



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

August 2018

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

Vol. XXV No. 8



Inside This Issue

Remembering-Family Tree	2
2019 Calendar	3
AgriWorld meeting	3
SCMGA apparel	3
Coming Events	3
Bulb Sale prep	4



SCMGA Association Meeting
August 9th
at 11:30 AM
at the Rose Garden Center

MG Grapevine Staff
 Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Cheryl Black, Monette Colman, Wayne Elliott, Greg Grant, Janie Fowler, and Sherri Matthews.

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



Summer is in its full strength and with it we get East Texas heat and humidity. This is especially more critical as we had some rain and cooler weather in the first half July. Since we are outside for long stretches of time tending to our gardens, heat stroke (also known as sun stroke) is a very real danger. Heat stroke mainly affects those over 50 (I know of at least a couple of us that are over 50) and results from prolonged exposure to high temperatures, usually in combination with dehydration. Symptoms include nausea, seizures, disorientation and sometimes loss of consciousness. Heat stroke can kill or cause damage to the brain and other internal organs. To avoid this medical emergency, be sure to limit your time outdoors in the heat of the day and drink lots of water. I recommend that you drink lots of water before you go put. This hydrates you early and it is easier to keep hydrated as your work outside continues. If you suspect you are suffering from heat stroke call 911. I also recommend you work in shade if possible and check out the AC inside your house every 30-45 minutes.

Other helpful tips include adjusting your gardening schedule to take advantage of cooler times of the day. With today's concern for sun-related skin cancer, wear a wide-brim hat and sunscreen when gardening in the sun. Remember to drink plenty of water. If you are like me and have been laying around inside for the last 6 weeks, I recommend that you start working outside slowly.

Just remember that with the heat comes the blessings of bountiful tomatoes, watermelons, peaches, berries and vegetables. What a blessing!

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

We are planning for a busy time of the year for SCMGA's. We have our "Secret Garden" (East Texas State Fair—AgriWorld) coming in September and set up starts the Wednesday after Labor Day. See Laurie Graham for information and to find out where you can help.

Then two weeks after the East Texas State Fair (October 13) we have our "Award Winning Bulbs to Blooms" conference and bulb sale. Susan Stone will need all hands on deck to insure this is better than last year. See Susan for information and see where you can help.

Wayne Elliott, President

SCMGA Meeting

The August meeting will be on Thursday, August 9th at 11:30 at the Rose Garden Center.

Officer Michael McLeon and Lt. Eric White from the TDCJ Michael Unit Force Field will present "The Basics of Aquaponics". They will be giving a lecture with PowerPoint slide show on basics of how an aquaponics system works and how to set a system up. They will bring a working model of an aquaponics setup complete with fish and plants to assist in the visuals of setting up small systems.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Janie Fowler

Remembering the Family Tree

By Greg Grant

*There once was a man with some gall.
For he wouldn't let his crapemyrtles grow tall.
When asked why he did it,
He replied like an idiot,
"Because that's what they do at the mall."*



Crapemyrtles (*Lagerstroemia*) are to the South what the lilac is to the North. As a matter of fact, crapemyrtles have even been referred to as “the lilac of the South”. Lilacs (*Syringa*) are pretty and of course smell wonderful, but they don't hold a candle to all that the enduring crapemyrtles offers. And when I say enduring, I mean it. The popularity of many plants has come and gone but the crapemyrtle has reigned as the queen of small flowering trees in East Texas for the last one hundred years.

All of my people in Shelby County had crapemyrtles in their yards. After all, unlike the once blooming lilac, they bloom all summer long. They're also tough enough to survive with no additional water and no maintenance whatsoever. According to my late Granny Ruth, her Grandmother Etta Jones had nothing in her front yard but crapemyrtles and old fashioned, reseeding petunias. Imagine how pretty that must have been in the rather drab little farming community of Arcadia. I've considered creating this same Monet image in my little front yard. Both are heirloom horticultural treasures.

Etta, who kept her hair pulled up tight (my Grandmother Emanis called her “onion head”) was obviously into aesthetics, as she also abhorred everybody's leghorn chickens marring the red clay landscape with their stray white feathers. Remember, this was in the days of swept dirt yards instead of manicured green lawns. For that reason, she kept Rhode Island Reds, whose feathers blended in with the landscape. Etta's mother, Dump Block (yes, I said Dump), who lived with them must have had an artists eye as well, as Granny Ruth said she kept the door to her room locked at all times. Apparently she kept all her little porcelain “pretties” and such in there and had no intention of letting her great-grand children destroy them. The Blocks were German. Enough said. Granny Ruth said she wanted in there to play with them in the worst way, but to no avail. My, how times have changed.

My Grandmother Emanis' mother-in-law, “Miss Eva” Emanis had pretty pink crapemyrtles in her back yard. According to my grandmother, Miss Eva used the crapemyrtle wood as kindling for starting fires. That's one I haven't heard before. A number of years ago I rooted cuttings of Miss Eva's crapemyrtles which still survive in the woods near the Emanis Lake. I planted one on each side of my front porch and one on her grave at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Miss Eva was a loud talking, interesting sort. It seems like everybody on my late Papaw's side of the family was entertaining, especially him. With a name like Rebel Eloy Emanis I suppose it went with the territory. His people (originally Ximenes) were creoles from Natchitoches so I guess they brought the party with them.

I love family history as well as horticultural history. It's a good feeling to experience a connection with the past. I live in my Emanis grandparent's old house, which once belong to my grandmother's Pate grandparents as well. My crude little farm-scape is mostly ornamented with old fashioned, pass-along plants, especially those with family connections. To commemorate my Louisiana Spanish-French connection, I've planted an allé of lilac-purple crapemyrtles lining my drive. The focus the eye right in the center of white house.

I've never pruned these heirloom crapemyrtles which I propagated from the old Wheeler place down the road. They'll grow into the most beautiful shape on their own and will reveal a beautiful exfoliating bark to complement their spectacular summer flowers and gorgeous red fall foliage. Why would I ever want to top them? My grannies never did, and they knew what pretty was long before I was ever born. - Greg



2019 Calendar

The 2019 Calendar and Garden Guide is coming. This year it is all about roses. The calendar will be for sale at the September meeting so be prepared to buy one for all your friends and family. It will be the bargain price of \$7.00 again this year. Lots of volunteers have helped to make a wonderful calendar for 2019.
Sherri Matthews

AgriWorld

The AgriWorld Committee will be having a meeting on Thursday, August 2 at 1:30 pm in Room 116. AgriWorld is about a month from set up and everyone is invited to come help in "Our Secret Garden". Any questions, contact Laurie Graham. See you Aug. 2" **Laurie Graham**

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 on Saturday August 18 from 10:00am until 2:00pm.

The church address is 310 West Cumberland Road in Tyler. Dayspring is located just west of Broadway (towards Old Jacksonville Road) on the left side of the road about one half block from Broadway.

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 August 18, 2018.**
Thank you, **Monette Colman**

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 Majs, 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

SEPT. 22 VAN ZANDT FALL SEMINAR

I would like to announce that my Master Gardeners are having a Fall Seminar on Saturday, September 22nd from 9am - noon.

Guest speaker is Steve Chamblee of Chandor Gardens in Weatherford.

Location: Cross Roads Church Canton 1930 Trade Days Blvd. (Hwy. 19S), Canton, TX 75103

Cost is \$15 per person.

Please RSVP to our office (903) 567-4149

Tommy Phillips

Henderson County Master Gardener Association Hosts Neil Sperry

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 more information, please contact:

Henderson County Master Gardeners Association
903-675-6130

Email: hendersonCMGA@gmail.com

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

300 Years of Plants on the Move in Texas October 5 & 6, 2018

A SGHS State Ambassadors Program in Nacogdoches, Texas, *300 Years of Plants on the Move in Texas*, will join with SFAU Gardens and Friends of Historic Nacogdoches, Inc. to celebrate Texas' Tricentennial in gardening with tours, lectures, and a reception.

Lectures will cover a broad sweep of gardening history in Texas beginning with the Spanish era through to modern introductions. Speakers include Greg Grant, David Creech, Jeff Abt, and will feature keynote speaker, Bill Welch.

The event will be held at the prestigious, newly restored Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center.

PREPARATIONS FOR BULB SALE – OCTOBER 13, 2018

This is your alert to think of the role you might want to play during this fun day. There will be SIGN UP sheets at our August meeting. I have added a brief synopsis of each duty. This is our biggest event and we need **ALL HANDS ON DECK. You are all appreciated.**

REGISTRATION – we will need (8) people to be present at 8 AM. Registration always begins at 8:30 but there are always those who want to come early and get a choice seat. Registration will remain open until 10:30. Registration folks can sign up for another duty once registration is closed.

SALES – we will need (30) people. Even if your knowledge of bulbs is scant, Anne Pattullo will give you instructions on the bulbs you will be responsible for. She thinks 10:30 prior to our meeting September 6, will be a good time to meet for instruction.

WAGONS – If you have a wagon to loan for the day, please sign up. Hopefully you can get it to and from on your own.

TICKET WRITERS – (16) people needed. Two ticket writers work with each cashier. One ticket writer sorts the customer's purchases, the other ticket writer fills out the ticket which goes to the cashier.

TRANSPORTATION (Team Leader Harvey Collen). Harvey and his crew will report Friday, Oct 12, at 8 AM to gather bulbs, goods, supplies, etc. from MG Office and transport to Harvey

Hall. After the sale, the Transport team will also load leftovers and return to MG office. "Day of sale" these Transport people can join Security team.

SECURITY (Team Leader Wayne Elliott)

If you have never worn an orange vest before, now is your chance. Orange is in! You will observe folks who have large purchases and get a wagon to them. Once they have paid and are checked out, you will transport their goods on said wagon to front entrance, load their car and return wagon to station. You will also need to be aware of people exiting. If they have paid for goods, they will have a particular color of bag (to be determined later). If not, you will need to redirect them to the Cashier lines.

BULB MANAGEMENT (Team Leader Ann Kelley)

Bulbs and supplies will be delivered to Harvey Hall on Friday morning. Sacking and Labeling will begin then.

REFRESHMENTS

Our sale is not until October 13, but a lot of preparation and participation go into making it successful. If you would like to shoot an email to me securing your slot, send to smith-vae@aol.com. This is such a fun undertaking as well as our biggest money maker. It takes all of us to pull it off.

Thanks in advance for your participation. *Ann Smith*

For complete information on the **Specialist Training** opportunities listed below go to <https://texas.volunteersystem.org/users/index.cfm> then to Newsletters/Documents and click on "Upcoming Events" for the list of events.

While you are there, check out Photo Albums and the IDEA Garden for a series of excellent pictures taken by Cheryl Black. Some of them are displayed below.

Master Gardener Specialist Training

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

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

Registration: \$225 For more information please call 903-590-2980

Hosted by Smith County Master Gardeners Association.

Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist Training #2 - September 4 - 6, 2018

Hosted & Conducted by Bexar County – San Antonio

Registration Fee is \$200—Class space limited so register early. Deadline: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 To reserve your spot, contact Denise @ 210-631-0400 or dspez@ag.tamu.edu

