



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

Vol. XXXIX No. 3 March 2022



**The next SCMG Association meeting is
Thursday, March 3, 2022
At 11:30 AM at
CrossBrand Cowboy Church**

MG Grapevine Staff
Mary Jo Madden, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Greg Grant, Debby Watkins, Henry Burch, Belinda Kromer, Katy Barone, Paul Wick, Becky Wade, Debbie Taylor, Heather Stephens, Gail Bean, Andie Rathbone, Mary Hamlin, Elizabeth Waldrop, Sherri Matthews, Lynn McGinnis, Lucy Morgan, Paul Wick.

Published for the Master Gardeners of Smith County, Texas under the auspices of the Smith County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 1517 W. Front St. Tyler, TX 75702.

Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

Extension Office
Phone - 903-590-2980
Fax - 903-590-2984

Garden Winks

No jinx here but whew... February 2022 definitely made for a better month than February last year! We did have some cancelled garden work days and one class day for Class 29 due to weather but all in all it was good! However, the groundhog saw his shadow so let's just keep our fingers crossed!

Getting my feet wet and feeling very thankful for this wonderful group! You have been so incredible and it takes a team to be great! Our dues were ALL in on time, our annual charter in to the state and all other required documentation too. While that doesn't seem like a really big deal, it is. Thank you!

The three-year renewals for our background checks were emailed to those it applies to this year with the application that needs to be completed and returned to the office. It is a big group of us this year because we had a glitch in our process a few years ago that forced a catchup to get us back compliant with the state requirements. We need to get these in before the end of March. It is not a county requirement; it is a Texas A&M AgriLife requirement. Thank you to all of you who quickly returned them already and to the rest of you, Elizabeth and I will be in the gardens collecting them on our garden work days or drop them at the office or mail them in. There have been a few questions, as is true every year, about whether it is "really" required. The state keeps a record of our background checks and it is part of your application to be a master gardener and every three years after that application. If you are in this renewal, remember, *Prior criminal background checks are acceptable by YPS with documented verification from any one of the following sources: school districts, churches, recognized youth groups or associations, law enforcement, Texas Youth Commission, Department of Defense-Child and Youth Services and/or Family Program, concealed handgun license; and/or licensed day care workers.* Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns and thanks in advance for getting it done.

Class 29 is moving through the class with few interruptions. One weather day

(Continued on p. 9)



Inside this issue:

Board of Director Notes	P 8
Committee Reports	P 2-11
Garden Reports	P 3-6
Greg's Column	P 2
March Calendar	P 14
ZOOM Link	P 5

March Membership Meeting

I am excited to announce we will have Jenifer Babyak, a Cherokee County Master Gardener, and a Board Member of the East Texas Beekeepers Assoc. She will talk to us about her experience as a BEEK, and what we as gardeners can do and should not do create landscapes to help honeybees thrive in a world that is geared to harm them.

Elizabeth Waldrop



Common Naturalized East Texas Narcissus Greg Grant

Narcissus jonquilla (Sweeties/Wild Jonquil): Perennial throughout the state. Clusters of tiny yellow, fragrant blooms in Feb. or March. Multiplies best in acid, sandy-loam soils. 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 Feb. or March. The best! An old hybrid between *N. jonquilla* and *N. pseudonarcissus*. Sterile so only spreads by division.

Narcissus x intermedius (Texas Star Jonquil): Clusters of small pale yellow, fragrant blooms in Feb. or March. A natural hybrid between *N. jonquilla* and *N. tazetta*. Sterile so only spreads by division. FABULOUS fragrance!

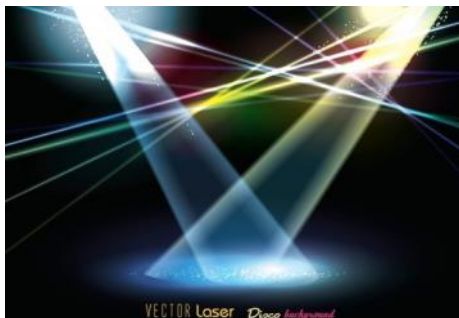
Narcissus pseudonarcissus (Lent Lily): Small creamy-yellow trumpets in Feb. or March. Multiplies best in acid, sandy-loam soils. Wild species from Spain and France. Sets viable seed so will naturalize on good sites. The parent of all modern daffodils and the subject of Wordsworth's "*I Wandered Lonely 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 Feb. or March. Thrives in alkaline or acid soils. Several hundred year old cultivar and the most common polyanthus (tazetta) narcissus in the state. Sterile so only spreads by division. Result of an apparent cross between the paperwhite (*N. papyraceous*) and the Chinese Sacred Lily (*N. tazetta orientalis*). *N. papyraceous* (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 Jan. or Feb. and is also common.



Campernelle Jonquil

"Above and Beyond Master Gardener Spotlight"– SCMGA – March 2022



For the February Spotlight, there are multiple "Above and Beyond Master Gardener Spotlights". Thank you to Lynn McGinnis, Lyn Benson, Debbie Taylor and Jami Brumfield! You are all so awesome and your contributions, dedication and hard work for SCMGA does not go unnoticed! You are all blessings to this organization! Thank you for going "Above and Beyond for SCMGA". See page 12 for details!

Belinda Kromer

REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS

Heritage Rose Garden

The Spring rose pruning workshop went well, as usual. However, Greg didn't prune as many bushes in the Heritage Rose Garden as he usually does during his demos so we have to prune the beds at the entrance, the China bed, the two irregular beds and finish the Marie Pavie bed. The Tea bed doesn't need any pruning since they are still trying to recover from Snowmageddon. Most of the roses in the center bed are in the same situation. However, all the bushes need the deadwood cleaned out. We'll be using battery powered hedge trimmers to finish the pruning and hand pruners and loppers to clean out the dead wood. When you look at the rose bushes now, it's hard to imagine how beautiful they will be in 6-8 weeks. The pruning and shaping stimulates them to grow and bloom and they will be spectacular!

Be sure to come out and "smell the roses" in March!

Debby Watkins & Henry Burch



We had another successful rose pruning workshop on February 15. Greg has been presenting it in February and September since February 2020 (this was the fifth one) and it has shown to be very popular and well attended, in spite of the weather at times! This time the weather cooperated and we had a beautiful day. Everyone left full of information on the proper way to prune the various classes of roses.



All that remains of a couple of our formerly glorious oak trees. The only constant is change, even at our Tyler Botanical Garden.
(Photos by Belinda Kromer)



IDEA Garden

One of this season's new projects in the IDEA Garden is to develop a Texas Native area. This bedding section is located in the corner of the garden bordered on one side by the succulent area and on the other by A Woman's Touch sculpture. We got started with a hardscape re-design of the stone walkway through the garden. Many thanks and kudos to Wayne Elliott and Chris Steavenson for incorporating safety, awesome engineering work and heavy lifting to that really improved the site.

Our

I-innovate

D-demonstrate

E-educate

A-apply

concept is to utilize a variety of regional natives including trees, shrubs and perennials. The plant habitat will provide for both seasonal beauty and emphasize food and shelter for native and migrating pollinators and birds. It will demonstrate how native plants can be seasonally incorporated effectively into home gardens and serve to educate the public. We will be installing new plants over the next year as we locate native species. Stay tuned for more news as this project develops.

If there are native perennials in the Heritage or Shade gardens that might need a new home, please contact Gail Bean at ggbbean1@icloud.com for possible relocation to this project.

Gail Bean



Need VMS instructions for entering your hours? Mary Hamlin put together a great document with step by step instructions, and you can find it in the members section of our web site. Here's the link: [Members – Resources \(txmg.org\)](http://txmg.org/Members-Resources)

VMS Update - Continuing Education Hours

There are lots of ways to get Continuing Education Hours on-line, and there is a document on VMS that gives a list of approved web sites. **In VMS under Docs/Newsletters** search under “Other” to narrow down the list. You can count the length of the presentation as CEs.

Added to the current list is a series of AgriLife webinars on a whole host of subjects. The only condition is that the MG must first watch the presentation THEN fill out the post presentation survey in order to receive a CE. There are some excellent presentations here.

In past years members have run into a real crunch by waiting until December to try to make up CEs, and have found that it's surprisingly difficult to do. So we encourage members to work on those CEs early. This is an especially good resource for those members who prefer to stay out of crowds.

Mary Hamlin

Caldwell School

The LGEG program is going well at Caldwell. On January 28th the MG volunteers gave a hands on soil science lesson to 4th grade students about soil composition and it's impact on plant growth. The students enjoyed getting their hands dirty (well, most of them) and we learned that some had never made a mud pie! Imagine! All in all it was great fun and the kids had a good time learning.

On February 18, Terri and Janie taught a brief lesson on potatoes and onions. They, along with the students, braved the cold to get them planted. Brussel sprouts are well on their way and collards and spinach are newly in the ground.

To come, students will plant from seed radishes, pak choy and kale. Over the course of the next several months, as the students go through

the LGEG lessons, they will take part in the care and maintenance of the garden with the end goal of participating in the harvesting and preparation of what they grow.

Katy Barone



Shade Garden

A lot has happened in the Shade Garden. As you may have read in the Blast, quite a few damaged trees have been removed in recent days. It was a marvel to watch the crew shinny up and down the trees. They did an amazing job.

The Wednesday crew marked sprinkler heads with flags along bed borders as we prepare for trimming back the liriopse. In the past the Rose crew has managed the chore by mower, although to the tune of countless broken sprinkler heads. This year we will use a kinder, gentler method. Many thanks to Dana Anderson, Ivy Greening and Jeff Brown for taking the lead on this. Other flags in the area mark the location of the new woodland walk. Soon the SG volunteers will begin to flesh out the area by defining the walk and addressing the hardscape features.

We have a planning meeting set for March 1 to begin working on our next steps in the Shade Garden.

Katy Barone



Shade Garden Mascot photo from
Belinda Kromer

ZOOM link for March Membership Meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88003775322?pwd=Zk51OVhiTUIMMDIzOG9lenMyTkI5QT09>
Meeting ID: 880 0377 5322 Passcode: 760802

Griffin Elementary

Wonderful day to plant. We had fifteen very excited students, from kindergarten to fifth graders come to garden club. Perhaps one reason for the excitement there has been no outside recess for two days, not that they were not excited by planting potatoes! We have considered a walk before planting next time.

We had one mom come and as always everyone is invited. The art teacher came over with a couple of her students from the art club. After digging the trenches for the potatoes, placing seed potatoes eyes up, covering, and watering them, it was snack time.

We all had a great time! We had hoped to get onions planted, but ran out of time, and we plan to be out there a couple of days next week. AgriLife brought us some plants, so seeds and plants, with some flowers thrown in, at the request of children, will go into the beds in the next couple of weeks. Looking forward to spring.

Becky Wade



Hardy Greenhouse Volunteers!



David Fletcher, Betty Atchley, and Linda Sargent



Hazel Bateman and Trudy Haines



Cindy McKinley, Betty Atchley, and Brandon Pate

Greenhouse Update

All is well at the greenhouse for now. There have been some ups and downs in the really warm weather that we've been experiencing this winter. A beautiful sunny warm winter day brings high heat in a closed up greenhouse. The heat can be just as detrimental as the cold so it's a balancing act to keep it all going and keeping the plants healthy.

Some of the cuttings didn't care for extreme differences in the two greenhouses that we've used since we started up in September. It's always disappointing to lose cuttings, but for the most part everything is rooted and will be moving up into larger pots soon. We will start using a diluted fertilizer to start to give them a boost.

It is the time for starting seeds in the greenhouse. We don't have a set planting list. I have oodles of seeds collected from my garden as I'm sure other gardeners do. We recently planted purple basil, butterfly weed, blanket flower, cosmos and a few others. They were fighting their way up through soil nicely as of last week. It is very rewarding to watch those seedlings turn into plants because seeds can be trickier than cuttings since they are so

fragile. They will need lots of TLC to make it into grown plants.

I want to thank the good folks that come to the greenhouse to work and help to create our inventory of plants. We are always shifting trays around to accommodate the sun, cold nights, and watering requirements. It's all in a day's work keeping the plants healthy.

Thanks to all the MG folks who contributed pots. We sterilized the pots and they are now ready for use. Your contributions keep our greenhouse possible.

Debbie Taylor



Calendar Committee

The first meeting to begin planning our 2023 calendar will be March 22 at 1:00 in room 116. Can you believe it is time already? It takes a while to get it all together to have another great calendar. We need ideas for themes and also anything you would like to see in the calendar. We are always looking to make it better each year. Everyone is welcome to attend to make this calendar amazing. Please send ideas to me even if you don't want to participate in the committee. I need people to write articles, update our websites, update events and work with getting pictures to include. There are lots of different jobs to be done.



Love to see everyone there!

Sherri Matthews

REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING February 17, 2022

The February 2022 Board of Directors Meeting was held in person at the Rose Center.



The following were the highlights of items discussed:

- Some members have electronic skills challenges and need help with VMS
- The status of required background checks
- Potential alternate locations for membership and Board of Director meetings
- The status of planning for the new public workshops
- The CTO reported on the first meeting of the Tech group
- Greg talked about the beginning plans for the upcoming SuperStar AT

Mary Jo Madden, Past President/Parliamentarian



Andie Rathbone doing a great TV interview for our February Master Gardeners at the Library program.

News from the Communications & Tech project!

The Communications & Technology project was put in place by the Board of Directors to help improve communication within our organization and our community. Lots going on with the Tech Project – we had our first meeting in February and have identified some priorities **we feel need to be** addressed immediately. We're working hard to develop a technology plan and looking at software options for various projects.



That's what the committee is working on. But, as your SCMGA Communications and Technology officer, I'm in process of developing publicity plans for all of our annual projects. With that said, I need your help. Currently the SCMGA publishes all our events or projects in the Tyler Morning Telegraph, the Lindale News & Times and some of the other print media here locally in Tyler. But it would be great if we could publish in as many garden publications as possible, so that's where I need your help. If you know of any publications you think would benefit our SCMGA event or project, please send me the name and contact information of that publication. **Let's get it out there!!** As always if you have any questions please email me lynnmac@suddenlink.net or call me 902-954-0181.

Lynn McGinnis

Garden Wink (continued)

caused a little scrambling and rescheduling but so far so good with getting that day back on the schedule. This new class is taking advantage of hybrid class options for those who have the need to join via technology. Covid will not shut us down this year! We've got this! Thanks to Heather and Chris for their excellent management and flexibility!

Class 28 is wrapping up their internship. This is a class of hard workers with smiles on their faces. They had some challenges with the shorter runway to get the hours in but they are making it happen. To all of you who have been mentoring these future certified SCMGs, make sure you stay close to your mentee this month to help them get those last few hours, articles and other requirements checked off and thank you all!

Lots of work has been done in the gardens from weeding to pruning to re-mulching and even removing layers of mulch build up. The greenhouse is propagating like crazy and they have a great inventory. Things are starting to shape up for the spring. Hard work from lots of great master gardeners!

The tree removals in our Tyler Botanical Garden finally happened and while it kept us out of the Shade Garden that week, it was well done. A few branches to pick up but no damage to the plants in the beds. The only challenge was the frustration our garden mascot, the majestic Hawk, expressed as he watched while fluffing out his feathers from the Rose arches along the fence line. He was not a happy bird of prey!

Mary Jo and the Help Desk crew she is training and mentoring are making us shine! The new office seems to be a great new home for us. Thanks to all the volunteers who are answering questions and solving problems for our community. Keep watching your emails for new schedules and go to [signup genius](#) to sign up!

The Library Series is through our second month with KETK interviewing our very own Andie Rathbone to get the word out for February. Here's the link if you missed it on East Texas Live:

[Smith County Master Gardeners to offer library series | KETK.com | FOX51.com](#)

What a blessing to have such gifted master gardeners who represent our organization in these public events. Thank you, Andie Rathbone, for all you do! Remember, this series continues every third Friday of the month through May with the exception of April which is the fourth Friday! Great speakers have been lined up for our community's enjoyment! Greg will have the program in March, "Flapping about Butterflies". KETK will continue to do these live brief interviews with future speakers the week of each event! Thanks to Lyn Benson for the video in January and to Terri Gerber, Lyn and Mr. McGinnis, for the video for February. These are posted on our you tube site, so if you miss the live event, you will be able to catch it there. Door prize drawings are held at the end for the in-person attendees. A big thank you to Breedlove Nursery for their door prize donation for February and to Greg Grant for his book contributions in January and February!

Committees are starting to get organized, so we are cranking up for a great 2022! Send your pictures and article contributions to Lynn McGinnis, MJ Madden, Mary Hamlin, Lucy Morgan and Andie Rathbone. All these master gardeners take care of us in the press, newsletters, in social media, historically and even for our future award opportunities.

We have a need for SCMG to create a new committee to work on "Development" ideas. This committee would work both within the organization and with outside groups to come up with creative ideas to engage the public, fund raise, work with other nonprofits and partner associations to grow our profile in the community and to bring in funding for some of our great new programing ideas, especially educational programing for children, scholarship funds and other programs that will directly benefit members of our community. We can do this with small fundraisers, East Texas Giving Day, possibly setting up an Amazon Smile profile, and many other things that we don't know about or haven't thought of. If YOU would like to step out of your comfort zone or even in it and be a committee leader/coordinator for this new committee, please call or email me. We have great ideas coming in and this could really be a growth opportunity for our organization. The volunteer for this position would have lots of input and lots of help! Thanks in advance!

Have a bless month – March welcomes spring on March 20 and it officially runs through June 21st, a master gardener's delight! Bloom Bulbs Bloom!

Belinda Kromer

Social Media

Thanks to those of you who have sent me Ideas for posts the past couple of months. I'm always looking for ideas – especially in the cold winter months. Keep forwarding anything you think is interesting my way – especially any garden jokes you come across. Those are some of our most popular posts as you can see by the top five posts for January



Reached 37,197 people



Reached 11,091 people



Reached 9,665 people

Andie Rathbone



Reached 6,210 people



Reached 4,724 people

New Class and Mentor News

Class 29 is 2/3 of the way through their course and closing in on graduation! Flexibility has been the name of the game, with our first weather cancellation in years, as well as other schedule changes, not to mention our learning curve for offering a blended in-person and online class. Our students have taken everything in stride and adapted so well!

Many thanks to Skyler Shively and Amanda Southard for their weekly efforts to navigate Microsoft Teams and make remote learning a reality. Amanda and office manager Robbie Williams have provided continual admin support, always with great patience and smiles. And, of course, Greg and Clint make learning so much fun week upon week. Our last Extension staff are THE BEST and we appreciate them so much!!!

Heather Stephens



HELP DESK UPDATE



The photo below says it all: The Help Desk now has voicemail! We no longer have to rely on busy AgriLife staff to take messages for us! Our outgoing greeting encourages callers to please leave us their email address in addition to their name and number, which will enable us to get back to them more quickly.

We are holding our own right now, but Spring isn't far off and things will get busy. Please consider signing up to work a couple of shifts.

And if you are interested in joining us, please let me know. If there is sufficient interest, we may schedule another training class. Remember, the Help Desk office is air conditioned in the summer and heated in the winter, unlike some of our other volunteer opportunity environments. 😊

MaryJo

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-helpdesk1>



Education Dispatch

Our dance card is getting full! Since Covid seems to be taking a bit of a break we are getting invited to more events and planning several of our own.

Our Workshop Committees are hard at work trying to plan and get ready to host 3 workshops this summer at Glass Recreation Center.

Coming up soon

We have several events that are requesting our participation in April.

The first is the Artisan Flower Market at the Goodman Le Grande Museum on the 8th and 9th.

They would like us to host an education and information table AND do several demos for the public.

Flower arranging, planting guides for cutting or pollinator gardens, sustainable habitat, good bugs, Fairy Gardens, container or other small-scale gardens are all ideas that would make great demos for this event, if anyone has any ideas for demonstrations they can do please reach out.

We will need at least 4 presenters and two shifts of 2 people to man our table on each day.

The second event is a new one for the area. The Camp Tyler School is having an Earth Day Celebration on April 23rd at the camp.

They want us to set up an information table and do a family friendly demonstration during the celebration.

They focus on getting families to spend more time outdoor exploring nature and gardening is a perfect activity for that! We will need 4 people to man our table, do set up and take down of our tent and help with our demo.

Please contact me if you can help. I look forward to hearing from you!

Elizabeth

Email: Sevencrows87@hotmail.com

Or text to 903 805 0768

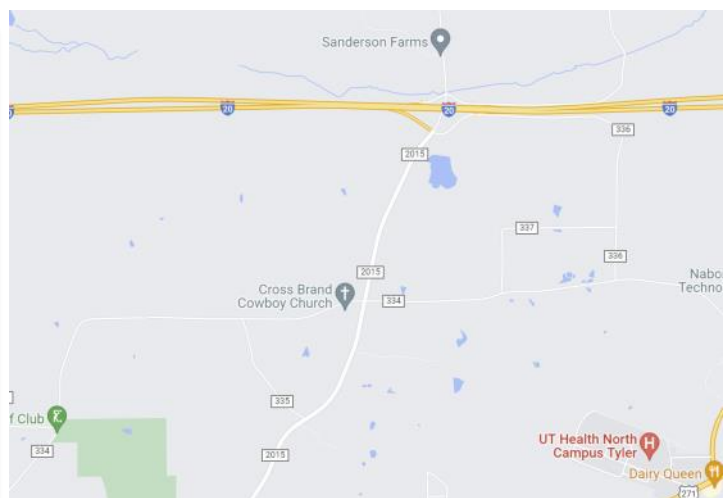
We also have a fun opportunity to help Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Master Naturalists to Participate in their I Naturalists program at the end of April. We will have a presenter for that program at our April Membership meeting to briefly explain what we can do to help.

Elizabeth Waldrop

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The **March Membership meeting** will be held at The **Cross Brand Cowboy Church** 11915 FM2015, Tyler, TX 75708.

From the East Loop, head north to Camp Ford, where you merge onto 271. Continue N on 271. Left onto Pine Springs Road, FM 2015 you will travel about 3 miles until you reach the church.



“Above and Beyond Master Gardener Spotlight”– SCMGA – February 2022

Lynn McGinnis, our new addition to the SCMGA BOD in a newly created position, CTO, is doing the most incredible job from interviewing the SCMGA team and Greg, to just digging in to understand the expectations of the position. She is creating ways to make our technology world in SCMGA the best ever! She kicked off our Library Series with a full-scale effort. Preparing press releases and delivering them to all news agencies, garden magazines and online community calendars. She arranged for our KETK spots every month on East Texas Live at noon for the Library Series Events. She has already worked up a marketing plan for Bulbs to Bloom's Sale and Conference to provide to Brenda Strong. If she hears about it, she is on it! She held the first Technology Committee meeting and it was, as expected, well done! She is a PR hero for our events now and in the future too! Thank-you Lynn for all you do! (PS, she would really like to have articles from any and all of us!)

Lyn Benson, our Assistant Treasurer for 2022. Lyn graciously says “sure, I’ll do it” anytime I ask for her help and not just in the new position. She is an incredible photographer and videographer. While Terri Gerber was out on vacation in January, Lyn stepped in and covered for her at meetings and providing treasurer reporting for us. Remember, she just started the position in January. She got off and running quick in this new year. Then, we needed someone to video our Library Series in January. She didn’t hesitate when I asked if she would do it for us. She definitely went above and beyond in preparing to do the video by going to the library days before the event to check out the auditorium lighting to make sure she was prepared, having never seen the facility. She had to gather equipment, compare it to see what worked best and so much more. Thank-you Lyn for so willingly agreeing to step in to do things that may not have been your comfort zone and required research and effort above and beyond!

Debbie Taylor, our Greenhouse Leader! Wow! You have stepped it up and made it happen in that unknown world of how to make our greenhouse work for us. The propagation is impressive. The inventory is amazing. Debbie checks on the greenhouse multiple times a day and mul-

iple times a week to manage the temperature variations with our ever-changing weather. She is dedicated to making this successful for our program! One of our current interns wrote this about Debbie: *“I want to brag on Debbie’s effervescent style of leadership and experience with propagation adds up to a welcoming experience for every level worker into the greenhouse. Her enthusiasm is contagious and she creates a great learning environment. Consider this a nomination for the monthly outstanding volunteer!”* Thank-you Debbie for being so dedicated to the greenhouse’s success and for being such an incredible mentor to the interns and all other volunteers and going “Above and Beyond” to make our greenhouse successful!

Jami Brumfield, a regular creative hard worker in



the IDEA garden. Jami has come up with an incredible design for label signage in the IDEA garden and it is impressive.

These plant labels are loaded with detail for each plant including colored pictures, QR codes, plant names, descriptions and a quality that will withstand the weather. Knowing things can change, she has designed the signs to be easily and affordably replicated and updated in the future. There has clearly been an incredible amount of research and hard work in this project. Visitors can use their phones to scan the QR codes and get more information and details from the links. She is bubbly when she talks about her plans and she continues to work on ways to perfect the mounting of the signs. What a beautiful way to “teach” in our teaching garden! Thank-you Jami for being a garden “angel” and creating such a wonderful tool for our visitors to learn about what makes all us master gardeners smile! Definitely another “Above and Beyond Master Gardener” blessing!



Victor Long working with seedlings at Overton.
(Photo by Lucy Morgan, our Historian)

Need Help with VMS?

If you are struggling with getting your Volunteer and Continuing Education hours into VMS, we are here to help you! We have Help Desk volunteers in the office almost every day, and they can work with you to get those hours entered, using our second computer. So call us or take a look at the SignUp Genius schedule and plan to come by when we are there. We are in the new office space—Room 117. Here's the link to the SignUp:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-helpdesk1>

Programming Committee Report

Master Gardeners at the Library for March 18th will feature Greg Grant who will present the program "Flapping About Butterflies". Greg will teach us about some of the showiest and most common East Texas butterflies along with which plants that host them and which plants they nectar on.

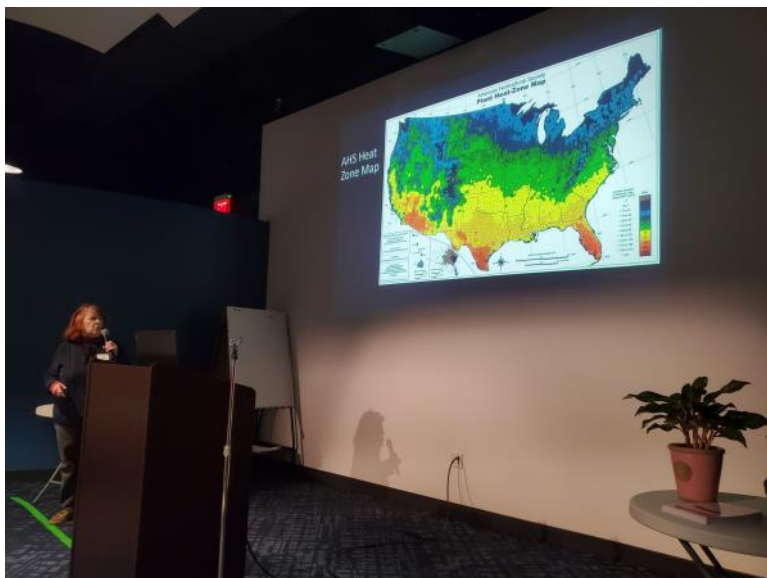
Attendance at the Library series has been very good. In February, Andie Rathbone's program about plants that thrive in our Texas summers attracted an audience of 89.

Do our programs make an educational contribution

to our audience? The survey forms that they fill out tell us that they do. As an example from our first library program on trees, attendees showed gains of over 34% improvement in understanding the importance of proper tree selection and care of trees.

Speakers Bureau requests are picking up, and a number of programs are pending. **We still need additional members that are willing to present programs.** Garden clubs and community groups are interested in learning more about gardening, and we do not want to disappoint them. Let me know if I may add you to the list.

Paul Wick



Andie Rathbone, presenting her well-received program at the Tyler Library in February.

March 2022

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM 	2 Shade Garden workday 9:00	3 SCMG Meeting CrossBrand Cowboy Church 11:30 AM Class 29 Meets 9:00	4 Mentor Training 9:00	5 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
6	7	8 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM	9 Shade Garden workday 9:00	10 Class 29 Meets 9:00	11 TECH Meets 2:00	12
13 	14	15 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM	16 Shade Garden workday 9:00 SCMG BOD Cotton Belt 2:00	17 Class 29 Meets 9:00 	18 Master Gardeners at The Library	19 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
20 	21	22 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM Calendar Committee 1:00 PM	23 Shade Garden workday 9:00	24 29 Class Meets 9:00 Grapevine deadline	25	26
27	28	29 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM	30 Shade Garden workday 9:00	31 29 Class Meets 9:00		