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SCMG Association Luncheon
April 3, 2019
at 11:30 AM
at the Rose Garden Center

MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

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Spring is Here! What an exciting time of year for gardeners, especially Master Gardeners.

This morning as I walked through my own garden, I observed new growth on plants that just last week appeared to have not survived winter. The same is true with our demonstration gardens, as each week we discover plants coming back to life.

Plants are not the only thing happening in the demonstration gardens. Master Gardeners are anxiously awaiting a new irrigation system for the IDEA Garden, a Dry Creek Bed is being added to the Shade Garden, and the Heritage Garden is getting a new look with authentic heritage plants. We are so fortunate to be under the leadership of enthusiastic garden coordinators.

If you are unsure of which plants will do well in our area, do not miss the next lecture at the library on Texas Superstar Plants presented by SCMG Superstar Specialists on April 12th. Other opportunities to see what grows well in our area is a visit to the Pryon Garden. We will have "Gardeners in the Garden" at the Pryon Garden each weekend during the Azalea Trail.

Other events coming in April include the Rose City Artisan and Flower Market at the Goodman Museum on April 19th and 20th. The Texas Master Gardener Association Conference will be hosted in Victoria, April 25th-27th.



The Office/Help Desk can use trained volunteers anytime, just contact Susan Stone to get on the schedule. The Home Garden Tour coordinators are still looking for volunteers to help with the Garden Tour on May 18th.

On Wednesday, April 3rd is the Awards Luncheon at the Rose Garden Center at 11:30. It is a great opportunity to welcome the Class 26 new trainees who will officially become Interns and to congratulate our Class 25 Interns as they become Master Gardeners.

In preparation for our Interns in the coming year, there were some changes made to the Mentor Program. Thanks goes out to Debby Watkins for revising the Mentor Program and to Ann Smith, the Volunteer coordinator for her vital input into this program.

Also, thank you Tommie Grinnell and Heather Stephens for stepping up as coordinators for the Mentor Program and conducting the Mentor Training Class. The mentors met their mentees on March 14th at the first annual New Class Training.

A big THANK YOU to Debby Watkins for the endless hours, coordinating the "New Class Training Day" and also for an outstanding job as the facilitator. Also, thank you to all the coordinators for a job well done, in sharing information about each individual project with the class.

Look forward to seeing all of you at the April Luncheon!

Janie Fowler President

Don't forget about the upcoming April Luncheon!

Remember that, due to room conflicts, it is on WEDNESDAY, April 3, 2019, not our customary Thursday, at 11:30 AM at the Rose Garden Center. If you have not given an RSVP to Ann Smith yet, please do so ASAP so we know how many tables to set up. The Luncheon is a wonderful time of good food, comradery and a recognition of our members' accomplishments. Our Interns will become certified Master Gardeners and our New Class trainees will graduate, receive their name badges, and become Interns. Recognition will be given to those who have volunteered to be mentors for the new Interns. Additionally, Awards will be given to deserving members and some others outside the association in both fun and serious categories. Be sure to come and join us! *Debby Watkins*

What Being a Master Gardener Means



I'm not sure if all of you know it or not, but I was once a Nacogdoches County Master Gardener myself. I'm pretty sure I'm the only Texas A&M AgriLife horticulturist to ever take the program and teach a part of the program at the same time.

Each year the question comes up: "What is a Master Gardener and what do I have to do to be one?" Because of the title, there is a perception beyond the program that Master Gardeners are simply highly trained and skilled gardeners. That may be true, but as you know, being a Texas Master Gardener program is much more. It's first and foremost a volunteer program designed to support the outreach of Texas A&M AgriLife.

I'm not sure the Texas Master Gardener program has a mission statement, but I do know that the objectives of the Master Gardener program include: expanding the capabilities of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to disseminate horticultural information to individuals and groups in the community. And the mission of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is to provide quality, relevant outreach and continuing educational programs and services to the people of Texas.

So as you see, a Texas Master Gardener's role is to educate and share information, not just to garden. Many of my friends are gardeners, some of them full-time, outstanding gardeners that certainly don't have the time to be a Master

Gardener. I also know many Texas Master Gardeners, including many excellent gardeners. But they, like I do, have to separate their interest, personal goals, and activities in their own home gardens with the job of being a Texas Master Gardener. Like it or not, the Texas Master Gardener program is a team sport. That means putting the goals of the team ahead of our own.

Our job is to teach as many people as possible the proven joys, beauty, and health of gardening. This means putting in at least the minimum volunteer hours required to be a Smith County Master Gardener. Remember, just paying dues doesn't make you a Master Gardener. And of course the entire program wouldn't exist if you didn't document and enter your hours into VMS. Without those numbers, Texas A&M can't justify the program or my support to it.

In class recently, the question came up as to why I wasn't recommending apricots since one of the attendees had some success with them. Never, ever, forgot that our mission as Smith County Master Gardeners is to each others the researched based rules of gardening, not the exceptions. We deal with the masses so we have to teach them concrete methods that the majority can be successful with.

So keep up the good work and keeping adding to your knowledge base so you can help others. Every chance you get, peruse the aggie horticulture website. And if you aren't subscribed to Neil Sperry's e-garden newsletter, please do so. Neil is a good friend and first started as an extension specialist. Also read my articles in the Tyler paper, in *Texas Gardener* magazine, and on my Greg's Ramblings blog. Follow me at "Greg Grant" gardens on Facebook if you can, too. A million thanks for all you do. -Greg Grant

The Help Desk Needs Help



The Help Desk is fully staffed for March, but April is fast approaching. Please consider working a 3-hour shift in April. If you've been trained, just sign up.

If you need training, Wednesdays are available or other times can be arranged.

Official Help Desk hours are currently Mondays and Fridays, 9 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 4 pm. For more information, call or email Susan Stone, or send an

email to SmithmgHelpDesk@gmail.com. Susan Stone

New e-mail address

Mary Claire Rowe - maryclairerowe@gmail.com

New Address

Kathy Moore — 715 Cambridge Bend Cir., Tyler 75703,
Phone 903-630-1865.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

The Board of Directors met March 15, 2019.

The Home Garden Tour planning is going great. There are some changes and I think they are exciting.

Please enter your hours worked into VMS, the board is spending too much time on this subject. If you are limited physically we have lots of things for you to do to earn hours.

The irrigation project in the IDEA Garden is in coordination phase, the Heritage Garden continues to see changes everyday, and the Shade Garden is receiving a new rock drainage ditch to improve drainage and the looks in the Shade Garden. Looking forward to seeing you at the gardens or on the Home Garden Tour. Be safe out there and remember to drink lots of water.



Wayne Elliot



Looking Ahead...

SFA Garden Gala Day Plant Sale

April 6th—9:00 AM—2:00 PM—Stephen F. Austin State University's SFA Gardens will host its annual Garden Gala Day Plant Sale at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St., in historic Nacogdoches.

Cherokee Co. Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale

April 13th—8:00 AM—2:00 PM—Hosted by the Cherokee Co. MG Association. At Ruth B. Nichols Arboretum, behind the Forestry Service, 1015 SE Loop 456 Jacksonville, TX.

Plant Sale & Art Show at the Arboretum

April 20th—8:00 AM—3:00 PM—Hosted by Athens Community Connection. At the East Texas Arboretum and Botanical Society, 1601 Patterson Rd., Athens, TX

Green Thumb Jamboree

April 27th—9:00 AM—3:00 PM—Annual plant sale, hosted by the Piney Hills Louisiana Master Gardeners. At the Webster Parish Extension Office, 1202 Homer Rd., Minden, LA.

2019 Plant Sale

April 27th—9:00 AM—2:00 PM—Hosted by the Henderson Co. Master Gardeners. At the **Senior Citizen Center**, 3344 State Hwy 31 E, Athens, Texas next to the Fairgrounds.

2019 HOME GARDEN TOUR!

Our tour gardens have been selected and the tour date is Saturday, May 18th from 9:00-3:00pm.

The Garden Home Tour is coming along nicely. A big thanks to those who have already volunteered to help. Our new interns are also signed up. We still need some volunteers for gardens 3,4 and 5, so please look over the list at the April meeting and volunteer to help make this a successful home tour. Thank you!

To view the list of homes on the tour go to <https://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>.

Thank you, *Linda Munn/Dixie Smith*



2019-2020 Membership Directory



MG Membership Directory

The new 2019-2020 directory will be available at the MG Luncheon on April 3rd. Each MG should pick up a copy. Please check your info and report anything that you find incorrect to Martin Davis at mred2853@sbcglobal.net.

For the first time, the directory is also available on the SCMG website at <https://txmg.org/smith/members-only-page/>.

Martin Davis

2019 MASTER GARDENERS AT THE LIBRARY

April 12, "Supercharge Your Garden with Texas Superstar Plants" - Strong and stunning plants for Texas, with Smith County Master Gardener Texas Superstar Specialists

May 17, "Home Landscaping: Right Plant, Right Place" - Greg's 5 basic principles of landscape design, including do's and don'ts, with Greg Grant, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent for Smith County.



ROSE CITY ARTISANS AND FLOWER MARKET will be held Friday, April 19 10AM-7PM and Saturday, April 20 10AM-4PM on the Goodman Museum grounds. SCMG will have an education display and needs volunteers to man the tables. Please be aware this is Easter weekend so check your calendar before signing up, but any help is appreciated. If you know when you would like to work please email Jean Smith, smithjean17@hotmail.com with day and time. Shifts will be 10-1, 1-4, 4-7.

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.

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/>



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)