

# MG Grapevine

## Smith County Newsletter

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October 2020



**The next  
SCMG Association meeting is  
Thursday, October 1, 2020  
via Zoom**

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**Debby's Digressions**

Finally, the weather is starting to cool down a little and we can enjoy working outside without sweating so much! Our area finally got some much-needed rain and everything has perked up. So, even though the

COVID-19 disruption to our lives still continues, at least we can now comfortably spend time outside. Now would be a good time to get outside and take pictures of any projects you have been working on; like adding a new landscape bed, a water feature, a deck, or whatever, and sending it to Mary Hamlin, our Historian, so she can post it in the Photo section on VMS. If you weren't aware of the Photo section, you really need to check it out!

I was extremely excited about the participation at our August Membership Meeting via Zoom, but attendance at the September meeting via Zoom even blew that out of the water! The speaker for our October meeting is very inspirational and entertaining so you're not going to want to miss it.

As you read this, there are three months left in this year to obtain your 12 Volunteer hours and 6 Continuing Education (CE) hours in 2020 to stay certified as a Texas (Smith County) Master Gardener. We want you all to continue to be certified and maintain your affiliation with the Smith County Master Gardeners Association. (This information does not apply to Interns.) If you don't know how to get your hours, please contact me and I will provide you with sug-

gestions and alternatives. Even during the midst of the pandemic there are ways to obtain hours and still stay safe. *If you're having problems, please reach out to me and let me know.* Don't wait till December 31 and then ask what you can do. Greg is a magician in so many ways, but we can't conjure things out of thin air at the last minute.

The Board of Directors wants to recognize all the Master Gardeners who have passed away during active service to our association, since its inception and into the future, with a permanent memorial at the Cotton Belt Building. It's a fact of life that there's two given things – you pay taxes and you die. However, this past year we have had a disproportionate amount of our beloved members pass away for one reason or another. This prompted the Board to take a serious look at how we could etch the memories of these folks in our minds for posterity. It then led us to think about all the members that we have lost since our inception. Laurie Graham is spearheading this project so please take time to read her note further on in the newsletter

From Bulbs to Blooms is right around the corner and it is always our biggest fundraiser. This year is no exception because we couldn't have our Garden Tour & Conference as a fund-raiser, so the pressure is on to make it really successful. We need ALL hands on-deck to make this work. The Bulbs to Blooms Committee, led by Brenda Strong, has done an incredible job of setting up an online Conference and Sale.

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### October Membership Meeting

We've had a very unusual September, weather-wise. Acting like it's already Fall! But fall brings the frenzy of the Bulbs to Blooms sale, more frenetic this year because a virus has changed the whole world. And the stress of the upcoming holidays - being pulled in many directions, not managing to keep everyone happy, but keeping all those plates spinning.... Claudann Jones is coming to the rescue!

Claudann is our Smith County Extension Agent for Family and Community Health. She is going to present a program that she calls **Mindful Living during the Pandemic**, and I think we will be reminded of the need for, and encouraged to engage in, self-awareness and self-care. She even has handouts for us, and everyone will be able to download and print their own copy..

Our October meeting will be via Zoom on Thursday, October 1 at 11:30. As usual, the connection information will be sent out in an eBlast several days prior to the meeting. We had great attendance in September- let's do even better this next time!

-Mary Jo Madden

## Bulbs 101



**Bulb:** A herbaceous plant with a fleshy underground storage organ made up of modified leaves. Includes both annual and perennial types. Examples: daffodils, amaryllis, and lilies. Often loosely includes other types of storage organs including tubers (caladiums), corms (gladiolus), rhizomes (iris), tuberous roots (daylilies), etc...

**Annual Bulb:** A bulbous plant that is only useful for one season (doesn't reliably return and bloom each year). Examples: tulips, Dutch hyacinths, and caladiums.

**Short Lived Bulb:** A bulbous plant that only performs well for a few years and gradually declines. Examples: Certain large flowered daffodils, most true lilies, and most gladiolus.

**Spring Bulbs:** Those bulbs that bloom in the late winter or early spring. Most of these grow foliage during the winter and spring and go dormant in the summer. Examples: jonquils, snowflakes, and narcissus.

**Summer Bulbs:** Those bulbs that grow and bloom during the late spring and summer. Most of these are tropical in origin, go dormant during the winter, and are somewhat tender and grown primarily outdoors only in the South. Examples: crinums, hymenocallis, and cannas.

**Fall Bulbs:** Those bulbs that bloom in the late summer and fall after a summer drought induced dormancy. They normally bloom without foliage and grow foliage during the fall and winter. They do not want summer irrigation. Examples: spider lily (*Lycoris*), oxblood lily, and rain lily.

**Naturalize:** When bulbs multiply and spread on their own from seed and seemingly grow "wild".

**Perennialize:** When bulbs return each year as perennials but may or may not naturalize. There are many good perennial bulbs that are sterile hybrids and set no seed.

**Characteristics of Bulbs:** Easy, low maintenance, drought tolerant, light feeders, more expensive, long lived, mostly propagated by division. -Greg

### Some bulbs for East Texas:

Amaryllis  
Bearded Iris  
Butterfly Ginger  
Byzantine Gladiolus  
Cannas  
Chinese Ground Orchid  
Crinums  
Daffodils  
Daylilies  
Easter Lily

Elephant Garlic  
Hidden Ginger  
Jonquils  
Louisiana iris  
Montbretia (Crocasmia)  
Multiplying Onions  
Narcissus  
Oxblood Lily  
Perennial Leek  
Philippine Lily  
Rain Lilies

Red Spider Lily (*Lycoris*)  
Roman hyacinth  
Snowflakes  
Spuria Iris  
Starch Hyacinth  
Tiger Lily  
White Cemetery Iris  
White Spider Lily (*Hymenocallis*)  
Wood Hyacinth



The Board of Directors met on September 17, 2020. The following items were discussed:

**Memorials for Members** -- Several ideas were discussed and plans are being made to honor those members with a plaque displayed in the classroom at the Extension Office.

**From Bulbs to Blooms Update** -- Sign up slots are still available, training sessions will be offered due to a change in procedure for 2020, and there will be an article pertaining to the event in the Tyler Paper

each Sunday preceding the Bulb Sale.

**Program Ideas** -- The Board is researching ideas for future programs like the previous Rose Pruning demonstration by Greg Grant. These programs will be offered to encourage Master Gardeners to get involved and obtain additional volunteer hours. Mary Jo Madden is looking into a field trip this fall.

**2021 Budget** -- In preparation for the 2021 Budget, the Board was questioned on the Tyler Botanical Garden Tour and Celebration and also the Greenhouse Project as how to budget for next year in the event both projects move forward. After discussion, it was agreed that both projects will remain in the budget.

The Board approved a Budget Amendment for \$239 to cover administrative items and QuickBooks. At the planning stage last year, items such as a Techsoup subscription, ZOOM, and Sign-up Genesis were not an issue. This year each item is a necessity for the association to function.

The October Board of Directors will convene on October 15, 2020 via ZOOM. --Janie Fowler

## List of Deceased MGs

The Board of Directors is addressing the issue of recognizing members who have passed away since the association's inception. The general consensus is to, in some manner, post their names with class number in the classroom and/or office in the Cotton Belt Bldg. If you know of members who were active in SCMGA at the time of their passing, please send to Laurie Graham at [lgraham48@gmail.com](mailto:lgraham48@gmail.com) If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you! -Laurie Graham

### Bulbs to Blooms

It's hard to believe it's only been a month since I wrote an update because so much has been accomplished by a very busy committee! By the time you read this, I expect everyone will have watched Greg's stellar presentation. I've already made marks on my copy of the bulb information packet. Hopefully I'll be able to pick up a few new-to-me bulbs when the MGs are able to start shopping on 10/5.

We are now entering the final stretch for our virtual conference and sale. This is the time when there are opportunities to volunteer and help this sale be successful. The links to Signup Genius are on VMS and the members section of our website. Most of the sign up positions are filled at this time, though there are still open slots on 10/9 and 10/10. I thank everyone for promptly filling the slots. If you would like to help on one of the days that is filled up, check back regularly, especially the evening before and morning of the activity to see if anyone had to drop out at the last minute. If you are working the afternoon shift on 10/10, we would appreciate some people staying a bit later than 2:30 to help haul equipment back to the Cotton Belt Building.

We are still in need of a loan of a golf cart / gator for use on 10/10. This would need to be delivered to Harvey Hall by 6:30 AM that day and should be able to be trailered home by 2:30 PM.

If you are on Facebook or any other social media, please share the link to Greg's talk, share the link to the online sale, help spread the word! I did have a Virginia friend inquire about placing an order. Make sure you mention all orders must be picked up at Harvey Hall.

On Oct 9th, we will have two training sessions / explanation of the curbside pickup plan. One at 10:30 AM, one at 1 PM. If you are already at Harvey Hall working, please attend one of the sessions. If you're not working on the 9th, but are signed up to work on the 10th, we would like you to try to make it to one or the other of these sessions. If you are signed up to work on the 10th but cannot make it to a training session, you are still welcome and expected to work on Saturday, the 10th! We want the curbside pickup to go as smoothly as possible. It is obviously completely different from any bulb sale we've had in the past. The more people that understand the expected flow of customers and orders, the smoother the curbside pickup will go!

A recap of the important dates:

- 9/30 - Setup area for sacking – volunteers filled
- 10/1 & 10/2 - Sacking bulbs – 2 shifts per day, volunteers filled
- 10/5 – SCMGs may start shopping
- 10/5 – 10/8 - Order processing – 2 shifts per day, volunteers filled
- 10/9 - move orders to Harvey Hall, arrange everything – still need volunteers
- 10/9 – 10:30 AM and 1 PM – training / explanation of curbside pickup plan
- 10/10 – 6:30 – 8 AM - Outdoor setup for curbside pickup – still need volunteers
- 10/10 - Curbside pickup at Harvey Hall – still need volunteers

-Brenda Strong



### East Texas Gardening Guide

The 2021 East Texas Gardening Guide and Calendar is here and now available for purchase. This year's guide highlights our newly-named Tyler Botanical Garden and features several articles by one of your favorite writers (hint...Greg Grant). Master Gardeners can purchase and pick-up the Calendar for \$7.00 each in a variety of ways:

- stop by the Help Desk Office at AgriLife and pick one up (cash or check only),
- drop one (or more) in your cart along with purchased bulbs during the Bulb Sale beginning October 5,
- visit one of our vendor partners in the community (list will be published at a later date).

The Gardening Guide/Calendar will also be available on the SCMG website online store shortly after the Bulb Sale concludes at a cost of \$10.00 each (includes shipping).

Thanks to everyone who helped bring this publication to fruition during a very difficult year. Special thanks to Scherel Carver for her hard work designing the Calendar and to all other writers, photographers and contributors. Check out our Acknowledgements section on the inside back cover.

If you have questions on how to get your copy of the 2021 East Texas Gardening Guide, send an email to [SmithMGHelpDesk@gmail.com](mailto:SmithMGHelpDesk@gmail.com) or phone the AgriLife Office. See picture of the cover on page 4. -Susan Stone

### Debby's Digressions—continued from Page 1

However, your help is needed for the physical preparation of the orders and the drive-thru pickup. They have worked hard to make both the order preparation and the pickup a safe experience for both the Master Gardeners working and the customers picking up the orders. Please be sure and sign up to help.

Mary Jo Madden, our Vice-President, is brainstorming ideas to make our December meeting as special in this crazy pandemic time as what it was in normal times. If you have any thoughts on this, please feel free to reach out to her. We may have missed our April, May, and June meetings trying to make sense of all this and stay safe, but we regrouped and want to end 2020 on a bang and be able to say, "COVID-19 you may have knocked us down for a brief spell, but you can't keep us down!"

As always, please continue to be safe during this unconventional time... Debby Watkins, President



### ROSE PRUNING WORKSHOP WAS A HIT!

On Friday, September 4, Greg Grant and 17 Master Gardeners braved a possible rainstorm and hordes of traffic to learn about roses. It had rained all the night before and the streets around the Rose Center/Harvey Hall were lined with vehicles participating in the Food Drive. Somehow everyone managed to get to the meeting location.

Greg educated us on what the different classes of roses are and then how it is important to prune each according to what makes it happiest. Greg tortured some roses with his gas-powered hedge trimmer and then let everyone torture other roses with their hand pruners. It was a great day and everyone left full of information! Because of the interest presented by those who were unable to attend, the workshop will be offered again in February. -*Debby Watkins*



Online Gardening courses link: <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog?pagename=Plants-and-Garden>

