



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

Vol. XXVI No. 7

July 2019



### Inside This Issue

Caterpillars	2
Quilt Show	2
JMG Leader Training	2
Discovery Texas	3
Board of Directors meeting	3
Help Desk	3
Volunteer Hours reminder	3
Website changes	4
2020 TMGA conference	4

No SCMG Meeting in July  
Next meeting is on  
August 8th

MG Grapevine Staff  
Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Greg Grant, Wayne Elliott, Janie Fowler, Denise Rasco, Susan Stone, 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 Texas cooperating.

Extension Office

Phone - 903-590-2980

Fax - 903-590-2984

It is definitely summer! With the temperature in the upper 90's and the heat index into the three digit numbers, we welcome the rainy days to cool things down. Of course, with the rain we have had in the spring and early summer, the demonstration gardens are flourishing. With this being said, the coordinators need volunteers to help maintain the gardens and keep them looking beautiful even through the summer months. The coordinators are all doing a wonderful job and would appreciate volunteers showing up whether you are scheduled or not. The earlier start time of 8:30am, makes for a more pleasant atmosphere and gets everyone out of the gardens before it gets really hot. Also remember if you are scheduled in one of the gardens and cannot be there, let the coordinator know by giving them a call, text, or email. Thank you Cindy, Greg, Debby, Henry, Steve, and Katy for all you do!



Just a reminder, SCMG will not have a Membership Meeting nor a Board Meeting in July. The next Membership Meeting will be August 8th, the second Thursday of the month due to our annual conflict with another event at the Rose Garden Center on the first Thursday.

One of the items on the August agenda will be the announcement of the members of the Nominating Committee for the 2020 slate of officers and information on the election process.

Once the committee has convened and started the process of compiling a slate of officers for the upcoming year, I just ask those members as you are ap-

proached by the committee to give the job your full consideration. Your leadership is of value to the association and no job is too big or too small.

Although we are not formally meeting in July, there are plenty of things to do for Master Gardeners and interns as the "Discovery Texas" exhibit for the East Texas State Fair is in need of volunteers for various projects. Interns remember to sign up for a project or assist another member in a project. Next meeting July 17th.

The Calendar Committee will also met again on July 16th. Hopefully all Interns submitted an article for the 2020 Calendar and Gardening Guide.

An upcoming event on August 24th is the Horticulture Education Committee Event at Harvey Hall, "Stitching an Heirloom Garden...Learning Landscaping from My Grannies' Old Quilts" presented by Greg Grant. Also, Jo Helen McGee will speak on Quilt Preservation.

For additional information on events, projects, dates, and times, be sure to check your email for Jean Smith's "Weekly Blast". The "Weekly Blast" comes out every Friday, but if you have an announcement for the membership, have it to Jean by Thursday so she can send it late Thursday night or early Friday morning.

Don't forget to sign up for the Help Desk. Great way to get volunteer hours and learn more about horticulture as you educate the public.

Have a Great 4th of July!! Stay out of the direct sun as much as possible by returning to the shade or air conditioning often, drink plenty of water before going outdoors, and stay safe.

*Janie Fowler President*

## Caterpillars in the Landscape



The Smith County Master Gardener Help Desk has been extremely helpful to me. A small but dedicated group headed up by the ever-fearless Susan Stone has handled assorted contacts including direct calls, call-backs, e-mails, and walk-ins. They have even proofed articles and cleaned seed for me.

Most of the questions are fairly normal with turfgrass problems being the most common. Here lately we've dealt with several clients about bagworms and other assorted caterpillar question. And like many, they often want an organic or safest control possible

First, it's important to know that Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has education publications on bagworms, caterpillar ID, controlling insects in the garden, etc. It's also important to be able to identify what a caterpillar is. Caterpillars are any "worm" that turns into a butterfly or moth. This is important to know because regardless what kind they are, an organic pesticide known as Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) will control all of them as long as it's applied early when they are young and feeding since they have to eat it to die. Bt is sold under many labels including both powdered and liquid formulations. I've purchased it as Dipel, Thuricide, and Worm and Caterpillar Control.

There are actually many different pesticides labeled for caterpillar control however the beauty of Bt is that it kills caterpillars and absolutely nothing else and is completely safe for humans and pets. It's what I use for canna leaf rollers, cabbage loopers, and corn ear worms.

If you can tolerate the often unsightly feeding damage, always remember that caterpillars are also controlled by wasps and birds with many baby birds being fed them.

-Greg Grant

## Smith County AgriLife Extension Service to feature Landscaping Lecture and Heirloom Quilt Show

Greg Grant, Smith County Extension Horticulturist, will present "Stitching an Heirloom Garden... Learning Landscaping from my Grannies' Old Quilts" on Saturday, August 24 at Harvey Hall, 2000 W. Front St in Tyler, TX.

Along with the lecture, which also features Jo Helen McGee on "Quilt Preservation," there will be an heirloom quilt show featuring the inaugural showing of Greg's extensive heirloom family quilt collection.

Greg has degrees in both floriculture and horticulture from Texas A&M University and has experience with both private and public gardening, including 10 years at the Stephen F. Austin State University Pineywoods Native Plant Center. He is co-author of *Heir-*

*loom Gardening in the South*, *Texas Fruit and Vegetable Gardening*, and *The Rose Rustlers*. Grant writes for *Texas Gardener* magazine and the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, and on the weekends maintains a small farm and his Rebel Eloy Emanis Pine Savanna and Bird Sanctuary.

Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. with the program beginning at 9 A.M. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the door.

For more information call the Smith County AgriLife Extension office at 903-590-2980, follow on Facebook (Smith County AgriLife) or visit the website <https://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>

## The 2019 Junior Master Gardener Adult Leader Training is Coming Up!

Come join us for the 2019 Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Adult Leader Training from July 24th-27th, 2019 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Bexar County office, 3355 Cherry Ridge Dr. San Antonio, TX 78230. This training is designed for teachers, educators, and volunteers in support of Youth Gardening. Educators will learn about "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that will provide an appreciation for the environment and cultivate the minds of children.

Registration fee of \$100 must be included with application and is non-refundable.

For more information go to: [JMG Class 13 Flyer and Application](#)





**Discovery Texas”, (former AgriWorld) meeting:** Wednesday, July 17, at 2:00 PM in the Cottonbelt building, room 116 . We are being required by the Fair to provide a more interactive booth, so we need your ideas, input, and help! We will be updating everyone on the ongoing jobs and adding in new projects. Remember this is SCMG’s biggest

educational outreach to children and adults in Smith County. Looking forward to seeing you on July 17th. East Texas State Fair dates-September 20-29. Set up begins after Labor Day.

The new directive from the Fair is to create a more interactive environment with hands on activities that will engage all ages. Hmmmm....tall order, but we can do it! We need your ideas and creativity!

Projects that we need help on: Farmer McGregor’s garden from last year; someone willing to make calls looking for sponsors for new exhibits; colorful garden markers; teachers for classes that come through Tuesday through Friday of the Fair week; and docents for the weekends supervising activity sessions, which would be a morning or afternoon gig for about an hour. WHEW!

We are looking for butterfly eggs or caterpillars for AgriWorld/Discovery Texas. I am especially looking for monarchs, painted ladies, and swallowtails. Monarchs can be found on milkweed, painted ladies on passion vine, and swallowtails like parsley. Give me a call (Denise Rasco), at 903-939-2117 if you find any and I’ll come get them, (within reasonable driving distance!)

And of course, help putting this all together after Labor Day and the tear down crew, September 30.

*Denise Rasco*

We are entering the long hot days of summer and things slow down for SCMG.

The BOD met on Friday June 21. We had a report from Victor Long on the audit he and Charlie Colman. Victor reported 3 minor deficiencies. He also was complementary to Henry Burch and Debrah Golden for the excellent work they do to keep the financial accounts in such great shape. We want to thank Henry and Debrah for the time they give to SCMG.



Upcoming events that are already underway in planning is Discovery Texas (AgriWorld) "Secret garden" East Texas State Fair, and the Bulbs to Blooms Conference and Sale. Bulbs have been ordered and money spent. Because of member pre-order on bulbs we have spent more money than usual. Looking forward to seeing each of you at these events.

The interns are working hard and getting involved and we appreciate your participation.

*Wayne Elliott*



### The SCMG Help Desk Needs Help

Can you help? The Help Desk needs volunteers to work during the months of July and August. Send an email to [SmithMGHelpDesk@gmail.com](mailto:SmithMGHelpDesk@gmail.com) and let us know when you're available for a shift.

*Susan Stone*

**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.**



---

### SCMG Website Changes



If you have visited the SCMG website (<https://txmg.org/smith/>) since June 12th you may have noticed that it looks different. All counties with websites under txmg.org/ were converted to the new AgriFlex3 theme on June 12, 2019. The format is a new cleaner look and offers a number of new opportunities to the local webmaster. They have provided us with webinars now and during the coming months, to learn more about utilizing the theme.

This change was incorporated with only minor problems for our website. With the help of Steve Farrell, we are looking in depth at the information we provide and doing a long overdue review for corrections, deletions or additions. It is very much a work in process at this time, so bear with us as we work our way through the process. Your comments are welcome at [mred2853@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mred2853@sbcglobal.net). Be kind! *Martin Davis* Webmaster

---

### 2020 will be here before we know it!

#### The TMGA State Conference will be in Waco

Proudly hosted by the McLennan County Master Gardener Association

**May 12-14, 2020**

To visit their website, go to: <https://txmg.org/conference/2018-conference>



---

**Smith County Master Gardener Association**  
**1517 West Front St., Suite 116**  
**Tyler, TX 75702**