

MG Grapevine

<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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February 2021



**The next
SCMG Association meeting is
Thursday, January 4, 2021
At 11:30 AM via ZOOM**

MG Grapevine Staff
Martin Davis, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Greg Grant, Mary Jo Madden, Debby Watkins, Belinda Kromer, Terri Gerber, and Susan Stone.

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that things get done.

My degree is in drama, and I specialized in stage management. I'm used to being behind the scenes, working hard to make everyone look good.

What happened was, that after about 27 other people turned them down, the nominating committee came to me back in the fall of 2019. Nevertheless, It was a hard decision for me to make, and I sought counsel from a number of members and

I have to say that I am a reluctant president. Truth be told, I didn't really want to be vice president either. I'm used to being a facilitator, someone who removes impediments so friends on the "outside" - not because these jobs are difficult in and of themselves, but because it would take me outside of my comfort zone. But I stepped up. I said yes.

So here we are. And so now it's your turn to step up, to say yes. Our organization needs our participation at higher levels than ever. It's not a once and done proposition, so if you've been a Master Gardener for years and think you've done your part, think again! We have at least 29 ongoing projects and programs. Some of them need leaders, and all of them need enthusiastic volunteers.

So step up! When you are asked to contribute, say yes! Let me look good by making you look good, by making SCMG look good! If there's an impediment, let me know, so I can help. Let's have a better 2021, it shouldn't be hard.

Mary Jo Madden, President

Our new President has some changes as follows:
Please note the updates to my email and phone number.

E-mail maryjmadden@gmail.com

Phone 214-538-2452 (voice & text)

This a change from the printed directory.

M.J. Madden

Go to page 3 for details of the program at the SCMG meeting and for the key to the ZOOM meeting.



Help Desk

The Help Desk is operating remotely for the time being. We hope to be back in the AgriLife office in early 2021. Questions can be directed to the Help Desk at smithmghelpdesk@gmail.com Susan Stone

Common Naturalized East Texas Narcissus

By Greg Grant



Narcissus jonquilla (Jonquil/"Sweetie"): Perennial throughout the state. Clusters of tiny yellow, very fragrant blooms in February. Multiplies best in acid, sandy-loam soils. Species native to Spain and France. Produces viable seed and will naturalize on good sites if the seed capsules are allowed to ripen.



Narcissus x odorus (Campernelle Jonquil): Adapted throughout the state. Clusters of medium sized yellow, fragrant blooms in February. The best! An old hybrid between *N. jonquilla* (jonquil) and *N. pseudonarcissus* (daffodil). Sterile (seedless) so only multiplies by division.



Narcissus x intermedius (Texas Star Jonquil): *Narcissus x intermedius* (Texas Star Jonquil): Clusters of small, pale yellow, fragrant blooms in February. A natural hybrid between *N. jonquilla* (jonquil) and *N. tazetta* (narcissus). Sterile (seedless), so only multiplies by division. Fabulous fragrance.



Narcissus pseudonarcissus (Early Daffodil/"Lent Lily"): Small, creamy-yellow trumpets in February. Multiplies best in acid, sandy-loam soils. Wild species from Spain and France. Sets viable seed so will naturalize on good sites. The parent of all modern daffodils and the subject of Wordsworth's "*I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*" poem.



Narcissus tazetta 'Grand Primo' (Grand Primo Narcissus): Adapted to all parts of the state from Dallas/Shreveport south. Clusters of creamy-white, intoxicatingly fragrant blooms in February. Thrives in alkaline or acid soils. Several hundred year old cultivar and the most common polyanthus (tazetta) narcissus in the state. Sterile so only propagates by division. Result of an apparent cross between the paperwhite (*N. papyraceus*) and the Chinese sacred lily (*N. tazetta orientalis*). *N. papyraceus* (paperwhite) has *pure* white blooms and blooms between Thanksgiving and New Year's. *N. x italicus* has creamy-white, starry flowers with yellow cups, blooms in mid-January, and is also quite common.

-Greg

February 4th SCMGA Meeting

Our speaker for our SCMG February 4th monthly meeting is Julie Mattox. She spoke to us last year on the topic of “Dairy to Prairie” so those who attended will be familiar with her. She is a dynamic and fun speaker! February’s program will be on Purple Martins. We will learn the tricks of attracting these very special birds. You won’t want to miss this one! A teaser and more about Julie and her Purple Martin story is below.

Julie located to East Texas in 1996 and put up her first Martin house in 1997. What started out as hobby soon turned into an obsession and now an obligation. Today the colony numbers 92 cavities with close to a 100% occupancy rate. Learning through years and with help from the Purple Martin Conservation Association she loves to share her passion about one of our native neo-tropical birds of which some facts just might surprise. She will talk about history of the Purple Martin, types of housing, nest monitoring and much more!

Julie lives in Yantis with her husband and dog Zoey on 68 acres where she is currently working with Texas Parks and Wildlife in a tallgrass prairie restoration.

by *Belinda Kromer*

The meeting begins at 11:30 AM via **ZOOM**. To connect to ZOOM go to:

<https://zoom.us/j/5178191778?pwd=UG80VnlmQ2gwZ1FwVlJvUjhTY2xLUT09>

Meeting ID: 517 819 1778

Passcode: 522574

REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JANUARY 21

The following items were discussed:

- 2020 State Awards – submitting in five categories and all look good.
- Greenhouse project is moving along.
- Mack Humphrey’s grand-daughter made a donation of \$200 to be used towards the new compost bins in the IDEA garden.
- 2021 SCMG dues – 63% have paid. Reminders will be sent.
- VMS System update/replacement will be occurring in April and training will be specific to Texas.
- Programming Committee/Ideas for educational programming in these COVID times.



By *Debby Watkins*

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

A Note from the Treasurer

In order to remain an active member, Smith County Master Gardeners are required to pay annual dues of \$25, unless of course you are a 'Lifetime Member'. The ability to pay with a credit card is a new feature this year and all current active members were sent an invoice to the email address we have on file for you. If your email address has changed or you have not gotten the invoice for some reason, please contact Joel Ross at jrteam22@yahoo.com and he will resend the invoice to you.



If you do not wish to pay by credit card, you can mail a \$25 check to Joel at 2702 Old Bullard Rd, Tyler, TX 75701 or drop it through the mail slot in the middle of his Parrot Green front door. Checks should be made out to SCMGA. If you prefer, checks or cash may also be taken to the AgriLife office.

If you have any questions, please contact Joel Ross at jrteam22@yahoo.com or myself at TLGerber@suddenlink.net.
Terri Gerber, Treasurer

Children's Programs



Katy Barone drafted new input for the Children's Programs which appears on the SCMGA website. Following some tweaking, we have a reworked page which does a better job of telling the website visitor about the opportunities for children's

Junior Master Garden's programs. Go to <https://txmg.org/smith/mg-projects/childrens-programs/> to view.



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