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SCMG Association Luncheon
December 6, 2018
at 11:30 AM
at the Rose Garden Center

MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

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Wayne's Word

As the year draws to a close, I am left with ambivalent feelings. It has been fast and furious with little time for reflection of what's going on around us, especially with the closing of the East Texas State Fair and the great "Secret Garden" this year. Then two weeks later we were in the middle of the "Award Winning Bulb Conference and Sale". Again, SUCCESS in capital letters. How do you folks do this every year? We always see bigger and better events each year. This is due to your hard work and diligence in the performance of your duties.

As we prepare for a new slate of officers and work has already begun on the Home Garden tour, it is time for a break. The winter affords us that luxury. But do take the time to stop and smell the flowers. I know there are plenty of things blooming as the camellias are showing off this year.

Get set to enjoy the annual SCMG Christmas Luncheon with plenty of BBQ pork and the wonderful dishes you folks prepare. Looking forward to the fellowship and fun time with everyone.

In closing Thanksgiving is behind us and Christmas is approaching but there is still much to do in our East Texas gardens. Get your soil tested, add some fresh

mulch to protect plants from the unexpected drop in temperatures that will come (too late we had freezing temps at mid -month). But it still needs to happen.

It's also a time to spend with family and friends and enjoy the festivities of the season. After you have consumed the turkey, ham, cookies and pies it's a good time to head outside and get some exercise. Oh if you have some cookies or pecan pie left over, remember me.

Every SCMG'er knows that even with the hustle and bustle of the holiday season that is upon us, our gardens are resting and thriving as during this time of year as it prepares to entertain us in the spring with colors busting out all over the place. This is a special time to enjoy the garden as you walk through on a brisk day and you stir all the birds that are trying to stay out of the weather and grab a bite when the sun pops out. It is also a time for us to rest from the hurried lives we live.

Be safe out there and enjoy the holidays!

Wayne Elliott, President



SCMG Luncheon

The December luncheon takes the place of our regular monthly meeting. The deadline for letting us know if you plan to attend is here. Please contact Ann Smith, ASAP with your RSVP at (smithvae@aol.com) with number of people attending and what you intend to bring. Remember to bring serving utensils for your dessert or side dish. Pulled Pork and drinks will be provided.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the luncheon for fun, food, and fellowship.

Janie Fowler

Work days in the Gardens

The workdays in the Gardens will continue to begin at 9:00 AM each Tuesday morning.

There will be no work on December 25th or January 1st.



Annual & Monthly Reports



Each month I have to turn in monthly reports for both Texas A&M and Smith County. This means I need every contact and volunteer hour that Smith County Master Gardeners can provide. I also have to turn in and have my job evaluated with my annual *In Depth Summary Report* that you see here (below-edited). This documentation and evaluation is why the Master Gardener program is so important to

Texas A&M AgriLife.

Please do your best to help me with this by reporting your hours and contacts each month through VMS. I would very much like to have a Smith County Master Gardener assist me in gathering these numbers and contacts each month as well. We also need to do an annual report on the amount of donations (including in-kind) that we receive as Texas A&M looks favorably on this support. Many thanks for all your hard work. I certainly couldn't do it without you. *-Greg*

2018 Smith County Master Gardeners, In Depth Summary

Greg Grant, CEA-Horticulture, Smith County

Relevance: The population of Smith County continues to increase yearly, with an influx of newly retired residents and new businesses, and is currently at 209,714 (US Census Data 2010). The Smith County Master Gardener Program is a source of volunteers who provide volunteer assistance in conducting horticultural related programs. Master Gardeners, as well as other Extension volunteers, must be adequately trained and provided motivation and ongoing support for the volunteer effort to realize optimal effectiveness. The nursery industry is the number one agricultural commodity in Smith County with a rich heritage of rose, bedding plant, tree, and shrub production along with produce, and other horticultural related businesses.

Response: Adult volunteers were trained in horticulture and environmentally-related subject matter to increase their knowledge of horticulture with science-based information for their personal and to develop a corp of volunteers who assist the horticulture agent in planning, implementing, and evaluating horticultural programs in Smith County. The goal is to train 15-20 new volunteers each year while maintaining the certification of the over 150 active volunteers currently in the program in providing research-based horticultural programming to the clientele of Smith County. There were 21 people in the 2018 class.

- Smith County Master Gardeners Association meetings (monthly, January-December)
 - Smith County Master Gardeners Association newsletter (monthly, January-December)
 - Garden columns in the Tyler Morning News (weekly, January-December)
 - Master Gardener course (once a week January through April 2018) over 70 hours course work
 - Home Garden Tour (June 2, 2018)
 - First Tuesday in the Garden Lecture (spring and fall)
 - Work day in the garden (each Tuesday, weekly)
 - Master Gardeners at the Library (summer months)
 - AgriWorld Secret Garden (September 24-September 28, 2018)
 - Bulbs and More Conference and Sale-442 in attendance, netting \$15,665 (October 13, 2018)
 - Facebook page (3292 followers)
 - Published 2018 Spring Garden calendar
 - Christmas luncheon for SCMGA members, extension staff, commissioners, and judge (December 6, 2018)
 - Master Gardener orientation meeting (November 29, 2018))
- Overview of the Smith County Master Gardener program:**

- 11,228.31 hours of volunteer time (through October), multiplied by \$24.64 (2017 Independent Sector Value of Volunteers in Texas) = \$276,665.56.
- As of October, 296,790 reached through Facebook
- As of October, 1941.75 Continuing Educational Hours

Awards from the 2018 Texas State Master Gardener Conference: 1st place Education (Master Gardeners at the Library), 1st place Project (From Bulbs to Blooms conference and sale, 3rd place Association (Smith County), 3rd place Research (Overton-Masabni vegetable trials).

The Smith County Environmental Horticulture Committee and the Smith County Master Gardeners Association Executive Board determined that the fall conference, the home garden tour, First Tuesday in the garden, a garden calendar, and the Master Gardeners at the Library be conducted to enhance homeowners' knowledge on the benefits of efficient ways to landscape and maintain property with efficient watering techniques to help conserve water, decrease the amounts of pesticides being applied, proper soil fertility programs, and Earth-Kind principles.

Total Economic Impact for the 2018 SCMG Volunteer Hours, SCMG Training Class, and the SCMG fall conference educational programs can be positively determined to be **\$305,542.56** as a direct result of these educational programs and volunteer time.



Shade Garden News

The Shade Garden is the beautiful and tranquil pathway that connects our Heritage and IDEA gardens. There are 18 unique beds in the Shade Garden containing a variety of camellias, Japanese maples, azaleas, and other shade loving woody plants. A trail of blue bird houses are homes to our feathered friends. Benches scattered along the paths provide a peaceful resting spot for the visitors to our gardens. A continuous flowing fountain stands as a focal point that is relaxing in its sight and sound.



Sasanquas and Encore azaleas are in bloom, and the leaves are turning color on the maples and other deciduous trees in the garden. Camellia japonicas are loaded up with buds, and over the next few months will transform the Shade Garden into a showcase of color. Former Smith County horticulturist, Keith Hansen, has committed to assist the effort to improve the Shade Garden. Heather Stephens is working to clean out and label all the bluebird nest boxes. A small group of volunteers has developed a process for drawing scale drawings of the beds. With the help of our Saturday crew, the plants have been identified in 2 of the beds and maps have been created. Volunteers have signed up as leaders for 8 of the beds and have begun the process to beautify them in preparation for adding new and interesting plants.

It's the perfect time for additional volunteers to bring more TLC to the beds, enjoy the peace and tranquility there, and to help transition Greg Grant's vision for our demonstration garden to reality. We'll be working in the Shade Garden on **Wednesdays from 9am to 11am**. Katy Barone will lead a weekend crew working on the **1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 8am to 11am**

Send email or call us if you are interested in becoming a lead for one of the beds, or if you can volunteer to occasionally join us in the Shade Garden.

We are eager to hear from all of you! **Steve Farrell**

Contact: Steve Farrell - steve-farrell@sbcglobal.net - Phone: 512-354-6870

Katy Barone - katybarone@suddenlink.net - Phone: 903-504-9165



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

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

- ◆ Treasurer's Report – SCMG continues to have substantial cash reserves with both the Bulb Sale and 2019 Calendar sales being contributing factors.
- ◆ 2019 Master Gardeners at the Library Series – This series of lectures is set and will begin on January 18.
- ◆ Installation of 2019 Officers – New officers will be installed at the January meeting. Incoming officers will be invited to attend the December 21 Board Meeting.
- ◆ TMGA Awards – Awards for Association, Master Gardener of the Year, Education, Project and Research need to be submitted by January 30, 2019.

New "Master Gardeners at the Library" Series to Begin January 18, 2019

SCMG is once again partnering with the Tyler Public Library to offer their award winning lecture series, "Master Gardeners at the Library." The series will begin on Friday, January 18, 2019 at 11:30 am in the Library's Taylor Auditorium, 201 S. College Ave., Tyler. Free overflow parking is available in the Fair Plaza parking garage across the street from the Library. Speakers, topics and dates for 2019 include:

January 18, "Crape Myrtles - The Lilac of the South" with Keith Hansen, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent Emeritus

February 15, "Basics of Hobby Greenhouses" with Debby Watkins, Smith County Master Gardener Greenhouse Specialist

March 15, "Trialed and Trusted Plants, Distinctly Southern" with Laura Campbell, spokesperson for the Southern Living Plant Collection

April 12, "Supercharge Your Garden with Texas Superstar Plants" with Smith County Master Gardener Texas Superstar Specialists

May 17, "Home Landscaping: Right Plant, Right Place" with Greg Grant, AgriLife Horticulture Extension Agent for Smith County



2019 TMGA Conference—Victoria—April 25-27, 2019

The Victoria County Master Gardener Association is very proud to host the April 25-27 event at Victoria Community Center, 2905 E. North St., Victoria, TX 77901.

Registration available from **December 1 - February 28** - \$175 with late registration **March 1 - April 1** - \$200

Note: Registration closes April 1. If registering after March 1, merchandise will not be available.

For more info. go to: <http://2019tmgaconference.com/>

In the months to come we will present details on speakers, workshops, tours, registration and our Victoria Crossroads area community. So, feel free to visit here again and again as we reveal our very exciting plans.

Advanced Master Gardener Training

The name of the Master Gardener Specialist Program has been changed. This is to clarify that we are not experts in a field but have received additional training in a specific subject. The new name is **Advanced Master Gardener Training Program**.

Those MG's seeking advanced training opportunities should visit <https://txmg.org/master-gardener-training>.

SFA Lecture

The monthly Theresa and Les Reeves Lecture Series is at the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. There's a social at 6:30 PM. The lecture is at 7 PM.

Dec 13 - Mark Weathington, JCR Arboretum, Raleigh, NC. "Beyond Tire Planters, Gardening in the South."



Japanese Maples in the Shade Garden

Go to <https://txmg.org/smith/photo-galleries/japanese-maples/> to see more pictures which were taken in 2008 by Keith Hansen.

