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**SCMG Association Meeting**  
**June 6, 2019**  
**at 11:30 AM**  
**at the Rose Garden Center**

### MG Grapevine Staff

Martin Davis, Editor

### MG Grapevine Contributors:

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

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What a great Home Garden Tour! Kind of a 'Goldilocks' day. Not too hot! Not too cold!, but just right. I can't speak for all gardens, but we only had a sprinkle of rain at garden #5.



When you see Linda Munn and Dixie Smith, give them a pat on the back for their diligent planning of another successful garden tour. Also thanks to Laurie Graham and the individual garden leaders for their outstanding guidance of all the volunteers. Thanks to all our volunteers for a job well done in educating the public by answering questions and demonstrating practices learned through our association.

It was also a great year for the Master Gardeners At The Library Series. Susan Stone and committee prepared an outstanding list of speakers which brought in some of the largest crowds at each presentation that I've seen since being a part of Master Gardeners. Now, that the library series is over for the year, Susan and committee have prepared their list for

1st Tuesday in the Garden, which begins in September. These presentations are all great ways to earn continuing education hours.

Another event that you will not want to miss is the SCMGA Horticulture Committee's, "Stitching an Heirloom Garden" presented by our very own Greg Grant. It will be at the Rose Garden Center on August 24th.

Just a reminder, the year is coming up on the half way mark and I hope all of you are posting hours in VMS because the end of the year will sneak up fast. Of course for the interns, you have until March of 2020 to obtain your hours for the year. Interns remember to sign up for the various projects required to complete your certification. At the last calendar committee meeting, there were several interns that had not signed up to write an article for the 2020 Calendar. Please contact Sherri Matthews as to be a part of this beautiful calendar she and her committee are planning at this time.

Look forward to seeing all of you on June 6th, at the monthly meeting.

*Janie Fowler* President

### June monthly meeting will be on Thursday, June 6

You don't want to miss this meeting! Our own Greg is going to close out the Wildscape series of speakers. Come hear him talk ardently about things near and dear to him (and it won't cost you a cent!). Be prepared to get enthralled listening to him talk about "Gardening for the Birds and the Bees: Saving the World One Garden at a Time." It's hard to find someone more passionate than Greg about all aspects of gardening so come join us and hear about what our ancestors did wrong and how he evolved into an ecologically sound gardener. *Debby Watkins*

**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 SCMGA 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 SCMGA by remaining current with this important Master Gardener duty.**

### Remember the Mission



Master Gardeners run into speed bumps and have issues just like any other group, team, or family. Whether it is new horticulturists, lost members, stolen plants from the garden, new logos, personality conflicts, or differences of opinions, there will always be obstacles. That's life. But thankfully Master Gardeners have a higher long term mission that rises above any short term issue. It's perfectly normal to want to have the prettiest garden in town with cool plants that others don't have. It's also OK to enjoy the prestige of having the title "Master Gardener" so that folks know you went above and beyond to learn horticulture. It's also just fine to have your own opinions and ideas about everything in your daily lives. But the most important thing to always remember if we ever get sidetracked by bad days or bad situations is that we as Master Gardeners are first and foremost teachers.

I say "we" because I too was certified as a Texas Master Gardener in Nacogdoches County. I'm pretty sure I'm the only Extension horticulturist in the state of Texas that can say that. A title, badge, and garden full of beautiful plants should always play second fiddle to us being members of the Texas A&M AgriLife team and serving the public. A number of Master Gardener programs in the state have gone astray over the years when they lost sight of their primary mission of educating the public with the knowledge gained through their past and current training. Know you how much I love gardening. But as beautiful as our demonstration gardens at the Rose Garden are, their primary mission isn't beautification, social interaction, or self gratification; it's education to show others in Smith County how to make their lives happier, healthier, and more beautiful while using less water, fertilize, and pesticide. The same goes for our demonstration work at Overton. It's nice that we can help Dr. Masabni and Dr. Pemberton with their research but we have to go the extra step to share that information with the public through reports, seminars, gardens, and field days. The same can be said for our garden tour, calendar, and bulb conference and sale. Our primary goal isn't to make money. It's to educate the public when we have them engaged, then use the money we make to teach others, whether it be adults or children.

We have an outstanding group in Smith County, the envy of many others. Let's keep it up and continue to lead by example with hopefully smiles on our faces.

*-Greg Grant*



Time to sign up for June. Shifts are available on Mondays and Fridays, but Tuesdays and Thursdays work too if that's better for your schedule. Send an email to [SmithMGHelpDesk@gmail.com](mailto:SmithMGHelpDesk@gmail.com). Training is available too, on any Wednesday. Just let the Help Desk know.

Most dates in June are filled, but we still need people to step up to the plate and sign-up. See the SCMG calendar for open dates.

*Susan Stone*

### Board of Directors Notes

The Board of Directors met on May 17th.

- The Association is in the midst of the annual Audit of the accounts.
- The Home Garden Tour Committee is prepared and excited about the five gardens on the tour and hoping that the weather will cooperate.
- The Calendar Committee is busy working on the upcoming calendar. The theme is Shade Gardening but each month will include an article on lawn care. There is still a great need for articles on lawn care.
- Background check forms are still being collected. The deadline for submission is May 31, 2019.
- An update to the Membership Policy was approved. It will be posted on VMS and the website.
- There are members that have not entered any hours into VMS yet. A formal review and notification will be conducted in July.
- The Association now has a business account with Lowes. There will be information forthcoming in an Email blast as to how it can be utilized.
- At the State Conference it was announced that there is a new logo for Texas Master Gardeners with a two year phase in of the new logo at the county level.



*Debby Watkins*

## 2019 HOME GARDEN TOUR!

A very large THANK YOU to all who were involved to help make the Home Garden Tour a successful event. The weather played a large factor, but we were blessed that the rain held off for most of the viewing day. Many visitors shared they were delighted with the gardens and enjoyed themselves very much.

The demonstrations were valuable in educating the public about lawn care, tool care and choosing the correct plants to grow for our area. We are very grateful to all of you who gave your time as Master Gardeners so others may learn to be successful gardeners also. You're the BEST!

Blessings - *Linda Munn & Dixie Smith*

## Happy Winner

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the garden tour. I was very fortunate to win the prize of a beautiful watercolor painting by Wincie Caskey. She was so gracious presenting the painting. We have a lovely spot already chosen in our guest bedroom. Also, much thanks to your top intern, Steve Farrell, who took a few photos and made the moment special. Again, many thanks to all the volunteers who made the day memorable.

Sincerely,

Peter Craig, 226 Sunny's Halo Blvd,  
Bullard TX



## From Bulbs to Bloom



The initial kick-off meeting for this year's bulb sale was held May 7th. The major subcommittees are now staffed. Many of the interns were there to learn more about this significant event. Many of our members have taken advantage of their opportunity to pre-order bulbs. Thank you to the members that responded in a timely manner to the short notice. Our member pre-orders came to almost 1000 bulbs! This bulb order is being rolled in with the order for our bulb sale which will be placed soon. *Brenda Strong/Teresa McBrayer*

## Shade Garden Notes

The azaleas and camellias have finally finished their "performance" for the spring. We fertilized all of them with a 9-15-12 fertilizer that is recommended for azaleas and camellias.

Our volunteers have trimmed all the azaleas and inspected for lace bugs. Luckily, none were found on the 130+ azaleas in the Shade Garden.

Dead limbs were pruned from the camellias, and we inspected for tea scale. Tea scale was found on 52 of the 118 camellias in the Shade Garden. If you have camellias in your home landscape, suggest that you inspect them. We treated the infested shrubs with systemic imidacloprid.

With the advent of spring we're introducing new plants to the beds. These include deciduous azaleas, hostas, camellias, red buckeye, and some others. Overton will be donating some new impatiens that are downy mildew resistant; also some new begonia varieties. This will allow us to add some summer color to the beds.

Special thanks goes to:

- Jeff Brown spent many, many hours repairing sprinkler heads and water lines.
- Nan Bateman continues to devote time to plant identification and bed mapping, and finding azaleas and other plants for the garden.
- Debbie Kober donated several plants that she planted in Bed 3.
- Dana Anderson and Jan Mott (and others) who have fought an ongoing, 5 month battle eradicating *Iris pseudoacorus* from Bed 10.
- The 30 individual volunteers that contributed their time to the Shade Garden in May.

We will continue to work the Shade Garden on Wednesdays from 9am to 11am, and on Saturday, June 1 and 15 from 8am to 11am.

Come join us! *Steve Farrell*





### Did you notice a change in the front page layout?

The change is due to the new Texas MG logo which was incorporated into the our newsletter. It was time for change anyway.

Jayla Fry, our Texas MG program administrator noted, “After 40 years, several events and discussions, we have come to the conclusion that it is in the best interest of the Master Gardener Program to update the Master Gardener logo.”

There are several iterations of the logo, one of which is on the website and this newsletter and another at the left of this note. *Martin Davos* Editor

### AQUAPONICS WORKSHOP, Overton TX

Aquaponics/Aquaculture Program Friday, June 14, 2019 Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center 1710 FM 3053 N, Overton, TX 75684— Cost: \$60 per person or \$80 per couple On-Site Registration With Checks or Cash accepted at the door

Join Dr. Todd Sink and Dr. Joe Masabni at Overton to learn from the experts on the latest research results of two aquaponic systems. The daylong program will end with a tour of the aquaponics greenhouse.

### Horticulture Field Day, Overton TX

Thursday, June 27, 2019 Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center 1710 FM 3053 N, Overton, TX 75684

This FREE daylong event begins with registration at 8:30AM at the East Farm, tour of the ornamental trials and moves to the main building for a tour of trials at that site. Sponsored BBQ lunch will be served at that location from 11:45AM to 1PM.

Presentations (*Indoors in the Bruce McMillan, Jr. Auditorium*) to be announced later.

For more information, go to <https://flowers.tamu.edu/field-day/>

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