

MG Grapevine

<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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The next SCMG Association meeting is Thursday, June 3, 2021 At 11:30 AM at the Tyler Rose Center

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A Note from the President

We sure have a lot going on, as we head into summer! Garden workdays continue, but yours may be starting earlier, so be sure to check the calendar. The new class starts on Thursday, and you know what that means - experienced Master Gardeners can volunteer as Mentors! The Calendar Committee is soliciting content, including photos. The Programming Committee is figuring out how to best do Tuesdays in the Garden this fall, and planning to help us better speak in public. If you are interested in working with a school or community garden, we are in the planning stages of getting that organized. VMS is working as best it can, for the moment, so jump in there and update your info! Need some help getting that done? Mary Hamlin's got you covered- that's on the schedule too, right after the June monthly membership meeting. Sign up to come, and bring your device, if possible. Signup for the Membership meeting too, so we can have a good room setup. Belinda has a great meeting planned.

We are planning to print an updated Member Directory, in conjunction with the new class. This is another reason to get your info updated in VMS. And we will be providing an opportunity for any MG who wants a new photo in the directory to come in on June 10 and Lyn Benson will take a good one! Thank you, Lyn, for saying YES when asked. (We have a Signup for photos too).

The East Texas State Fair is going to happen this year, and it's about time for us to get cracking on our exhibit. Be watching for news from Delane Caesar on this year's plan. And there's a Observation Beehive dedication in the Rose Garden later this month, you can contact Elizabeth Waldrop to help out with that.

A big shout-out to a couple of our members who have taken on leadership positions. Lynn McGinnis is working with Jean Smith and will become our newspaper article coordinator. And Debbie Taylor has agreed to follow Mim Hershey as lead on the Greenhouse Project! Thank you! Thank you!

Don't forget to order your bulbs! Since we can't shop during the sale, this is a sure way to get what you want. And thank you to Jane Coker for taking this on!

Susan Buntz is doing a marvelous job leading the Garden Guides! And what a great way to earn volunteer hours, leading people through our home base and talking about plants!

Thanks to everyone who showed up for the Tyler Botanical Garden dedication. We had a great turnout, and didn't we look sharp! And so did the gardens 🌻

mjm



SCMGA on YouTube!

SCMGA now has enough subscribers to our YouTube Channel that we can now use a custom URL to direct folks to it! So check out our content, show us some love! Feel free to share this link with everyone.

<https://www.youtube.com/SmithCountyMasterGardeners>



Terri Gerber

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Milk and Wine Lily (*Crinum x herbertii*)

Greg Grant

Crinum lilies are one of our most common old garden and cemetery plants. They're so showy and fragrant that they border on being obnoxious. And they're so tough that friend, Bill Welch claims none have ever died. Although not common in commerce anymore, many country yards have a clump or two.

Originally grown as greenhouse specimens, crinums became common Southern dooryard plants around the turn of the century.

Without a doubt, the most commonly cultivated hybrid crinum in East Texas is *C. x herbertii*, the milk and wine lily, with striped flowers of pink and white. *C. x herbertii* was described in 1837 as a cross between *C. scabrum* and *C. bulbispermum*. *C. x herbertii* has cascading, slightly glaucous-green foliage, large flowers stalks, and drooping striped flowers. It blooms heavily from summer to fall, shortly following rains or irrigation. Like many crinums, *C.x herbertii* is very fragrant and makes an outstanding cutflower.



Good mail order sources for crinum lilies include jenksfarmer.com, plantdelights.com, and southernbulbs.com.

June Monthly Membership Meeting Program Details

The June 3rd Monthly Membership Meeting program will again be held at the Rose Garden. We will again be making this one a hybrid meeting with Zoom available for those not yet comfortable with in person meetings. Please have patience, we are perfecting that model! Our program is "Organic vs. GMO Gardening" with Wayne Carpenter. He is a native Texan and a 5th generation cotton farmer. He has experience in Dairy Farming, Cattle Ranching, Agriculture seed marketing and founded Giant Seed Company. He lived much of his career in Eastern New Mexico before coming back to Texas. He sold agriculture seed in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri through a large network of farmer seed dealers. His background as you can see is extensive! He will be telling us all about his own personal experiences! Get ready to learn about gardening in a very special way



Belinda Kromer

REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS

**IDEA Garden**

“April showers bring May flowers” or at least that’s how it’s supposed to be but you know Mother Nature....in this topsy-turvy year, surely all the May showers will provide beautiful summer flowers!? Bedding plants are in place in all sections, awaiting mulch and Preen and hopefully, that will be accomplished May 25 in time for Tyler Botanic Garden day on the 28th. It’s amazing how beautiful the gardens are considering the winter setback. We’ve seen some old and new faces working in the garden and hope to see more this summer! There is always something to do, it’s more fun with more people plus work goes faster, so put on your hat and sunscreen and come join us for some IDEA gardening!” All are appreciated!”

Laurie Graham

Heritage Rose Garden

The Board of Directors has approved the Irrigation Project for the Heritage Rose/Shade Gardens. With the heat of the summer right around the corner, this is very much needed as the system needs renovation. Tyler Sprinkler Company will be completing the work.

Volunteers in the Heritage Rose Garden have been busy both in and out of the garden. We had our Spring Volunteer Luncheon and, since COVID restrictions have relaxed, we had POTLUCK! Lots of fun and good food was had by all attendees. We also ventured out on a field trip to Cherokee County, with lunch in Bullard along the way, and visited the Earthkind Rose Garden and the Demonstration Gardens of the Cherokee Master Gardeners. We invited the Garden Guides and some went along with us. We had a great day!

In the garden we turned our attention from the roses to weeding the beds. We also had to thin out reseeding annuals and some vigorous perennials so we’ve been taking home lots of plants at the end of the workday. The reseeding annual larkspurs, bluebonnets, and poppies have been blooming their hearts out, as have the spring bulbs and roses. We’re watching the reseeding annual celosia, gomphrena, and zinnia start to sprout. Soon the coneflowers will be in bloom. We are still watching some heirloom camelias and azaleas to see if they bounce back from the artic vortex.

Come join us on Tuesday workdays!

Debby Watkins and Henry Burch

**The Shade Garden**

The Shade Garden work is from 8-10 AM on Wednesdays. Things are looking up as the Japanese Maples loved the cold blast we had and their color is amazing. As well as the Azaleas.

However the Camellias did not. We will be pruning them this week to help bring them back. All other plantings are doing well also, so much color! So as the weather warms up, the Shade Garden might be more inviting to volunteers! All are welcome.

Katy & Liz

REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING May 20, 2021

The following items were discussed:

- Policies and Procedures revisions were approved.
- Job Descriptions will be reviewed and revised.
- Irrigation Project for gardens was approved.
- Continued membership in Tyler Chamber of Commerce was approved.
- Began discussion on whether to have a 2022 Home Garden Tour. Discussion will continue.
- East Texas State Fair – More information will be forthcoming as the Fair Committee finalizes plans for our involvement.
- Medical Leave requests approved for the remainder of 2021 for Steve Purdy and Linda Sargent.
- 2022 Fruit, Nut, Veggie Conference assistance sought by county agents. Discussion will continue.
- State Directors' Meeting Report from May 19 was presented.

Debby Watkins



From Bulbs to Blooms Update.



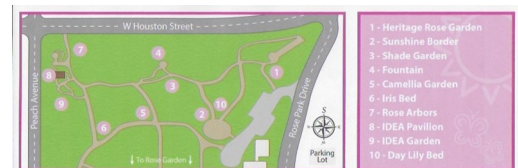
The planning for this year's bulb sale continues. The committee has decided there will not be an in-person conference again this year due to challenges with logistics. The bulb sale will be online since our customers overwhelmingly requested that form of sale. The timely news for this month is the member pre-order. Master Gardeners will be asked to NOT shop the initial day or two of the online sale in October. Last year, a number of bulbs sold out during the first two days of the sale. The member pre-order is your only opportunity to ensure you receive particular bulbs. We have a number of new offerings this year, both of the daffodil type and the non-daffodil type. In addition there are member-only offerings (some really gorgeous amaryllis!). Pre-ordering is your only opportunity to get a member-only offering. They will NOT be available at the sale. Your order must be placed via email to Jane Coker by June 11th. Contact Jane via email or phone if you have questions. She will send a confirmation email. If you do not receive one, it means she hasn't received your order. Call her! I hope y'all take advantage of this opportunity to ensure you receive your choices.

Brenda

Garden Guides Update

The Garden Guides are alive and doing well! Just a little history, the Garden Guides were formerly called the Rose Garden Docents and were in the hands of the City of Tyler. Recently, SCMG has taken over this job and it is growing fast. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our wonderful Tyler Botanical Gardens! We are getting calls almost weekly asking about the tours, so we are looking at a busy year. We now have about 10 gardeners on our team and they are doing a great job! On April 24, 2021, Paul Wick gave a tour to two people, one of which is a travel writer for Texas Monthly magazine. Can't wait to see what might come out of that tour! On June 16th, we will host 9 persons from Jasper Ventures from Whitehouse, TX. On May 6, 2022 (yes, we are doing bookings into next year), we will host the Tyler Garden Club. More are in the works, so stay tuned! We will have another training sometime in July or August, so if you are interested in joining us, please give Susan Buntz a call or email

Susan Buntz



VMS....VMS....VMS....VMS....VMS....

The new VMS sign up is going great thanks to all those members who have logged in and added their hours! However, we still have a lot to go. When logging in the first time please use the document we sent out because members are telling us that it makes signing up very easy. If you need another copy let Mary Hamlin know at mhamlin@flash.net. Don't hesitate to ask questions, that's what we're here for. For those who have not gotten on the new system, please do it soon. We need everyone on the system and actively adding their hours and CEs. And we'll have an extra \$25 drawing at the June meeting—everyone who enters any May hours is eligible!

Mary Hamlin

The Calendar Committee



The 2022 calendar is coming along great. It will contain articles about 12 local butterflies, a pollinator garden, moths, and hummingbirds. It will also have some beautiful pictures taken in East Texas. There is still more work to be done. If you would like to help our next meeting is June 1 at 1:00 in room 116.

Sheri Matthews

SCMGA is an Award-Winning Organization!

The Texas Master Gardener 2020 yearly awards were just announced, and Smith County Master Gardener Association was named 1st Place Outstanding Large Organization, 1st Place Outstanding Individual (Debby Watkins), 1st Place Educational Program (bulb sale), 1st Place Written Education (media efforts), and 2nd Place Project (Tyler Botanical Garden). WOW! These awards reflect the hard work and quick adaptation of SCMGA despite COVID-19 throwing a wrench into every program. It proves there was nothing we couldn't handle in 2020. We not only continued our mission of education, but also supported the public at a time when gardening interest took a large increase because of so many people being home.

MG organizations compete for awards with others of similar size, and SCMGA is in the Large Organization category which is defined as having 100-199 active members. In Texas, there are xx MG organizations that fit the Large category.

The awards process starts in October when the Board of Directors selects projects and individuals to be nominated, and also selects award writers. The writers work on the awards through the end of the calendar year in order to capture all

year end stats. Awards are written on forms provided by the State MG organization, and each award nomination has very specific criteria that must be addressed. Once written all of our awards are sent through a central SCMGA editing process in which several individuals review each award and make suggestions. The award nominations are then due to State MG by January 31st of the next year.



Once the State MG organization has all awards, they are sent to a panel of extension agents outside of Texas to avoid bias. Judging is based on how well a nomination answers the questions asked. These awards are very competitive, and it is truly a testament to SCMGA's extraordinary efforts and results that we have been recognized with so many awards.

We also need to give a big thanks to the AgriLife staff who gave us so much support during a challenging year.

The awards-winning entries have been posted in VMS. Go to General Information—Docs/Newsletters and then you can scroll to find them. If you want to do a search, their document type is "Other". Please take some time to read them!

Mary Hamlin

Youth & Community Garden Update

The youth gardens are wrapping up for the school year, but planning is in the works for starting back up in the fall. At Caldwell the veggies are blooming and starting their fruiting. We have also seeded a variety of cosmos, zinnia and sunflowers and will continue to add native species during summer and fall. A revival (of the gardening kind) is happening at the Giving Garden at Pollard, more to come on that later. We are looking for Master Gardeners to get involved in youth and community gardens in a number of locations. We want to be ready to go with our programs when the kids return to school after the summer break. If you think you might be interested, contact me. We can point you in the right direction.

Katy Barone



June Membership Meeting SignUp

We hope you will join us in person for the June Membership Meeting, at the Tyler Rose Center on Thursday, June 3 at 11:30.

In order to have adequate seating, we're asking that you SignUp by Monday evening.

Here's the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-june>

VMS Tech Support SignUp

If you are having trouble using the new VMS, we want to help! We will have a laptop, an iPhone, and an iPad available, but please bring your device if you can. We're asking that you SignUp by Monday evening so we can make sure we have enough techies on hand.

Here's the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-scmga1>

East Texas State Fair

Plans for the 2021 East Texas State Fair are in the works!

Although details on the Master Gardener exhibit at the ETSF continue to evolve, we do have information to share.

Plans to rebuild Harvey Hall are underway. Building C, where the Master Garden exhibit has been displayed in the past, is being repurposed for commercial exhibits housed in Harvey Hall previous years.

Our Master Gardener exhibit will be tented in 2021. We are waiting for information from ETSF on the size and shape of our assigned exhibit space. As soon as we have accurate measurements, there will be lots to discuss. Please watch the weekly Master Gardener update for meeting details coming soon.

The 2019, the Master Gardener ETSF work team was so talented, so devoted, and did a beautiful job. And we had a great time together building an exhibit that was a fun and educational place to visit. If anyone would like to sign up early to be a part of the project, feel free to call me, Delane Caesar, at 512-632-7987.

I look forward to working, creating, and spending time with each one of you!

Delane



June Membership Meeting Via Zoom.

Topic: SCMGA Monthly Membership Meeting

Time: Jun 3, 2021 11:30 AM Central Time

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: https://zoom.us/meeting/tJluc-yrpZlrGdBNTKEpxLcosJSP7owiD5mT/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCurT8vGd2csRqDRowAA4-gZ-nxmFhcjad_sivOjJBLTgCmJchxAuVwB9Ho

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96345399134?pwd=UWkzYndJaGhUV2pXUGZjREltekwQTo9>

Meeting ID: 963 4539 9134

Passcode: 237581

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,96345399134#,,,*,237581# US (Houston)

+12532158782,,96345399134#,,,*,237581# US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 963 4539 9134

Passcode: 237581

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/a6Os5QMIR>

New Photo SignUp

We are happy to offer you the opportunity to have a new photo taken for the next edition of the Membership Directory. Photos will be taken at the MG office at the Cotton Belt on Thursday, June 10. The photographer will be available 1:00–2:00. Please sign up by Tuesday, June 8, so we can make our plans!

Here's the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-ineeda>

Unblock Your Inner Writer!

Did you know that each week in the Sunday edition of the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, the Smith County Master Gardener Association has a featured column about some aspect of gardening? The topics range from how to grow a certain plant to garden antidotes. Some serious and some on the lighter side. The article runs alongside a column by Greg Grant so we are fortunate to have quite a presence in the Sunday paper. If you are an online subscriber to the paper, you can always access the weekly articles that way. Articles can also be found on the SCMG Facebook page and “likes” and “shares” are always appreciated. After all the more we can educate the public on good gardening practices, the better. The SCMG has worked hard for the past five years to establish a relationship with the newspaper and wants to continue the success we have created. We are always on the lookout for new articles and you can help!

Are you needing hours for 2021 and still not comfortable gathering in a group? Even if you are comfortable gathering, you can still submit articles. We turn no one down! Writing an article is a great way to get CE's as well as volunteer hours and can be done from your own home. Any gardening topic can be considered. If

you are writing about plants or growing conditions, research must be from an approved educational source (any land grant university such as Texas A&M).

Articles do not have to be that long. 200 words works just fine. Have a great story about gardening adventures or how you became interested in gardening? These make wonderful human-interest stories along with a little gardening info.

If everyone contributed one article (or more) it lessens the work of the committee by creating at least a years' worth of newsworthy articles to choose from.

When that article is complete, email it to lynnmac@suddenlink.net or txsmithjean17@gmail.com.

As a Master Gardener, we know you love to garden so tell us about it in an article. Looking forward to see what you have to say about your gardening experience.

Jean Smith



SCMG Class 28

Although COVID prevented our having a new member class in January, we regrouped and Class 28 will begin June 3rd. We look forward to welcoming at least 22 students. Classes will be held every Thursday from 9-4 in the Agrilife Extension classroom. Greg is still finalizing the class schedule; if we aren't able to get it into the June Grapevine calendar, look for it in the weekly blast. Classes may be audited by certified Master Gardeners for CE's. Out of an abundance of caution, we are not doing potluck lunches for this class, so if you join us, bring a lunch and snacks for yourself.

Heather Stephens

Note From Historian



As Historian, I have been attending BOD meetings, working on our bulletin board in the classroom, updating the Association's notebook, and taking lots of pictures. There's so much going on!

Lucy Morgan

Programming Committee News



The Programming Committee has been actively planning for the First Tuesday in the Garden series. We are enthusiastic that we will be back to meeting live in the newly expanded IDEA garden pavilion which will now hold 50 people with

the need to bring your chair.

Although titles and details are still pending, Terri Gerber will

give an entomology talk in September. In October, Greg Grant will speak on bulbs. Elizabeth Waldrop will talk on fall color in November.

The Library series was reviewed and considering the circumstances of the pandemic, the programs on Zoom were well received. Thanks to Elizabeth Waldrop, Andie Rathbone and Greg Grant for great presentations. And thanks to Mary Jo Madden and Belinda Kromer for their technical assistance.

The Speaker's Bureau is expected to receive more calls for programs in the fall. Additional speakers are always needed. If you have an interest in possibly being a speaker, we are considering offering a short refresher to help you be a more effective and comfortable speaker. Community groups in need of speakers are grateful for a discussion with a master gardener.

Paul Wick

Calling All Mentors – New Class Is Starting!

We have 22 students enrolled in the New Member Class, and you know what that means – **we need Mentors!** A SCMG Mentor is an experienced Master Gardener who is assigned to a SCMG Intern for the duration of the Intern Year (for this class 7 months) to provide support and guidance for completion of the Intern Requirements and foster relationships within the organization. This is an important and rewarding role that really can enhance the Intern experience. The Mentor Program Requirements are:

SCMG member in good standing for a minimum of previous 12 months

Hours up to date

Consistently using VMS to record hours

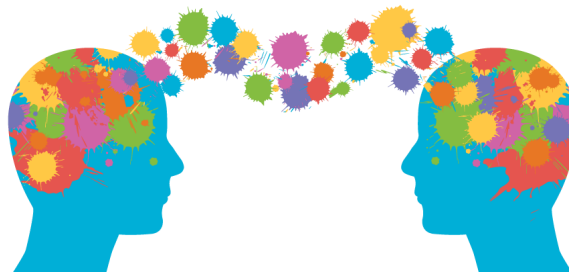
Attends at least 50% of monthly meetings

Actively involved in at least one area of SCMG

Available to work with an Intern 1:1 for the 7-month internship

Able to participate with an Intern in garden and project settings

Completed Mentor Orientation (date TBD)



Mentors receive volunteer hours for the time spent with their Interns.

Please contact Heather Stephens (heather.e.stephens@gmail.com) as soon as possible if you are willing to serve as a Class 28 Mentor. We would like to pair the students with Mentors before the end of June.

Heather Stephens

GREG GRANT DEDICATES THE TYLER BOTANICAL GARDEN

On Friday, May 28, Greg dedicated the Tyler Botanical Garden in honor of Keith Hansen who had the original vision of establishing a Botanical Garden in Texas. According to the American Public Gardens Association, a botanical garden must:

Be open to the public on at least a part-time basis.

Functions as an aesthetic display, educational display and/or site research.

Maintains plant records.

Have at least one professional staff member (paid or unpaid).

These are the goals that SCMG had maintained in the three gardens that make up the Tyler Botanical Garden.

After the dedication, Greg led attendees on a tour of the Heritage Rose Garden, the Shade Garden and the I.D.E.A. Garden. SCMG members who work in each garden were on hand to answer questions.

Andie Rathbone



June 2021

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work Day 8:30 AM Calendar Comm. 1:00 PM, Rm 116	<i>2</i> Shade Garden Work Day 8:00 AM	<i>3</i> Monthly Meeting Rose Center 11:30 New Class All Day Rm 116	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> Shade Garden Work Day 8:30 AM
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work Day 8:30 AM	<i>9</i> Shade Garden Work Day 8:00 AM	<i>10</i> New Class All Day Rm 116	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work Day 8:30 AM	<i>16</i> Shade Garden Work Day 8:00 AM	<i>17</i> New Class All Day Rm 116 BOD Meeting 10:00 Rm 114	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> Shade Garden Work Day 8:30 AM
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> <i>MG Grapevine deadline</i>	<i>22</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work Day 8:30 AM	<i>23</i> Shade Garden Work Day 8:00 AM	<i>24</i> New Class All Day Rm 116	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work Day 8:30 AM	<i>30</i> Shade Garden Work Day 8:00 AM			