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SCMG Association Meeting
on August 8th - 11:30 AM
Rose Garden Center

MG Grapevine Staff
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Hope all of you are having a great summer! July has proven to be a very busy month even without our monthly membership meeting and monthly board meeting. There have been a number of committee meetings in preparation for upcoming projects and the new calendar for next year. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm of our Interns and Master Gardeners as they prepare the calendar, to be ready for distribution in September and finalize plans for "Discovery Texas" at the East Texas State Fair. Thanks to all the volunteers, the meetings have all been well attended.

Both of the committees above would appreciate additional volunteers whether or not you have participated in a previous meetings. Sign up sheets for the East Texas State Fair project will be available at the August 8th Monthly Membership Meeting. Interns, please remember Calendar and East Texas State Fair (previously AgriWorld) are projects listed in required hours, for you to obtain your certification in April as a Master Gardener.

Also, at the August meeting there will be sign up sheets for our annual "From Bulbs to Blooms" bulb sale and conference. These are all excellent ways for



members to acquire hours before the end of the year.

Just a reminder, all volunteer hours and CE's have to be logged into VMS by January 31, 2019. If you are physically unable to participate in projects and continuing education events, all one has to do is request a Hardship Status (Membership Policy #1009).

As I've said before, there are plenty of opportunities for both volunteer hours and CE's. We have four more monthly meeting (August, September, October, and November), First Tuesday in the Garden (September, October, and November), "From Bulbs to Blooms" conference, and on August 24th, Greg Grant will present "Stitching an Heirloom Garden...", all count as CE's. Volunteer hours can be obtained from the projects already mentioned, Help Desk, and working in the gardens each week. Lots of fun things to do and great people to work with along the way!

Nominating Committee will be announced at the next meeting. A slate of officers for 2020 will be announced at the October meeting, and the election of officers shall take place at the November meeting.

Look forward to seeing all of you in August! *Janie Fowler President*

August 2019 Association Meeting - Date Change

The August monthly meeting will be on Thursday, August 8, at the Rose Garden Center at 11:30 AM. This is one week later than normal because of the Tyler Back to School Event that is being held at the Harvey Convention Center and the Rose Center.

This has been a mild summer, but it's still summer in Texas so it's HOT and it's hard to think about fall gardening! However, it's time to get excited and think about vegetable gardening. Our August speaker is going to help us do exactly that. Our speaker, Deena Taylor, is going to talk about "Gardening Foot by Foot." Deena is the Wood County 2018 Master Gardener of the Year, certified in Square Foot Gardening and Keyhole Gardening, and has Advanced Training in Vegetables. She is going to give us tips on how to grow a bountiful garden with simplicity and maintenance ease. *Debby Watkins*

Digging Bulbs



Things are beginning to get into full swing for our annual From Bulbs to Blooms conference and sale. Anne Pattullo and I have placed several bulb orders, but there are still lots to dig, divide, and sort with now being the time when I start. For about 20 years I had my own small wholesale bulb farm that sold to special places like Old House Gardens, Plant Delights Nursery, and the Smith County Master Gardener's bulb sale, so I thought I'd let you in on some bulb farming production protocols.

Bulbs are divided up according to bloom time. But even more important than when they produce flowers is when they produce foliage, as each year's foliage stores up energy for next year's bloom. So when you see a bloom on a tulip or hyacinth, it's because of how the farmer grew the bulb the previous year in Holland. Spring bulbs start producing roots in the fall and produce foliage during the winter and spring. They go dormant during the summer. Summer bulbs produce foliage during the spring, summer, and fall and go dormant during the winter. They have year round roots. Fall bulbs produce foliage during winter and go dormant during the summer.

Though bulbs adapted to East Texas are tough enough to be dug and divided any time, to ensure blooms the next year it's important to dig them after the foliage has fully matured, ripened, and withered away. On those that go dormant, it's also important not to dig them before root growth has started for the next season.

Here's a list of some I dig for our sale and when I do it.

- **Daffodils, narcissus, jonquils, and Byzantine gladiolus:** These go dormant starting in late spring and are dug after the foliage is completely brown or gone entirely. They must be dug before root growth starts around September. I typically dig them in June or July then let them cure before separating, sorting, and sizing. Those that are planted back are put in the ground immediately or before the first rains in August and September when new root growth starts.
- **Crinums and daylilies:** The ideal time to dig and divide them is just before spring growth starts but since our sale is in the fall, I dig them as close to sale time as possible.
- **Lycoris and oxblood lilies:** These are dug and divided the same time as the daffodils, narcissus, and jonquils (summer) as they have the same growth cycle. The main difference is that fall bulbs bloom before their foliage emerges and spring bloom after. Actually what I do is dig them in full bloom and separate out the largest ones with bloom stalk to insure blooming sized bulbs. They too go into bushel baskets or plastic crates to dry and cure.

For our sale to be successful and popular it's very important that all bulbs we sell be up to industry and consumer standards, which means high quality, true-to-type named cultivars, and blooming-sized bulbs. We'll let other Master Gardener groups do plants swaps, no-name bulbs, and baby starter bulblets. Many cool plants are exchanged and gained at these type sales but we want ours to be one of a kind...the best.

_Greg Grant

LANDSCAPING AND QUILT SHOW SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 24

It's not every day that Greg offers a brand-new, never-before heard presentation on some aspect of landscaping. You're in for a treat if you attend "Stitching an Heirloom Garden ... Learning Landscaping from my Grannie's Old Quilts." The program features a lecture on landscaping, an heirloom quilt show, and some remarks from former Master Gardener Jo Helen McGee on "Quilt Preservation."

The program is scheduled for Saturday, August 24 at 9 am in Harvey Hall and features This is the inaugural showing of some of Greg's extensive heirloom family quilts, although you may have noticed a few in pictures of Greg's dogtrot house. We hope to see you there. Come early to get a good seat and take a leisurely look at the quilts. Registration is at 8:30 AM, program starts at 9:00 AM, and tickets are \$15.00 at the door.



SCMG Clothing Sale

There will be a SCMG sample clothing sale at the August 8 MG meeting beginning at 10:30 AM. Prices will be 50% off of list price. Only clothing that is available, no special orders. You will still be able to wear all clothing with this logo.

Please do not donate SCMG clothing that you no longer wear/need. We do not want anything with SCMG logo to be able to be acquired outside of our organization and worn by non-members.



HELP DESK TRAINING AUGUST 21

The next Help Desk Training Session is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21 in room 257 of the AgriLife building. All MGs are invited. Help Desk Training counts as CE credit.

One of the most frequently asked questions at the Help Desk is “What is this weed and how do I control it?” So, Greg is going to talk about weeds...grassy, broadleaf and sedges...and give us some pointers on how to handle this issue. Also on the agenda: “How to Manage Greg Grant Groupies” followed by discussion and insight from current Help Desk Staffers on what works for them during a typical staffing session.

The Help Desk is always looking for volunteers. Come join us on Wednesday, August 21 at 1 pm and talk to us about signing up. Additional individual orientation sessions can be scheduled at your convenience. It's an easy, rewarding, and cool way to get your volunteer hours.
Susan Stone



The Discovery Texas committee is moving ahead splendidly. We have 12 sub committees working on various projects. There are still several more spots to fill. We need one more teacher for Friday the 27th when the school kids come through, and eight docents for one hour spots on the weekend. We are also looking for an old boombox that on which we can play bird calls. We will need many of you in September after Labor Day, when we put all these moving parts together.

So for those who need hours, this will be a great opportunity to rack some up! Work will begin Sept. 4 and finish up on the 19th. The fair runs September 20-29!
Denise Rasco

PREPARATIONS FOR FROM BULBS TO BLOOMS SALE – OCTOBER 12, 2019



This is your alert to think of the role you might want to play during this fun day. There will be SIGN UP sheets at our August meeting. I have added a brief synopsis of each duty. This is our biggest event and we need ALL HANDS ON DECK. **Keep in mind, even if you contribute hours for a task completed prior to the actual sale portion of the event, your participation during the sale would be very welcome.** You are all appreciated!

REGISTRATION – we will need (8) people to be present at 8 AM. Registration always begins at 8:30, but there are always those who want to come early and get a choice seat. Registration will remain open until 10:30. Registration folks can sign up for another duty once registration is closed.

SALES – we will need (20-25) people. Even if your knowledge of bulbs is scant, Anne Pattullo will give you instructions on the bulbs for which you will be responsible. She will meet with the sales volunteers at 10:30 prior to our October 3rd meeting to explain the duties in detail and give you information regarding your bulbs.

WAGONS – none will be needed this year due to how we will be handling the trees and shrubs.

TICKET WRITERS – (16) people needed. Two ticket writers work together to count and prepare the tickets for each customer. One ticket writer sorts the customer's purchases, the other ticket writer fills out the ticket which the customer will take to the cashier.

TICKET HELPERS – (2) people needed. These folks will manage customer flow ensuring everyone goes through the ticket writer line, then into either the cash/check or the credit card line. These folks will be constantly moving and watching people throughout the sale.

TRANSPORTATION (Team Leader Harvey Collen) Harvey and his crew will report Thursday, Oct 10, at 8 AM to gather bulbs, goods, supplies, etc. from the MG Office and transport to Harvey Hall. After the sale, the Transport team will also load leftovers and return to MG office. “Day of sale” these Transport people can join Security team.

SECURITY (Team Leader Wayne Elliott). If you have never worn an orange vest before, now is your opportunity. Orange is in! Security will monitor the doorways to ensure customers have gone through the cashier line (where their purchases are put in a particular color of bag) before exiting. They will also monitor the doors to ensure customers don't re-enter the sale area carrying a paid-for bag. Some members will assist with the loading of the trees / shrubs.

BULB MANAGEMENT (Team Leader Liz Wiley). Bulbs and supplies will be delivered to Harvey Hall on Thursday morning. Sacking and labeling will be at 1 PM on Thursday, Oct. 10. Many volunteers for the sacking and labeling make this job fun and it goes more quickly!

Our sale is not until October 12, but a lot of preparation and participation go into making it successful. If you would like to shoot an email to me securing your slot, send it to smithvae@aol.com This is such a fun undertaking as well as our biggest money maker. It takes all of us to pull it off. Thanks in advance for your participation. *Ann Smith*



First Tuesday in the Garden Returns.....

The Smith County Master Gardeners will once again present “First Tuesday in the Garden” lectures during the fall. Focused on relevant gardening topics for Smith County and the surrounding area, the series of presentations will begin on Tuesday, September 3 at noon in the IDEA Garden, located in the southeast corner of the Tyler Rose Garden, 420 Rose Park Dr., Tyler. This is an informal presentation to be followed by a Q&A.

The first speaker is Ed Bryant, Smith County Master Gardener speaking on “Wildlife in the Fall and Winter Garden”. Subsequent presentations will be held on the first Tuesday of the month through November. Speakers and topics include “Summer Bulbs” (which will be featured in the SCMG From Bulbs to Blooms event) with Anne Pattullo and Tommie Grinnell, Smith

County Master Gardeners on October 1; “Shade Gardening & a tour of the new Rose Garden Shade Garden” with Smith County Master Gardener Steve Farrell and Friends of the Master Gardeners on November 1st.

All lectures are free and open to the public. Seating is limited for the series so please bring a chair for your comfort. In case of inclement weather, the program will be held in the Tyler Rose Garden Center. Additional information can be found at <http://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/> or calling 903-590-2980. *Jean Smith*

2018 Extension MG National Report

As we volunteer on the local scene, it is sometimes interesting to look at the bigger picture. With information compiled by the Extension Master Gardener National Committee, using 2018 data, the size of the Master Gardener program nationally is surprising.

With 86,076 members, the MG program is one of the largest volunteer organizations in the country volunteering 5.6 million hours. The value of those hours amounts to over 140 million dollars annually when 8.6 million clients were served! Master Gardeners stay current, reporting Continuing Education totaling 901,246 hours. Nearly 14,000 new people were trained in 2018.



Advanced Training in Vegetable Gardening 2019 Hosted & Conducted by Bexar County – San Antonio

When: August 13 – 15, 2019

Where: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208 San Antonio, TX 78230

Time: Aug. 13 8:00am – 4:45pm

Aug. 14 8:20am – 5:15pm; Networking Dinner 6:30pm

Aug. 15 8:30am – 11:30am (Field Day @ San Antonio Botanical Garden)

Registration Fee is \$200 (includes 2 lunches, 1 dinner, snacks, and other goodies).

Class space is limited, so register early. **Registration Deadline: Tuesday, August 6, 2019** To reserve your spot, contact Denise @ (210) 631-0400 or dspez@ag.tamu.edu

Southern Garden Symposium, St. Francisville, LA. October 18 & 19, 2019

For details of this event, go to <http://www.southerngardensymposium.org/>

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

