



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

May 2019

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

Vol. XXVI No. 5



Inside This Issue

Turfgrass 101	2
Help in Office	2
Board of Directors Notes	2
Meeting Notes	3
Background Checks	3
From Bulbs to Bloom	3
2020 Calendar	3
Help Desk Live	3
Home Garden Tour	4
Shade Garden Update	4
International Conference	4



SCMG Association Luncheon
May 2, 2019
at 11:30 AM
at the Rose Garden Center

MG Grapevine Staff
 Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Greg Grant, Wayne Elliott, Steve Farrell, Janie Fowler, Teresa McBrayer, Linda Munn, Dixie Smith, Susan Stone, Brenda Strong and Debby Watkins.

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

Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980

Fax - 903-590-2984

First of all, I would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU" to Martin Davis for the great job he did on our 2019 - 2020 Membership Directory. It is certainly not an easy job coordinating with all the individuals involved in gathering information and then, delivering the directory to the printer in a timely manner as to have it available at the April Luncheon. For those members unable to attend the luncheon, directories are available at the Extension Office



Another "thank you" goes out to Debby Watkins and her committee for another successful luncheon. The room was set up for a crowd and the members did not disappoint. The tables were decorated in brilliant spring colors with beautiful centerpieces throughout the room.

Congratulations to Class 26 graduating to be Interns, Class 25 as they step up as Certified Master Gardeners, all of our award winning members for 2018, and our Lifetime Members.

The 2020 Calendar committee met in mid April to start planning for next year. The initial meeting was well attended by both master gardeners and interns. For

those interns not in attendance, contact Sherri Matthews to select a topic for your calendar article or attend the next meeting on May 14th. We look forward to another successful calendar under the leadership of Sherri Matthews and edited and designed by Scherel Carver. Thanks to both of you!

According to the leadership of Linda Munn and Dixie Smith, The Home Garden Tour committee is putting the final touches on plans for the May 18th tour. There will be a pre-tour of each home for those working the day of the Home Garden Tour. This will allow all the volunteers a chance to view each of the beautiful gardens.

Just a reminder, the last lecture for "2019 Master Gardeners at the Library" is on May 17th. Greg Grant will present a program on "Home Landscaping: Right Plant, Right Place". The library series have all been well attended this year with Susan Stone as our Speakers Bureau chairman. Susan has done a outstanding job in her leadership position. Thank You, Susan!

Look forward to seeing everyone at the next monthly meeting on Thursday, May 2nd.

Janie Fowler President

Library Lecture Series

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.

Please enter your Volunteer Hours and Continuing Education Hours (CE's) in VMS. All Volunteer hours and CE's are required to be entered monthly and MUST be completed by December 31, 2019. (Class 26 has until April 2020). It is your responsibility to 1) do the hours and 2) to enter the hours into VMS. At the end of each year the Board of Directors will review your entries for Volunteer Hours and CE's. The Board must follow both Texas MG Association and SCMG policies regarding Volunteer Hours, CE's and entry into VMS. Greg needs hours entered by the end of the month so TAMU can continue to justify the need for a Horticulture Agent in Smith County. We appreciate your commitment to supporting SCMG by remaining current with this important Master Gardener duty.

Turfgrass 101 for East Texas:



A. Types of grass available:

1. St. Augustine (Coarse texture, shade or sun, vegetative only, prone to chinch bugs, brown patch, take-all-root-rot, and grubs, medium fertility, high mowing height)
2. Bermudagrass (Fine texture, sun only, vegetative or seed, high fertility, low mowing height)
3. Centipede grass (Medium texture, sun or part shade, vegetative or difficult seed, low fertility, medium mowing height)
4. Zoysia (Fine texture, sun or part shade, vegetative only, medium fertility, medium mowing height with a sharp mower, slow growing, more expensive)
5. Perennial ryegrass (Fine texture, sun or part shade, seed only, low mowing height, cool season annual for winter overseeding only, expensive)
6. Annual ryegrass (Coarse texture, sun or part shade, seed only, high mowing height, cool season annual for winter overseeding or erosion control, cheap)

B. Mow frequently, never removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade.

C. Use 3:1:2 ratio fertilizer such as 15-5-10, 18-6-12, 21-7-14 or similar (premium lawn fertilizers are better but more expensive as they contain slow release forms of nitrogen). Do not use "weed and feed."

D. Fertilizer rates:

- Centipede (fertilize once per year in spring)
- St. Augustine and zoysia (fertilize twice per year in spring and fall)
- Bermuda (fertilize three times per year in spring, summer, and fall)

E. Mowing heights:

- Bermuda (low, 1 inch for hybrid, 2 inches for common)
- Centipede and zoysia (medium, 2-3 inches)
- St. Augustine (high, 3-4 inches)

F. Irrigation:

Most lawns are watered too frequently leading to increased diseases like brown patch, dollar spot, and gray leaf spot. Sprinkler systems are best kept on manual and run once each week (1 inch at a time, less rainfall) during the months of June, July, and August. That's only 12 times a year total. Sprinklers should not run during the fall, winter, or spring.

-Greg Grant

Help in the Office

This time of year runs me ragged, so naturally we could use more help at the Smith County Master Help Desk in the office. Please see Susan Stone about volunteering. We will be having another training soon.

Helping others is a great way to learn how to help your own lawns and landscapes. We get more questions on turfgrass problems in the office than any other subject, so here are a few basics to get you started. We also have extension publications on each lawn problem available at aggieturf.tamu.edu.

Always remember that your goal as a Smith County Master Gardener is to be another Smith County Agent in horticulture. Happy spring! *-Greg*

Board of Directors Notes

The big news for the month is the Home Garden Tour. If you have not signed up, please do so as you do not want to miss this activity. If you have not seen the Shade Garden with its new drain bed to control erosion you need to check it out. The irrigation system repairs in the IDEA Garden have been completed and it came in under budget. The first meeting for the Bulbs to Blooms Conference and Sale is scheduled for May 7. Your participation is needed. Also want to welcome the new class of interns and encourage you to get acquainted with them. It is a good class.

Wayne Elliott



Monthly meeting notes



The May monthly meeting will be on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the Rose Garden Center at 11:30 AM. Continuing in the vein of Wildscaping, our speaker this month will be Bobby Eatherton. Bobby will be giving an informational presentation entitled “Bees Among Thee.” Bobby will be talking about how we can keep bees in our backyards. Bobby comes highly recommended by our Agricultural Agent, Clint Perkins. He is from Wood County and teaches about bees to the Wood County Master Gardener classes. Bobby is very modest, as when asked to give a little background information on himself, he replied, “Gee...I am not one to say much about myself...but I actively served as a Master Naturalist for a number of years, have worked with numerous organizations about honeybees, kept bees for about 15 years or so, and play with my 18 dogs everyday...” He is a fascinating individual and I know you will enjoy listening to him. *Debby Watkins*

Background Checks

Texas AgriLife Extension and TMGA require that Master Gardeners, regardless of what they do, receive a background check every three years. Our association has been remiss of that requirement and we need to bring all members current. Thus, all members in Classes 1-23 and transfers must complete a background check form so a background check can be performed. Most of you have complied with that, but there are still members that have not. Forms are available at the meetings and on Tuesdays in the Heritage Rose Garden, both occasions from Debby Watkins, and in the extension office from the secretary Tina. Forms obtained at the meetings and in the gardens are to be returned to Debby Watkins. If you obtain a form at the extension office from Tina, it may be returned to Debby. If you leave it at the office, please place it in a sealed envelope with Debby Watkins’ name on it and leave it with Tina or place it in the vice-president’s mailbox in the master gardener office. Any questions, contact *Debby Watkins* at debbyjwatkins@gmail.com.

From Bulbs to Bloom

It’s mid or late spring – hard to tell in Texas! Now’s the time for our initial meeting for the 2019 award winning “From Bulbs to Blooms” Conference and Sale.

This meeting is to help the interns and members who aren’t on the committee understand the immensity of preparation that goes into making this conference and sale seem effortless. As well it will give you an opportunity to hear more about the individual subcommittees and think about where you will volunteer your time.



Meeting: Tuesday, May 7th, 1 pm in room 116 of the AgriLife Building.

Brenda Strong/Teresa McBrayer

2020 Calendar

The planning for the 2020 calendar is underway. The theme this year will be “Plants that Love the Shade”. The calendar will also include articles about lawn care and problems. The next meeting will be May 14—1 PM, so if you would like to help, you are welcome to come and pitch in. If you would just like to write an article or help with sales, contact me to get involved. *Sherri Matthews*

The SCMG Help Desk is Live!



The newly designed SCMG Help Desk is alive and well after two full months of operation. We’ve had some fits and starts and the first month was kind of like, “Who’s on First?” But we are evolving and rapidly. Recently, a client came in with a weed to identify. And an enterprising intern-in-training took a picture with a phone app called, “Picture This”. The weed was accurately identified in 2 seconds and our client was impressed. So were the rest of us. This is to say, we have tools and techniques. This is not your father’s Help Desk/Phone Duty. But, as great as our resources and technology are, we still need the human touch. Some clients just want to chat, and since most of us like to talk about gardening, it’s a good match. And clients are generally very grateful for our time. It’s a good feeling to be able to help. So please consider joining the Help Desk team. Three-hour shifts are scheduled Monday and Friday beginning at 9 am and then 1 pm. Training is available on any

Wednesday and can be arranged on other days if necessary. Plus, additional training from Greg will be scheduled in the near future. Check out the Help Desk schedule in the Monthly Calendar at the end of the Grapevine. For more information contact *Susan Stone* or email SmithMGHelpDesk@gmail.com.

2019 Home Garden Tour!

The Home Garden Tour on May 18th is fast approaching. The gardens are beautiful and the homeowners are just about ready for this exciting event to happen. Our tour will include live music, door prizes, live demonstrations, Super Star trainees and information and five lovely gardens. Pre tour for those working the tour will be announced. We still have openings for Garden 5 by Lake Tyler that needs to be filled, so call Linda or Dixie to sign up to help. We have fliers you can pass out to your friends and neighbors to come to the Home Garden Tour. Come and enjoy and we will see you there!



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

Thank you, *Linda Munn/Dixie Smith*

Shade Garden Update

Thanks to the 30 plus volunteers that worked in the Shade Garden in March and April. A lot of work on general clean up and eliminating weeds was accomplished. Thanks to all of you for your patience. I know that digging weeds every week is not such exciting work, but we also got other things done: The stone edging around the bench garden (#13) at the entry by the Camellia Garden sign was rebuilt, and we moved lots of ferns to other beds. We planted 6 new Red Buckeye Trees. Katy Barone and her friend Sue Norton constructed a dry creek bed in Bed #5. We tested the sprinkler system with Rose Garden supervisor and learned that once many leaking heads are repaired, we should have adequate irrigation in the hot months. Liriope was moved to fill most all of the empty spots in the beds.

In May we plan to trim azaleas, fertilize the beds, and resume new plantings. Priority for new plantings include deciduous azaleas, camellias, maple species, Texas Superstars and windfall plants from SFA or Overton.

Thanks to the new interns that have signed up to join us. Welcome to any existing SCMG volunteers that can come work with us on Wednesdays or on Saturdays (May 4th and May 18th) *Steve Farrell*

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/hgqxp>