

# MG Grapevine

<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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**The next SCMG Association meeting is  
Thursday, September 2, 2021  
At 11:30 AM at  
Glass Recreation Center**

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Mary Jo Madden, Editor

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#### **Inside this issue:**

Board of Director Notes.....P 5  
Committee Reports.....P 2-12  
Garden Reports.....P 3-6  
Greg's Column.....P 2  
September Calendar.....P 14

#### **A Note from the President**

We've almost made it through another summer! And since we are dealing with another Covid surge, we are doing our best to plan safe events. I hope you can find several to participate in.

We are three-quarters of the way through this year already and some of you have not entered any Volunteer or Continuing Education (CE) hours into VMS. If you are having difficulty setting up your profile or entering information into VMS, please contact Mary Hamlin, the VMS Coordinator, and she will be happy to assist you. If Mary is out of pocket, you can reach out to any of our Tech Team members for assistance (myself, Debby Watkins, Belinda Kromer, Liz Wiley, Elizabeth Waldrop, Terri Gerber). Remember - if it isn't in VMS, it doesn't count!

There are lots of ways to earn CEs - you can read the printed Texas Garden Magazine and get 1 CE for each different issue that you read. Our Monthly Membership meetings also count as 1 CE, except when we have luncheons. There is an updated list of CE credits posted on VMS and on our website.

Volunteer opportunities abound, as we are actively working in the gardens, the Bulbs to Blooms sale and the ETSF are gearing up, the Calendar/Garden Guide will need to be distributed to vendors for sale, newspaper articles need written, PowerPoint programs need to be developed and videos need to be recorded and edited to place on our YouTube channel.

This newsletter is full of articles from various project leaders, each issuing a call for you to join in!

We have recently activated two of our Standing Committees, the Nominating Committee and the Budget Committee. You can find the members of each listed in the Report From The Board article by Debby Watkins. Know that if you are contacted by either group, it is to ask for your serious consideration and participation. To remain a vibrant organization, SCMG needs every member to share their skills.

Belinda has done another great job, and the September membership meeting promises to be quite an event! We look forward to a program on hummingbirds, presented by the state ornithologist, Cliff Shackelford. I frequently listen to Cliff's program on Red River Radio, and it will be nice to see him in person again. The survivors of Class 28 will graduate and be welcomed as Master Gardener Interns. Be nice to them all - fresh blood is vital to every organization! We will have a very important vote on the amendments to our Bylaws. **Your vote counts**, please plan to attend!

Following the meeting, Tech Team members will be available to help with any VMS issues you may have.

Mary Jo





## Cercospora Leaf Spot on Crapemyrtles Greg Grant

A wetter-than-normal summer has lead to an increase in this major disease problem on crape myrtles in East Texas. The culprit is *Cercospora* leaf spot. It usually begins appearing in late May to early June and continues into the fall. The high humidity and frequent rains have been ideal for fungal disease development.

The initial symptoms on crapemyrtles are the appearance of dark brown spots that develop first on the lower leaves and progress upward in the canopy from mid-summer through fall.

In most instances, infected leaves develop a yellowish to orangey-red coloration because of the production of a toxin by the pathogen. These leaves then fall prematurely, particularly in highly susceptible varieties, and serve as a source to spread the pathogen and further disease development. Because of this, raking and bagging or burning the fallen leaves should be a routine practice.

Many older varieties of crapemyrtles are more susceptible to this disease than newer varieties. Hybrid crapemyrtles tend to be less susceptible. According to the LSU Ag Center, the crapemyrtle cultivars most tolerant to *Cercospora* leaf

spot are Natchez, Muskogee, Basham's Party Pink, Sioux and Tonto. This year however, most cultivars showed symptoms of the disease.

Long term, this disease is not detrimental to a tree, although it will slow down growth on younger plants. And plants growing in conditions that are not ideal will be more affected by the leaf spot disease.

The use of fungicides to control this disease has not been very effective because they have to be applied repeatedly on a regular basis throughout the growing season, before the spots appear to protect healthy foliage. Getting adequate coverage on larger crape myrtles is also problematic. Bottom line: Do nothing and hope for a drier spring and summer next year.



### Note From Our Historian....

Master Gardeners have had a very busy summer so far. We have had lots of work in the gardens, planning for the Bulb Sale and putting together a new calendar which will be ready for distribution in a week's time. We have a wonderful new class ready to tackle the East Texas State Fair in a new and challenging way. We seem to be able to tackle whatever comes our way and we do so with gusto. Master Gardeners only get better and better!!!

As your Historian, you'll never know when I might pop in to take a photo of MGs in action!

*Lucy Morgan*



Mentors meeting their soon-to-be Interns!

## REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS



Debby Watkins, Morgan Wood, and Tommie Ann Grinnell dug out a monster intruder in the HRG!

### **Pollard Youth and Community Garden**

The garden at Pollard United Methodist Church is on it's way. Chris Cochran and Mary Hamlin have been working on Phase I of the project, the pollinator garden. They report that the garden has been set up and initial plantings are in, with plans to add more on into the fall. They are in the planning stages of Phase II which will include engaging students at Kids Kaleidoscope and Andy Woods Elementary in a vegetable gardening program.

Katy Barone



Our newest Community Garden, at Pollard UMC!

### **Heritage Rose Garden**

Hard to believe that September is here and that we and the garden survived the summer!

We are still waiting for Tyler Sprinkler Company to start on the irrigation project for the Heritage Rose/Shade Gardens. They are tentatively scheduled to start the first week of September and hopefully they have not gotten further behind due to weather and will be able to start.

Around Labor Day we do the fall pruning of the roses. Since the roses are heritage varieties of roses most get pruned as a shrub rose, though some require a more detailed pruning similar to a hybrid tea. The fall pruning is not as severe as the spring pruning. It is more of a shaping and rejuvenation of the bush. Actually, because of our February vortex and most of the rose bushes freezing back to the ground or snow level, they will only need a very gentle trimming and shaping to encourage more growth. At home your roses may have experienced the same freeze back so be sure to be gentle with them this year.

As we enter the fall many plants are going to seed. An important part of our garden is collecting seeds from the reseeding annuals and the perennials. We use the seed from the reseeding annuals to make sure that we have a continuing presence each year. However, we use all the seeds that are collected to share. This year we are making a special push to share them with the new class. We also share them with the annual Bulb Sale and other programs that are given throughout the year by the Smith County Master Gardeners and the Horticulture Committee.

We continue to work hard at weeding since the blessed occurrences of rain that we've had over the summer when we normally don't have any have fueled the growth of weeds. With the coolness of fall this chore will become much easier so don't be afraid to come and join us!

Debby Watkins and Henry Burch

See Page 9 for details about the upcoming Membership Meeting! We are offering Tech Support afterwards if you need VMS help!



## IDEA Garden

Here we are in the last days of summer and it hasn't been all that bad as summers go! We've even had some summer showers with 6" or more in the gardens just last Tues night! The gardens are looking amazingly lush and beautiful so come out and take a stroll.

We have replaced patio fans, thanks to Jeff Brown, and have also installed some picket fencing on our new flagstone patio area, all just in time for First Tuesday in the Garden, which starts in September.

A couple of weeks ago, the Rainbow Border section leaders planted a 'Zephirine Drouhin' rose on the left trellis as you enter the garden. This is a thornless climber that is cerise pink and a beautiful addition to the garden! It was in Mac Humphrey's yard and no longer wanted by his wife so we think Mac would be pleased that it has found a new home!

We had a big send off for Mimi Hershey (who is moving to CA via AZ), which included snow cones and cake! Mim has been leader of the Texas Natives section for a few years and will surely be missed. She was a huge asset to our MG organization and did everything with a big smile! Thank you, Mim!!

Lastly, we, in the IDEA garden, are so excited that the new class is finished with classroom training and will soon be joining us in the gardens as interns for hands-on instruction. There's plenty to do, much to learn and many to ask, so don't be shy and please know that you

are welcome any Tuesday! That also goes for any MG that wants to join us or needs to earn extra hours! Please don't forget to wear your name tags!

Laurie & Cindy



## The Shade Garden

Things are quiet in the Shade Garden these days. The last few months have been a process of healing for azaleas and camellias. We are happy to report that, since pruning, many of these special shrubs are making a comeback. Sadly we lost some of our biggest and brightest. The good news is that we are planning for fall planting. We are in the process of taking inventory, identifying what needs replacing and brainstorming additions of special shrubs and cultivars. Of course that means plant shopping and we are looking forward to that. Also on the near horizon we will be addressing some drainage issues along side some of the beds and area set aside as the future maple trail. In the meantime we have been working on keeping on top of the weeds and grass creeping into the beds. We are happy to report toad lilies in bloom, the Winterberry bed putting out saplings and a highlight, the *Lycoris longituba* in Bed 5 bloomed!

Katy & Liz

**REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AUGUST 19, 2021**

The following were the highlights of items discussed:

- ◆ Officer Job Descriptions revisions were approved and will be posted on VMS and the website. Chair and Coordinator Job Descriptions continue to be worked on.
- ◆ Policy and Procedures revisions were approved and will be posted on VMS and the website.
- ◆ Bylaws revision was approved and will be distributed to members for review before a vote is taken on acceptance.
- ◆ East Texas State Fair discussion continued – dates for set up will be posted.
- ◆ Chamber of Commerce attendance – Belinda Kromer reported that she and Maury Hudson, BOD member, attended the July event.
- ◆ Plans are underway for a Fall Educational Outing or Workshop. Interest in the Dallas Arboretum was low so other options are being considered.
- ◆ Help Desk Brainstorming – a new Project Leader for the Help Desk/Office Manager position is needed as Susan Stone is moving, plus more involvement by members in working it is needed. Input as to how other associations in our size category handle their Help Desk is going to be solicited.
- ◆ Nominating Committee members were announced – Belinda Kromer - VP, Janie Fowler – prior committee, Linda Munn - chair, Mary Hamlin - VMS, and Andie Rathbone.
- ◆ 2022 Budget Committee members were announced – Terri Gerber, Treasurer; Joel Ross, Asst. Treasurer; Mary Jo Madden, President; Belinda Kromer, Vice-President; and Chris Cochran, Board of Directors member.
- ◆ Review of members deficient in hours – Board members will be reaching out to members that are on the deficient list in an attempt to help bring them in compliance and get them recertified at the end of this year.



*Debby Watkins, Past President/Parliamentarian*

### **SignUp for Garden Guides Volunteer Hours—Interns**

New opportunities will be added as they arise, so please check back frequently.

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

### **SignUps for the East Texas State Fair Volunteer Hours—Interns**

Decoarting the space:

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

Public Outreach:

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

TearDown:

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

## **Garden Guides Update**

### **So, what's been buzzing in the Gardens?**



Garden Guides, of course! We've been busy, and it looks like autumn is going to be just as busy. To keep you up to date, we just had a tour for the Texas Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences State Convention. That's a very long name for a great group of ladies and gentlemen that enjoyed the beauty of the gardens on July 29th. There were 31 people on that tour! We had great fun and made more new friends along the way.

So, what's next? Glad you asked! There's a possible tour on September 14th for a group of people that own RV Parks all across the U.S., and they'll be visiting us! That'll be a great group! Oh, and on October 26th, we have a charter group coming from the Texarkana area to tour the Botanical Gardens only and want to meet our Master Gardeners working in the gardens. Lots of interest in our gardens and our tours! A special thank you to the tour guides that consistently volunteer and make our tourists feel right at home! See yall in the Garden!

*Susan Buntz*

## **Smith County Master Gardener “Fabulous Fall Favorites”**



Autumn is fast approaching, and if you're like me, you're looking forward to crisp, cool days, chilly nights and the changing colors of the leaves. As the seasons change, so do our gardening activities. The Smith County Master Gardeners have been very busy this spring and summer keeping the Tyler Botanical Gardens as beautiful as ever! And while we continue to maintain the beauty of these gardens, we have several fall community projects:

Leading off our many Fall activities, is the “First Tuesdays in the Garden!”

Join us at Noon on the patio in the IDEA Garden (*located in the southeast corner of the Tyler Botanical Gardens*) on September 7<sup>th</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup> for our Fall Gardening series of programs. Seating is limited, so you may want to bring a lawnchair. Lectures run about 30-40 minutes. Topics this Fall are “What’s Bugging You”, “Bulbs 101” and “Weaving an Autumn Tapestry Using Changing Colors.” All lectures begin at Noon.

The East Texas Gardening Guide and Calendar is a yearly publication by the Smith County Master Gardeners offering gardening advice, tips, planting guides, lists of things to do, and timely articles on seasonal plants – all written with the local East Texas gardening community in mind. The 2022 Calendar/Guide highlights pollinators featuring butterflies, hummingbirds, moths and the native plants that attract them. Filled with loads of information and amazing photographs taken by Master Gardeners, it's a must for all gardeners. These Calendar/Guides are for sale for \$7.00 each and will be for available at all Master Gardener events or you can contact (903) 590-2980 or [smithmghelpdesk@gmail.com](mailto:smithmghelpdesk@gmail.com).

Smith County Master Gardeners will be participating the 2021 East Texas Fair this year assisting in the Horticulture building, answering all your gardening questions and providing brochures for various horticulture topics. The East Texas Fair opens September 24<sup>th</sup> and runs through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Hope to see you there!

Tyler's famous Rose Garden hosts many visitors every year, including groups who arrive by bus to view the gardens. Smith County Master Gardeners have formed a team to serve the Tyler Parks & Recreation Department as trained and informed guides for these out-of-town visitors. Our team would love give you a tour, please contact (903) 590-2980 or [smithmghelpdesk@gmail.com](mailto:smithmghelpdesk@gmail.com).

And last but certainly not least, the award winning Smith County Master Gardeners “From Bulbs to Blooms” sale is back this year! This event features heirloom, hardy, and hard-to-find bulbs that are suited for Texas and the Southern zones. Again, this year we are hosting a virtual event with online shopping and curbside pickup, similar to last year. September 13<sup>th</sup> Greg Grant, Smith County Horticulture Agent and bulb expert will host a virtual presentation showcasing the bulbs that will be available for sale in the online store. The online store will open for shopping on September 27<sup>th</sup> through October 5<sup>th</sup>. Bulb sale pick up is October 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Pollard United Methodist Church, 3030 New Copeland Road, Tyler. The link for the online bulb store and much more information on the sale is [www.txmg.org/smith](http://www.txmg.org/smith). Tickets will also be available online for a chance to win a very special bulb being raffled by the Smith County Master Gardeners. Plan on shopping early as many items sell out quickly.

## **Youth & Community Garden Update**

### **Griffin Elementary**

With enthusiastic, creative teachers and a supportive principle, two fourth grade classes will be off and running with the Learn, Grow, Eat, Go program at Griffin Elementary. The teaching team is working on organizing the curriculum, while Becky Wade is coordinating the procurement and delivery of materials for the garden beds and providing advice on fall plantings. If all this weren't enough, the classroom teachers aspire to organize an after school garden club. Becky hit the jackpot on this school team!

### **Caldwell Elementary**

The Caldwell flower gardens are beautiful right now, full of sun loving pollinator plants. We had so many zinnias, the principle put cut flowers in every teacher's room the first day back to school. Art and photography classes have been out in the gardens chronicling blooms, butterflies and hummingbirds. Jack beans, sweet potatoes and okra are growing, with more edibles to come. Terri Gerber, Janie Fowler and Katy Barone met with the classroom teacher who will engage her third graders in the Learn, Grow, Eat, Go curriculum starting after Labor day. The Caldwell MG team will help out with vegetable selection, planting and lessons in the garden.

Katy Barone



## Rose Pruning Workshop

**WHAT:** In case you missed the previous workshops (or just want to do it again!), join your fellow master gardeners for a Rose Pruning Workshop presented by Greg Grant. Interns from the new class are welcome to join since you will be graduating September 2.

Learn how “one size fits all” does not apply to pruning roses. Greg will talk about different types of roses and how to prune each. Greg will look at the different rose varieties in the Tyler Rose Garden and the Heritage Rose Garden and explain how the pruning methods differ. Then, you will have an opportunity to work on roses.

Bring heavy gloves, loppers and hand pruners. You can enter into VMS one (1) Continuing Education hour for listening to Greg and (??) for Volunteer Hours - however much time is actually spent there listening to Greg and working on roses plus your travel time (except for interns, who are not eligible to claim travel time).

**WHEN:** Friday, September 3, 2021, at 9:00 AM - ??

**WHERE:** Meet by the picnic tables by the parking area next to the Heritage Rose Garden.

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Debby Watkins at [debbyjwatkins@gmail.com](mailto:debbyjwatkins@gmail.com).

**YOU MUST SIGN-UP!** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-rose1>

The link to sign-up can also be found on VMS and the members-only portion of the website.

Debby Watkins

## SCMGA Class 28 Prepares to Graduate!



Big THANK YOU to the Mentors who will now walk alongside our Interns: Linda Munn, Tommie Grinnell, Wayne Elliott, Janie Fowler, Brenda Clark, Chris Cochran, Cindy Harrington, Becky Wade, Luci Morgan, Redessa Weaver, Cathy Swindell, Joyce Napolitano, Debby Watkins, Anne Pattullo, Lenka Johnson, Sue Lambert, Brenda Orbaugh, Sheryl Chester, Paul Wick and Mary Cantrell. Please be thinking about becoming a Mentor for Class 29, which is scheduled to begin in January, 2022 – WE NEED YOU!

Heather Stephens

Big CONGRATULATIONS to SCMGA Class 28 Graduates, who will officially join the ranks as Interns on September 2<sup>nd</sup>! Graduates are Gail Gholson Bean, Judi Braman, Shawn Czehowski (not pictured), Jolana Damkroger, Sara Emry-Arthur, David Fletcher, Dan Gerber, Gibson, Ivy Greening, Beth Guinn, Trudy Haynes, Colleen Huntsberger, Asa Johnson, Diane Lestor, Stephanie Osborn, Brandon Pate, Holly Pritchett, Bryan Ransom, Ginger Sawyer and Lynette Sewell.





## SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

Thanks to all of you who have liked our Facebook page as well as have shared posts and/or invited friends to like the page. Due to your help we have increased our number of followers from 9,388 at the end of last month to 9,967 as of August 24 – **only 33 away from our magic number of 10,000.** Fingers crossed that we pass that magic threshold in the next week or so.

As we come up to our Fall activities like AgriWorld at the East Texas State Fair, Our First Tuesday in the Garden lectures and, of course, our From Bulbs to Blooms Sale in October, your sharing the Facebook pages that promote these events helps us to get the word out to more and more people. This helps to make our activities successful and keeps our name in front of the public. This is especially true with the bulb sale which is our biggest fund raiser of the year. Once again, thanks for all you do, and keep sharing those posts!

Andie Rathbone



### **SignUp for BulbsToBlooms Volunteer Hours—Interns**

Bulb Sacking:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-bulb1>

Order Pulling:

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

All-Hands-On-Deck Sale Day

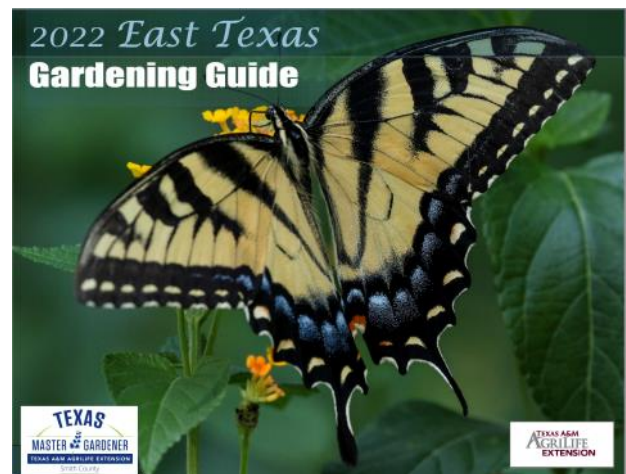
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-bulb2>

Please consult with your Mentor when signing up for one of these and the other volunteer opportunities. And please sign up promptly. Slots are being denied to others until all **Interns** have signed up for their required hours.

## **2022 Master Gardener Calendar and Garden Guide to be Available September 1**

The MG 2022 Calendar & Garden Guide focuses on pollinators and features twelve of the most common butterflies in East Texas, as well as tips for a pollinator garden. It also includes moths of East Texas, the ruby-throated hummingbird, and the importance of pollinators in vegetable gardens and to our food sources. As always, the publication includes important East Texas garden-related events and useful websites. The overall theme is to promote and preserve pollinator species. Copies will be available at the September 2 membership meeting, where Master Gardeners can sign up and receive instructions to help distribute them to area vendors.

Expect the calendar to be on sale by area vendors early in September. Tyler locations include In the Wind, the Rose Museum Gift Shop, Forget-Me-Not Flowers and Gifts, Harris Nursery on Loop 323, Potpourri House, Higginbotham Hardware on Front, Weaver Pharmacy, and Breedlove and Hand nurseries. Lindale sale spots are Bloom Garden Center and Cycle of Seasons. Southern Smith County locations include Blakeney Hardware and Rubicon in Flint, Steele's in Troup, Circle C in Bullard, and Roquemore's in Whitehouse. Other outlying vendors are Harris Nursery on Highway 69, and Blue Moon Gardens. **MG members knowing other potential vendors** should contact Sherri Matthews at matthews1952@sbcglobal.net or 903-566-3747.



## The Education Dispatch

July 29<sup>th</sup> Smith County hosted an Extension Agent Conference. Despite the heat a group of us showed off the Tyler Botanical Garden and the knowledge of the Smith County Master Gardeners. Mary Jo Madden hosted a seed harvesting station where she showed the agents how to successfully harvest wildflower seeds. Terri Gerber had a station where she educated the agents on common garden bugs, friend and foe. And Elizabeth Waldrop did a demonstration on creating fairy gardens with succulents. Susan Buntz and the Garden Guides gave everyone a tour of our lovely gardens and made sure we all stayed hydrated. The feedback from the agents was very positive and our part of the hosting of the conference was a great success.

We have been planning our activities for the Fall. We are excited to announce we will have a great opportunity for interns, mentors, and others to greet and educate the public on the Smith County Master Gardeners Organization and our projects at the East Texas Fair.

Right on the heels of that we will be hosting a table at the Onsite Bulb Sale that will be part of Pick-Up Day for Bulbs To Blooms. We will be asking for a couple volunteers to man that table.

In light of concerns about Covid and social distancing we are rethinking doing a Field Trip this year. But we don't want to lose a chance to get together and learn something. In a safe socially distanced environment. So, in November we are planning a Workshop to teach MG's a skill and do a hands on project to take back to their home gardens. This Fall we will be doing The Big Freeze: Row Covers, Cold Frames and Greenhouses. How to successfully over winter various plants and garden spaces. We will need volunteers to help with that workshop and will be sending out requests as the time gets closer. In February we are thinking of Presenting another workshop on Garden Design that will also include hands on projects.

We hope to see you at all these upcoming events!

Elizabeth Waldrop

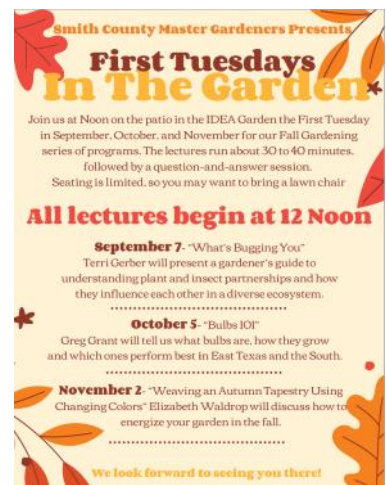
## Programming Committee

Requests for speakers for various garden clubs and community groups are picking up although there is probably some hesitation yet. This is an incomplete list of speakers arranged so far.

- ◆ October 7<sup>th</sup>, Nan Bateman will speak to the Delta Kappa Gamma chapter of educators on the Tyler Botanical Gardens and the work of Master Gardeners.
- ◆ October 14<sup>th</sup>, Paul Wick will speak to the Episcopal Church Women at Christ Church on the Tyler Botanical Gardens.
- ◆ November 5<sup>th</sup>, Terri Gerber will speak to the Tyler Garden Club on Cicadas and their 17-year emergence.
- ◆ November 16<sup>th</sup>, Andie Rathbone will speak to the Rosebud Garden Club.
- ◆ January 22, 2022, Becky Wade will speak to the Tyler Garden Club on Bluebirds.

The First Tuesday in the Gardens series starts September 7<sup>th</sup> at noon in the IDEA Garden. The topic "What's Bugging You" will be presented by Terri Gerber. She will present a gardener's guide to understanding plant and insect partnerships and how they influence each other in a diverse ecosystem.

Other First Tuesday talks will be October 5<sup>th</sup> by Greg Grant on "Bulbs 101" and November 2<sup>nd</sup> when Elizabeth Waldrop will speak on "Weaving an Autumn Tapestry Using Changing Colors". Bring your chairs and enjoy the talks.



Paul Wick

## Fall Education outing or workshop

An update on our SignUp Genius poll for a possible bus trip to the Dallas Arboretum. With the rise of Covid 19, there are definite concerns for outings and gatherings, and the results were not in favor of the trip. There are other educational and fun things to do though, so we are now working on the next option that Elizabeth Waldrop is detailing in her education news this month. Please plan to join us for a hands-on education workshop titled: The Big Freeze: Row Covers, Cold Frames and Greenhouses. We will provide the date, time and a SignUp Genius link in the near future! Watch this space!

Belinda Kromer

## From Bulbs to Blooms September Update

The bulb committee held a meeting 8/19 to set up the schedule for "From Bulbs to Blooms". I can't speak for anyone else, but I certainly feel some time-pressure after that meeting! As we did last year, Greg will post a video, talking about the bulbs in the sale prior to the sale. We want our customers to have adequate time to plan their orders as they eagerly await the opening of our sale. We will again be offering select trees and shrubs this year, exact species yet to be determined. We will also have Greg's books and the SCMGA 2022 calendar for sale. Our silent auction bulb is going to be a raffle bulb again this year. We will likely sell 3 raffle tickets for \$5. Master Gardeners will be allowed to buy raffle tickets.

### **Some important dates:**

Week of 9/13/21 – Greg's bulb talk video goes live, along with this year's bulb information packet.

Links will be on our website and FB page.

9/27/21 at 6 AM – the online sale begins – we ask the SCMGs to NOT shop during the first four days of the sale

10/1/21 – SCMGs can begin to shop

10/5/21 from 1 to 4 PM – Member PRE-ORDER bulb pickup at the CottonBelt Building, cash or check only. Jane Coker will be sending out an invoice to remind each member that placed an order.

10/5/21 at 10 PM – online sale closes

10/9/21 from 9 AM – 1 PM – order pickup at Pollard United Methodist Church.

There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work going on right now, which I expect will continue until the day of pickup! Pickup will be handled differently this year. Our current plan is to have the customers park and come into the gym at Pollard UMC to pick up their bulb/book/calendar orders. If they purchased any trees or shrubs, there will be a designated place for them to pull up to a curb and have their tree/shrub loaded into their vehicle. If there are any bulbs remaining after our online sale, we will have an on-site sale at the same time. Weather permitting, the on-site sale will be in the parking lot on the

other side of Hudnall Drive. The pick-up and sale will be from 9 AM to 1 PM, so we will have just one shift of workers this year. Even if you can only work part of that time, please do sign up and make a note as you sign up regarding what time you'll be able to participate.

The bulb sacking and order filling will be done in much the same manner as it was last year. The bulb sacking will be done in the CottonBelt Building, using the rooms behind our main classroom. We'll also be filling each of the orders received in that same area. On the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 8th, all the filled orders will be moved enmass to Pollard UMC and arranged for pick up the following day. We will be using Signup Genius to organize our volunteers for these tasks. Due to the space constraints of that area, we will have a limit of 15 people per shift.



Volunteer opportunities through Signup Genius: (you will get a notice via the Weekly Blast when the sign-up is available)

10/1 - Setup area for sacking - 6 volunteers (morning only)

10/4 - Sacking bulbs – 2 shifts beginning at 9 AM & 1PM, limit 15 people per shift

10/5 – Order processing beginning at 1 PM, limit 15 people per shift

10/6 – Order processing, 2 shifts, beginning at 9 AM & 1PM, limit 15 people per shift

10/8 - move orders to Pollard UMC, arrange everything – orders, signage, etc beginning at 2 PM due to access at Pollard UMC.

10/9 - Pickup at Pollard UMC as outlined above – we will need everyone's participation for this event. We'll also need some volunteers to help put things back in order at Pollard UMC and help move our equipment back to the CottonBelt Building.

Brenda

**Come see Master Gardeners at the Fair from Sept. 24 thru October 3rd.**

## September 2nd Monthly Meeting



The September Monthly Membership Meeting will have a change of venue due to the construction at the Rose Garden. We will meet again at the Glass Recreation Center, **501 W. 32nd St. Tyler, TX 75702**. We have a very special speaker for our program to be followed by our 2021 summer class graduation. We need your help to prepare for this meeting. A signup genius has been setup to help us get a head count for attendance. Please make sure you sign up!

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

We are going to hear all we ever wanted to know about Hummingbirds from the person who is the state expert and who has authored the book on them. Our speaker, Cliff Shackelford, is a published and well-known 7<sup>th</sup> generation Texan. He is the State Ornithologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and has held this position for 2 decades. He is the agency's voice for nongame birds where he conducts and coordinates research and monitoring on birds across Texas, participates in outreach, and works on the conservation of our state's avifauna.

In 2005, he published his first bird book, *Hummingbirds of Texas*, through the Texas A&M University Press. He's also authored over 80 publications on birds with a quarter of those appearing in peer-reviewed journals.

Since June of 2013, Cliff has co-produced and co-hosted a live radio show, *Bird Calls*, which airs on National Public Radio's Red River Radio station. Land-wise, Red River Radio covers the 2nd largest area of any NPR station in the country, serving East Texas, much of Louisiana, and parts of Arkansas and Mississippi.

Belinda Kromer

## Felder Rushing is Coming To Tyler!

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Horticulture Education Committee in Smith County will be hosting popular horticulturist, garden writer, and philosopher Felder Rushing Monday, September 13 from 2-4 PM at the Tyler Public Library (201 S. College Ave., Tyler, TX 75702). Felder will present "Maverick Gardeners-Keepers of the Flame."

The cost of the lecture is \$20 payable at the door by cash or check. Proceeds from the program go to support the Earth-Kind® educational efforts of the Smith County Horticulture Education Committee. Let us you if you are coming with the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054da5ae2aaaf94-welcome>

See the press release on Page 13 for details.

## VMS....VMS....VMS....VMS....VMS....

August is over, can you believe it !?! We're getting closer to the end of the year, and there are still a number of MGs who appear to be behind the power curve in hours and/or CEs as entered into VMS. We know that some of you have hours and CEs, they're just not being entered. And there are still 20 MGs who have not gotten on the new VMS at all. As we start to enter these last four months, opportunities to get hours and CEs diminish. The upcoming ET Fair and our Bulb Sale are our last two big projects of the year, and while those will provide plenty of opportunities for work hours, there aren't many CEs to be had. The BOD is reviewing the list every time they meet, and are going to start making some phone calls to see if they can help. **And we will also provide technical assistance at September's membership meeting, so bring a device and let us help you.** But if you don't have many hours and CEs we encourage you to make a plan for getting those. In particular, getting a larger number of valid CEs in a short amount of time can be a challenge. So please please look at your hours and CEs, and think about how you can reach requirements to be recertified. And as a reminder, VMS is **THE ONLY WAY** to register work hours and CEs, so we need you to get into the system and start inputting your information.

Certified Master Gardeners are required to have 24 Volunteer Hours and 9 Continuing Education Hours from Jan-Dec 2021. Those certified as Master Gardeners in April 2021 must have 18 Volunteer Hours from Apr-Dec 2021 and 6 continuing Education hours. MG Class 28 graduating in September 2021 (Interns) require 50 hours in designated areas from Sep 2021- Mar 2022.

Mary Hamlin

## Hello Greenhouse Gardeners:



I would like to request that the folks interested in working in the greenhouse this year save their favorite seeds for propagation. I know I've been collecting mine and I have a tub with all kinds of seeds. I

have also collected Pride of Barbados seeds in hopes of starting plants for Greg's gardens at the Cotton Belt Bldg. It should be educational and fun.

We will start in the greenhouse as soon as these blazing days die down. The seedlings would need to be watered frequently in this extreme heat so best to wait until we have some days in the 80s before we begin. So that gives folks time to gather their favorite seeds.

I have been taking care of the cannas, crinum and white ginger lily at home since the greenhouse got so hot in the early part of August. I have been keeping a close eye on them and they do seem to be doing well. A few of the cannas had damage from the leaf roller caterpillar, but seem no worse for the wear. They have bloomed again so hopefully all will be ok. I will be returning these plants to the greenhouse when work starts up there.

I will be watching the weather forecast and will send out an email notice for the first day of work at the greenhouse. The day will be Wednesday and the start time will be 8:30 for now. If we find that time doesn't work for everyone we can talk about that when we meet. Until then, good gardening and stay cool.

Debbie Taylor



## East Texas State Fair - September 24th - October 3rd:

We are ready to get this show on the road! The 2021 East Texas State Fair is a go! SCMGA is partnering with the

Horticulture folks for the fair so we have things to do in preparation of the horticulture events and opening, during the fair providing information at the information table and cleanup after the fair is over. Signup genius has been prepared and is ready for our volunteers to pick their dates and times. Our interns will just be completing their three-month class and will be diving in to help right away getting required hours. We are pairing them up to work with a MG so you will note on the signup that we have slots for each. Here is what we need with the dates, times and link to signup at for each area:

Decorating 9/7 - 9/14, 10:00 - 12:00 daily, Interns can signup to help.

We would really appreciate experienced MGs to help our interns.

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

Manning SCMGA information table, handouts 9/24-10/3; 3 slots between 10:00 and 4:00, 1 intern, 1 MG per slot.

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

Take down and clean up on 10/4, time slot will be 10:30 - noon or whenever we are done. The more volunteers we get the sooner we will get done!

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



Being a part of the fair team is great fun! Watch for meeting announcements from the fair committee for further directions and planning! Thanks in advance for volunteering.

Belinda & Delane

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE  
HORTICULTURE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
OF SMITH COUNTY PRESENTS:

## ***Felder Rushing***

# ***"MAVERICK GARDENERS - KEEPERS OF THE FLAME"***

**SEPTEMBER 13TH  
2-4 P.M.  
AT THE TYLER PUBLIC LIBRARY  
201 S. COLLEGE AVE. TYLER, TX**

**HIS BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!  
(CASH OR CHECK ONLY)**

In this lively presentation Felder will cover what he calls the "three chords" of gardening: Plants, Process and People. With his off-beat style he highlights why each of these is crucial while emphasizing the psychology of the "odd sock" gardener folks who color outside of the lines.



*Admission  
\$20  
cash or check only  
payable at the door*

Felder Rushing is an eleventh-generation American gardener from Mississippi, a non-stuffy horticulturist, who travels the world looking for simple garden approaches, which he promotes in his newspaper columns, books, magazine articles, and NPR radio program.

The author of over twenty books and international founder of the "Slow Gardening" movement, he was named by Southern Living as one of "25 people most likely to change the South."

**PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING!**

**TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT REGISTER AT LINK BELOW:**

**[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-WELCOME](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-WELCOME)**

Texas A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION

# September 2021

## Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> Shade Garden workday 8:00	<i>2</i> SCMG Meet- ing Glass Rec Center 11:30 AM	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 	<i>7</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM  1st Tues. in the IDEA Garden lecture—noon	<i>8</i> Shade Garden workday 8:00	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> Felder Rushing at the Tyler Public Library 2:00—4:00	<i>14</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	<i>15</i> Shade Garden workday 8:00	<i>16</i> Bd. Of Direc- tor's Meeting 10:00AM CottonBelt	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	<i>22</i> Shade Garden workday 8:00	<i>23</i> <b>MG Grape- vine deadline</b>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	<i>29</i> Shade Garden workday 8:00	<i>30</i>		