



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

March 2019

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu/>

Vol. XXVI No. 3



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SCMG Association Meeting
March 7, 2019
at 11:30 AM
at the Rose Garden Center

MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Katy Barone, Greg Grant, Janie Fowler, Linda Munn, Dixie Smith, Jean Smith, Pat Turner, and Debby Watkins.

Published for the Master Gardeners of Smith County, Texas under the auspices of the Smith County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 1517 W. Front St. Tyler, TX 75702.

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Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980

Fax - 903-590-2984

What a crazy season this has been! Can not really call it winter since there have not been very many days that I have had to turn on the heater in the greenhouse. Of course, I realize that winter is not over and spring is several weeks away, although my yard is full of Robins, which is a sign that spring is just around the corner.



With spring comes many activities for our Master Gardeners. For those members that enjoy digging in the dirt, the IDEA, Heritage, Shade, and Sunshine gardens are beginning to come to life. If you had rather not dig in the dirt, just take a stroll through the gardens and admire their beauty. Also, Master Gardener volunteers will be on hand at the beautiful Pyron Garden during the Azalea Trails. As Katy Barone refers to the event as "Gardeners in the Garden". This is the perfect time to educate the public on the various plants in the lovely garden.

Master Gardeners will also be educating our trainees through the Mentor Program which planning is well underway for this year. Tommie Grinnell and

Heather Stephens have already lined up a slate of mentors for our trainees and are excited to present everyone on March 14th.

The Awards Luncheon is coming soon, with a new class receiving their graduation certificates to become Interns and the 2018 Interns being certified as Master Gardeners. Plan to attend and extend a warm welcome to all of them. Sign-up sheets will be available at the March Meeting.

Another sign that spring is coming is the Rose City Artisan Fair and Home Garden Tour. Jean Smith will be getting in touch with those members that are interested in volunteering at the Goodman Museum event. Linda Munn and Dixie Smith along with their committee members are finalizing plans for another successful Home Garden Tour. Sign-up sheets will also be available at the March Meeting.

Look forward to seeing all of you at the Monthly Membership Meeting. Debby Watkins has scheduled another great speaker. Don't miss out! Lots of exciting things happening this Spring!

Janie Fowler - President

Monthly Meeting Notice

As a follow up to our wildly successful February program on Wildscapes, our speaker this month will be Ron Loper of the Native Plant Society of Texas. Ron will be giving an informational presentation on "Invasive Plants."

As we learned in February, Wildscaping is a way of designing your home's landscape to attract and benefit wildlife, especially birds and butterflies, by providing the required food, water, and shelter. Wildscaping is also a way each of us can help offset the disappearance of wildlife habitat caused by development.

According to the Native Plant Society of Texas, the 'food' component can best be provided through the use of plants that are native to your area. Ron is going to help us identify plants that are non-native and considered invasive. Ron and his wife, Ruth, are long-time members and past presidents of the Tyler Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas and Ron is a Past President of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Debby Watkins

Live and Learn



I used to think that I could learn everything about horticulture. I got my Master's degree in horticulture, became a Master Texas certified nurseryman, and even became a Nacogdoches County Master Gardener at one point. I've attended thousands of seminars, trialed thousands of plants, and read thousands of gardening articles. But guess what I've learned? You will never learn it all! But that doesn't mean stop trying.

As you may have heard, we are establishing a horticultural help desk at our office, organized by past president Susan Stone, and manned by experienced, enthusiastic Master Gardeners. Whether you are helping in the office or not, your job as a Texas Master Gardener is to educate the public. You'll never know all the answers (I don't either) but you can at least learn which direction to point them and which publication we have that can assist them.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas Master Gardener program, and I, offer plenty of opportunities to continue your education. First and foremost, I'd like you to follow along with all of my educational efforts so you'll know what I'm thinking and when I'm thinking it. That begins with attending any of the 2019 Master Gardener training classes that you'd like to.

You should read my article each Thursday in the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*. If you don't get the paper you can Google it and read it on-line. Andie Rathbone also posts it each week on the Smith County Master Gardener's Facebook page. Martin Davis similarly posts the column on the SCMG website each week at <https://txmg.org/smith/garden-notes/newspaper-columns/>.

I'd also like you to subscribe to *Texas Gardener* magazine (texasgardener.com) if you can, and read it cover to cover each issue. Thankfully retired Smith County horticulturist, Keith Hansen and I both write for the magazine. It's a two for one deal!

Still yet, I want you to read each of my monthly "Greg's Ramblings" blogs at arborgate.com. It's free and on-line, along with all of my past entries.

And finally, I'd like you to follow along with my daily Facebook posts at "Greg Grant Gardens." By keeping up with everything I write, I can teach you through "distance education." **-Greg Grant**

"Gardeners in the Garden" Public Education Event

Joan and Guy Pyron have graciously agreed to allow SCMG to be represented in their garden during the 3 Saturdays of the Azalea Trail. A table will be set up in the gazebo with 2 Master Gardeners in attendance to answer plant questions and offer educational materials.

There will be two shifts per Saturday; 9-12 and 12-3 for a total of four volunteers each weekend. The Saturdays of note are: March 23, March 30 and April 6. An announcement will be made and an opportunity to sign up at the March meeting.

If you have questions about this public education event, contact Katy Barone katybarone@suddenlink.net.



Rose Garden Tours

We have an enthusiastic group of second graders from the Target Academy interested in the Rose Garden. They have scheduled tours April 22-25 at 9:30 am for four classes of 15-18 students. I only have about 8 active docents and will need help for these tours from past docents or anyone interested in being a Docent. If you have ever considered being a Docent or just want to see what we do or just like second graders please let me know. We have time to prepare. This will be a fun project so don't pass it up!

Pat Turner Rose Garden Tour coordinator captain2@yahoo.com 903 597 0102

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

The Board of Directors met February 15, 2019.

At the BOD meeting this month we were busy. Items to put on your calendar are the Home Garden Tour, the Library Series, and the new class that becomes interns in April. Looks like a great class.



An item that continues to take a lot of time is member hours. Management of member hours continues to take too much time in the BOD meeting early in the year and then at the end of the year. Please do your hours and then put them into VMS. It is your responsibility and the BOD is leaning to enforce hours more stringently and reporting of hours.

Be Safe Out There—Wayne Elliott

Other business of the Board included: The Board passed a budget amendment to purchase shirts for the mentors who will be helping Class 26 interns. Also approved a budget amendment to install a new sprinkler system in the IDEA Garden. It was noted that the City pays for water and mulch in the garden. A 5ft by 30in SCMG banner is being purchased for use at SCMG events.

There will be docents in the Pyron Garden during Saturdays of the Azalea Trail. A sign up sheet will be available at the March MG meeting. The dates are March 23, March 30, April 6. Katy Barone will head this project.

Jean Smith

Smith County MG Class Schedule 2019

Classes are held at the Extension Office 1517 W Front Street, Suite 116, Tyler, TX 75702.

March 7 - 9am - 4pm: Year-Round Bulbs, Perennials. Extension office.

March 14: Smith County Master Gardeners Association volunteer opportunities and instructions.

March 21 - 9pm - 4pm: (*Field trip-Car pool*) Tyler Rose Garden, Blue Moon Gardens, Rozell Sprayers, and Breedlove Nursery- Edom and Tyler.

March 28 - 10am - 3pm: (*Field trip-Car pool*) Tour SFA Gardens, Nacogdoches.

April 3 - 11:30am - 1:30pm: Awards/Intern Luncheon. Tyler Rose Center.

Sign Up for the April Meeting

This year is blowing by so rapidly and it is almost time for our Master Gardener April Graduation and Awards Luncheon. The date is April 3, 11:30. Suggest you come about 11:15. Yes the meeting is on **Wednesday**.

I will have the sign up sheets available at our March meeting. As always, we need a head count and what you plan to bring. This is a "Pot Luck" so bring whatever makes you happy....just let me know so we don't end up with 10 bean dishes. For the count ... you are (1) plus guests (?). Everyone wants a fork and a chair so all of this is important. Please remember to RSVP prior to the day before. If you don't sign up at March meeting, email me please smithvae@aol.com. Ann Smith

2019 HOME GARDEN TOUR!

Our tour gardens have been selected and the tour date is Saturday, May 18th from 9:00-3:00pm.

We have many new ideas we are implementing for this year's tour. The sign up for volunteers has begun and the sign up sheets for the homes on the tour will be in the foyer at the March, April and May monthly meetings. We have five lovely gardens that need volunteers along with some other jobs.



To view the list of homes on the tour go to <https://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>.

Thank you,

Linda Munn/Dixie Smith

2019 MASTER GARDENERS AT THE LIBRARY

March 15, "Trialed and Trusted Plants, Distinctly Southern" - Plants to help your garden look like the pages of Southern Living Magazine, with Laura Campbell, spokesperson for the Southern Living Plant Collection

April 12, "Supercharge Your Garden with Texas Superstar Plants" - Strong and stunning plants for Texas, with Smith County Master Gardener Texas Superstar Specialists

May 17, "Home Landscaping: Right Plant, Right Place" - Greg's 5 basic principles of landscape design, including do's and don'ts, with Greg Grant, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent for Smith County.



ROSE CITY ARTISANS AND FLOWER MARKET will be held Friday, April 19 10AM-7PM and Saturday, April 20 10AM-4PM on the Goodman Museum grounds. SCMG will have an education display and needs volunteers to man the tables. Signup sheets will be available at the March meeting. Please be aware this is Easter weekend so check your calendar before signing up, but any help is appreciated. If you know when you would like to work please email Jean Smith, smithjean17@hotmail.com with day and time. Shifts will be 10-1, 1-4, 4-7.

Daylight Time Begins March 10th



Texas Rose Rustlers Spring Seminar SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019, 9am-1pm

To begin our 40th anniversary activities in 2019, The Texas Rose Rustlers are pleased to announce that we will have a very special guest speaker at our annual Spring Seminar. **Tom Liggett** is a published author of books on various topics. His knowledge of roses and gardening is expansive.

This seminar will be at Green Meadows, 9655 FM 50, Independence, Texas (about ½ mile from The Antique Rose Emporium.) We will have a pot luck lunch in the building!
Please RSVP: Molly Buenrostro (ameliaannb@yahoo.com) 713 775 9231.



2019 TMGA Conference—Victoria—April 25-27, 2019

The Victoria County Master Gardener Association is very proud to host the April 25-27 event at Victoria Community Center, 2905 E. North St., Victoria, TX 77901.

Registration available from **December 1 - February 28** - \$175 with late registration **March 1 - April 1** - \$200

Note: **Registration closes April 1**. If registering after March 1, merchandise will not be available.

For more info. go to: <http://2019tmgaconference.com/>

2019 International MG Conference

Penn's Woods: Digging into our Roots June 17-21, 2019

Valley Forge Casino Resort, Valley Forge, PA

Half and full day tours to area public gardens

Website: <http://www.internationalmastergardener.com/>

Registration: <http://www.cvent.com/d/hgqxlp> (now open)