



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

February 2019

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Inside This Issue

MG Help Desk	2
February Assoc. Meeting	2
Shade Garden News	2
Van Zandt Co. Seminar	2
Pat Welch memory	3
Board of Directors Notes	3
MG Class Schedule	3
Home Garden Tour	3
Private Garden Tour	3
Events Scheduled	4



SCMG Association Meeting
February 7, 2019
at 11:30 AM
at the Rose Garden Center

MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

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President's Message

Here we are in the second month of 2019. It's hard to believe and sometimes hard to keep up with all the things involved in making the Smith County Master Gardener Association so successful.

The success of the association comes from great leadership and an awesome membership.

A new class of trainees, under the leadership of Greg Grant, is well underway for this year. We are looking forward to the new group of trainees becoming interns in April and upon completion of their required hours, becoming Master Gardeners. This years interns are in the process of completing all their requirements to be certified MG's at the April Awards Luncheon. This years luncheon will be WEDNESDAY APRIL 3rd.

We have lots of ground to cover in 2019. Just a reminder, certified Master Gardeners are required to have 24 Volunteer Hours and 9 CE'S in 2019. Interns certified as Master Gardeners in April 2019 will be required, an additional 18 Volunteer Hours and 6 CE's thru December 2019.

For those members who are physically able, the gardens are always available to obtain volunteer hours. The IDEA, Heritage, and Sunshine workdays are still on Tuesday, the Shade Garden workdays are on Wednesday to serve those members unable to work on Tuesday in the other two gardens. The Shade Garden also has workdays on Saturday. The dates and times for the workdays are listed on the monthly newsletter calendar or for updates check the SCMG Weekly Blast. Also available are less physically intense activities, such as Home Garden Tour, AgriWorld, From Bulbs to Blooms, Calendar Committee, Education Exhibits, and Extension Office/Help Desk.

The Office/Help Desk is undergoing a few changes at this time. The SCMG is updating

the computer system currently in place in the office. A new computer is on order and should be available soon, for those members that chose to obtain their hours at the Office/Help Desk.

Susan Stone is our new Office/Help Desk Coordinator. She is planning to staff the MG office with veteran members of the association to better serve and educate the public. The one requirement, for those members working the help desk, is they will have to be trained on the new equipment and procedures for working in the office. Greg is planning a training session on February 13 to accommodate all interested members. This is a great opportunity for those members that have shared with myself and others that they are no longer able to work the gardens or participate in other activities.

At this time, I would like to thank all those members who have worked so diligently in reporting their hours for 2018. I know the switch over to reporting in VMS has been a challenge for many of us. If for some reason, you are still having issues with getting into the VMS system, please come to the February 7th monthly meeting. Jean Smith is willing to work with those members that have not entered their hours. All she asks, is that you bring a list of volunteer hours and CE's and she will help you get them in the system. We are here to help those members having difficulty reporting hours in VMS. It is not our intent to remove those from our membership, unless those members jeopardize their member in good standing status. According to the Bylaws: "To maintain good standing, each member must have paid the dues for the current year and further, members of SCMG must maintain their certification as Texas Master Gardeners by performing the Volunteer Hours and CE's required by the Smith County Master Gardener Association."

Let's all work together as an association, to educate our community and surrounding area on the one thing we like best, GARDENING!!
Janie Fowler - President



\$20 dues will be collected at the February SCMG meeting, so please bring cash or check. Members must be in good standing with hours and CE's.



Master Gardener Help Desk

We have something new brewing with our Smith County Master Gardeners and our Smith County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office. Like most urban counties that have Master Garden programs we are planning to have an active Master Gardener Help Desk in the Master Gardener office. If you haven't visited our office and classroom lately

you should, as we are actively tidying up and reorganizing for a more pleasant and aesthetic educational experience. We have new paint, carpet, and ceiling in our classroom with a new horticulture bulletin board there. We also have a new Master Gardener store room and have cleaned out the Extension office store room in the back (four dumpsters full) where we only store our bulb sale supplies now.

Thanks to the untiring help of Lorrie Gazette, Laurie Graham, and Teresa McBrayer my new office (in the back where Patrice Dunnigan used to be) was even cleaned up. OK, I admit it's a bit messy again so I better get it looking nice again before they return. And just in case you are wondering, I didn't secure Patrice's former office because it was the largest. I asked for it because it has the most windows for my plants, was closest to the store room with our supplies, and was next to my "dumpster garden" and "guerilla garden" along the sidewalk.

Since horticulture is the number one hobby in the country, we naturally get more questions from the public than anybody else in the office. And since I field about 100 questions a week via two e-mails, two phones, Facebook, and walk-ins, I never get caught up. I'm also out of the

office some and tied up with Master Gardener classes, workdays, education events, committee meetings, etc., which means those questions don't get attention. There's always a back log and folks are never happy waiting for help.

So our plan is to staff a Master Gardener help desk at designated times on certain days of the week with an experienced gardener or veteran Master Gardener to help me with questions from the public. These days there are as many e-mail questions as phone questions. Although we'll still have interns train at the Help Desk, we certainly won't be using them to man the help desk because they are just learning about advanced gardening and the Extension way. The Help Desk will be an excellent opportunity for those mature, aging, or infirm Master Gardeners who are no longer able to manage workdays and other events to get their volunteer hours.

Please do not worry about not knowing all of the answers as I don't even know all of the answers. The majority of the questions are the same each year and with answers already provided in Extension publications that can be e-mailed, snail mailed, or copied and handed to them. Many of the folks just want to talk a bit or have somebody listen to their issue. About a quarter of them need referral to another agency, office, or business. Many of them are names and phone numbers or e-mails that need follow up.

Former SCMGA president Susan Stone will be heading up this effort as "Help Desk Coordinator." I will provide a training Wednesday February 13. Susan will provide more information at the next SCMGA meeting. We hope to start the help desk on March 4. Please help us out if you can. It's a good way to learn, teach, and get your hours too. -Greg

February Association Meeting

The February monthly meeting will be on Thursday, February 7, at the Rose Garden Center at 11:30 AM.

Our speaker this month will be Mark Tietz with Wildscapes LLC, a local award winning, non-traditional outdoor management company. The topic of his presentation will be "From Trees to Bees: Managing Wildscapes in East Texas." You can peruse his website at www.nativewildscapes.com to get a taste of the breathtaking scope of his passion for enriching people's lives by integrating aesthetics with ecology.

Debby Watkins

Shade Garden news

The spectacular show from our 28 Camellia sasanquas is almost over. Our 80 Camellia japonicas are loaded with buds. Some are already in bloom, and hopefully the recent freeze will not affect them. Since last October we added more than 30 new plants to many of the beds in the Shade Garden. If the weather cooperates, we expect to introduce more new plants beginning from the end of February.

Volunteers are welcome to join us on Wednesdays from 9am to 11am. The weekend crew will work from 8am to 11am on February 2nd and February 16th.

Steve Farrell

Van Zandt County Master Gardeners Schedule Greg Grant to Speak

The Free State Master Gardener Association is excited to announce that East Texas native, Greg Grant, Smith County AgriLife Agent-Horticulture will speak at their spring seminar Tuesday evening, March 5th.

The event is open to the public and will start at 6:00 p.m. at the Silver Spur Resort, 13785 TX-19, Canton, 75103 (located a short distance north of I-20 on Highway 19). Reservations are required by calling the Van Zandt County Extension Office at 903-567-4149 no later than February 28. A fee of \$20 will be charged and seating is limited.



Pat Welch passed away January 7

For those who don't see Facebook, the following is copied from there:

It is with great sadness that we report the death of SCMG member Pat Welch after a courageous battle with cancer. Pat transferred to the SCMG from Wisconsin and quickly became an active participant in the group's activities. Pat was the Treasurer of the group for several years and served as President of the organization in 2015. She was also instrumental in organizing the Spring Home Garden Tour, the Fall Conference and Bulb Sale, the group's participation in the Tyler Flower market and the Jewels in the Garden Conference in 2015.

We will remember Pat for her tireless energy, her organization and her humor.

**A memorial service for Pat Welch will be held February 23. 4:00-7:00 PM.
4575 County Road 1120, Tyler TX 75704**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

The Board of Directors met January 17, 2019. The following action items were discussed:

- A Help/Desk and office is being created to help clients (phone and walk in) It will be manned by trained MG's 2 days a week. The board approved \$500 for a new computer and software to use in this endeavor.
- Home Garden Tour will be Saturday, May 18 from 9:00-3:00. 5 gardens have been secured for the event. Linda Munn will call a meeting in February for volunteers to fill specific jobs.
- Background checks for most MG's are out of date. This is required by the state of Texas as well as Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Forms will be distributed to all members at the February meeting. The cost is covered by SCMG. Classes 23, 24, and 25 are still in compliance.
- \$100 donation to the Bullard Library in memory of Pat Welch was approved by the board.
- Greg requested a new TV monitor for the classroom. The board approved the \$750 request.



Smith County MG Class Schedule 2019

Class dates listed in **red bold**, will be held at the Research & Extension Center in Overton 1710 N. FM 3053, Overton, TX. 75684

Other classes will be held at the Extension Office 1517 W Front Street, Suite 116, Tyler, TX 75702, phone number is (903) 590-2980.

February 7 - 8am - 4pm: Overton East TX Turfgrass Conference, multiple speakers. \$35.

February 14 - 1pm - 5pm: Overton Intro to Entomology (Erfan Vafaie, Extension Program Specialist, IPM).

February 21- 1pm - 5pm: Overton Vegetables & Herbs (Dr. Joe Masabni - Extension Vegetable Specialist).

February 28 - 9am - 4pm: Trees /Fruit Production (Daniel Duncum). Extension office.

March 7 - 9am - 4pm: Year-Round Bulbs, Perennials. Extension office.

March 14: Smith County Master Gardeners Association volunteer opportunities and instructions.

March 21- 9pm - 4pm: (*Field trip-Car pool*) Tyler Rose Garden, Blue Moon Gardens, Rozell Sprayers, and Breedlove Nursery- Edom and Tyler.

March 28 - 10am - 3pm: (*Field trip-Car pool*) Tour SFA Gardens, Nacogdoches.

April 3 - 11:30am - 1:30pm: Awards/Intern Luncheon. Tyler Rose Center.



2019 HOME GARDEN TOUR!

Our tour gardens have been selected and the tour date is Saturday, May 18th from 9:00-3:00pm. A signup meeting for the MGs will be held at the Extension Office in room 116 on February 13th at 1:15 to establish jobs and volunteers needed for a successful tour. Volunteer sign up sheets will be presented at the SCMG monthly meeting in March, April and May. The HGT committee has some new and fresh ideas for the tour this year so come and be a part of it. See you there! HGT Committee **Linda Munn**

Private Garden Tour

Tuesday March 26, 2019—9AM—12PM
An exclusive private tour of Guy & Joan Pyron's garden located in the Azalea District, led by Greg Grant and Keith Hansen. Cost \$15—Limited to 30 people with pre-registration required. Call AgriLife Extension Office at 903-590-2980.

2019 Annual East Texas Turfgrass Conference

For Homeowners, Master Gardeners and Lawn Care Professionals

Thursday, February 7 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Overton.

Registration Fee—\$35.00 per person—8AM—4PM

2019 MASTER GARDENERS AT THE LIBRARY

February 15, "Basics of Hobby Greenhouses" - Think you want a Greenhouse? Helpful Hints and tips to help you decide, with Debby Watkins, Smith County Master Gardener Greenhouse Specialist

March 15, "Tried and Trusted Plants, Distinctly Southern" - Plants to help your garden look like the pages of Southern Living Magazine, with Laura Campbell, spokesperson for the Southern Living Plant Collection

SFA Lecture Series

The 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.

FEB 14 2019 Linda Gay, ArborGate, Tomball, TX. "Climbers, Twisters and Viners - Using Vertical Space".

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/>

The Landscape Design School Series XXVI, Course II

February 25 @ 8:00 AM - February 26 @ 5:00 PM—Cost \$165.00

This school is open to anyone wishing to add to their knowledge of landscape design. Master Gardeners who complete a course may apply for 12 hours of credit to their requirements for continuing education in their county. After completing four courses, they will receive the Landscape Design Steward certification.

Register by February 2, 2019 and receive the discounted price of \$145.00

Go to <https://txmg.org/events/landscape-design-school-series-xxvi-course-ii> for more information.

2019 International MG Conference

Penn's Woods: Digging into our Roots June 17-21, 2019

Valley Forge Casino Resort, Valley Forge, PA

Half and full day tours to area public gardens

Website: <http://www.internationalmastergardener.com/>

Registration: <http://www.cvent.com/d/hgqxlp> (now open)