

MG Grapevine

Smith County Newsletter

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**SCMG Association Meeting
on October 3rd - 11:30 AM
Rose Garden Center**

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Martin Davis, Editor

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As I write this article, the days are cooler and we are finally getting some much needed rain. Who knows by the time you read this article the temperatures may be back in the upper nineties. I hope

that all of you took advantage of these pleasant fall days to check out our Smith County Master Gardener Association "Discovery Texas" exhibit at the fair.

Thanks to all the Master Gardeners and Interns for their dedication in making sure "Discovery Texas" was a huge success. Success comes from great leadership and members working together as a team. Thank you, Delane Caesar-Sykes and Denise Rasco for co-chairing the project and having your vision become a reality.

Our next major project, is "From Bulbs to Blooms" which is just around the corner and progressing very nicely according to Brenda Strong. Brenda along with co-chair Teresa McBrayer and committee members are working diligently on finalizing plans for our annual bulb sale and conference. Our speaker for the conference will be none other than our very own bulb expert, Greg Grant. Greg and the bulb committee have been busy digging and preparing bulbs for this year's sale. If you

have not already done so, get your name on the list for sacking bulbs, the Thursday before the sale.

On another note, Certified Master Gardeners will earn 3 CE's for attending the conference. Hope to see all of you at the conference on October 12th.

Being a Certified Master Gardener is a special honor for each of you as you have been specially trained to provide a wealth of horticultural information to the public. This calendar year is quickly coming to an end and the association does not want any of our members to lose their certification due to the lack of volunteer or continuing education hours. Each and everyone of you are valuable in your own unique way to the association. If for any reason you have questions or concerns about your hours, contact Jean Smith, Debby Watkins, or myself.

The Bus Trip to Metro Maples and Weston Gardens is approaching and if you are interested in making the trip, contact Linda Sargent or the Extension Office for availability.

The nominating committee will announce a slate of candidates to serve as officers in the year 2020, at the October membership meeting. The election of officers will be held at the November membership meeting.

Look forward to seeing everyone in October!

— Janie Fowler President

October 2019 Association Meeting

Our program for October is centered around a passion/fascination for many of us. Who doesn't love to see bluebirds hovering around your bird feeders?!? And how many of us have put up bluebird houses to try and attract them? Well, we're going to indulge our fascination with the bluebird species this month as our speaker is going to talk to us about "Bluebird Basics." Lonnie Castleman is very well qualified to talk about Bluebirds. He is coming as a representative of the Texas Bluebird Society.

In addition to speaking to us about "Bluebird Basics," he and his wife will be signing up anyone who wants to join the Texas Bluebird Society. Anyone who joins (\$20.00) will receive a free nest box.

— Debby Watkins

Call for Help



If you didn't get a chance to see the Discovery Texas handiwork of the Smith County Master Gardeners at the East Texas State Fair it was quite a feat of labor and art. You guys are certainly a talented and hard working bunch. I literally couldn't do my job without you.



If you need more volunteer hours or a purpose in life, the demands of a county agent never end so here's a list of other things I need volunteers for.

1. Somebody to write press releases for all extension horticulture events. We traditionally do both flyers and press releases for our events. Tina quit and went to work for Chad so hopefully the new person will be able to keep putting our flyers together. I have a template for the press releases so it's mostly about adding the time, place, and specifics.
2. Somebody that volunteers at Overton to put together a result demonstration report for our trials with Dr. Pember-ton and Dr. Masabni. Once again, I have a template but the latest years results need to be added each year. Re-mem-ber our primary goal is education so we need to glean the results from our trial work each year and report it.
3. Somebody to help with a school garden at Caldwell Elementary on Front Street. The garden will be small but will need to be checked on weekly and help the teacher as needed. Hopefully she will be using our Extension Learn, Grow, Eat, Go or Junior Master Gardener curriculum.
4. Some folks to lead rose and Tyler Botanical Gardens tours at the Tyler Rose Garden as the city of Tyler and Visit Tyler books them. Our scripts and information need to be updated as well. These tours are quite easy to do as most are just interested in beauty and outdoors not specific questions. It's important for us to support the city as they continue to support our endeavors at the Rose Garden. Certainly when folks visit Tyler they want to see the Tyler Rose Garden and of course our demonstration gardens are the best kept secret in Tyler! I'll of course coach and train the tour guides and give a number of them myself when I'm available.
5. More folks to man the SCMG Help Desk at the Cotton Belt Building. I'll continue to do more trainings and pass more information along to the group so we can handle walk in, telephone, and e-mail questions. You don't have to know the answers, just get the specifics of the question, search out the answer, and get back to them. We generally have a publication on file with all the answers in it.
6. Somebody to make a list of all the common pesticides sold at nurseries, feed stores, and big box stores with com-mon names, chemical names, and brand names so we can better answer questions about them when asked.

-Greg

Pre-sale of Shrubs and Trees

Once again, "From Bulbs to Blooms" is offering **Master Gardeners only** the opportunity to purchase trees and shrubs before the October 12th sale date.

Listed below are the shrubs and trees that will be offered for pre-sale. Because of time constraints, orders should be emailed to Susan Stone no later than Wednesday, October 2. Last day to order will be at the SCMG meeting on Thurs-day, October 3. All trees/shrubs are in 5 gal. containers; blackberry and blueberry are 2 gal. containers. Payment is due by 1 pm Thursday, October 3, and may be dropped off at the AgriLife Extension Office or given to a Committee Member at the October 3 meeting. Payment by check is preferred and should be post-dated October 12, 2019.

Pre-paid shrubs & trees must be picked up at Harvey Hall (north entrance) on Friday, 10/11/19, between 1 and 3 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Stone, slstone11@gmail.com

Trees & Shrubs:

Maple, Autumn Blaze (acer x freemanii 'Autumn Blaze') - \$44.00
 Magnolia, DD Blanchard (magnolia grandiflora 'DD Blanchard') - \$46.00
 Redbud, Rising Sun (Cercis canadensis JN2 - The Rising Sun™) - \$65.00
 Yaupon, Hoskin's Shadow (Ilex vomitoria 'Hoskins's Shadow') - \$34.00
 Natchez Blackberry (Rubus x 'Natchez') - \$16.00
 Brightwell Blueberry* (Vaccinium ashei 'Brightwell') - \$18.00

*We recommend a *second blueberry (different cultivar) for pollinator to increase yield*
 Fig, LSU Purple (ficus carica 'LSU Purple') - \$35.00

"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.



As this is written, we only have 13 seats still available. After the October monthly meeting the seats will be opened to others, not SCMG's who wish to go. So do not wait.

Needed are several large coolers for the bottled water. Do you have one we can use?

The bus will be at Harvey Convention Center parking lot at 7:30 AM and departure will be at 8:00AM. We wait for no one as we have a long drive. We tour Metro Maples first then have box lunch, from Jason's Deli, at Weston Gardens and then tour their gardens. Hopefully, will be home between 4 – 5PM.

Metro Maples is providing us discounts on tour day. On 1, 2, and 3 gallon maples discount is 20%. All large container sizes are 15%.

If you select a large container, height 6', or too large for bus storage, it can be paid for and tagged and Steve Farrell and Jeff Brown will bring it back when they return to pick up purchases for the Shade Garden. If you avail this method, it is asked that you help chip in monies to buy Jeff a tank of gas for his courtesy.

Keep in mind that people will be making purchases at Weston Gardens, also, so bus storage may become a premium.

This looks to be a fun trip. Questions – contact Linda Sargent silverset@embarqmail.com

—Linda Sargent

Work Day in the Gardens Time Changes

Effective October 1, the Tuesday work in the gardens will be from 9 am to 11 am.

The Wednesday work day for the Shade Garden will also change to 9 am to 11 am. Their Saturday work day will be 8:30 am to 11 am, on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays.

From Bulbs to Blooms

Thanks to all of you who have signed up to work our bulb sale. We have all slots filled at this time. Your team leaders will be contacting you if they have not already. What a great group you all are. *—Ann Smith*



First Tuesday in the Garden continues.....

October 1 - "Summer Bulbs" (which will be featured in the SCMG From Bulbs to Blooms event) with Anne Pattullo and Tommie Grinnell,

November 5—"Shade Gardening & a tour of the new Rose Garden Shade Garden" with Smith County Master Gardener Steve Farrell and friends. The presentation will be followed by a walking tour of the newly renovated Rose Garden Shade Garden.

Welcome Steven Chamblee to Longview



Parker County Master Gardeners loss is East Texas' gain. The long time director of Chandor Gardens in Weatherford will be coming to Longview where he will be supervising the new Longview Arboretum. After the grand opening on November 2, 2019, the Longview Arboretum and Nature Center will welcome members and guests to discover the beauty and serenity of Phase 1 of the LANC master planned arboretum.

Visit the arboretum's website at <http://www.longviewarboretum.org/> for more information.

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

October 5, 2019 – Fabulous Fall Festival SFA

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 5 at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, located at 2900 Raguet St. in historic Nacogdoches. The sale will feature more than 300 varieties of hard-to-find, “Texas-tough” plants, including natives, edibles, heirlooms, perennials, shrubs and trees, with an emphasis on pollinator friendly selections, as well as exclusive SFA introductions. The featured plants are extensively trialed before being offered to the public and are produced by SFA Gardens staff members and volunteers. For more information and a list of available plants, call (936) 468-4404, or visit sfagardens.sfasu.edu two weeks before the sale. For list of available plants, go to [Plant List](#) (Excel file).

October 18 & 19, 2019 – Southern Garden Symposium

At St. Francisville, Louisiana.

For full schedule and other details, go to <http://www.southerngardensymposium.org/>

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

We will 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/>



"FROM BULBS TO BLOOMS"

FEATURING HARDY, HARD TO FIND,
AND HEIRLOOM BULBS ADAPTED TO
THE EAST TEXAS AREA

FALL CONFERENCE AND SALE

OCTOBER 12, 2019

HARVEY HALL
(2000 W FRONT ST, TYLER, TX

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SPEAKER: SMITH COUNTY
HORTICULTURIST, GREG GRANT -
PREVIEWING THE BULBS FOR SALE!

REGISTRATION IS AT 8:30 AM / CONFERENCE 9:00 AM
BULB SALE: 11:30 AM



To view the list of bulbs available (as of September 24th), go to [2019 Bulb list](#).

The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and Master Gardener programs are open to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or disability. The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and Master Gardener programs are open to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or disability. The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and Master Gardener programs are open to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or disability.