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Vol. XXXIX No. 6 June 2022



The next SCMG Association meeting is
Thursday, June 2, 2022
At 11:30 AM at
Tyler Rose Center

MG Grapevine Staff Mary Jo Madden, Editor

MG Grapevine Contributors:

Belinda Kromer, Greg Grant, Debby Watkins, Henry Burch, Elizabeth Waldrop, Becky Wade, Paul Wick, Katy Barone, Brenda Strong, Mary Hamlin, Debbie Taylor, Sherri Matthews, Andie Rathbone

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.

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Garden Winks

An unusually warm month of May made for interesting gardening, but in spite of the heat, lots of work in the Botanical Garden has paid off! Things are looking beautiful! Kudos to the new interns, Class 29, who have quickly jumped in to help in all the gardens! Impressive! The Virtual TXMG State Conference was really good albeit, sitting in front of a computer screen all day was quite a switch and a memory from my past. There were great garden tours and incredible speak-



ers. I am looking forward to watching those sessions that overlapped the ones I attended, a great benefit of the virtual format. Great choices made it hard to decide. It isn't final yet but we most likely will be doing a virtual conference again next year. Of the 113 counties in Texas that have MG associations, 103 attended with 750 attendees. That's incredible!

The most exciting part of the conference was the announcement on Tuesday night of the State Awards. Our Smith County Master Gardener Association had some great wins, with 2 firsts; Project (Tyler Rose Garden and Botanical Garden Guides) and Outstanding Association, 2 seconds; Educational Program (You Tube) and Written Education (Garden Guide), and 1 third; Outstanding Individual, **Brenda Strong.** We all should be very proud of each one of these awards! I know we announced them but definitely newsworthy for our monthly newsletter! All awards will be posted on our website and the state website. Congratulations to all the winners and everyone who contributed to the project wins!

We wrapped our Library Series for 2022 this month. It was awesome and the comments and feedback were wonderful. Our attendance for all the programs has been exceptional. Thank you to the Tyler Public Library for partnering with us and all of our Master Gardeners who helped with setup, sign-in, getting the word out, door prize donations and attending! To our MG program speakers, you are awesome and a blessing!

The greenhouse has been so amazing and so successful but the time has come to take a break for the summer as the heat is here! Thank you all who worked, planted and shared! **Debbie Taylor** is an incredible greenhouse leader!

Committees are meeting and workshops are knee deep in planning for June and July. Be sure to register and enjoy the opportunity to learn new things! Get your photos and articles in for our award-winning Garden Guide/Calendar as soon as possible. It will be going to print before we know it. Remember as you work in the gardens or at any of our sponsored events/programs, **Scatter Kindness**!

June Membership Meeting — see p 10 for details





Tis The Season Greg Grant

After teaching about growing your own sweet potato slips recently, I realized that I need to do a better job of explaining sea-

sonality and adaptation in growing plants. In that case, I was talking about the difference in "Irish potatoes" and sweet potatoes. Irish potatoes are cool season plants and sweet potatoes are hot season plants. This means that you do not plant and produce them at the same time. They aren't related and literally have almost nothing in common except the name "potato."

I've said it before, and I'll say it again. Each vegetable, fruit, shrub, tree, vine, flower, etc. is different and may have wildly different requirements for growing them. One thing non-gardeners and beginning gardeners fail to understand is that not all the plants they see in books, magazines, catalogs, on TV, on Social Media, or even in nurseries can successfully be grown here. As a matter of fact, the far majority of plants that folks are exposed to either won't grow at all here or will sulk and die a lingering death.

So, like it or not, one must limit themselves to only those plants that have been proven to thrive and produce here. In the ornamental plant world this pretty much means not growing anything that thrives in the northern two-thirds of the U.S. and all of Europe since as a whole, those regions experience cold winters and mild summers. We of course are known for mild winters and hot summers.

And even though most always endure hot dry summers, we can't typically count on plants from the desert Southwest and the Mediterranean since they are known for mild dry winters and hot dry summers. We on the other hand typically have mild wet winters and hot dry summers with an occasionally tropical deluge. So just as cold and mild loving plants will die of lack of chilling or heat stroke here, dry loving plants will die of root rot or melting away here.

So basically, there is no season for woody plants since they must tough it out year-round. Perennials are a different matter though. Just like all herbaceous plants (including vegetables) they are either cool season plants (columbine, narcissus, yarrow) that grow during the winter and essentially go dormant during the summer or they are warm

season plants (phlox, salvias, Turk's cap) that go dormant during the winter and grow during the summer. These too are limited since many tropical perennials won't survive our winters and many Northern and European perennials won't survive our summers.

Vegetables and annual flowers are pretty much divided up into several different groups based on temperature (and light requirements for annuals). This means we can pretty much grow ALL of them, just not at the same time and not at the same time that they do in the North and Europe since our temperatures (and gardening calendars) do not coincide.

I divide all herbaceous annuals (and veggies) into cool season (those that can tolerate freezes and frosts), warm season (those that can't tolerate freezes and frost not hot temperatures), and hot season (those that can't tolerate freezes, frosts, or cool temperatures and thrive under hot conditions.

So, what does all this mean? 1. Do not pay attention to anything on the internet unless it's from a University Extension education source located in the southeastern U.S. 2. Do not pay attention to any article, blog, book, catalog, magazine, or post not written in Texas or the southeastern U.S. 3. When it comes to advice and recommendations, only rely on University horticulturists and publications, those with a horticulture degree, old gardeners, and experienced farmers.

Most of us are far too old (excluding the very youthful Laurie Graham) to waste time trying to successfully grow or produce anything that is destined for failure or poor results. Always remember that just because something is for sale (or free for that matter) or can be kept alive, doesn't mean that you need to waste precious time, money, and resources trying to grow it. Take everything with a grain of salt and always check they information's geographic source and whether they are trying to sell you

REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS

Heritage Rose Garden

Our beautiful roses have almost all finished their first flush of blooms so now we start deadheading. Exactly what is deadheading you ask? It is NOT pruning or shaping. That is done in February and September. Deadheading is done to encourage new blooms and to keep the bush looking tidy. In a public garden tidy looking and lots of blooms are important. Especially now with what roses have had to endure the past two winters we just want to deadhead so the roses will recover from their ordeal and grow large and full. When deadheading, ONLY the wilted bloom is removed. In general, that means just snip off the spent bloom at the end of its short stem, above any foliage. If you do more than snip off just the wilted bloom and cut the stem back you can slow down the production of new blooms because the plant is sending energy into growing rather than blooming. Plus, that prunes the bush back in size and can be stressful to roses that have struggled to recover from the last two winters. It is interesting that lots of roses are self-cleaning, which means the spent bloom will drop off on its own; but the plant does not look tidy while that is occurring and it will take longer for new blooms, so the process is sped up by deadheading. However, with self-cleaning roses you can be a really lazy gardener because they really do take care of themselves! Come out to the garden and we will be happy to answer any questions you have about successfully growing roses.

Reminder: Heritage Rose Garden Workdays on Tuesdays in June, July, and August will start at **8:30** AM.

Debby Watkins & Henry Burch



Griffin Elementary

Happy harvest at Griffin Elementary! We had potatoes, lots of of potatoes thanks to Katy. Flowers for Mother's Day, peppers and even a cauliflower. We emptied the garden, ate some kale and lettuce, with some pizza and cookies. We had a great time. I want to thank everyone that helped with the garden this year, Katy and Mary Jo. All of you that supported this great group of children, thanks. Not sure what will happen next year but Dale and I are looking to see if we can have gardens next year. Several children ask if we would be back next year, what a great feeling that was! I said we will see what happens. Great experience. Like I told all the children, have a great summer, all of you.



Shade Garden

May was a busy month in the Shade Garden. Some of us took a field trip up to Doremus Nursery in Warren to pick up Hampton Beauty azaleas for the fountain area, ageratum and long leaf pine. Mark Bronstead, owner, kindly gave us a tour and we got a first hand look at the inventory there. Since we were so far east, we decided to swing by King's Nursery in Tenaha on our way home. Andrew King was in the house and shared his extensive



and contributions to the cause.

plant knowledge and quirky whit. Needless to say our cars were filled to the brim.

In other news, we put in another dry creek bed in the woodland walk to help direct the water runoff in the area. Under the direction of Sue Norton, a mighty crew worked (slaved), even breaking rocks no less-shades of *Oh Brother Where Art Though*, minus the striped suits and leg chains. It turned out great. Go by and take a gander; we're proud of it.

Having the interns on board has been a treat. We have had richly busy work days and greatly appreciate their hard work, good humor

Katy Barone

Greenhouse Update

The greenhouse has been tidied up for the year. I had a wonderful May crew that helped get everything prepared for its closure for the SCMGA for the summer. I can't say enough good things about all the folks who came regularly and randomly throughout this year to make the greenhouse a success. It was lots of fun and we had a great variety of plants to share.

Hazel Bateman - I couldn't have done it without you. You were my right hand girl and I can't tell you how much I appreciate your being there for me and the other gardeners. Please come next year.

Betty Atchley - Well what can I say about someone so awesome. I told my group of gardeners just yesterday that you are the Queen of Gardening and I'm sticking to that analogy.

Doc Fletcher - You are a steadfast hardworking gardener. I can always count on you being there and doing any task that is asked of you. It was a great greenhouse year with you there. Hope to see you next year.

Mary Beth McCown - I can't say enough good things about you. Your encouragement and humor was a lifesaver some days. The fact that you took on the inventory list and helped me out with the spreadsheet gets you 4 gold stars. Your dedication was instrumental in keeping the greenhouse a fun and educational place to work. You're definitely an "idea" girl.

Belinda Kromer - Thank you for everything. You are such a good President. I appreciate you checking on the greenhouse and me to make sure things were running smoothly. It has been my honor to get to know you and chat with you.

Congratulations to all the Interns that became Master Gardeners this year. I say congratulations to the new interns as well. Many of you came and went and I am sorry to say that I can't put aname to everyone's face right now. I'm hoping next year will bring you back to the greenhouse and I can work on that. I had a great year and I hope to see old and new faces when the greenhouse starts up in September.

Debbie Taylor

IDEA Garden

The IDEA Garden has long had a xeriscape area. A few of the plants there are at least a decade old and prove that even in wet humid East Texas some dry climate plants have a place and history. I know that growing up in the pale sugary sand of Henderson County we had as many yucca in our pasture as bull nettle, and in my memory they were both pernicious weeds.

The education minded folks who established the IDEA put in Spanish bayonet, other yucca, giant blue agave, prickly pear and Dyckia in our garden to show people these commonly seen and grown plants of desserts also thrive in East Texas.

When Clayton Turner inherited the dry garden, he had a grand vision for making it an educational focal point. He created a roof top succulent garden, a way to tent the entire section through our cool wet winters to extend our ability to grow less cold hardy plants. He built our retaining wall to organize the space and direct runoff from the paths and hung hanging gardens made of pallets on the fence. Under his care the garden was full of the beautiful and the rare. His focus on succulents because of their beauty, form, and color caused him to remove the grasses and dry landscape shrubbery and flowers. Thus, he created more space for the varied range of succulents he stewarded.

When I took over the garden in 2019. I wanted to take the best of all the things that had come before but reintegrate the dry garden into the larger style of IDEA. I thought it would blend better if it had a softer more blousy look and bigger color. To that end we added the small rockery, the cedar fence, more paths, and the chicken feeder display to add a hint of whimsey. We began to bring back grasses and rangy wildflowers. We also let the gravel self sow. I always say if you want wildflowers put in a gravel path. You won't be able to walk on it, but it will grow every wind or bird planted seed.

Everything was going well until Uri came stomping through our garden in 2020. The succulent section was very hard hit. The combination of the excess moisture and extreme cold was something very few of our succulents could survive. After a year of heart-breaking culling, we finally realized what could be salvaged and started to build back our stock. This year Wayne Elliott helped put in a set of sturdy steps to lead visitors into the garden. We also keep adding interesting, beautiful, and colorful dry adapted plants.

Through the years and the varied focus of its stewards, the dry garden changes and takes on new personalities. But it always serves to bring the odd beauty and tenacious strength of succulents and xeriscape plants to the forefront. Proving all plants have a place—well, except bull nettle!

Elizabeth Waldrop

Programming Committee Report

CBS19TV has asked if we would do a brief gardening tip talk each week on their noon news program. Education is a part of what we do, and this is a great opportunity to promote both gardening and the master gardening program to the community. We are evaluating the feasibility of doing this. For this to be successful, we will need participation of a number of our membership. These talks will be only 3 minutes allowing time to make a few points. Brief media training can be offered. Please let me know if you can be a part of this.

This is also the time that many of the garden clubs and community groups are planning their programs for the fall and new year. New speakers on a variety of topics are needed. Contact me to be added to the speaker list.

SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

It's been a busy month on our Facebook page with all the events and gardening conversations generating a lot of traffic. Special thanks to Mary Hamlin who emailed me about a notice she saw on the Next Door web site about sightings of Hammerhead worms in Tyler. Not only were we able to warn people about an invasive species here in Smith County, but we were also able to inform the public on the proper methods of ridding themselves of this invasive pest.

If you have anything you feel should be posted on our Facebook page, please email me and I'll get it up on the page. And as usual, please send me any good photos of the gardens. Lastly, if you run across any good gardening jokes for our Friday Funny posts, please send them my way.

Andie Rathbone

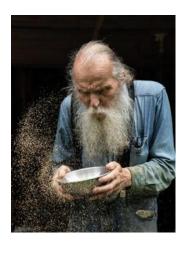
Here's the top three posts for April:



#1 April 812,908 people reached



#2 April 9 5,264 people reached



#3 April 3 4, 674 people reached The Maine Farmer Saving the World's Rarest Heirloom Seeds

Tis The Season—continued

something. And save yourself lots of trouble and don't justify growing plants that are proven to not perform well here or are not recommended by the experts. Believe me, there are plenty of frauds and self-proclaimed "experts" out there that have no scientific or gardening background.

Here's an analogy for you. There's a group of folks waiting for the elevator on the top floor and a guy comes up to you and says he's figured out a much faster way to get to the ground floor and it's guaranteed to work. P.S. It involves stepping off the ledge and free falling past all the floors. Make sure every plant that you grow "makes sense" here, is recommended by expert, professional, and seasoned gardeners, and is destined to be happy and productive. We'll divide up the categories of plants for you in another article. Right now, we are in the hot season which drastically limits are choices so don't be an idiot and plant potatoes or pansies and don't be foolish by planting geraniums or tomatoes.

Hibiscus Saw Fly & caterpillar

I have two hardy hibiscus planted in my yard, Lord and Lady Baltimore. Last year in June I noticed Lord B. didn't have any whole leaves left. All his leaves were simple skeletons. By the time I noticed, the culprits were long gone. Lady B., located just eight feet away, was in fine shape. I cut Lord B. back to ground level, he sent out new shoots and provided some lovely flowers later in the summer.

This spring I made a point of keeping an eye on his health. Last week (5/15), I noticed the skeletonized leaves. This time, the critters were still there, though not very noticeable without good vision or bifocals. On the underside of the leaves I found some tiny caterpillars, about 1/4" long, along with some egg casings. Using the gardener's friendly app, iNaturalist, I determined it was a Hibiscus sawfly caterpillar. I've now also seen the actual sawfly which is quite tiny and can easily be missed. It is not an actual fly but comes from the family Argidae.

The general treatment for "worms on hibiscus" from TAMU is to "use Dipel (dust) or Biological Worm Killer – Thuricide (liquid) which contain Bt (Bacillus thuriengensis). You will have to apply the product every 4 days for 3 consecutive applications or until the damage ceases." For me, I had a jar of soapy water and spent about 15 minutes justifiably killing the caterpillars by putting them in the water. Then I trimmed off the skeletonized leaves so it would be easier to spot new damage. Yes, I'll probably have a repeat infestation since I still have the sawflies, but I'd rather not use chemicals. At least I now know who my enemy is!







SEED BANK UPDATE

We started building our seed bank in January, beginning with seeds collected this past winter. Some spring flowers are now setting seed, so be sure to think of our seed bank if you do some collecting! The seeds that we save are available for use in school and comminuity garden projects, and here's a list of what we have at this point:

Philippine Lily

Texas Star Hibiscus

Fennel Gaillardia Cleome

Salvia coccinea Gomphrena Salvia lyrata

Queen Anne's Lace

Rudbeckia maxima

Eastern Redbud

Obedient Plant

Celosia

Blue Bonnet

Datura

Echinacea

Penstemon tenuis Red Hot Poker

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REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING May 19, 2022

The May 2022 Board of Directors Meeting was held in person at the Cotton Belt in Room 116. Items discussed included:



- ♦ The Treasurer's response to the 2021 Audit
- ♦ Status of the Garden Tour for 2023
- ♦ Appointment of Sara Emry-Srthur as our new Assistant Treasurer
- ♦ Update on our East Texas State Fair participation for 2022
- ♦ Request from a local TV station for weekly gardening tip segment
- ♦ Approval of modifications of Financial Policies & Procedures policies 3007 & 3011

Mary Jo Madden, Past President/Parliamentarian

VMS Update

We thought you would like to see how the gardening year is progressing so here are the stats entered into VMS so far. We have 129 certified MGs who have entered 5584 hours and 1038 CEs. Of those who have entered data, 71 have at least 24 work hours or more, in some cases many more. There are 34 MGs who have at least 9 CEs or more, and 30 MGs who have already recorded enough hours and CEs to meet yearly requirements. So we would like to congratulate and recognize those 30 members who have put in the extra effort so far this year:

MARINDA ARNEY, BETTY ATCHLEY, GAY BARRON, HAZEL BATEMAN, GAIL BEAN, LYN BENSON, JANET BURNS, CHRIS COCHRAN, BETTY CONEJO, JOLANA DAMKROGER, SANDRA DUGAN, TERRI GERBER, LENKA JOHNSON, BROOKS KERR, BELINDA KROMER, MARY JO MADDEN, MARY BETH MCCOWN, LUCINDA MORGAN, ANNE PATTULLO, DENISE RASCO, ANDIE RATHBONE, CRAIG REILAND, LYNETTE SEWELL, HEATHER STEPHENS, BRENDA STRONG, BECKY WADE, ELIZABETH WALDROP, DEBBY WATKINS, PAUL WICK, and TRICIA WIGGS.

If you have hours and CEs not recorded, please get those into the system.

Mary Hamlin

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

Amanda Southard, our office angel, is just "Amanda on the Spot" for all our needs. Whether we are having a committee meeting and need sign-in sheet or room reservation or just have a question, she is over the top there for us! She wears so many hats, reports to everyone in the office and always wears a beautiful smile and gets it done for all of us!

There are so many reasons why she has this month's spotlight that I can't even list them all. I am just in awe at what she does for us, how organized she always is and how pleasant she greets and treats each one of us. We are blessed!

Thank you, Amanda for always going "Above and Beyond'!

Education Dispatch



This month is a big one for Education!

On June 10th we are having our first Summer Workkshop that will focus on Texas Superstars plants and basic gardening principles to help both experienced and new gardeners make the most of their garden while also saving money, time and labor. Tell your family and friends and share our flyers on Facebook and other forums. This is a fundraiser for us and we hope to have at a lot of people to share our knowledge with. The workshop is 20.00 per person for pre registrants and 25.00 at the door. We will have swag bags full of garden goodies, door prizes, and snacks. Join us for a fun couple of hours of learning.

June 20th -24th we are working with Glass Recreation to present a Kids program called Nature Detectives. Your generous donations have made it possible for 25 children to attend our class for free and become super sleuths as they investigate birds bees bugs and butterflies, solve mysteries about them, detect what they need to survive, and learn how to preserve their habitats.

I want to thank everyone who has helped plan and put these programs together so that we can expand our outreach in new fun ways.

Elizabeth Waldrop

"Above and Beyond Master Gardener Spotlight" - SCMGA - June 2022

Mary Hamlin THANK YOU for all you do! I would ask if any of you have worked with Mary but that would be a loaded question. She is our VMS manager, VMS fixit lady, monitor for hours and most of all VMS trainer! How would we every survive without her guidance and lead with this part of our world!

But... did you know that Mary is our guide / advisor / proofer for all awards we submit to the state? Without her involvement, we would scramble, submit, resubmit and on and on. She knows what we need to put in our award submissions that prevent us from having them kicked back for missing information or incorrect data and she knows the keywords we need to focus on. We get one shot at these and look how we came out in 2022. She proofs them all before they are sent in. She will tell you that it isn't because of her work, it is the work of those who win the awards. I will just say that the awards are certainly all deserved but getting them right in front of those judges is key!

And finally, if there is ever a question about historical data for our organization that is needed for answering specific questions or needs, she is a master! I appreciate her beyond words! She is a huge blessing for me but most importantly for SCMGA!

Thank you, Mary for always going "Above and Beyond"!

Belinda Kromer

From Bulbs To Blooms



The planning for this year's bulb sale continues. The committee has decided there will be an inperson conference this year. The bulb sale will be online since our customers overwhelmingly requested that form of sale, though we will have a small in-person bulb sale on the order pickup date of October 15th. The timely news for this month is the member pre-order. Master Gardeners are NOT allowed to shop the online sale until October 7th. Each year we've had the online sale, a number of bulbs sold out during the first two days of the sale. The member pre-order is your only opportunity to ensure you receive particular bulbs. We have a number of new offerings this year, both of the daffodil type and the non-daffodil type. In addition there are member-only offerings (some really gorgeous amaryllis!!). Pre-ordering is your only opportunity to get a member-only offering. They will NOT be available at the sale. Your order must be placed via email or text to Stephanie Osborn by June 2nd. Contact Stephanie via email or phone if you have questions. She will send a confirmation email. If you do not receive one, it means she hasn't received your order. Call her! I hope y'all take

advantage of this opportunity to ensure you receive your choices.

Brenda Strong

June Membership Meeting

For our monthly meeting June 2nd at the Rose Garden Center, we will be hearing from Julie Mattox and Debbie Rhodes of Northeast Texas Prairies Classroom. They are going to have an informal discussion of how they reach out to educate kids and methods they use to keep young people engaged with nature education and conservation topics. They want this to be an interactive session with our group and a sharing experience that we can use to energize our volunteers about working with young people, sharing our love of gardening and the natural world with the next generation of gardeners.

This meeting is a timely one for us as we get ready to hold our first Nature Detective Workshop and are trying to kick start a Junior Master Gardener Program that involves everything from school gardens to hands on learning experiences with kids at various MG educational events.

These ladies are a wealth of knowledge and a treat to talk to, so I hope everyone can join us for this interesting discussion that can really benefit our burgeoning youth programs.

Elizabeth Waldrop

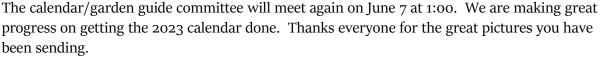
HELP DESK UPDATE



We will hold a training class for those who want to volunteer for the Help Desk but have not attended the training within the last year. Here's the link to the information and the SignUp: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-helpdesk

MaryJo

Calendar Committee





Lifetime Award, Congratulations David Gary:

For those of you who were not able to attend the May Monthly Membership Meeting, we announced that David Gary received a very special award, the Lifetime Award. David provided an incredible program for us at that meeting and was the perfect example of why he was awarded this very special award. David joined SCMGA in 2007, Class 14, getting his certification in 2008. He is a past president from 2014 and has served in many capacities in our organization. He is a gifted gardener and incredible speaker with one of his programs adopted by the Dallas Botanical Gardens, where he speaks regularly. David has MS and it requires him to do everything from his wheelchair, but he does not let that inhibit him in any way! He will continue his speaking programs and being a treasured MG for us. The actual award certificate will be presented in April

volved in creating the dry creek

bed for the Shade Garden



2023 with our other 2022 awards at the once-a-year award ceremony. In the meantime, he will have a new name badge with the Lifetime member designation and will be added to our lifetime member board in the class-room. Please make a point to congratulate David when you see him. We are very blessed to have him in our Association!



June 2022

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			I Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM	2 SCMG Meeting Rose Center 11:30 AM	3	Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
5	HelpDesk Training Classroom, 10:00 AM	7 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM Calendar Committee meets 1:00	Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM	9	10	11
12	13	14 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	15 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM	16 SCMG BOD CottonBelt 10:00	17	18 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
19 HAPPY FYTHER'S COMP	20	21 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	22 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM	23	24 Grapevine deadline	25
26	27	28 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	29 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM	30		