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The next SCMG Meeting
September 1, 2016
 At the Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

MG Grapevine Staff
 Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:
 Chad Gulley, Wayne Elliott, Sam Griffith, Sherri Matthews, Deanna Olson, Linda Sargent, Ann Smith, Susan Stone and Becky Wilson.

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SCMG Association Meeting
September 1, 2016



Program for the Thursday September 1st meeting will be our own member David Gary. He will present his program "Master Gardener on Wheels."

Work Day in the Gardens

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

AgriWorld

AgriWorld is just around the corner. We start set up on Tuesday, September 6. If you can paint houses, mural scenes, make posters or have signed up for a "project" you can come by that day or Wednesday and we will get started. Work will start around 9 AM each morning until complete.

There will be follow up emails to keep everyone apprised of work schedule and progress. There will be plenty of work for all volunteers. This is a great way for all to get hours. We still need teachers for the school kids. They are a hoot and great fun to teach. If you have a unique idea for a raised bed garden, please bring it and we will fit it in. If anyone has an old livestock water tank that we can use or have, please call. We also need a carpenter to do window boxes for the house. Looking forward to a big turnout and a great fair. The fair dates are September 23 - October 2.

Wayne Elliot Wpcef6@yahoo.com

Susan Stone Sez....



By the time you read this, I will be in Northern Virginia, visiting my kids and lusting after the huge Hostas that they grow. I'm always struck by the difference in plants from one zone to another and always envious of the cooler night temperatures in Virginia. I for one am tired of broiling in the day and simmering at night. I swear I don't remember this heat from my childhood; but I was carefree and barefoot and even the hot pavement didn't slow me down.

It's cooled off now, but just wait. It's true what they say about Texas weather! Fall is just around the corner though, and with September comes AgriWorld, followed by the Bulbs and More Conference in October. First Tuesday starts again in September with Patsy Besch talking about Fall color. And we have the annual Picnic to look forward to on October 21. Fall is a busy time.

Speaking of busy...I know the Nominating Committee has been hard at work developing a slate of candidates to serve in 2017. I want to personally thank Ann, Cindy, David, Jean and Victor for their efforts. It's not an easy job, but a vital one.

Hope to see you at our next meeting, September 1, at the Rose Garden Center. Susan

MG Calendar 2017 Update

The calendar should go to the printer in early September. It will be available at the Bulbs & More sale and should be out to vendors by mid-October.

There will be a meeting at the end of September to setup distribution. Some help may be needed. Sherri Matthews

Chad Gulley comments...



September is here and fall programming us underway. The rainfall lately, along with the cooler temperatures sure are nice. Fall programming is underway and I have been working on some 2017 programs including scheduling the 2017 Master Gardener classes. It will be here before we know it.

The East Texas Garden Lecture Series will begin again in September. The featured speaker September 10 will be Erfan Vafaie on “THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY” – Learn your beneficial and pest insects with updates on some insects that are not so good for our landscape like the Emerald Ash Borer and Crape Myrtle Bark Scale.

September 22-23 will be the dates for the Beginning Farmer Conference at the Overton Center as well. This

will be for anyone no matter how large or how small the operation. It will also be beneficial for those that want to learn more about farming if a beginner or if you have been farming 20 years and want to learn more of the business.

AgriWorld will take place during the East Texas State Fair, September 23-October 2. Thanks to all of you for the hard work setting up the Secret Garden. Agricultural Literacy is important as many young people and their parents today are several generations removed from the farm. We are all involved in Agriculture because it involves everything we eat, what we wear, and the structures that provide shelter for us.

The October series will be a big program as we team up with the Environmental Horticulture Committee to make the Annual Bulb Sale and Conference a larger event. This year’s conference will highlight Brent Heath – Brent & Becky’s Bulbs covering “BULBS FOR SOUTHERN GARDEN.”

Cooler weather is on the way soon!

Thanks for all you do.

Becky Wilson Honored

Becky Wilson was recently honored at the 88th Texas FFA Association Convention in Dallas with an honorary Lone Star FFA degree, the highest degree of honorary membership bestowed by the Texas FFA Association. This honor was given in recognition of her work and dedication to the Troup FFA bedding plant project and plant sale during the 2015-16 school year.

Becky put in countless volunteer hours teaching students best practices for seeding, transplanting, growing, promoting and selling bedding plants to the public. They not only learned to deal with the plants themselves but were educated in greenhouse management, work ethics and communicating with the public.

All this was nearly a full time job in itself, but she also managed to be Smith County’s MG 2015 Intern of the year and is a dedicated Section Leader at the IDEA garden. She has agreed to continue the program at Troup again this year and we are looking forward to more quality bedding plants.

We will let everyone know when Troup has its fall sale. Becky certainly is a huge asset to Ag education in East Texas and she is a treasured member of the Smith County Master Gardener Association.



Troup FFA Greenhouse Project

At its August meeting the Executive Committee approved this project for Master Gardener involvement. The project is for horticulture students and FFA participants to use the greenhouse to learn to grow plants, design and grow projects for their FFA competitions & learn about plants by doing some experiments. This big project is their two fundraisers, which are plant sales in October and April. They will be learning how to sow seeds, fill pots, transplant plugs, pinching, spacing and most any activity that is required in a greenhouse setting to produce quality plants for their sale. They will also be learning in the classroom about the plants that are in the greenhouse.

The Smith Co. MGs can volunteer to help. We don't need many people, just enough to help me and to help the new ag. teacher. People can sign up for one day a week for a couple of hours of work or more if there is a need. We will be working with the students in the greenhouse to help the teacher guide them in learning about greenhouse growing and production. The school will need to do background checks on volunteers, since there may be times that the teacher may not be with them while they are with the kids. If anyone has even the slightest interest in volunteering to help, you may contact me and I can answer your questions and put your name on the list.

Becky Wilson at bjbwil@sbcglobal.net



Fall Vegetable Gardening

By Sam Griffith

What a difference a week makes. I was all set to talk about planting a fall vegetable garden. And half of the column was going to be about soaking the parched garden soil enough to get the seeds to germinate. And then we had this wonderful, slow, soaking rain! Zowie. As they say: If you don't like Texas weather, just wait a couple days. And now we have rain . . . in mid-August!

But first, again, check your yard to make sure there is no standing water to allow mosquitoes to multiply, and then to plague you until frost. Diligence this week will make for much more pleasant fall evenings. Some friends went to Minnesota last week. Minnesota, where the joke is that their mosquitoes are so large, they are the state "bird." And on the first day, they were savaged by the mosquitoes, the wife getting 30 mosquito bites. Then they remembered my solution, so they gobbled lots of brewer's yeast tablets, and they had a delightful vacation, surrounded by mosquitoes chomping on everyone but them.

Now, vegetables: It's time to clean out your garden. Get rid of your spring squash and cucumber plants. If you look carefully, you will notice a bazillion stink bugs, squash bugs, and just chomping, disease-bearing bugs, chewing and gnawing your plants. (And if you are like me, you have a herd of feral hogs balancing their diets by eating their, and your vegetables- drat!). Those squash and cucumber plants have run their course, and even with the rain, will just stagger along until the frost finally puts them out of their misery.

So pull up your squash and cucumber plants. Compost, or toss the plants into the garbage, to get rid of the insect eggs. Clean up the garden, pulling up any weeds. Clean out anything else, like some heat-tattered turnips, that have run their

course.

With this last week's rain, there is no reason to pre-water, so lay out your rows, and start planting your seeds.

What to plant? – even though it is cooler (under 100 degrees), it is still August in east Texas, so we have two or three weeks before the summer heat is over.

First thing to do is to read the Texas Master Gardener's Handbook, that thick three ring binder they hand out at the beginning of the Master Gardeners course, to find out the "days until harvest" for the vegetables you want to plant. Then read the back of the seed package for the suggested planting dates. As I discussed last month, the "days until harvest" are calculated for lengthening days, like in the spring going into the summer, not the shortening days of the fall.

If you are going to plant tomato plants, plant very soon. And, if you can find some quick producing varieties, like "Early Girl," plant them.

Other crops to plant now are:

- * by August 15 - carrots, cauliflower, collards, kale, Kohlrabi, parsley, Irish potatoes

- * by September 1 - beets, garlic, English and sugar peas, onion plants, spinach

- * by September 15 - lettuce, mustard greens, radishes

- * by October 1 - turnips

A hint about planting carrots: Carrots are very slow to germinate, and initially look like tiny weeds germinating. So plant the carrot seeds, then before you cover the tiny carrot seeds, scatter a few radish seeds along the row among the carrots. The radishes will quickly germinate, marking your carrot row. Then harvest your radishes, giving more room for your carrots to flourish.

So, go plant a tasty fall garden of veggies.

And by October, you will be enjoying home-grown salads.

Enjoy your fall garden.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on August 18 and discussed the following:

The Committee agreed to continue the General Liability policy with Liberty Mutual. Directors and Officers insurance will be further investigated.

Progress on current projects; AgriWorld, Bulbs & More Conference, Calendar and Gardening Guide are all on target.

The recent TMGA Director's Meeting in College Station. One focus of the meeting was the progress on the Gardens at Texas A&M. Texas Master Gardeners have raised and donated \$136,000 to the project.

Revised policies in the General, Certification and Education areas. Most were approved. All Policies and Procedures will be placed on the Member Page of the SCMG website in the near future.

Potential for Master Gardeners to volunteer at the Troup ISD FHA Greenhouse. Details will be forthcoming.

Financial Reports

Preparations are now underway for the 2017 budget. New budgets are built on prior year's expenditures and understanding of seasonal needs. If you have any outstanding bills to be paid, now is the time to send them in. Letters will soon be sent to project coordinators and chairs asking for input for 2017. Anyone in the organization may offer input as well. Please help us make sure we have all the necessary data to create the best budget we can for a great 2017. Thanks, Linda Sargent

Please note:

Until September 15th—Send all reimbursement requests & paperwork to: Linda Sargent, 730 Charlya Dr., Bullard, TX. 75757.

Looking Ahead...

September 6th—First Tuesday in the Garden—Patsy Besch presents “Fall Color in the Garden”

September 10th—Garden Lecture at the Rose Garden Center—Erfan Vafaie presents “The Good the Bad and the Ugly”

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

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

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

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.



Bulbs & More

Hi to everyone. We had a good start at August MG meeting on signing up to work Bulb Sale, Oct 8th. Hopefully each of you will join in the fun and to help make this project a great success. Email me Ann Smith at smith-vae@aol.com so I can add your name to the lists. Time is creeping up on us. Sign-up sheets will be out at September MG meeting as well. Thanks for all you do. Ann Smith



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/

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