



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

July 2018

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

Vol. XXV No. 7



Inside This Issue

Holy Anole	2
SCMG Apparel Sale	2
Were You There?	3
Board Of Directors	3
New Coordinators	3
Neil Sperry at Athens	3
Coming Events	4



No ce

There is no SCMG Association meeting in July.

MG Grapevine Staff
Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Wayne Elliott, Greg Grant, Janie Fowler, Monette Colman, and Susan Stone.

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.

Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980

Fax - 903-590-2984

Wayne's Word

Does a single plant or flower make a difference? Interesting question! Apparently it does to some folks. For example, those that bid on a rare bulb and can afford it certainly must enjoy the owning and admiring of a rare bulb. But in what other ways do plants or flowers make a difference? When I was in the hospital last week, my room was way down at the end of the hall. I suppose they wanted me out of their sight as I could cause less problems that way.

But outside my room was a window that opened onto a courtyard. The view was blocked by an Oak Leaf Hydrangea. Not a particularly beautiful plant that one makes the centerpiece of their garden. I have one that sits amidst a grouping of more traditional hydrangeas. I walked past it without noticing. But the Physical Therapist (PT) Staff would walk each of their patients by that window—twice a day or in my case three times. I bothered them a lot! Each patient would stop and marvel at what a beautiful flower it was. They wanted to know what kind and all the information on it. One of the staff members knew something about flowers. So here is my conclusion. The staff and patients were truly impressed with the flower or else they were using it to distract the each other in order to rest or not have to walk so far.

Our neighbor across the street has a 3 year old granddaughter. They actually found her one day in my front yard smelling the yellow roses. She never touches the flowers, but they walk her over at least twice a day to smell the yellow roses. One day, I cut one for her and she was thrilled beyond words.

I think we can assume that a flower can make a difference. To conclude this Grapevine, I would remind each of us to stop and smell the roses. I know I have missed them the last two weeks.

SCMG has several activities in full swing. Texas A&M Experiment station at Overton has their annual flower and vegetable field trials next week. If you have never attended, plan the day for a beautiful and fulfilling day. I know that vegetable harvest is in full swing and probably is an opportunity to get volunteer hours.

The 2019 calendar is nearing completion and is rumored to be a great calendar. So get those articles completed and submitted.

The AgriWorld committee has met and is making plans. "Peter Rabbit" will be the theme for the "Secret Garden". Join in the fun and meet other SCMGs,

The "Award Winning Bulbs to Blooms" conference is also meeting and planning for another successful event. Lots of opportunities to serve in this one. We will need everyone, so make your plans and join a committee.

June 21 was the first day of summer. Really, I thought summer came about two months ago. Be careful out there and hydrate---before you exit the house. Work early and short time periods. Enjoy your summer and your gardens.

Wayne Elliot, President



Holy Anole

By Greg Grant



Surely if you are a gardener you have noticed delicate six-inch green lizards patrolling your landscape. These guys have been friends of mine since I was a small child.

Due to their ability to change their color from bright green to brown or gray, many people call them chameleons, but they aren't. These little iguana relatives are actually green anoles or Carolina anoles as their Latin name (*Anolis carolinensis*) indicates. Growing up I never heard them called anoles. We just knew them as lizards. But in the environmental science world I primarily hear them referred to as an anole with two different pronunciations. Most pronounce it where it rhymes with *a-mole* but I prefer what I think is its original Caribbean Creole pronunciation where it sounds like *cannoli*.

Anoles do live in the Caribbean islands as well as the southeastern United States from Texas to Virginia. In Texas they range as far west as central Texas and south Texas and thanks to sticky pads on the bottom of their feet can generally be found on trees and shrubs as well as walls and rooftops. They generally prefer shady moist areas and often completely blend in with nearby pot plants; but it's not uncommon to see them sun bathing during the morning hours.

Naturally, as children we couldn't help wanting to catch them. It's because of this and their own predators that they have tails that break away quite easily. Amazingly, the tails grow back but sometimes smaller, discolored, or a bit deformed. Or favorite thing to do with them as kids was to let them bite our ears and hang there like ear rings.

They don't eat humans, however. They prefer small insects up to the size of crickets and June bugs. It's a small scale horror movie watching them munch and swallow these guys too. This is why it's important to be judicious and selective with insecticide use, as birds, spiders, toads, wasps, and lizards all need live, healthy insects to dine on. All these guys provide the service of nature's insecticide.

One would assume that they change colors to blend in with their environment, but the color change apparently has more to do with their temperature, mood, and stress level. By far the most impressive color change they make takes place under their neck when the males project a hot pink dewlap during courtship and territorial displays. They often bob their heads up and down while their dewlap is displayed. My Grandmother Emanis called this dewlap routine "showing their money." Anoles are very territorial. The males seem to spend more time strutting and posturing than they do foraging.



During the March to October breeding season the females can lay an egg every two weeks which takes 5-8 weeks to hatch. Unfortunately the female doesn't look after the egg or the baby lizards which immediately have to start hunting tiny insects to survive. Tell your children they are miniature dinosaurs. - Greg

NO MONTHLY MEETING IN JULY!

The next monthly meeting will be August 9th.
Hope all of you are having a great summer.

REMEMBER TO LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS!!

Janie Fowler

New Phone Number

Tricia Wiggs—Cell 903-705-2075

SCMG APPAREL SALE AT DAYSPRING UMC If you need or want to order some SCMG apparel and you were not able to make it to The Cotton Belt Building on weekdays, you are in LUCK. We have Debbie Kober to thank for arranging for a room at the Dayspring United Methodist Church, 310 West Cumberland Road in Tyler, on Saturday August 18 from 10:00am until 2:00pm. This will be the last sale this year to order any of our SCMG products. If you haven't seen the different shirts, jackets, hats, etc. that we have on display in a while, please come on by and take a look. We have many new products in many vibrant colors. At the time of ordering, we accept cash, check or credit card.

Come on down even if you have never been before, don't need to buy anything, just come and see what we have. You just might be surprised. Remember Saturday 8-18-18. Thank you, *Monette Colman*

Were you there?



On September 11, 2004 Greg Grant and Keith Kridler spoke at the Bulb sale that year. The conference was held in the Rose Garden Center and the sale was outdoors next to the garden.

Greg & Keith will be together again on October 13, 2018.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

The Board of Directors met June 8, 2018. The following action items were discussed:

- The Board congratulated Linda Munn and her team on the success of the Home Garden Tour.
- The initial meeting for the AgriWorld project is June 14. The Committee will be looking at ways to enhance the educational component of the exhibit.
- Henry Burch and Debby Watkins were named co-coordinators for the Heritage Garden. They will continue to work under Greg's direction.
- Discussions are underway with the East Texas State Fair for Smith County Master Gardeners to assume a more active role in Academic Rodeo and AgID as part of our Junior Master Gardeners initiative.
- The Board approved revisions to the job description for the Speakers Bureau Coordinator.

Susan Stone

New Coordinators

The SCMG Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Debby Watkins and Henry Burch have agreed to serve as Co-Project Coordinators of the Heritage Garden.

They will continue to work under the close direction of Greg Grant in order to fulfill his vision of transforming the garden into one of the finest displays in Texas of heirloom roses and indigenous plants.

Greg, Debby and Henry will continue to look forward to the enthusiastic support of the many Master Gardeners who are helping to make this transformation possible!

Henderson County Master Gardener Association Hosts Neil Sperry Tickets Go On Sale July 1

HCMGA, is thrilled to host Mr. Neil Sperry for their fall conference this year. "Facts and Fantasies of Texas Gardening, An Evening with Neil Sperry" will be held on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at the Athens Country Club, from 6 – 8 pm. Tickets are \$50 each, including dinner, and will go on sale July 1. A table can be reserved with the purchase of eight tickets. A limited number of tickets are available and they are expected to sell out early. The tickets will be sold only online at a safe and secure website: <https://hendersonmg.ejoinme.org/fallconference>, and assistance is available from a Master Gardener, if needed, for online ticket purchases. A receipt will be emailed immediately after purchase. For those who like to shop, the event will also include a silent auction, with wonderful items donated by local businesses.

For more information, please contact:
Henderson County Master Gardeners Association
903-675-6130
Email: hendersonCMGA@gmail.com

Texas Superstar Plant Specialist Training—September 18 - 20, 2018

Comfort Suites Hotel 303 Rieck Rd. Tyler, TX
75703 (903) 534-0999

Early Bird Registration: Until July 13th \$200, after July 13th registration is \$225

For more information please call 903-590-2980
Hosted by Smith County Master Gardeners Association.

July 17– Making Compost Tea

As part of the Henderson County Master Gardener Association's Library Series, Sherri Doss, owner of the Bluebonnet Worm Farm, will present Compost Tea on Tuesday, July 17, at 5:30 p.m., at the Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library, 121 S. Prairieville, Athens.

For more information, please call 903-675-6130, send an email to hendersoncmga@gmail.com or visit our website: txmg.org/hendersonmg.

THERESA AND LES REEVES LECTURE SERIES -

Agriculture Building, 1924 Wilson Drive, S.F.A. State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. 6:30 refreshments/social, 7:00 PM lecture followed by exciting plant raffle!

July 12 - Janet Carson, Extension Horticulture Specialist, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas - "Blinding color in the garden"

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

East Texas Fruit and Vegetable Conference - August 15, 2018 - 8:00am - 3:30pm

Overton Research & Extension Center
1710 FM 3053 North, Overton, TX 75684

Topics and Speakers include: Common Garden Questions/Asian Vegetables – Joe Masabni, Growing Figs at Home – David Creech, Fertilization & Irrigation in the Garden – Joe Masabni, Understanding Soil & Water Test Results – Franta Majas, Sustainable Home Fruit & Vegetable Production – Steve Upson, Seed Saving 101 – Greg Grant.

Register by August 10, 2018 - \$30 per person or \$50 per couple, lunch included. Additional \$5 late fee after deadline. No refunds. Make checks payable to: East TX Fruit and Vegetable Conference. Send Payment to: Smith County Extension office, Attn: Clint Perkins, 1517 W. Front St., Suite 116, Tyler, TX 75702

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL SERIES XXVI, COURSE I September 24-25, 2018 George H. W. Bush Presidential Library theater in the Rotunda (free parking) College Station, TX

Master Gardeners take note. Specialist Training events are regularly available. For complete information on the Specialist Training opportunities listed below go to <https://texas.volunteersystem.org/users/index.cfm> go to Newsletters/Documents and click on "Upcoming Events" for the list of events.

Master Gardener Specialist Training

Junior Master Gardener Specialist Training—July 24-26, 2018 The classes are held at the Global Spheres Center at 7801 S. Interstate 35E in Corinth, Texas, just south of Denton. This [dynamic and intensive 2-1/2 day training conference](#) is designed for those who are coordinating or supporting JMG programs at the local, county, and regional level. The registration fee is \$225.00. **We must receive payment by July 13.** For more information go to <https://dcmga.com/events/2018-junior-master-gardener-specialist-training/>.

Texas Superstar Plant Specialist Training—September 18 - 20 , 2018

Hosted by Smith County Master Gardeners Association

Master Gardener Specialist Training Composter—December 5 - 7, 2018

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension – Fort Bend County 1402 Band Road, Suite 100 Rosenberg, TX 77471