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**SCMG Association Meeting**  
**May 3rd**  
**at 11:30 AM**  
**at the Rose Garden Center**

### MG Grapevine Staff

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## Wayne's Word

### MORE THAN A WEED PULLER!

What is a Master Gardener (MG)?

First practical lesson learned is the art of weed pulling. Just this morning (early April) I was pulling weeds in my garden. I use an automobile door panel remover to get to the roots of the weed. I am a Master Weed Puller. But a MG is much more than a weed puller.

Last week at the Texas Master Gardener Conference I had time to reflect on what a MG is. Why did I take on this task of being a MG? I was raised on a cattle ranch. I was riding a horse before I was 5 years old. I was driving a tractor hauling hay, mowing the meadows, baling hay and other chores from age 7. I planned to spend my adult life on a cattle ranch. But when I was commissioned as an officer in the US Army, I discovered that I did not have to work 28 hours a day, 8 days a week, 380 days a year. The US Army was a great life. After three careers and I retired for the third time I was faced with the prospect of going insane in a rocking chair. So I enrolled in the MG class.



Being a MG answered my need for being active. As an adult I had the honor of serving my country as a soldier for 20 years, of serving my Lord for 20 years as a missionary and now serving my community through the MG program.

As MGs we improve our community in many ways. We have the gardens in the Rose Garden, we do educational presentations, we beautify our neighborhoods and East Texas, and we support university students with scholarships. Last year we gave over 500 pounds of tomatoes from the Texas A&M Extension Service vegetable trials in Overton to a local Food Bank. We have volunteers in places like the Dallas Arboretum. Our heart seems to be service to our community and fellow man (and woman) in order to improve the quality of life for our fellow citizens. Why do you serve?

Tonight I was smoking meat on my grill (a passion) and was reminded of another reason that a MG is blessed. Johnny Cash wrote a song about Ireland. It was titled "40 Shades of Green" and describes the difference green one sees in the Irish countryside. The Irish loved Johnny Cash. But what I get from the song is the peace the fresh spring time shades of green one gets from the trees and grasses. It is an awesome display of God's creation and His gift to mankind. The peace of having worked a six hour day in my garden and then to enjoy the greens, the birds, hummingbirds, owls and other critters as the day ends. What a peace and rewarding day from your labors.

In closing I confess I have a PHD in weed pulling (Piled Higher and Deeper). So go for it, you too can be a master of your garden environment.

I almost forgot, I have FUN as I work and interact with fellow MGs. I had great fun at the TMGA conference and made new friends. Working with friends and in the dirt is therapeutic and rewarding. What a community! That's what **'More Than A Weed Puller'** means.

Thanks to Dana and his crew for the service at the Rose City Artisan and Street Market. We have a new class of interns to welcome to our weed pulling cult. The Home Garden Tour will be here in the blink of an eye, AgriWorld is in the planning stages, and our "Bulbs to Blooms" education and sale is starting its planning. If you have not signed up to serve on these activities, please do so when it opens. *Wayne Elliott, President*



## Doubter's Ten Commandments of Landscape Design

*(Tossing a bunch of plants into a garden and hoping it turns into a fine landscape is like tossing a bunch of ingredients into an oven and hoping a pie jumps out!)*

1. If in doubt, plant a bunch of something instead of a little, a group instead of a spot.
2. If in doubt, group odd numbers (3, 5, 7) of specimen plants instead of even (2, 4, 6). This helps them look like a natural group instead of a marching band.
3. If in doubt, use the exact same thing again (and again...). Repetition is THE most important design principle.
4. If in doubt, use all of the same color, instead of a bunch of different colors. Only use opposite colors to demand attention. Remember cool colors=peace and harmony, while hot colors=excitement and flare.
5. If in doubt, have only one focal point. Eyes need to settle on something not jitter about.
6. If in doubt, group plants in the same bed instead of placing them as individuals in separate beds.
7. If in doubt, be simple and plain. Clutter is not good. Oak Alley in Vacherie, La. is spectacular using only one kind of plant (live oak) and one color (green). Like it or not, the design is more important than the plants.
8. If in doubt, make big beds instead of little. Most folks garden on a scale too small for their site and structure. The goal is to tie your landscape into everything you can see around you.
9. If in doubt, continue the same line that you already started or that already exist. This creates rhythm. Never cram a square peg into a round hole.
10. If in doubt, repeat shapes, patterns, and colors used in the structure and surrounding landscape. Think echoes or ripples in the water. This helps create unity.



**PS: ALWAYS have a theme to your landscape. Put a name on it and stick with it. .... Greg**

### SCMG Association Meeting

The May meeting will be on Thurs day May 3rd at 11:30 at the Rose Garden Center.

The speaker for May will be William Garvin, Reptile Supervisor at Caldwell Zoo.

The presentation revolves around all "The Snakes of East Texas", both venomous and nonvenomous. Most pose no significant threat to humans, and all perform a beneficial function in the ecosystems they live in. He will also present information on other venomous invertebrates which include spiders, bees, centipedes, etc. The talk should enlighten our members on the subject of snakes.

Look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting!

*Janie Fowler*

### Annual Awards

.At the SCMG annual awards luncheon on April 11th, Class 25 graduated and became Interns and members of Class 24 who have completed their volunteer commitments were certified as Master Gardeners.

#### Individual awards included:

Most Intern Volunteer Hours - Dixie Smith (120 hours)

Most Master Gardener Volunteer Hours - Susan Stone (637.75 hours)

Helping Hands Award - Ann Smith

No Problem Award - Debbie Watkins

Public Awareness Award - Jean Smith

R & D Award - Becky Wilson

Golden Glove Award - Linda Munn

Designer Decorator Award - Laurie Graham

Friend of SCMG - Dr. Joe Masabni

President's Award - Pat Welch

Intern of the Year - Katie Barone

Master Gardener of the Year - Susan Stone

Lifetime Service Award - Anne Brown

**Thanks to all for all your hard work on behalf of the organization.**

### Awards at the Texas State Master Gardener Conference

At the April 4-6 state MG conference, the SCMG Association received the following awards:

#### 1st place - Project

From Bulbs To Blooms

#### 1st place - Education

Smith County Master Gardeners at the Library

#### 3rd place - Research

Vegetable Trials at Texas A&M Overton Research and Extension Center

#### 3rd place - Association

Smith County Master Gardener Association



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

The Board of Directors met on April 20, 2018.

The following action items were on the agenda:

- The Audit Report for 2017 was presented by Maury Hudson. No major findings were noted.
- Work on the Home Garden Tour is proceeding.
- The Board approved a change in requirements for volunteer hours and continuing education hours for 2019 as follows:  
Volunteer Hours – 24  
CEs – 9 (increased to 12 beginning in 2020)
- Work has begun on the East Texas Gardening Guide for 2019. The theme for the calendar will be “Roses”.
- The Board voted to amend policy 3007, “Travel Reimbursement” to codify the \$500 reimbursement for the President to attend the state TMGA conference.
- The Board approved a \$2,000 scholarship donation to Texas A&M.

*Susan Stone*

## Master Gardener Specialist – Greenhouse Management: 12:00 pm MAY 23 through 12:00 pm May 25, 2018

The Master Gardener Specialist – Greenhouse Management program is designed to train and certify Master Gardeners to become part of a state corps of Greenhouse Management experts and educators. Hill Country Master Gardener Association, Greenhouse Management Course, Attn. Duane Robinson, 3775 Hwy 27, Kerrville, Texas 78028 no later than May 1, 2018.

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MAY 1, 2018**

**Registration fee is \$185.**

## Master Gardeners at the Library — May 11, 2018

This free lecture at the Tyler Public Library will be presented by Master Gardener Debby Watkins at 11:30 AM. The title of her presentation is *Sex in the Garden – All About Propagation*.



## McLennan County MG Plant Sale

Sat. May 5, 2018 – 8 AM to 3 PM – at Westview Village Shopping Center, 551 N. Valley Mills Dr., Waco, TX  
Large variety of plants grown by MGs.

## The Longleaf Alliance's Longleaf Academy

Tues. – Thurs. May 8 – 10<sup>th</sup>, Texas Forestry Assoc., 1903 Atkinson Dr., Lufkin, TX 75901  
Experts in longleaf management and ecology from The Longleaf Alliance and partners will lead attendees in this 2.5 day course consisting of both classroom lectures and field instruction in “all things longleaf”.  
Course cost \$150.

For more information on these and other events, go to: <https://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>

## June 2, 2018 - Annual Garden Tour - 9 AM - 3 PM

A unique opportunity to view five private gardens and landscapes. This year's gardens showcase a variety of landscaping designs and styles....ranging from a lake setting to a small intimate garden. The 2018 Tour Gardens include:

- Barone Garden - 910 S. Chilton
- Dugan Garden - 628 Whittle
- Reuter Garden - 1025 Arlington
- Russell Garden - 16411 Caddo Trail, Bullard
- Atchley Garden - 16088 Treasure Cove, Bullard

Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 the day of tour. Advance tickets on sale May 1 - June 1 include: Brookshire's Rice Road, Potpourri House, Blue Moon Gardens, Anderson's Gardens & Gifts Flint, and at the Extension Office.



**Thanks to all who have already signed up to work the tour!** There are a few slots left for volunteers. The sign up sheet will be at the May 3rd SCMG monthly meeting if you haven't signed up. See you there. *Linda Munn*





Class 24—Certified on April 11



Class 25—New Interns as of April 11



Cathy Swindell, Cheryl Black, Linda Munn with Dr. David Gibby



SCMG members at TX State Conf.



Margaret Herring & Jean Smith with Dr. David Gibby

(Dr. Gibby is the founder of the MG program)



Intern of the Year  
Katy Barone

President Wayne Elliot passes out annual awards at the April 11th luncheon.



No Problem Award  
Debbie Watkins



Most Intern Hrs.  
Dixie Smith



Friend of SCMG Dr. Joe Masabni



Helping Hands Award Ann Smith

Photos by  
Greg Grant