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The next SCMG Association meeting is Thursday, May 6, 2021 At 11:30 AM at the Tyler Rose Center

MG Grapevine Staff

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A Note from the President

What a great April we had! The "Snowmageddon" is almost a faint memory, and I finally had to drag all of the remains out of my little greenhouse – to make room for more treasures, in light of the latest freeze scare. Really? A freeze in mid-April?

We had an absolutely marvelous membership meeting, outdoors at the Glass Recreation Center. Congratulations to all of our newly certified Master Gardeners! Thank you so much for sticking it out, doing what needed to be done, reaching your goals! And congrats to every one of our award winners, each was so deserving of recognition! And thanks to Belinda Kromer for planning and executing such a great meeting in that setting.

Lots of committees are gearing up. The Calendar and Bulb Sale folks have met, and Programming and Calendar Committees are on the May calendar. So is the Help Desk, with brand new training that I urge all of the new Master Gardeners to attend (see calendar for date/time)

May also brings us orientation for those in the community who might be interested in joining us as Master Gardeners. It's a differ-

ent time of year for our class, to be sure, but these are still strange times. If you know of anyone who is considering the program, please make sure they know about this upcoming session (see calendar for date/time).

The Greenhouse folks are experimenting, and the school gardens are looking for more enthusiastic Master Gardeners to pitch in, to enable the program to expand to more schools. Andie Rathbone is spearheading the upcoming dedication of the Tyler Botanical Gardens on May 28th, and there is the final Master Gardeners at the Library presentation on May 21st, when Greg will talk about woodpeckers and how important they are. The Garden Guides are going gangbusters! Good job, Susan Buntz!.

We are finding lots of opportunities for our members to assemble safely There's so much going on, surely there is a place for you to join in – you've been missed!

Mary Jo



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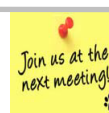
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May Membership Meeting

The program will be an in-person meeting at the Rose Garden at our normal 11:30am time. Please use our Sign Up below for the meeting, so we can set up the room for proper and safe spacing. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-scmga>
We will also offer Zoom connection to those who do not feel comfortable attending. Please watch your email for that Zoom meeting link.

See Page 2 for details about the upcoming Membership Meeting!



Annuals

Greg Grant

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



Annual: A plant that completes its life cycle (seed/cutting to death) within one year. Includes cool season annuals, warm season annuals, tropical annuals, and reseeding annuals. Most are produced from seed. Examples: marigolds, petunias, and impatiens.

Cool Season Annual: An annual that is planted and grown during the cooler months (fall, winter, and early spring). These often die with the onset of warm weather in the South. Examples: pansies, ornamental kale/cabbage, and dianthus.

Warm Season Annual: An annual that is planted and grown during the warmer months (late spring, summer, and early fall). These often die with the onset of freezing weather. Also includes most tropical annuals. Examples: begonias, impatiens, and periwinkles.

Tropical Annual: A heat loving plant (often shrubby) from the tropics which can be grown as an annual during the warm season (spring, summer, and fall). These often die with the onset of freezing weather, however some are treated as tender perennials. Mostly produced from cuttings. Examples: lantana, coleus, and copper plant.

Reseeding Annual: An annual that returns each year from self sown seed without having to be replanted (included both warm season and cool season typed). Examples: larkspur, cockscomb, and perilla.

Dead Head: To pick off dead, spent, or ugly flowers. Improves the appearance of the plant, prevents seed formation, and encourages rebloom.

Characteristics of annuals: Short lived, showy, low growing, inexpensive, often sold in cell packs, high maintenance, heavy feeders, often seed grown (except tropicals).

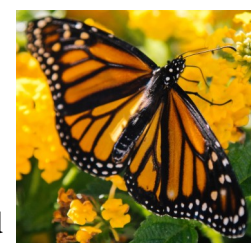
Soil Requirements: Ideal mix is 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 vermiculite, and 1/3 clean sand, with slow release fertilizer and drip irrigation in a raised bed. Must have excellent drainage and high fertility. Very rarely perform well in existing "dirt."

Some Warm Season Annuals for East Texas:

Begonias
Blue Daze
Cleome
Coleus
Copper Plant
Impatiens
Lantana
Marigolds

May Monthly Membership Meeting Program Details

The Smith County Master Gardener May 6th Membership Meeting program is "Plants for Pollinators and the Amazing Monarch Butterfly", presented by a very talented young lady, Kasey Rhodes. The program comes to us highly recommended by our friend in prairie restoration and wildlife education, Julie Mattox. Here's a little background about this special young lady:



Kasey is 14 years old and was born in Sydney, Australia, but has lived on her family's Yantis homestead for seven years now. She works with her family to sustainably raise their own meat, eggs, honey, vegetables and dairy products made with goats' milk. Kasey and her brother milk the goats every morning and her mother Debbie Rhodes then creates healing goats milk lotions, which they sell at *Sweet Magnolia* in Mineola, TX. Kasey is homeschooled and participates in several learning co-ops, and the *Artrageous Theater Company* in Lindale. She enjoys travel, theater, writing, poetry, literature, history and learning about sustainable environmental practices, especially as they relate to the production of food and the species which are affected. Several years ago, she worked with the local community to start the Northeast Texas Prairie Community Classroom, which is dedicated to the stewardship of our native prairie ecosystem and the promotion of conservation-based educational opportunities for Northeast Texas. Since then, she has had the good fortune to travel to Mexico and Guatemala to see firsthand the habitats which are crucial to migrating butterflies and birds. Kasey and her family continue to look for ways in which they can live harmoniously with the natural world and pursue outreach opportunities that enrich their learning of environmental practices and cultures around the world.

Belinda Kromer

REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS

Heritage Rose Garden

Like everyone else the Heritage Rose Garden sustained heavy freeze damage during the February Artic Vortex! However, roses are very resilient and even our tender Chinas survived. The Polyanthas and those with polyantha in their parentage fared the best. The snow acted as insulation. In order to keep the plants in a balanced shape we cut the dead canes of most roses back to the ground and allowed the new growth to come from the roots. If there was growth coming from the base of the canes we cut the cane back to the new growth. Some roses did have foliage that survived in spots at the top, but if we had left any of that the plants would have grown out in weird shapes. There were some polyanthas that we just sheared like normal and cleaned out dead wood. If you come visit the garden now you will see bright, healthy growth on all the roses and most are already blooming. Most of our companion reseeding annuals and perennials have bounced back also. We are watching some plants that are questionable but are giving them a chance before we replace them. There are also some heirloom azaleas and camelias that we are concerned about. We will still be starting at 9:00 AM through May so come join us for the workday on Tuesdays!

Debby Watkins and Henry Burch



IDEA Garden

IDEA garden participants waited to see what was coming back after the February freeze and pruned accordingly, also removed a few things that didn't survive. Overall, perennial plants did pretty well and are coming out. A few Section leaders went to the SFA plant sale and are beginning Spring color plantings, etc. with more to come. The newly built compost bins have been installed and the hardscape project is completed. Hanging baskets have been planted and hung. Lots of fun (and work) going on so come out and join us! Be sure to check the latest eBlast to see if our hours have changed.

Laurie Graham



The Shade Garden

Things are looking up in the Shade Garden. The azaleas are making a comeback and we have started their careful pruning. The Japanese maples, Hellebore and Heuchera all laughed at the cold and are thriving. The Hinckley's columbine are beautiful right now! The jury is still out on the camellias as there are no signs of life as yet. We are currently working on the irrigation and drainage issues in tandem with the Heritage garden. We have added a bed which features Japanese maples. It is a first in a series that will ultimately become a featured maple trail. In May we will begin to flesh out the area around the fountain, with plans to plant specialty Osmanthus and azaleas in the fall. Join us for our workdays on Wednesdays and some Saturdays—check the calendar!

Katy & Liz

REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING APRIL 15

The following items were discussed:

Review of Policies and Procedures Manual updates. Further work needed.

VMS System Replacement is still not available for use. Training will be forthcoming on how to use it after Administrators receive training. Continue to keep hours on paper so they can be entered when system is available.

No decision yet on a Tyler Botanical Garden Dedication.

Clarification of Hours Requirements for 2021

New Intern Class – State minimum of 50 volunteer hours completed by March 31, 2022. Requirements were reviewed.

Certified Master Gardeners – 24 volunteer hours and 9 continuing education hours by December 31, 2021.

Newly Certified Class 27 - 18 volunteer hours and 6 continuing education hours by December 31, 2021.

List of Continuing Education Credits was updated and reviewed.

Irrigation System Project for Heritage and Shade was discussed.

State Directors' Meeting Report was presented.

SCMGA Attire and Accessories was discussed. More information will be forthcoming.

Debby Watkins

**From Bulbs to Blooms Update.**

By the time you read this, the Bulb Sale Committee will have had their first meeting to brainstorm what this year's sale will look like. Stay tuned for updates! Also in the works is the list of bulbs from which members will be able to pre-order. The list will be sent out via the Weekly Blast, or possibly a special blast. I expect the deadline for your order to be the end of May, but watch the Weekly Blast for both the list and the deadlines.

Brenda

New Help Desk Training Set for May 11

Life is beginning to return to normal, we hope, and the Help Desk is no exception. A new training experience for the Help Desk has been developed to help you better understand what we are doing, why we do it, and most importantly how we do it. It's a little bit of process, a little bit of how you might fit in, and a lot of specifics on where the answers are and how to find them. Right now the most frequently asked question, "Is this plant dead?" is taking center stage. But as the weather warms and the gardening season gets into full swing, more and more varied gardening questions will come in. We need your help. Please join us on Tuesday, May 11 at 1:30 pm in the AgriLife classroom. Susan Stone will be there to talk about process and Greg will be there to discuss recurring topics and questions that come across the Help Desk. Working the Help Desk is a fairly easy way to get your volunteer hours. It's also very rewarding to help people who are (usually) very grateful. Please try to join us on Tuesday, May 11 at 1:30 pm. If you need more information, contact Susan Stone at 903-952-7506 or email at

Caldwell Youth Garden

The Caldwell youth garden is up and running. The students are working through the Learn, Grow, Eat, Go curriculum and, with the help of Master Gardeners, have planted 6 beds of vegetables. They will be tending and caring for the plants until the end of the school year. Along with the vegetables, native and pollinator plants have been planted on the grounds, having been funded through a grant through the Native Plant Society. Art and photography students spend time in the garden weekly, getting inspiration from this ongoing teaching garden. The little garden should be putting on quite a show come June.

Katy Barone

The Calendar Committee

The planning for the 2022 calendar is under way. The subject will be "Butterflies, hummingbirds and the plants they love". Our next meeting will be May 4th at 2:00 in room 116. Any pictures you would like to be considered for the calendar can be sent to me at matthews1952@sbcglobal.net. We need a cover picture as well as pictures for inside. We would love to have everyone participate. We will need articles written, pictures selected, and proofreaders.—all low-impact ways to earn Volunteer hours and enjoy the company of other Master Gardeners.

VMS Update

Well, there is no update, just more of the same. Be patient. They are testing the new system.

Please keep your records the old-fashioned way—on paper!



2021 MASTER GARDENERS AT THE LIBRARY

11:30 PM - 1:00 PM - VIA ZOOM
For Zoom Link go to "Upcoming Events" at <https://smhg.org/smith/>
Or Events at <https://www.facebook.com/SmithCountyMasterGardeners>



LECTURES & DATES

May 21

"The Hole Truth: The Woodpeckers of East Texas" Greg Grant, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent for Smith County will talk about why these birds are so important to our lives and to our landscapes.

The Members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, Veterans status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife, The Texas A&M University System, US Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



Library Series May Program

Our very own, Greg Grant, will be the speaker for the final program in the 2021 Library Series. You won't want to miss this one. It will be on May 21 "The Hole Truth: The Woodpeckers of East Texas" with Greg Grant, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent for Smith County. He will talk about why these birds are so important to our lives and to our landscapes.

There is discussion about this a hybrid program with in-person and zoom available. Please watch your email for more details for the in-person location should that be decided. It will not be at the library due the Tyler Public Library is not allowing any in-person meetings at this time and have a 40 patron limit for library visits. The zoom link for it is the following:

<https://zoom.us/j/91381917507?pwd=SmlpL2RvcVloeWdPaGpvVS9LMjRsQT09>

Meeting ID: 913 8191 7507

Passcode: 137075

Belinda Kromer

Tyler Botanical Garden Dedication

The ribbon-cutting for the Tyler Botanical Garden will be on May 28 following Greg's talk at the Horticultural conference at The Rose Center. The Botanical Garden will be officially dedicated, with Keith Hansen being recognized as the founder of the idea. Tours of the gardens to follow the dedication. Tentatively at Noon. Details TBD

Andie Rathbone



Registration closes May 21

Attendance is virtual and is open to Master Gardeners and to the public



May 2021

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Shade Garden Work Day 8:00 AM
2	3	4 HRG/IDEA Garden Work Day 9:00 AM Calendar Comm. 2:00 PM, Rm 116	5 Shade Garden Work Day 8:00 AM	6 Monthly Meeting Rose Center 11:30	7	8
9 	10	11 HRG/IDEA Garden Work Day 9:00 AM Help Desk Train- ing 1:30 PM, Rm 116	12 Shade Garden Work Day 8:00 AM	13 Programming Comm. 9:00 AM, Rm 116 New Class Orienta- tion 1:00 PM, Rm 116	14	15 Shade Garden Work Day 8:00 AM
16	17	18 HRG/IDEA Garden Work	19 Shade Garden Work Day 8:00 AM	20 BOD Meeting Zoom 10:00	21 MG At the Library 11:30 Zoom <i>MG Grapevine deadline</i>	22
23	24	25 HRG/IDEA Garden Work Day 9:00 AM	26 Shade Garden Work Day 8:00 AM	27	28 TBG Dedication Noon—2:00	29
30	31 	<i>Office Closed</i>				