

# MG Grapevine

## Smith County Newsletter

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November 2019



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SCMG Association Meeting  
on November 7th - 11:30 AM  
Rose Garden Center

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What a whirlwind month we had in October! Another great From Bulbs to Blooms Conference is behind us and plans are already in the making for next year's sale and conference. Thanks for Greg Grant's guidance and the committee coordinators Brenda Strong and Teresa McBrayer, the entire bulb sale committee did an excellent job. The committee will have a few bulbs available at the November membership meeting.

At the November meeting, the nominating committee will proceed with the election of officers for the coming 2020 year. Newly elected officers shall be installed at the January meeting and will assure their duties immediately upon installation. A list of the slate of officers for 2020 is included in this newsletter.

The Budget Committee has prepared the SCMG 2020 Budget and it too will be voted on at the November Membership Meeting. Henry Burch has spent endless hours gathering numbers from project coordinators, presenting those numbers to the committee, and to the board for approval to submit to the membership. Thank you, Henry!

The 2020 Garden Tour and Conference Committee met for their first planning session and are very excited to initiate their plan of action. Steve Farrell will share plans and further information at the monthly meeting.

If any of you have friends or know of someone that has expressed interest in becoming a Master Gardener, the 2020 New Class Orientation will be this month. The first class will be held January 2nd at the Extension Building. For additional information, interested parties may contact the Extension Office.



Thank you, Linda Sargent for making the arrangements for the SCMG Bus Trip to Metro Maples and Weston Gardens. Trips like this provide an educational experience for both the veteran members and new members alike.

As all of you know, I cannot close without mentioning volunteer and continuing educa-

tion hours. Thanks to those members that have entered your volunteer and continuing education hours. For those of you that have not entered hours, please contact Jean Smith, Greg, or myself and let us know what we can do to help. Remember, you can always request a leave of absence (Hardship Status) in the event of a personal hardship that stands in the way of any member obtaining their hours. The end of this year is closing in at a rapid rate and all Certified Master Gardener hours are due, December 31, 2019. December does not provide that many opportunities to obtain required hours. The monthly meeting in December is replaced with our Luncheon (No CE's). CE's remaining for the year are, 1st Tuesday in the Garden on November 5th and the monthly meeting November 7th. If you attended the From Bulbs to Blooms Conference, do not forget to give yourself 3 CE's.

Interns, please be reminded your required volunteer hours are due the last week of March 2020.

Thanks to all of you that have completed your volunteer hours in the required areas. All of you are doing an amazing job.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the November Membership Meeting!

- Janie Fowler President

## An Endless Sea of Questions

As you already know, as Smith County Master Gardener volunteers of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, your job is my job. So instead of just being one of me, there are approximately 150 of me. So at exactly does a county horticulturist do? In my case, I can roughly divide my job into three categories: speaking, writing, and answering questions.

I give lots of lectures to all kinds of groups. I've given nearly 2,000 in my life. For the first twenty years of my career I gave 50 a year which included three states in a week and three talks in a day. Yesterday I gave my third lecture in three days, my sixth in two weeks and my ninth for the month of October. It takes all kinds of behind the scenes work to prepare Power Points and handouts for lectures. It takes a data base of thousands and thousands of images as well which means constantly taking pictures along with sorting and saving them. Of course scheduling is a nightmare and travel hectic, time consuming, expensive, and if very far, painful on the bionic hips and spine. But it's a good way to educate and as you know I was born to yap. But for every talk I give, there are 10 I couldn't give. This is why a Smith County Master Gardener Speaker's Bureau is important. Help out if you can. Public speaking is nerve racking at first but once you realize that it's no different from talking to a single person it gets easier with each program you give. Every garden club and civic group wants an educational program. The county extension office is full of all kinds of educational opportunities and publications that you can share with them. Please do.

I actually spend more time writing than I do speaking. Unfortunately not one word of is it able to be written at the office because of nonstop distractions and interruptions. That means writing takes place at home in the early morning hours. As I sit writing this at 4:30 am on a Sunday morning I'm keenly aware that my Tyler Morning Telegraph garden column is also due today with the deadline for my not-yet-written *Texas Gardener* article having already passed. I also still have to do my result demonstration reports for 2018 and 2019 (any volunteers???), my Texas Data entries for September and October, and

my 2019 In-Depth Summaries and Achievement Reports (oh how I love bureaucratic paperwork...). I very much enjoy writing but I'm never, ever, caught up and the deadlines never end. You can help by writing articles on any garden related subject that interests you for the paper. Make it personal. That makes it easier and more readable.

And then there are the questions, questions, and more questions. I average 100 per week. These come face to face, via two computer e-mails, letters, Facebook, the web page, the office phone and my personal phone (non-stop calls and texts) which is supposed to be personal so if you have my number, don't share it and try not to use it! I don't actually own the phone and barter for its services. It's primarily for emergencies and for Mrs. G to contact me. As you know, most questions have no easy answer. Many just want to talk. As my Master Gardeners, this is one area where you can help me out immensely. You can work the Help Desk, follow me on Facebook to comment as needed, and rescue me at public events by intercepting questions and answering them first by stating that Mr. Grant isn't available at the moment but that you can help them. Naturally you aren't going to know all the answers (neither do I) but what we need from them is more background information on the problem along with high resolution images both close up and landscape, (and live samples if possible) so we can start trying to find an answer. Many questions we get are better answered by someone else so we often refer them to the Texas A&M Forest Service, a publication, or a certified arborist (we have a list in the office). It's always best if they can e-mail the detailed question along with images so we can forward it to the Texas A&M AgriLife turf, insect, disease, and horticulture specialists for expert help. It's also easy to attach an extension publication to and e-mail and send it back to them. We'll still be answering gardening questions from the casket, so get used to it. THANK YOU for all you do!

I wouldn't survive without you. -Greg



## Board Meeting on October 18th

Report on the Bulbs to Blooms Conference/Sale which was a success. Some bulbs did not arrive and one vendor failed to supply the ordered bulbs. Be patient, the Amaryllis will come and you will be notified when they arrive.

The Garden Tour was discussed and is moving forward. Be ready to volunteer in many different areas.

This will showcase the work we do year round.

More information to follow on the Greenhouse as it develops.

The 2020 budget was approved. It is posted on the website. Check it out, there are some changes. A big proposed expenditure for 2020 is update of sprinkler systems for the Heritage and Shade Gardens. The BOD will have to approve these expenditures after a careful study and bids are submitted.

TMGA awards submissions are as follows: Project-Home Garden Tour; Education- Library Series; Written Education- Calendar; Outstanding Master Gardener-Steve Ferrell; and Outstanding Master Gardener Association.

VMS Incentive Program- SCMG will have a drawing each month for MG's that do a minimum of three hours and put those hours on VMS. The winner will get a \$25 gift card. PUT YOUR HOURS IN EACH MONTH. -Wayne Elliott

## November 2019 SCMG Association Meeting



The November monthly meeting will be on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at the Rose Garden Center at 11:30 AM.

Our program for November will give you something to think about in the upcoming cold months when there's not much that needs to be done in the garden. Our speaker will be James Wilhite. He is the owner of the esteemed Tyler company Wilhite Landscaping and Lawn Care that has been in business for over 35 years. James is going to share his years of experience in landscape design and care and present a program called "Planting by the Signs."

Also, be prepared to sign up for the December Christmas Luncheon. -Debby Watkins

### Nominations for Officers for 2020

President	Debby Watkins
Vice President	Mary Jo Madden
Secretary	Jean Smith
Treasurer	Henry Burch
Assistant Treasurer	Terri Gerber
Parliamentarian	Janie Fowler

### To be elected at the November 7th SCMG meeting

Historian	Mary Hamlin
Board Member At-Large	Laurie Graham
Board Member At-Large	Victor Long
State Director	Chris Cochran
State Director	Neysa Mueller
Alternate State Director	Belinda Kromer
Alternate State Director	Maury Hudson

## MG Bulb Sale – November 7

Again this year, Master Gardeners will be able to purchase bulbs from a selection of bulbs not sold at the October 12, "From Bulbs to Blooms" Conference and Sale. In addition to those bulbs, we will offer three varieties of amaryllis and Purple Shamrock which did not arrive in time for the Oct. 12 sale. Other bulbs available on Nov. 7 include Daffodils Carlton, Ceylon and Cragford, Summer Snowflake, Giant Snowflake, White Rain Lily and Red Oxblood Lilies.

The sale will be held on Thursday, November 7, from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the Rose Garden Center. Payment with Cash, check or credit card. -Brenda Strong

## Christmas Luncheon

**Hear ye, hear ye!** It is almost time again for our delicious annual MG Christmas luncheon. Mark your calendars for December 5 at 11:30 at the Rose Garden Center. The plan is to have turkey provided. The rest of us will bring salads, sides, desserts — or whatever suits you — to share. Think about what you would like to bring so you can sign up at November MG meeting. I will also need to know how many in your party....count yourself as (1). I know you all know what RSVP means and we will need that info so meat can be ordered and you will have a chair to sit on. RSVP by November 30 please.

If you prefer, email me your info and I will add you to the list. [smithvae@aol.com](mailto:smithvae@aol.com) Thanks -Ann Smith



## 2020 Garden Tour News

One year ago this November, the Smith County Master Gardeners decided to recruit and assign volunteers to care and maintain the combined Shade and Camelia Gardens in the same vigor and formality as the IDEA and Heritage Rose Gardens. Our four demonstration gardens now comprise the entire south section of the Tyler Rose Garden Complex. Greg Grant has been lobbying our city leaders to showcase our gardens as a key element and addition of the Rose Garden. Very soon the City of Tyler will approve naming our entire section the Tyler Botanical Garden.

A small group of volunteers has met to kick around some preliminary ideas, and we expect to leverage this opportunity to partner with Tyler Parks and Recreation for a colossal promotion of our demonstration gardens. The 2020 Smith County Master Gardener's Garden Tour is now planned to be a tour and conference at the Tyler Botanical Garden to be held on Saturday, June 6th.

We will share more of our plans at the monthly MG meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>. -Steve Farrell



## 2020 Calendar/Gardening Guide



If you have shade in your yard you will love this calendar. It is all about plants that thrive in the shade.

There is a chart in the middle listing annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, and ground covers that love shade. There are also 12 articles about different shade plants.

The vegetable chart lists the best dates to plant in East Texas. Under it is an article about even planting some vegetables in shade.

If you have garden questions a page in the back lists many websites you can access to get information. The calendar is \$7.00 which is very economical for all the information you will receive.

For a list of the locations where the calendar is available for purchase, go to: <https://txmg.org/smith/mg-projects/gardening-guide-calendar/>

-Sherri Matthews

## 1st Tuesday in the Garden

This popular series continues at Noon on November 5<sup>th</sup> starting in the IDEA Garden with a brief presentation on “Shade Gardening” with Master Gardeners Steve Farrell and friends. The presentation will be followed by a walking tour of the newly renovated Rose Garden Shade Garden. This event is free with limited seating in the IDEA Garden pergola, so bring your own chair for your comfort.



## From Bulbs to Blooms wrap-up

Once again the Smith County Master Gardeners came together to produce a successful “From Bulbs to Blooms” conference and sale. That success can be measured by the very positive comments that were heard, by the incredible speed with which the bulbs sold, by the distance people were willing to travel to attend (someone came from Lubbock!) or by the bottom line. The sign-in sheets recorded 313 members of the public and 102 Master Gardeners – the crowd seemed much larger than that! An amazing 95% of the bulbs we had sold!!

The Committee and all the volunteers who worked on this project deserve our thanks for the hours and commitment they gave. Special thanks to Anne P., Terri and Liz W. for managing the bulbs, Henry for managing the money (and not being annoyed about my ignorance regarding budgets), Ann Smith for managing volunteers, Deanna and Katy for the great vendor selection, Wayne for his security team (and his willingness to stand up to some toughies!), Harvey for the transportation, Jean, Andie and Elizabeth for the publicity and advertising in all the forms it now takes, Nan for room setup, Jan for the refreshments, Neysa for the door prizes, Steve for his creative improvements to the Silent Auction, Susan W. for managing non-plant sales, Cindy for emceeing and to Teresa for taking notes and being willing to step in wherever and whenever she was asked. A very large thank you goes to Susan S. for managing the member pre-sale of bulbs which turned into a mini-bulb sale on its own. An equally large thank you to Mim for

the hours she spent cleaning and sorting bulbs at the office. All the members of the Committee, as well as all the volunteers, contributed to the smooth, seamless operation of the actual conference and bulb sale.

Of course Greg deserves a very large thank you. Not only is he an engaging speaker, filled with stories and tidbits for success with bulbs, he also spends countless hours growing, tending and digging bulbs for the benefit of the SCMG. His contributions to the bulb sale are literally priceless!

Working on the bulb sale is a great opportunity for each SCMG member. Not only do you earn hours, but you get the opportunity to experience camaraderie with quite a few members! In spite of chaos and frenetic activity, we have fun! It has been my honor and pleasure to chair this major fundraiser this year and I’ve enjoyed getting to know some of the members even better. There are already suggestions on how to improve (yes – after 21 years we STILL find ways to improve!).

I look forward to the 2020 “From Bulbs to Blooms” Conference and Sale scheduled for October 10, 2020!

-Brenda Strong

