

MG Grapevine

Smith County Newsletter

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**SCMG Association Meeting
on September 5th - 11:30 AM
Rose Garden Center**

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It's HOT!! Having to water plants in containers everyday and some twice a day. Not having a sprinkler system, it's a full time job trying to keep my lawn from being toast. The good news is that Fall is just around the corner. If I let my imagination run wild, I can almost smell fall in the air.

With fall comes many exciting events for the SCMG. "First Tuesday in the Garden", East Texas State Fair/"Discovery Texas" exhibit, the annual "From Bulbs to Blooms" Conference, and a bus trip to visit other gardens will all be happening this fall.

"First Tuesday in the Garden" is the first Tuesday in September, October, and November. A great opportunity for Master Gardeners in need of CE's. The speakers are a wealth of knowledge on their chosen topic and can answer many of your gardening questions.

The planning and construction for the East Texas State Fair/"Discovery Texas" exhibit is well under way. If you would like to volunteer on this project and have not signed up it is never too late to volunteer your time and expertise, especially for Interns needing to fulfill required hours on this project. Even though set up begins on September 4th, if you have not contacted Delane Caesar-Sykes or Denise Rasco before the membership meeting on Sep-

tember 5th, this would be an excellent time to inquire as to where they may need the most help.

The annual "From Bulbs to Blooms" Fall Conference and Sale will be here before we know it. Brenda Strong and her committee will provide sign-up sheets at the Monthly Membership Meeting. Master Gardeners, this is another great opportunity to obtain CE's and volunteer hours, if you participate in any capacity of the sale or sacking bulbs prior to the sale. Interns, this is another required project and the project with the most hours (8 hours). If you have not attended a committee meeting or signed up to sack bulbs prior to the bulb sale, you may want to check the dates for sacking bulbs to make sure you obtain your hours. On the day of the sale, it will be impossible to acquire 8 hours, only the hours that one is actually volunteering during the sale, counts as volunteer hours.

Linda Sargent has put the finishing touches on the Bus Trip to Metro Maples and Weston Gardens. Check the Weekly Blast and Newsletter for details and plan to sign up at the Monthly Membership Meeting this week.

Last but not least, I want to say "THANK YOU" for the beautiful engraved stone I received at last month's meeting. Just know, I appreciate each and everyone of you and all that you do for the SCMG.

See all of you at the Monthly Meeting. - *Janie Fowler* President

September 2019 Association Meeting Thursday, September 5, at the Rose Garden Center at 11:30 AM.

Our August speaker talked to us about vegetable gardening and this month we are going to continue in the same vein with a talk centered around herbs. Our own County Agent, Claudann Jones, will do a presentation on "Cooking with Herbs." She hinted to me that those of you who go to lunch afterwards may not be as hungry after the meeting and that she needed a helper to pass out samples. (That helper position got filled really quick!) Claudann is a real delight to talk with and listen to and I know you will come away with a wealth of information. - *Debby Watkins*



Pre-emergent Herbicides

Those manning the Smith County Master Gardener help desk have truly been a tremendous help to me and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office. I get, on average, about 100 questions a week directed at me via two e-mails, two phones, Facebook, and face to face, so naturally its extremely difficult to handle them all since many don't provide enough information to answer and sometimes the answers take time to find. I handle the difficult ones along with those from my county agent, university, and industry colleagues but need help with the general public. Even if you don't help manning the help desk, remember that as Smith County Master Gardeners your primary job is to help me educate the public with sound science and research-based gardening information that makes their lives healthier, happier, and prettier.

We get lots of questions about lawns and different turf problems, especially with St. Augustine grass since it's so common. The important topic right now is the timing of pre-emergent herbicide to prevent cool season winter and spring weeds that germinate with our first rains and cool weather. If you don't follow my good friend Neil Sperry on Facebook or read his free E-Gardens newsletter, you should, as he (being a former Texas A&M Extension horticulturist) is almost always spot on. Here's what he recently had to say about applying pre-emergent herbicides:

Garden Tip: TIME HERE FOR FALL PRE-EMERGENT WEEDKILLERS! (First warning)

- *To prevent germination of annual bluegrass (Poa annua), rescuegrass and ryegrass.*
- *Apply DIMENSION, HALTS OR BALAN granules.*
- *Only one application.*
- *BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER 7.*
- *This is your only chance. Once these weeds sprout and start growing you do not get a second chance. There is no spray to kill them later without harming your lawn.*
- *These granules can be used on any type of grass as long as it has been through one winter.*
- *They can be used beneath trees.*
- *Mow your lawn, then apply the granules, then water the soil moderately.*
- *Only one treatment will be needed.*
- *Note that these products often are labeled as "Crabgrass Preventer." They're the same products we apply in spring and again in early summer to prevent germination of crabgrass and grassburs, but this time we're using them only for winter weeds. This treatment will do nothing to help with grassburs or crabgrass.*
- *Gallery can be applied if you have a history of broadleafed weeds. It's a pre-emergent weedkiller that also must be applied before they germinate.*
- *If you decide to use Gallery, apply it one day after the treatment with one of the products above, then water again.*
- *With broadleafed weeds like henbit, chickweed, dandelions and clover you do get a second chance. You can apply a broadleafed weedkiller spray around Thanksgiving or in late winter. Read and follow label directions.*

NOTE: *If you have a lawn care company looking after this sort of thing for you, their timing may be slightly different. They have access to different products. They also can't get to all of their customers on the same date just because Neil says that's a great day to treat. If their work gives great results, we need to let them do their job. _Greg Grant*

Changing Times

The notice in the August *MG Grapevine* advising that sample clothing with the old SCMG logo was being sold at half price, reminded me of the regret that I have that this logo can no longer be used. For me it is a personal regret, since I designed that logo nearly 20 years ago.

Bill Kelldorf (President at the time) and I attended a state MG conference where we saw others wearing shirts with their unique county logo. We returned from that conference determined that Smith County should have its own logo. I designed a logo using *WordPerfect's* Word Art, printed a sample and got it approved by the Executive Committee. Since then we have proudly displayed that logo on the web, on our newsletter, at MG events, on posters, on our shirts, etc.

Recently a new logo was designed for use by local MG groups all across the state. It is to be used in place of any county's unique logo.

I don't know exactly why the Texas State MG folks have decided that their logo must be used and that we can no longer use our logo. I do know that I disagree with that decision, but as I said, for me it is personal. So, we lose our unique identity and fall into lock step with all the rest. Too bad! – *Martin Davis*



Discovery Texas

The time for Discovery Texas/Our Secret Garden is drawing close....really close. Our committees are winding down on their wonderful projects and the time for putting it all together is almost here!

We still need 7 activity leaders for Saturday and Sunday the 21st and 22nd and the 28th and 29th. This would be for the seed germination activity. It would be for about an hour in the afternoons and it's an easy, fun project.

We will be working on the exhibit September 4,5,6, 9,10,11,12,13 and 16,17,18,19 in Building E at the Fairgrounds. We'll usually be there from 9:00-12:00. The fair days are the 20-29, and tear down is September 30.

This will be a great time for earning those hours that you need. Remember if you are an intern, you need those hours towards Discovery Texas. Thank you to all who have put so much time in already! - *Denise Rasco*



"On the Road Again"

Willie's familiar refrain will find 48 SCMG's on a bus tour to Metro Maples and Weston Gardens in Fort Worth on Monday, October 21st.

The cost will be \$35 which will include a box lunch to be eaten in the garden. There will be vegetarian and GF options available. A flyer will be placed in the MG office, starting next Wednesday the 28th, for payment and lunch selection as well as sign ups at the September & October monthly meetings. Exact cash amount and check will be accepted. Sign up is open to members and family or friend. Reservation only confirmed with payment.

Metro Maples (metromaples.com) grows only Japanese and Shantung maples on 6 acres. They have a 100 varieties and 15,000 trees. Check their website to see pictures. It is amazing. Bring your checkbook because you are going to want to buy something.

Weston Gardens (weston@westongardens.com) is English Gardens, Texas style. They are dedicated to Texas native and acclimate plants on 4 acres. They have been featured in Southern Living, Texas Highways and the American Gardener.

For any questions, please contact Linda Sargent (silverset@embarqmail.com) . - *Linda Sargent*



From Bulbs to Blooms

The Bulb sale still in need of the following:

Transportation helpers - to load goods on Harvey Collen's truck 8 am on October 10th and empty at Harvey hall. When sale is over, load leftover bulbs for return.

Security workers—During sale you will be helping Wayne Elliott with security. We need serious looking people for security -at least 7 more people.

Ticket writers - need 6 more people to work during the sale.

Ticket helpers - need 2. To manage customer flow from ticket writer to proper cashier line.

Sales people - need 8 more to work during the sale.

To volunteer let Ann Smith know where you want to work. Send e-mail to Ann at Smithvae@aol.com.



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".

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL SERIES XXVI, COURSE III

September 23-24, 2019

George H. W. Bush Presidential Library

College Station, TX

THE SCHOOL IS OPEN TO ANYONE WISHING TO ADD TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN.

Tuition/lunch fee \$165.00 **after** September 1, 2019

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/>

Advanced Master Gardener Training Rainwater Harvesting

September 26, 27 & 28, 2019

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Tarrant County 1801 Circle Dr., Fort Worth, Texas 76119

Cost \$250—deadline to register September 6th.

The Texas Fruit Conference dates have been set for October 28th-30th, 2019.

We will again meet in New Braunfels again for our fourth consecutive year. Attempts to find a host site in College Station were not successful, so apologies to those of you who wanted a return to Aggie-Land in 2019. We will instead bring Aggie-Land to New Braunfels for an informative and enjoyable 8th annual conference!

Fees this year: Conference regular: \$100 per person online (\$85 if registered by 9/15).

Online Registration Link: <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/>

Articles from Local Writers appear in Texas Gardener Magazine

The September/October issue of *Texas Gardener* arrived the other day complete with an article from Julia Squibb, Smith County Master Gardener. Also, both Keith Hansen and Greg Grant are regular contributors to this publication.

Julia's article, titled "From Bulbs to Blooms" chronicled the SCMG bulb sale from its 1999 beginning to the present. Complete with several pictures, this well written article provided not only the history of the sale, but enough information about the 2019 sale to make the reader note the date and plan to visit Tyler.

Keith Hansen's story, titled "Beauty and Inspiration at the Tyler Rose Garden" gave a rather complete history of the garden from the 1930's to the present. He includes information on the Smith County's Master Gardeners involvement at the garden. His details of the Heritage Garden, IDEA Garden, Shade Garden, Sunshine Garden and the Japanese maples included in the garden makes it clear that the famous Rose Garden is much more than roses. He mentions that the park is really a beautiful botanic garden and that Greg Grant plans to ask the city of Tyler to designate the demonstration gardens at the Tyler Rose Garden as the "The Tyler Botanical Garden".

"In Greg's Garden" is a regular feature of the magazine. This month Greg's contribution is titled "Falling for Color". As suggested by his title, Greg talks about the fall color here in East Texas and other parts of the state. He lists the trees providing our fall color. He notes that fall for us is really a second spring which provides a host of autumn flowers.

With all this information about Texas and especially Tyler, readers of this magazine may well be marking their calendars and planning their trip here in mid to late October. If I didn't live here, I know I would. *Martin Davis*

The



website is <http://www.texasgardener.com>.