responsibilities. Let me know if you will take on one of these projects for the coming year.

Don't forget our next monthly meeting on September 5! David Pierson

Grapevine Banner

For those who notice, you may be interested in the design of the banner used at the top of page one of the *MG Grapevine*.

The background picture is changed each month, using a photo from the IDEA Garden photo gallery which is available on the SCMG website at <http://txmg.org/smith/photo-galleries/idea-garden-galleries/>. The photos, all taken by Keith Hansen, are shown there as a month by the month review of the plants in the garden.

SCMG Association Meeting

Our speaker for September is Richard "Dick" Counts who will present a program on Bee Keeping. Dick has been keeping bees for 39 years. He is active in the East Texas Beekeepers Association.

He will bring some East Texas Honey with him, which will be available for purchase.

A bus trip to the Dallas Arboretum is planned for October 16th—Cost is \$25 per person. Sign-up will be done at the September 5th meeting. The bus will leave Tyler at 8:00 AM, returning at about 6:00 PM. This visit will include the new Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden which will have opened on September 21st.

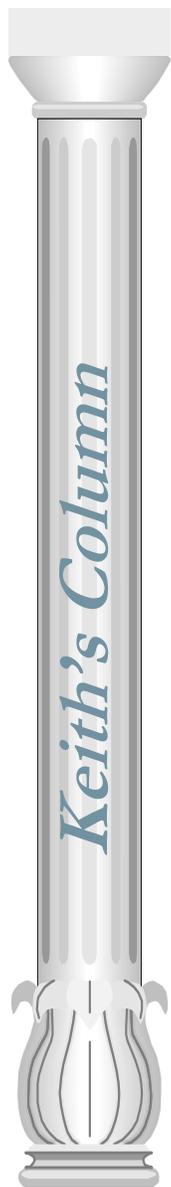
The new 2014 Calendar/Garden Guide & Journal will be available at the September 5th meeting at a cost of \$10 each.

It's Fair Time

AgriWorld set up of "Our Secret Garden" will begin on Wednesday, September 4 at 9:00 AM. Building E on the East Texas State Fairgrounds is the place. The first couple of days will be main set up of the area. Wear comfortable clothes for moving items in, painting, and hanging paper. After that, each section leader will be working on their areas.

Jakki Edwards is heading up the Herb area, Sheryl Rhodes is taking the lead on Compost and Recycling and Betty Conejo is working on Insects/Pollinators. There are also two water sections focusing on Water Cycle/Rainwater Harvesting and Where does my water go, when it goes down the drain? Ann Kelly is working on our entrance section which will feature the Smith County Master Gardener Association. We are trying to put together a slide show with pictures of our organization so if you have any to share, please email them to Jean Smith at smithjean17@hotmail.com.

Emails will be sent through the SCMG organization updating work days and times. Bring a sack lunch and join us in setting up another award winning exhibit. Contact Jean Smith or Pat Welch for more information.



I hope everyone made it through the summer in good shape. August turned out to be kind of dry, but at least it was not like 2011. You may have heard or read about a disease of roses called Rose Rosette Disease (RRD). It has become more prominent in the Dallas area recently, and has been in magazines and on the internet, including some not-so-accurate information. Since it is in our area, you should be aware of it in case you are asked about it, or see it on some roses, and also have an idea on how to diagnose it.

RRD is not thoroughly understood, though research and experience have provided us with some insight into this disease. The bad news is that because it is now believed to be a virus, once infected, roses cannot be cured with any kind of treatment, and the recommendation is to rouge or dig up and discard the infected plant(s). Plants infected

with the disease display very peculiar symptoms, including witches broom (a proliferation of very short, bunched



shoots), malformed flowers and leaves, excessive leaf growth, excessive thorniness, rubbery thorns, red discoloration, lateral shoot elongation, flattened stems, and enlarged stems. However, symptoms are variable on different roses. For example, red shoots do not occur in some ornamental rose varieties and there is a lack of excessive thorns on multiflora roses. Multiflora rose is the traditional rootstock upon which hybrid tea and other roses were grafted and grown in field production here in Smith County and surrounding area. Multiflora roses infected with RRD displayed many of the above symptoms and were easy to spot. Note that roses with only one of the above symptoms does not mean RR is involved, since other things can cause similar symptoms.

Research is being done to better understand the mode of transmission. It is known that a very tiny eriophyid mite (need a hand lens to see) is closely involved with the disease and thought to be responsible for infecting roses. It is so small it is easily carried by wind currents many miles. It is also suspected but not yet validated to be transmitted by pruning. Recently the disease has been showing up in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex area, Houston and San Antonio. We know the disease is in the East Texas area.

Here is a link to a good online article at the AgriLife online bookstore, recently published by Dr. Kevin Ong, et. al. It is called Rose Rosette Disease: Demystified – What do we know and what don't we know?

https://agrilifebookstore.org/publications_getfile.cfm?getfile=pdf&whichpublication=3215

Gaye Hammond, a rosaraian from Houston, has written a good article that describes symptoms of RRD, and a copy is available at the Master Gardener help desk. See photos on page 4 of the Grapevine.



Smith County Master Gardeners - August 2013

Photo by Bill Kelldorf

Speaker's Bureau

Are you doing or have you done a speaking engagement? If so, please tell Susan Nelson snelson300@gmail.com. She needs this info. each month.

New E-mail Address

Judy Racs dickandjudyraes@gmail.com

Rose Garden Master Plan

Architects have been hired to develop a Master Plan for the Tyler Rose Garden. They have been taking input from several groups, representing differing interests, including "gardening", to which Master Gardeners, horticulturists, some growers and garden club folks were in attendance. Meetings are planned with the general public to seek their input.

IMPROVE YOUR WORLD - PLANT A MEADOW

I just read a very interesting article in Louisiana Gardener about meadows. I want to share enough with you to get you to consider planting a meadow on your own property.



by Dee Bishop

We have all seen a beautiful field of blooming wildflowers and native grasses where the song of insects and birds thrills us with awe as we make our way through, smelling and touching as we go. Remember all the little animals that live there? You nearly always scare up a rabbit or two and there are the little field mice, lizards, toads, frogs, and sometimes even a box turtle, plus all sorts of seed-eating birds. Butterflies flitting all around, crickets and grasshoppers and yes---ants! I remember once seeing a field of sunflowers in which a flock of painted buntings were perched all around quibbling over who would get the most seeds. Meadows are teeming with life. Don't you want to start one?

Most of us think having a meadow in town would not work. What would the neighbors think? New York City dwellers sometimes plant one --- right on top of a skyscraper! People everywhere are planting stretches of meadow on school grounds, around golf courses, in public parks, and right in their own yards. Some are even working with the city to make meadows in the dead zone between sidewalks and streets in neighborhoods. Why plant a meadow? Meadow plants have long massive root systems that not only keep soil from washing, they build top soil, very important since each year our farming belt loses massive amounts of top soil due to erosion. They feed pollinators which in turn feed us by making our plants produce fruits and vegetables. The article stated that pollinators are responsible for one of every bite we take! It impressed me! Meadow plantings break up hard soils which allows precious rain to penetrate and eventually fill our aquifers. These are just a few reasons for developing meadows all around our country.

Briefly the way to start a meadow: kill all plant life in the designated area. Add lots of compost and till the area well. In fall plant a seed mix of native grasses, perennials, and annuals ---- plants native to your area. (There are nurseries where you can order a mix of seeds perfect for East Texas) Donate two years to the project to get the perennials off to a good start. After two years, all you will have to do is mow it once a year, usually in late fall. Watch the little green plants sit all winter as a lawn then grow in spring to a network of beautiful flowers and grasses that will be attractive all spring, summer, and fall. They are even pretty in winter since the perennials and hardy annuals are green --- something your lawn grass is not.

Can't you just envision a beautiful stretch of meadow in your yard, or your child's school, blooming and teeming with life of all kinds. What a living lab for teachers!

Plants From Around the World

By Jim Powell

Bear's Breeches *Acanthus mollis* are also known as Oyster Plant. Bear's Breeches is a native to the Mediterranean region from Portugal and northwest Africa east to Croatia and is one of the earliest cultivated species. This perennial has clusters of



deeply lobed and cut shiny dark leaves. Its blooms are produced on a cylindrical spike that reaches up to 18" long that produces up to 120 flowers. The flowers are tubular, whitish and lilac or rose in color. Green or purplish bracts surround each flower. These plants are usually propagated from tubers or from seeds.



Philippine Lily *Lilium formosanum* is also called Formosa lily, August lily or Taiwan lily. It is a native to the island of Taiwan



(formerly called Formosa). This is one of the tallest of all the lilies, easily reaching 6-7 ft. in height before blooming in late summer. Many trumpet shaped white flowers form at the top of the stem, sometimes causing it to be top heavy. The white fragrant flowers gaze outward and last for several days. It's brown, papery seed capsule is very ornamental and looks good in a dried arrangement. The Philippine lily grows best in the sun.

Looking for a Column Writer

For some time we have enjoyed the information provided by Jim Powell's *Plants from Around the World* column every other month in the MG Grapevine. His column this month is his last. He has found himself involved in too many projects for an "old man" (his words) and therefore has to cut back. We thank Jim and wish him all the best in his other pursuits.

Just last month we announced that Herb Coursey was moving away and would no longer write his column for the MG Grapevine.

So -- once again we ask anyone who would like to try his or her hand at writing, to advise Editor Martin Davis of that desire.


Coming Events
1st Tuesday in the Garden

1st Tuesday in the Garden will start again on **Sept. 3, 2013** with a presentation by MG Tim Krizan on Preparing Your Garden for Winter. The presentations are in the IDEA Garden located in the southeast corner of the Tyler Rose Garden and start at 12 Noon.

Naked Ladies and Oxbloods

Join us September 14, 2013 as we visit Greg Grant's Emanis House dogtrot in Shelby County's rural community of Arcadia. Depending on the weather we may see red oxblood lilies (*Rhodophiala*), several different colors of spider lilies (*Lycoris*), or assorted rain lilies (*Cooperia*, *Zephyranthes*, and *Habranthus*).

The bus tour will be from 9 am until noon. For reservations contact Elyce Rodwald at 936-468-1832 or erodewald@sfasu.edu. All participants will meet at the SFA Ag building at 9 am. Cost is \$25 for *Friends of SFA Gardens* members, \$30 for non-members.

Dr. Bill Welch Speaks at Lufkin

Dr. Bill Welch will be speaking at Angelina Extension, 2201 S. Medford Dr. Lufkin, TX on Monday, September 16, 6:30 pm. Cost is \$10 per person. You won't want to miss him. He will have books available for sale that would be great additions to your gardening library including "Heirloom Gardening in the South", that he co-authored with Greg Grant.

East TX State Fair Hort. Show

The East TX State Fair is having a horticulture show **Sept. 27 - 29** and everyone is invited to take part. All they want is potted plants, the container no larger than 12" wide and tall. There should be a card with the botanical and/or common name to go with it. If the exhibitor does not have that information, someone will help when the plant is brought to Harvey Convention Center. Entry starts at 9:00 AM and finishes at 12 Noon. Plants can be picked up on Sept. 30th before Noon. Anne Brown

Native Plant Sale

This fall Master Gardeners and Angelina Beautiful Clean are partnering to present the first ever all Native Plant Sale in Angelina County on **September 28th** from 8AM till 1PM at the Farmer's Market on Loop 287 in Lufkin. It will be an opportunity to purchase native plants in time for fall planting that are not readily available in local outlets.

Bulbs & More

Coming on October 12th from 8:30 AM—1:00 PM at Harvey Convention Center. David Whiting presents "Fifty Best Gardening Tips for East Texas. Bulb and plant sale begins at 11:30 AM. (more details next month).

Sign-up sheets, to volunteer to help, will be available at the September 5th SCMG meeting.

For more events and more details - go to—<http://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>

Rose Rosette Disease Photos**ROSE ROSETTE DISEASE**

Photographs by Geyo Hammond unless otherwise noted



Witches Broom



Small leaves no witches broom excessive reddening



Distorted Stems



Witches Broom



Unusual Lateral Branching



Distorted Growth at Base Tips

Excessive thorniness
(Geyo Hammond, Univ. of Kentucky)**MG Tree Care Specialist Program**

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. Once completed the Tree Care Specialist is charged to increase awareness and provide training in Tree Care. 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.

Educational Garden Tour to South Africa

February 15-26, 2014

Join Doug Welsh and explore the lush gardens of Johannesburg, South Africa's stunning national parks and the gorgeous flora of Cape Town. In addition, you'll discover the dramatic landscape of the Cape of Good Hope, sip wines in South Africa's premier wine region, and stay in the Dutch colonial town of Stellenbosch. Your journey will culminate at the Bakubung Bush Lodge where you'll ride into the bush in an open safari vehicle with Swazi trackers and African rangers for an intimate viewing of South Africa's lions, leopards, rhinos and elephants.

For more information, call Earthbound Expeditions at 800-723-8454, email at info@earthboundexpeditions.com, or visit <http://www.earthboundexpeditions.com/february-2014-south-africa-with-doug-welsh>.