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SCMG Association Meeting
September 6th
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.

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Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980
 Fax - 903-590-2984

Wayne's Word

What does it mean when we say the "Dog Days of Summer" (DDoS)? The dog days of summer occur during the hottest and muggiest part of the season. Webster defines "dog days" as the period between early July and early September when the hot sultry weather of summer usually occurs in the northern hemisphere. Well we are in the DDoS as the temperatures remain high and the humidity is coming in off the Gulf. East Texas is still a great place to live! The good news is fall is just around the corner and I always appreciate the fall. More on the fall in next month's Grapevine.



SCMG BOD met this month and a point of discussion was the issue of counting or not counting driving time in our reported volunteer hours. We checked with the Texas Master Gardener Association to see if there is a policy that is clear. We were also interested in how other MG groups report their hours. There is no state policy and every association does it different. After careful deliberation the BOD decide to count all driving time in our reported hours. So if you drive to Overton or to our demonstration gardens you are encouraged to count your drive time in your reported hours. This way we will all be doing the same thing. You may also record the driving mileage in the VMS system. This will allow you to use this as a record for tax purposes if you itemize your deductions.

This is the busiest time of the year for SCMG as we have the East Texas State Fair and our Secret Garden exhibit. Then two weeks later we have the 20th Anniversary of our award winning "Bulbs to Blooms" event. So in September and October there are plenty of opportunities to get involved and get those precious hours. Looking forward to seeing each of you in the next two months as there is lots of work to be done.

What a Great Time to Be a Master Gardener!

Wayne Elliot, President

SCMG Meeting

The September monthly meeting will be on Thursday September 6th at 11:30 at the Rose Garden Center.



The speaker this month will be Sherri Doss, owner of Bluebonnet Worm Farm. Sherri will present "Compost Tea Making - The Organic Way to Healthier Vegetables, Flowers, Orchards, Vineyards, and Lawns". She will share her knowledge about how worm castings and compost tea can help you get better results in your garden.

Look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting. Janie Fowler

AgriWorld

AgriWorld set up starts Friday, Sept 7th at 9 a.m. in Bldg. E and all are invited! We

will all have a fun time getting ready to welcome Mr. McGregor and Peter Rabbit to "Our Secret Garden"!

Laurie Graham



What's New with Master Gardening?

As most of you know by now, reporting of ever important volunteer hours is now being done online through the Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Management System (VMS) at <https://texas.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm>

Though Texas A&M AgriLife and I prefer you enter them on-line to make our paperwork and reporting easier, those of you who still haven't mastered computers, the internet, and the technical, modern world can still be on record on paper and pass along to Jean Smith or a fellow Master Gardener who can help you with it.

I've now trained my second class, the 25th Smith County Master Gardener class and will be looking at a new class for 2019. Every extension office gets lots of folks interested in Master Gardening but very few inquiring truly know what being a Master Gardener is. Most of the uninitiated think it's a garden club on steroids where you go to learn how to keep your lawn and garden in tip-top shape. Some are disappointed to find out that it's actually an exchange program where one learns horticulture in exchange for volunteering for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension program in Smith County. In other words, the goal is to try to train each Master Gardener to be another me since there's no possible way for me to cover all the garden questions, talks, programs, trials, school gardens, etc. thrown my way.

As the County Extension Agent-Horticulture for Smith County I have very specific duties and goals assigned by my bosses at Overton and Texas A&M. These are the projects I need help with and reporting your volunteer hours justifies my time in training Master Gardeners.

I'm going to modify the training a bit in 2019 to include more information on how to man a Master Gardener help desk and hot-line like many other counties have. As you well know, there's no way to know all the answers but there is a way to find the information. Thankfully Texas A&M has an educational pamphlet on almost or about almost every question we get. Plus there are lots of places we can refer them to including the Texas A&M Disease Diagnostic Lab, the Texas A&M Soil Testing Lab, the Aggie Horticulture Website, Jerry Parsons' Plant Answers, etc.

I will also make sure each new class member is comfortable dealing with the public, giving programs, and researching answers. Still yet, I'll encourage all new interns to commit to becoming a specialist in some area. Our biggest needs are lawns, insects, diseases, trees, and school gardens. In addition to helping with our existing display gardens at the Tyler Rose Garden, we will continue to work with Dr. Masabni and Dr. Pemberton at the Overton Experiment Station. I've spent much of my life working with trials so I'll plan to start attending the work days with Dr. Pemberton where our very own Becky Wilson now works and heads up his successful bedding plant trial program.

Many thanks to all of you who make our program so successful. I certainly couldn't do it without you. -Greg



Bulbs to Blooms



We are in the process of soliciting door prize donations from area businesses for our fall bulb sale. If you have a friend or a contact who might donate, would you mind contacting them or send me a name and phone number?

If you personally have anything you would like to add/donate, please call me. Our thoughts are the more prizes the merrier for our patrons!

Thank you for all you do for SCMG. *Neysa Mueller*
903-33-1590

2019 Home Garden Tour

The 2019 Home Garden Tour is underway. The committee is actively searching for gardens. We are currently seeking a garden on the east side of town. (The Woods, Lake Tyler East, possibly Chapel Hill, or gardens in that direction) If you know of a garden that is worth consideration, please let us know. Also if you know of any other gardens that might be tour worthy please contact me, Linda Munn.

Thank you, *Linda Munn*



Help Wanted

The Bulbs to Blooms seminar and bulb sale will be on October 13, 2018 and if you have not yet signed up to help we are still in need of help with security and transportation. If you have a dolly (to transport trees) and/or wagon please advise Ann Smith smithvae@aol.com

Thanks, *Ann Smith*

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



The Board of Directors met August 17, 2018. The following action items were discussed:

Maturing CDs – The Board agreed to deposit funds from maturing CD's into the Edward Jones savings account in the short term to facilitate cash flow. Normal reinvestment procedures will resume after the Bulb Sale.

2019 Calendar – The Calendar has been sent to the printer and will be available for distribution shortly. The Board supported selling calendars at the Farmers Market.

AgriWorld and From Bulbs to Blooms – Both projects are on schedule and no issues were raised.

Lifetime Member Policy – Changes will be made to the policy to clarify that SCMG members may not self-nominate for this honor.

Volunteer Hours – The Board clarified that hours spent traveling to and from a volunteer project should be included in Volunteer Hours for that project. This does not apply to Continuing Education hours. The policy will be clarified and additional publicity will ensure that members are aware of the correct way to handle this issue.

The Texas Fruit Conference October 15th and 16th

Location: **The City of New Braunfels Civic Convention Center, 375 S. Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, Texas.**

While oriented toward small acreage and commercial production of perennial orchard crops, the Texas Fruit Conference is open to anyone who wants to know more about fruit growing in Texas. The 2018 educational program will cover a range of fruit production and marketing topics.

Early-Bird registration is set at \$65/per person for those people registering by September 15th.

Regular online registration from Sept. 16 to October 11th is \$75/person. On-site registration on Oct. 15th is \$85/person.

Conference Registration Site: <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/>

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

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 Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center.

Texas Superstar Plant Specialist Training



The Smith County Master Gardeners Association will host the Texas Superstar® State Master Gardener Plant Specialist Training September 18-20, at the Comfort Suites Hotel, 303 Rieck Rd., Tyler, Texas, 75703, (903-534-0999).

Instructors this year include Larry Stein, Jerry Parsons, Brent Pemberton, David Rodriguez, Keith Hansen, and Greg Grant. The training will cover the history of the Texas Superstar plant selection program as well as details on all designated Texas Superstar plants

The cost for the Texas Superstar® specialist training is \$225. To register (or for information) please call 903-590-2980. Registration deadline is **September 7, 2018** and spaces are limited.

First Tuesday in the Garden

Join us at Noon on the Patio in the IDEA Garden the First Tuesday in September, October, and November for our Fall Gardening series of programs. Seating is limited, so you may want to bring a lawn chair. The lectures run about 30 to 40 minutes, followed by a question and answer session.

All lectures begin at Noon Sept 4 - "Wildlife in the Winter Garden" with Greg Grant Oct. 2 - "Bulb Basics and 'Bulbs to Blooms' Preview" with Anne Pattullo Nov. 6 - "Container Gardens for Winter & Christmas" with Susan Nelson

For more events and more details - go to—<http://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>

Smith County Master Gardener Association
1517 West Front St., Suite 116
Tyler, TX 75702