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SCMG Association Meeting
March 1st
at 11:30 AM
at the Rose Garden Center

MG Grapevine Staff
 Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:
 Wayne Elliott, Greg Grant, Janie Fowler,
 Susan Nelson, and Susan Stone.

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Wayne's Word

What a winter! We now have the much needed rain. I love the rain. It brings new life to our environment—the gardens, animals, and cleanses the air. But it also very personal. In each of my two tours in Vietnam, I was cold, wet, and miserable 8 months of the 12 and hot, wet and miserable the other four months. I promised myself that I would never complain about the rain when I got back to the USA. I would do whatever I had planned for the day because when the day was done, I could take a hot shower and crawl into a warm bed. So I love the rain. For me, rain is the natural world's absolution, like the story of the Flood and new beginnings. To complete my winter thoughts, Keith Hansen was saying today that he expects the azaleas and other plants to bloom early, especially if we get the warmer weather that is forecast for the foreseeable future. So it looks as if spring is just around the corner. Typical East Texas weather!



You are in for a treat as Clint Perkins, the Smith County AG Agent is our speaker this month. Immediate upcoming events include the Rose City Artisan event at the Goodman. Be ready to help Dana Anderson with that event. The Garden Tour is coming up fast and I know Linda Munn has her first open planning meeting planned. She will need our assistance. The committee has done a job planning and preparing. If you have not paid your 2018 dues please see Henry Burch or Pat Welch. Interns should check to see where they stand on hours for the gardens and the phone and make plans to complete those hours. If you can help as a mentor for a student in the new class please see Susan Nelson.

We are off to a great start and all the major committees have chair persons. You may still get a phone call to help in other ways. Be ready to assume responsibility and help out in 2018. *Wayne Elliott, President*

SCMG March Meeting

The March meeting will be on Thursday March 1st at the Rose Garden Center.

Our speaker this month is Mr. Clint Perkins, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent for Smith County. The title of Mr. Perkins presentation is "Weed Identification and Herbicide Use" as it applies to turf weed control.

Reminder: The Spring Awards Luncheon in April has been changed to Wednesday April 11 at 11:30 at the Rose Garden Center, due to members attending the Texas Master Gardeners Conference on our regular meeting date.

Janie Fowler

Mentors Needed

We have a dynamic, interested group of interns in the newest class - 20 strong, full of energy and enthusiasm! We want to develop their interest in Master Gardening and having a mentor is proven pathway! So far we have 7 mentors - folks who will greet, partner, and encourage MG Interns.

Please step up and be part of this program - we need these new members and they need us! Contact Susan Nelson - 903-253-2244 or snelson300@gmail.com.

Controlling Grassburs and Crabgrass in Lawns

By Greg Grant

As Master Gardeners you will get lots of lawn questions. Two of the most common are on controlling grassburs (sandburs) and crabgrass. Both are warm season annuals (or occasionally short lived perennials) that germinate each spring from thousands of seed produced the previous year.

Always remember that the best control against weeds in a lawn is having a thick, healthy turf. If there are bare spots and sunlight can hit the ground, weeds will germinate. Otherwise the only effective control for these grassy annual weeds is using a pre-emergent herbicide. Pre-emergent herbicides are ones you apply before the weed seeds emerge or start to germinate and sprout. This means you must apply these types of herbicides before you see the weeds. If you see them growing, it's too late. They only work on annual weeds germinating from seed, not on perennial weeds germinating from an existing crown.

The timing of this pre-emergent herbicide application is absolutely critical. They are normally applied about 2-4 weeks before our last frost which averages around March 15 here. This means the typical time to apply a pre-emergent herbicide for warm season annual weeds like crabgrass and grassburs is around the middle of February during a mild winter/early spring or the first of March during a colder, prolonged winter.

Pre-emergent granular herbicides like Team and Dimension are available from retail garden centers and hardware stores. Other independents package and label their own

brand. Read the label and follow its directions. They must be watered in to be effective as they form a chemical herbicide barrier at the soil level that kills the plants as they begin to germinate. It's critical to use only the recommended rate so as not to damage the lawn, trees, and shrubs.

If the weed infestation has been severe in past years, a second application can be made 90 days later.

1. Mow the lawn to eliminate as many weeds and as much thatch as possible. If you intend to drop the mower down one notch for the first mowing ("scalping"), do so at this time.

2. Apply your pre-emergent granules according to label directions on that same day. Water lightly to form a layer of herbicide across the top of the soil.

3. If broadleaf weeds like chickweed and henbit survive the mowing or scalping, apply a broadleaf weedkiller (containing 2,4-D) to them once they have started to regrow vigorously (usually at least a week after mowing). Be very careful with broadleaf herbicides so as not to damage other plants. Follow label directions exactly.

4. Wait about a month to apply a 3:1:2 ratio lawn fertilizer (not a "weed and feed") as our warm season grasses don't use the fertilizer until the nights are warm and they are actively growing. **Greg**



Board Meeting Notes

Board of Directors met on February 16, 2018. The following action items were discussed:

The Home Garden Tour project is proceeding on track.

The Board approved a \$250 budget modification to assist with the purchase of a color printer for the AgriLife office.

VMS sign-up is going well. 62 people have signed up. Jean Smith will provide a tutorial to the Intern class in late March.

Several Board members attended the TMGA Directors meeting in College Station. Plans are well underway for the state conference in early April. The state conference will be in Victoria, TX in 2019 and in Waco, TX in 2020.

The Board agreed to remove 13 people from the MG membership roles for non-payment of dues and/or not fulfilling volunteer hours' requirements. Several attempts were made to work with these individuals to correct their status, but efforts were not successful.

Changes to Intern volunteer hours' requirements are being implemented this year. Detailed information will be forthcoming. **See page 3.**

Susan Stone

Membership Directory 2018-19

The new Membership Directory is being put together and we want it to be as correct as possible. Please check your information in the current directory. If you want to have anything changed or added, please notify Martin Davis at mred2853@sbcglobal.net.

Martin Davis



- ◆ If you have not already done so, set up your connection to the Volunteer Management System. If you don't know how, contact Jean Smith.
- ◆ Pay your SCMG dues for 2018. Yes they are overdue, but it isn't too late to pay. See Henry Burch or Pat Welch at the meeting and pay up.
- ◆ Volunteer to be a mentor. See article on Page 1.
- ◆ Say "Yes" when asked to help with a project.

New information for SCMG INTERN HOURS - 72 Hours Required

Gardens: (IDEA, Heritage, Sunshine, Shade. Requires 11 work days (6 in one garden and 5 in the others) at a minimum of 2 hours per day. **Gardens: 22 hours total**

Group I: SCMG Interns are required to work following hours (minimum) in each of these three projects. Signup sheets will be available as event draws close.

Home Garden Tour- 4 hours
From Bulbs to Blooms- 8 hours
AgriWorld Secret Garden- 3 hours

Group I: 15 hours total

Group II: Intern is required to work 3 hours in each of these activities.

Overton (Flower Trials) - 3 hours
Overton (Vegetable Trials) -3 hours
Junior Master Gardener - 3 hours

Group II: 9 hours total

Group III: A total of a minimum of 8 hours in group III. Required are 2 hours in office answering phone and orientation of publications, library, office, etc., and 2 hours with the Calendar committee. The last 4 hours can be in any of the following activities listed in group 3.

Calendar* (This requirement is 2 hours of working with the Calendar committee. The articles are in addition to this 2 hours).
Education
Rose City Artisan
Extension Office/answering phone**

*Writing 2 newspaper articles for class and 1 write up for the SCMG Calendar

**Work with mentor for 2 hours in answering the phone in the Extension office (this serves as a way to get an orientation to the office and how to answer questions). It also includes an introduction to websites and how to research a problem.

Group III: 8 hours total

Groups I, II, and III will total 32 hours, two newspaper articles and one calendar article for the SCMG intern.

Other hours: The remaining 18 hours can be earned in any activity or garden that the intern chooses.

Other hours: 18 hours total

TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED: 72

**MG Interns—This information, plus a log sheet which can be used to keep a record of hours worked, is available to print on the SCMG website at :
<https://txmg.org/smith/members-only->**

Dr. Allen Owings' Horticulture Symposium Friday, March 9, 2018

The Gulf and South Central Districts of the American Rose Society (ARS) along with the Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners are presenting the inaugural Dr. Allen Owings' Horticulture Symposium at the Gardens of the American Rose Center in Shreveport on Friday March 9th. The event will begin with registration at 8 am. Lectures will run from 9 am until 3:30 pm.

Speakers include Dr. William Welch and Greg Grant from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Other speakers include: Buddy Lee, Dr. David Creech, Dan Gill, and Pat Shanley.

In order to plan meeting arrangements, pre-registration is required. The cost, which covers lectures, lunch and complimentary 4-month trial membership to ARS, is \$40/person. Registration is available on-line (www.rose.org/hortsymp) or interested attendees may phone meeting registrar Carol Spiers at the American Rose Center (318.938.5402; carol@rose.org). There is limited seating for 150 gardeners. **Registration deadline is March 1st.**

Fannin County Master Gardeners 2018 Garden, Lawn and Home Expo

Saturday, March 24, 2018 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Bonham Civic Center (former Armory Bldg.) Bonham, Texas 75418 Hwy 121 & Hwy 56 (1100 W 5th St) E-Mail: fannin@ag.tamu.edu Phone: (903)583-7453

We are excited to have Steve Chamblee of Chandor Gardens in Weatherford speaking at the expo. He'll be providing inspiration for great garden ideas and sharing the best native and adapted plants for Texas gardens. Also, Viticulturist Michael Cook with AgriLife Extension will be presenting on grape-growing and cultivation. Blake Shook from Texas Bee Supply & Desert Creek Honey will also be presenting.



Admission: Free / Donations Accepted

Looking Ahead...

Master Gardeners at the Library

At Tyler's Public Library. Free and open to the public.

Each lecture begins at 11:30 AM.

March 9—Wayne Elliott, *Raised Bed Gardening on a Hillside*



March 30-31 at the Goodman-LeGrand mansion. 10AM-4PM This upscale open-air market features artists and artisans selling a variety of items, including paintings, sculptures, garden decor, roses, herbs, crafts and food.

For more information on these and other events, go to:

<https://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>

SPRING LANDSCAPE & GARDEN TOUR

Join the Smith County Environmental Education Horticulture Committee on Tuesday, March 27, from 9-12 as we tour the beautiful and prestigious Azalea District garden of Guy and Joan Pyron. The tour will be led by Smith County Horticulture Agent, Greg Grant, and former Smith County Horticulture Agent, Keith Hansen, and will focus on outstanding landscape plants for East Texas gardens.

Cost: \$15.00

Contact: (903) 590-2980 for more information.

SPRING GARDENING CONFERENCE

The Smith County Environmental Education Horticulture Committee is sponsoring a Spring Gardening Conference on Saturday, April 14, from 9-12, at The Hub, 337 East Ferguson in downtown Tyler. Speakers include Greg Grant, Smith County Horticulture Agent, Texas A&M Extension Service, and Bob Byers, Director of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. They will cover basic landscape design and principles for creating beautiful gardens.

Cost: \$15.00

Contact: (903) 590-2980 for more information.



It is still not too late to register for the conference. To do so, go to:

<https://2018tmgaconference.com/>

Photo by Greg Grant

Class XXV