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SCMG Association Meeting
September 7th
at 11:30 AM
at the Rose Garden Center

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**SCMG Association Meeting
September 7th 11:30 AM
at the Rose Garden Center**

Those that missed the August meeting and our guest speaker, Tania Homayoun, Audubon Society, missed a great presentation.

This month we will have Dr Joe Masabni, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension speaking to us on fall vegetables.



We will be meeting at the Rose Garden at 11:30.

The nominating Committee is grinding along with next year's Board of Directors and we need your careful consideration for your service when we call.

Wayne Elliott

First Tuesday in the Garden

The noontime lectures in the IDEA Garden will resume this fall with the following schedule:

Sept. 5 - "Fall Vegetable Gardening" with Greg Grant

Oct 3 - "From Bulbs to Blooms" a preview of the October 14 sale event

Nov. 7 - "All About Trees" with Henry Burch

Work Day in the Gardens

The start time for work in the gardens is changed to 9:00 AM beginning on September 5th.

New Address

David Gary
1125 Laurelwood Drive
Tyler, TX 75703

Susan Stone Sez....

Heading into Fall, ya'll. There's a lot going on and a lot to look forward to...AgriWorld set up starts on Friday, September 8; the East Texas Fair starts on September 22; then From Bulbs to Blooms on October 14; then Thanksgiving, then Christmas, then it's the New Year. Somewhere in all that I have a few Fall gardening projects I want to complete! Looks like a busy time.



Reflecting on all our projects this year and all the work involved, I want to take a few minutes to tell you about how awesome our Executive Committee is. We've accomplished a lot this year. The Bylaws have been extensively revised, as well as several policies and job descriptions. Many on the team have active roles in AgriWorld, the Bulb Sale, the Calendar and the Home Tour, as well as working in the IDEA, Heritage and other gardens. The State Directors have gone to each TMGA Directors Meeting and kept us informed regarding activities at the State level. We've had some great monthly meeting speakers. We're putting together an exhibit board to enhance our presence at educational fairs. We've set up a Scholarship Fund with new sources of funding. We've sponsored a new lecture series, "Master Gardeners at the Library." One of our biggest undertakings was moving the financial system to an online platform. And now we are in the process of moving to TMGA's "Volunteer Management System" (VMS) to further address our administrative needs. We even cleaned out the storeroom and shredded a few documents. (Continued on page 3)

Pocket Prairie

by Greg Grant

If you follow my Facebook page (“Greg Grant Gardens”), you are aware that I’m a fan of bees, birds, and butterflies. When I’m gardening, I try to provide as much habitat as possible for all of them. Not everybody owns farm, field, and forest like I do; so creating habitat has to be done *creatively*.

So what can you do? First of all, go *native* as much as possible. All of our native bees, birds, and butterflies evolved with our native plants over thousands of years. That means every chemical and cell in their body has been made out of the same building blocks since their beginning. This includes the nectar the bees eat, the foliage the caterpillars eat, and the caterpillars the baby birds eat.

Non-native players in the game (including humans, honey bees, and a myriad of plants such as Chinese tallow, Chinese privet, and Japanese honeysuckle) disrupt the biological, chemical, physical, and cultural cycles our flapping friends have come to know.

Providing the three basic life needs is also essential. These include food, water, and shelter. Food for bees and butterflies includes nectar from flowers; but always remember that food for butterfly larvae includes different kinds of foliage for different kinds of butterflies (moths too). And depending on the kind of bird, food for them can be insects and fruit or seeds. Providing water during the summer is even more important than food which is often more plentiful then.

Shelter and habitat is best provided by landscaping in three different layers and creating “edges.” The different layers would include

lawns or groundcovers, shrubs or thickets, and shade trees. Some birds and insects prefer dense habitat while others prefer open spaces. Providing some of both increases the diversity of wildlife that will utilize it, especially along the edge lines that divide them.

Limiting pesticide use is also critical as beneficial bees and butterflies are insects just like plant-munching aphids and beetles. Always think about birds, lizards, and toads eating dying insects before you spray; and evaluate whether an insecticide is truly needed. Many plants recover on their own, or by being cut back instead of sprayed.

One way to increase pollinators and wildlife in the garden is by planting “pocket prairies.” Although my pocket prairie is a quarter of an acre, they can be as tiny as a whiskey barrel if need be. Pocket prairies are simply plantings of native wildflowers and grasses (generally perennials) that are allowed to bloom, set seed, and naturally provide food and habitat for insects and birds.

My pocket prairie includes baptisia, bee balm, butterfly weed, liatris, penstemon, phlox, and many others. Think of them as little perennial borders that you don’t spray or deadhead. The only maintenance I provide is mowing it down once a year during the late winter along with eliminating invasive species like mimosa and Chinese privet. There’s not one month during the growing season that something isn’t in bloom and being pollinated. - *Greg*



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



The Executive Committee met on August 18, 2017. The following action items were discussed:

- Project Status – The 2018 Calendar and Gardening Guide should be available by mid-September. Set-up for AgriWorld will begin on Friday, September 8. The decision was made to acquire new “Square” credit card readers for the bulb sale to facilitate easier credit card payments.
- Bylaws Revisions – No issues have been identified to date regarding the revisions to the Bylaws. The vote to approve the revisions will be held at the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting, 9/7/17.
- Volunteer Management System (VMS) – Discussions are underway to move to the AgriLife sponsored platform, “Volunteer Management System” which will allow for online reporting of volunteer hours, easier email communications and document archiving. A roll-out process is being developed.
- State Directors’ Report – Gay Barron, Sandra Dugan and Jean Smith attended the TMGA State Directors Meeting in College Station on August 12. Topics discussed included the new online training module for MG Interns; updates to the MG Handbook, and the State Conference scheduled for April 4-6 at College Station. The 2018 conference will feature The Gardens at Texas A&M.
- Budget Modifications – The Committee approved two modifications to the 2017 budget:
 - 1) \$400 for a tri-fold exhibit board to use at fairs and other educational meetings.
 - 2) \$2500 for the purchase of books, authored by Greg Grant. The books will be purchased at significantly reduced prices and will be sold at retail prices at SCMG functions. Proceeds will benefit the SCMG Scholarship Fund.

It’s Time for AgriWorld

Set up for AgriWorld will begin September 8th. We need people to help set up, painters, carpenters, and just general all-around workers, as well as teachers for the four educational tours for school children. Please join us if you can help. More information will be available soon about how to sign up and where to go. If you have any questions or want more information, call Susan Stone at 903-526-1363.

Teaching Agriculture in Uganda

by Sam Griffith

It was suggested I tell the Master Gardeners folks why I have not been writing my monthly column for the Master Gardeners' newsletter. In late July, I flew to Uganda to teach modern agriculture techniques to farmers across Uganda, with a friend of mine from Uganda who is now a professor at Dallas Baptist University, Dr. Julius Sonko, who is setting up a NGO in Uganda called EATBETA (Evangelizing Africa Through Business Empowerment and Transforming Agriculture).

My two bags of luggage contained beekeeping equipment (a bee suit, beekeeping gloves, a bee smoker to subdue them and books on beekeeping), a welding helmet, various farming books, a disassembled one-wheeled push plow, and lots of school supplies (many Ugandan children have no pencils, paper or other school supplies). I will have limited room for clothes, but then, on my last trip to Iraq to dedicate a church in Duhok, Iraq, my luggage was lost in Germany, and I had to wear the same clothes the entire week, so I have survived with little changes of clothing).

We landed at the Entebbe International Airport and started our training and educational outreach on Tuesday, August 1, with a meeting with Dr. Patience Rwamigisa, Commissioner of the "National Agriculture Extension", kind of an agriculture extension office for the country of Uganda, and had a dinner with NAE officials in Entebbe, Uganda. At those meetings, we discussed how we intend to enhance Ugandan agriculture and explore ideas about transforming the Ugandan transportation infrastructure to deliver the crops produced to the cities where the need, and the money, is.

On August 2, we arise very early and drive across the country to the Mbarara District in southwestern Uganda where we conduct a training workshop at Katyazo at the Parental Care Ministry orphanage where I teach for six hours

(I tell folks that between being a lawyer, a preacher, and a politician, I can talk for hours, but six hours at one stretch may tax that loquacious tendency), and cover general agriculture information including soil preparation and basic planting and cultivating crops, teach them how to use the tractor they possess to prepare their farmland for farming, teach beekeeping techniques, explain how to grow tilapia fish to make organic fertilizer, and teach cattle and poultry husbandry, as well as explain the "poverty of the commons" about the failure of socialism to promote growth.

The next few days, I was fabricating (welding and acetylene torch cutting) various items of farming equipment at a welding shop, as well as visiting a hog farm in Kashongi, demonstrating the use of some of the equipment I made, and visiting the EATBETA demonstration center in Kashongi. After the weekend of traveling to the capital of Kampala and attending church, we also go further east to Jinja and see the "Mouth of the Nile", where the Nile River begins at Lake Victoria, and where the Indian statesman Mahatma Gandhi had his ashes strewn. In eastern Uganda, we tour a fish farm in Masese, Uganda. Later in the week, we again teach farming techniques programs at various farms at Naibowa and Mpumudu.

Abraham Lincoln said, "I will prepare myself, and one day my opportunity will come." After more than forty years of farming, from organic vegetable farming in the '70's, and hay production in the '70's and '80's, vegetable production since the '80's, and cattle and poultry production for the last thirty years, hopefully I am prepared to share my knowledge to improve the lives of farmers across Uganda. Pray that I was successful and the lives of farmers across Uganda are enhanced through improved farming techniques and knowledge. *Sam*



FROM BULBS TO BLOOM

Hi to all. Prayers for any family and/or loved ones affected by Harvey.

This is an update from the August Alert for our upcoming extravaganza October 14. One change that has been made is: There will be a person between the ticket writer and the cashier who will be tallying the tickets. The cashiers will be taking monies. The "in-between person" will need cashier qualities and a propensity for numbers. We need the tickets filled out and figured correctly. We have 8 people signed up for cashiers. We need 7 "in-between" people. Let me know if you have a head for figures.

We have registration covered. Transportation/Security – We need 5 more please. Ticket writers – we need at least 11 more people. Sales Persons – we need 15 more.

So far we only have 2 wagons loaned for the day. We need at least 3 more.

Feel free to email Ann Smith at smithvae@aol.com plug in your name. The signup sheets will be out at the September meeting. Thanks to each of you who have signed up so far. *Ann Smith*

Susan Sez continued from Page 1—Like I said, a lot going on and I'm sure I've missed a few things.

The point is, with team work almost anything is possible. It's been great working with this Executive Committee group.

One a final note. Remember that we will be voting on the revisions to our Bylaws at the September 7 meeting; hopefully you found a few minutes to check them out. Look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting, back at the Rose Garden Center. *Susan Stone*, President

Looking Ahead...

Sept. 5—First Tuesday in the Garden

Sept. 9—East Texas Garden Lecture Series

Sept. 22—AgriWorld opens at E.T. State Fair

Sept. 25—Landscape Design School at College Station

Sept. 28—Horticulture Show at E.T. State Fair

Oct. 2 & 3—Texas Fruit Conference—New Braunfels

Oct. 3—First Tuesday in the Garden

Oct. 14—From Bulbs to Blooms Conference & Sale

Oct. 20—So. Garden Symposium - St. Francisville, LA

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



East Texas Garden Lecture Series

Saturday, September 9 at Pelle Legna Vineyards, 18655 CR 418 Tyler, Texas 75704.

Pelle Legna is one of a handful of Texas wineries that is 100% estate grown and hand crafted. Wine maker, Dawn Leatherwood will host a wine tasting and provide a tour of the vineyard and winery. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with a wine tasting beginning at 9:00 a.m., followed by a tour of the vineyard and winery ending around 11:00 am. Tickets are \$15 per person and may be purchased at the door

To reach the vineyard, go west on State Hwy 64 and turn right on CR 413. Then turn left on FM 724, left again on CR 416, left again on CR 415, and right on CR 418. When you reach the gate house, turn right until you reach the residence.

Certificate of Appreciation

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Master Gardener Program awarded “Certificates of Appreciation” to several Smith County Master Gardeners for their service to the program. Seen here are Anne Brown and Martin Davis, both of whom have been involved for 20 years, as of the end of 2016, who received their certificates at the August SCMG meeting.



Photo by Greg Grant

Others receiving certificates included: Linda Scoggin – 20 years, Jack Quisenberry and Kathy Wright – 15 years.