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**The next SCMG Association
meeting is
Thursday, May 5, 2022
At 11:30 AM at
Tyler Rose Center**

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Garden Winks

There is nothing like the beauty of the Spring season with rainbow colors of new growth, flowers, grass turning green, the blooms on trees and shrubs, butterflies and pollinators and the music of the birds! I love this time of year but it also means there is work to be done to keep everything healthy and pretty. A reminder that the blessings in life are so abundant and need to be appreciated but also cared for!

Our Botanical Garden is a place of many blessings! The SCMG garden teams continue to work hard to clean up, weed and replant. The comradery while working is so special. If you haven't had a chance to go and it is something you are able to do, the rewards are treasures. Saturday, April 16th, the Shade Garden team had a wonderful well attended workday. New interns, mentors and Shade Garden regulars all worked, laughed and enjoyed a successful day capped off with an incredible lesson from Keith Hansen on caring for the Azaleas and Camellias including the grooming needs. He also provided the details on the coming Carex trial to start in the Shade Garden very soon. Learning never ends!

The monthly membership meeting in April was a much-needed gathering to celebrate the graduates that are now entering internships, to introduce the new Master Gardeners and to recognize special achievements of so many in our organization. If you were recognized but couldn't attend, your certificate is in the Master Gardener office in the care of Amanda Southard. Congratulations to all! Just remember, you are all winners in our SCMG!

The Tyler Azalea Trail Event was beautiful. Crowds came to Tyler to enjoy our gardens and SCMG welcomed them at the Goodman Museum Event. Our very own Elizabeth Waldrop did incredible demonstrations on 'Making Fairy Gardens' and 'Building Container Gardens' both days of the event. Master Gardeners supported the event in attendance and in booth sitting, talking to visitors about all things gardening and the SCMG! Our Master Gardeners also assisted or attended the Pyron Garden Tour sponsored by the Smith County Horticulture Education Committee. It may be the most beautiful garden of the Tyler Azalea Trails!

Thank you all for what you do for SCMG! Each one of you make our organization so incredibly special!



Belinda Kromer

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May Membership Meeting

We have the privilege of having our own David Gary (class 14) Past President and speaker extraordinaire, do his program: Master Gardener on Wheels. David was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at the age of 28, but he has never let his condition limit him. He works at the Dallas Arboretum, speaks on gardening on a regular basis and manages to work in his own garden. Using clever strategies to enrich his soul by being among the flowers. I hope to see you all there for this inspiring talk.

Elizabeth Waldrop



Mistaken Identity Greg Grant

Because you are a Master Gardener in Smith County, and because I'm the Master Gardener coordinator in Smith County and a lifelong student of easy-to-grow, long lived, Southern bulbs, AND because our number one fund raiser and educational event is our Earth-Kind Bulbs to Blooms conference and sale, it is beyond imperative that you know as much as you can about which bulbs are low input perennials and which ones are annuals, short lived perennials, or weak growers.

There are many different kinds of bulbs, and it can all be quite confusing without experience, practice, and study. It's not just a matter of comparing apples to apples either. It's more like comparing Red Delicious to Gala and many more. For example, many of our best, easy to grow perennials are certain jonquils, narcissus, and daffodils, yet most jonquils, narcissus, and daffodils sold throughout the world are not long-lived perennials here. Heck, there are over 13,000 daffodil cultivars in the world and only a dozen or so that I know do well here. And that's not the half of it. Just because it's sold by a name that you might think is one that will do well here, doesn't mean it's the correct choice.

For example, what the Dutch sell as 'King Alfred' hasn't been the true 'King Alfred' in years, long since substituted by something newer that does better in Holland. And what they sell as *Narcissus x odoratus* is different from the heirloom campernelle jonquil that thrives throughout the South. The same goes for what they peddle rather inexpensively as *Gladiolus communis byzantinus* which isn't at all like the stalwart Byzantine gladiolus that many cherish throughout Texas.

And just because the cultivar is correct and one that grows well here, still doesn't make it a good choice, as some such as 'Tete a Tete' are heavily virused in the trade and though the virus doesn't kill them, it weakens them, disfigures the foliage, and can potentially spread to others in the *Narcissus* genus. Virus is the reason that we don't sell 'Avalanche,' 'Erlicheer,' and 'Tete a Tete' which are all well adapted cultivars for East Texas and the South.

Here are a few examples of the kinds of mix ups that can occur. Several years ago, a Master Gardener gave me a large number of what were supposed to be white cemetery iris (*Iris*

x albicans), one that we often make available in our sale, due to its unique adaption to almost every square mile of Texas. I noticed the foliage was wider and taller, so I kept them out of the sale. And although they were a white flowered bearded iris, it turns out that they were a much more modern cultivar of *Iris x germanica*.

Also, several years ago, another Master Gardener gave me a considerable number of what were supposed to be Byzantine gladiolus for our sale. Since the corms were small, I added them to my stock planting instead of the sale. Sadly, they turned out to be what I think is either *Gladiolus italicus* or *Gladiolus communis*. No matter what it is, it is lighter colored, smaller flowered, earlier blooming, and has more narrow and grayish foliage than our heirloom Byzantine gladiolus. Regrettably, I've been trying to rogue them from my stock row ever since. What the Dutch sell as Byzantine gladiolus is NOT what we grow and sell as Byzantine gladiolus. Also, what our own Butterfly Kisses grows and passes around as Byzantine gladiolus is NOT what we grow and sell as Byzantine gladiolus. The gaudy, strong growing clone that we sell is sterile and doesn't set any seeds.

MJ and I are also currently trying to sort out some St. Joseph's lilies that were gifted to us. *Hippeastrum x johnsonii*, though not as showy as modern cultivar, is the toughest, most vigorous, longest lived of all the amaryllis and is rarely ever available in the trade. But just because an amaryllis is red and white striped or even perennial, doesn't mean it's *Hippeastrum x johnsonii*.



Our award-winning Earth-Kind Bulbs to Blooms sale features true-to-name, time tested, heirloom, hardy, and hard-to-find bulbs for Texas and the South. To draw both repeat and new customers and to help with word-of-mouth PR, it's essential that we be the most educated, dedicated, and thorough bulbophiles in the state. I would suggest that every one of you own or read a copy of Scott Ogden's *Garden Bulbs for the South* (Timber Press, 2007, 2nd edition) as a primer.

REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS

Heritage Rose Garden

We had a real scare in the garden recently! One Tuesday workday morning we showed up and found that the Monday night storm (Of which we've had too many lately!) had played havoc. The beautiful wrought iron arbor at the entrance to the garden had been lifted off of the brick pillar supports and was sitting on the ground.

We were devastated because we had been anxiously waiting for the spring-blooming-only Fortunia rose to burst into bloom. We thought we had lost it. Fortunately, due to the good working relationship that SCMGs have cultivated with the Rose Garden staff, Ivan Angon came and looked at it and said, "No problem! We can't fix it today because we're clearing downed trees off the city streets but we'll get to it tomorrow."

By Thursday the arbor had been reinstalled back where it was supposed to be and Fortunia was not even impacted by its adventure. The roses will be displaying themselves in all their glory in May, so be sure to come and "smell the roses!"

Debby Watkins & Henry Burch



IDEA Garden



Planted in the IDEA garden, as well as the Shade Garden, are some gems worthy of pointing out. Hellebore/Hellebores consists of sturdy and numerous blossoms in a variety of colors. The leaves are very sturdy, likely a trait of its classification in the evergreen family of Renunculaceae. People give it many names like "winter rose", "Christmas rose", and "Lenten rose". Hellebores do well when planted in shady areas, and respond well to the short days of winter. These plants are valued by gardeners for their winter and early spring flowering period.

No wonder the "grumpy Gardener" gives them a thumbs up. Hellebore symbolizes serenity, tranquility and peace.

Dana Anderson

Griffin Elementary

Griffin gardens are growing, we will harvest potatoes, onions and kale in the middle of May. Everyone enjoyed planting the potatoes at the end of March. In April, we planted bok choy, flower seeds and kale. Everything has come up.

We will have some changes at Griffin next year, because our wonderful teacher, Katrina Maccalous, is leaving. We hope to have another teacher, but while the school is not sure if it wants to do the Learn, Grow, Eat, Go program, it does want to have gardens. We are not sure how that will work, but we have summer to work on that.

This year has been challenging, but so much fun.

Becky Wade



Shade Garden

The Shade Garden sure put on a pretty spring and we are proud of the show. Azaleas and camellias, new and old have made a lovely display. The Japanese maples have leafed out in blushes of soft pinks, creams, bronze and green. We marvel at the recovery the space has made in the past year.

The volunteers have been keeping things neat and tidy, but Mother Nature has interfered with a few of the Wednesday work days. Not to be deterred, we were able to make it up with a mega work day on April 16. Fifteen volunteers were there including regular Saturday gang, Wednesday workers, interns and mentors. Thanks to **Veronica Deason** we jammed to the oldies while we got things done. **Keith Hansen** made an appearance and schooled us on camellia and azalea care and helped us sort out pruning of the camellias damaged by Storm Uri. He also educated us on carex to include information on the upcoming carex trials.

We spent some time looking at the beds and making selections as to where to plant the test varieties. The Shade Garden is getting ready for some planting in the next several weeks, along with the installation of yet another (and hopefully the last) dry creek bed in the new woodland walk addition.

Katy Barone

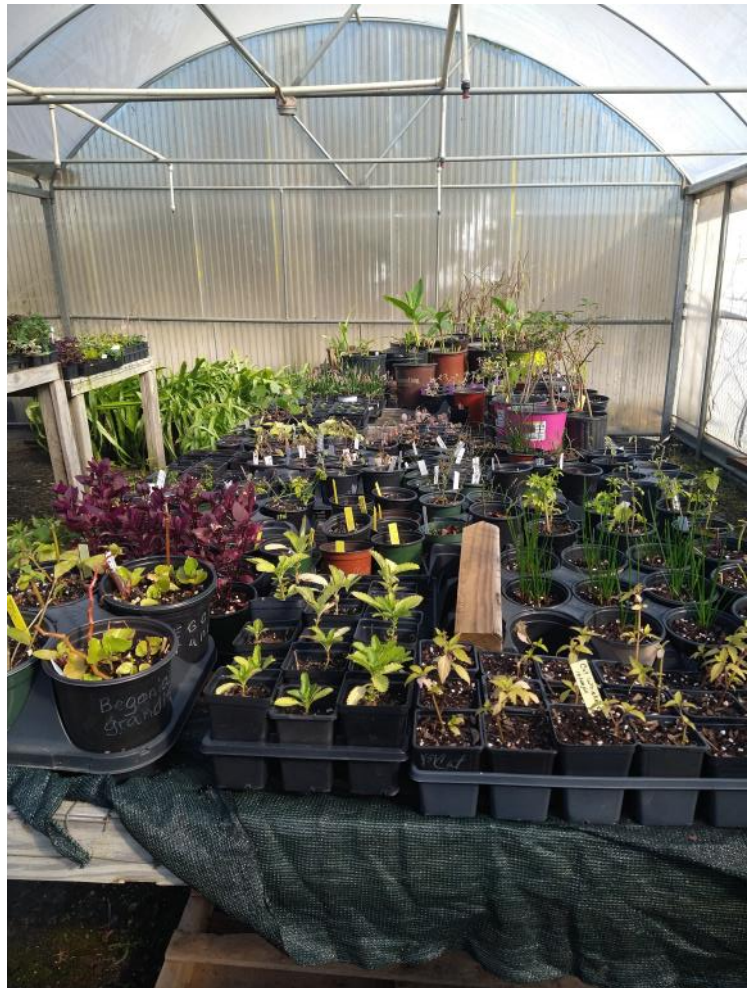


Greenhouse Update

The Master Gardener greenhouse will be coming to a close in May. It has been a fun and productive year and the hard-working volunteers made it all possible. There is bounty to share, showing all the hard work that they put in collectively.

Some pretty nasty storms decided to move through on our weekly scheduled Wednesday mornings this spring, making it hard to know exactly what we might endure while in the greenhouse or if we should cancel. I leave it up to the individual gardener on whether they feel comfortable getting out in the weather. If you don't feel comfortable driving in the rain or being away from your home, that is a personal choice. If there are predicted storms on Wednesday I'm usually watching the weather forecast by 5 a.m. Luckily for us, the times we worked in the greenhouse during the rain there was no severe scary weather! A greenhouse is no place to be during lightning or high winds. In those cases we would cancel.

I would like to thank each and every gardener who came to the greenhouse this year. You made everything possible from getting the plants potted, watered, and fertilized. None of this would have been possible without the steadfast volunteers who come weekly. They bring with them knowledge and ideas that make the greenhouse a fun place to work. A special shout out to **Doc Fletcher** coming and helping out each week. We will be distributing plants over the next couple of weeks. Plants slow down their growth in high temps in the greenhouse so best to get them out early. I was just at the greenhouse last week during a sunny 80 degree day and the inside temp was 111. So, it is time for them to go. We will start on April 27 and continue until the plants are gone.



If you worked in the greenhouse and would care to take any of your hard work home please come pick up some plants. I am usually there everyday at some point so if you can't come on a Wednesday between 8:30 to 10:30 let me know. I'll meet you to pick up your plants.

Thanks and happy gardening.

Debbie Taylor

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

Neysa Mueller – A dedicated MG with many talents! She came to the rescue for the April Awards. In reaching out to her for input, she volunteered to help and contributed by making some of the decorations! She also assisted with the setup and cleanup at the meeting. Most recently, at the last minute, we needed an expert in flower arranging to help us get the word out for the Library Series Program with Jay White, speaking on “Saving the World with Homegrown Bouquets”. With special talents in this area, we asked her if she would consider going to the TV station (KETK) to be interviewed on East Texas Live getting the word out about the program. When asked, she agreed to do it. Thank you, Neysa, for going Above and Beyond and for all you do for SCMGA!

Belinda Kromer

REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING April 21, 2022

The April 2022 Board of Directors Meeting was held in person at the Cotton Belt in Room 116.

Items discussed included:

- ◇ Finalized Audit Report on SCMGA financials for 2021
- ◇ Lack of reliable participation in the Garden Guides Project
- ◇ Status of the Summer Youth Workshop
- ◇ Possibility of resurrecting the Home Garden Tour Project
- ◇ Problems with availability of approved attire with logo
- ◇ Status of leadership for the Development Project

Mary Jo Madden, Past President/Parliamentarian

VMS Update

VMS Tip: Lately we've had a number of people who have not gotten the weekly eBlast, and in each case the eBlast was in the member's spam folder. We reported the issue to the State MG office, and it turns out other counties are reporting the same issue, so it has been turned over to the developer to work. We send out an eBlast every Friday and other informational emails during the week as needed. If you're not getting the eBlast in particular, please check your spam folder to see if it, or any other VMS email, is in there. If so, there will be a way to tell your email program that emails from VMS are not spam. How to do this will depend on your email client, but should be easy to do. All members need to be sure they are getting emails out of VMS because it's the way we pass on time critical information. If you believe you are not getting emails from VMS, please contact Mary Hamlin (mhamlin@flash.net) or Mary Jo Madden (maryjmadden@gmail.com) and let us help.

Mary Hamlin

Watch for the coming events in May! Read your eBlast every Friday to get the latest! The last of the Library Series for 2022 is May 20th! The TXMG Virtual Conference is May 9 – 11. It is well worth your time to attend! [2022 Conference Information \(txmg.org\)](https://www.txmg.org)

Belinda Kromer

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

Charlie Colman and all the SCMGs assisting at OVERTON - A very special “Above and Beyond” from Erin Smith, the research assistant at Overton. Erin responded to my requests for special spotlights with the note below. In her words, this is truly a great SPOTLIGHT for “Above and Beyond”!

I'd really like to say thank you to all of the SCMG that have been coming out to the Overton center to help with special projects and sowing/transplanting this Spring. Also for their help in planting in the field. They are a great bunch of folks and I could not have gotten this trial season started without them.

A special thanks to Mr. Charlie Coleman as the coordinator for the Overton project. He goes out of his way to help organize the trial plants and Ms. Monette helps keep everyone on their toes! There are no words to express how much their help means to our project.

A huge thanks from Jason & me!

Thank you all for going Above and Beyond at Overton and in all you do for SCMGA!

Belinda Kromer

Education Dispatch

Wow! This has been a busy few weeks. So many projects accomplished and planning for future ones are in the works. I had the great honor of working with the City of Tyler to present a program to city employees about using houseplants to reduce stress in the workplace. It was a fun event, and I met a very diverse group, from people who work in the parks department to 911 dispatchers. I learned so much from them about their jobs and got to communicate some wisdom on how and why plants help reduce stress.

Thanks to all who helped and came out for the Goodman Museum fundraiser and flower market, we had fun despite the gale on Saturday! We got to share our knowledge with so many people and enjoy each other's company while doing it. That is the best thing about education projects, its just chatting and you meet the greatest people both in and out of our organization!

Our next thing is Earth Day at Camp Tyler and a workday at Glass in the garden there to help bring in pollinators in time for the kids' workshop in late June.

We are working on finishing up plans for the first Summer Workshop Summer Stars, Texas Super Stars, Plants for Here and Now. This summer's fund-raising workshops will help support SCMGA education projects and scholarships and I hope you will tell your family and friends about it. I think it will be a great opportunity to learn, discuss and get some cool swag! Erin Smith and all the amazing volunteers at Overton have contributed plants for door prizes. That is a project that everyone should try their hand in, those folks are incredible.

Don't forget the city Nature Challenge April 29th through May 2nd. Just upload photos of native plants and critters to INaturalist, and help the Master Naturalist build up the identification database!

Keep your eye on the e blast for all the upcoming work in education and the volunteer opportunities being offered.

Elizabeth Waldrop

New Class and Mentor News

Interns and Mentors have been very active in the gardens this month. It's such a great time of year to start their volunteer journey!



HELP DESK UPDATE



We have been busy at the Help Desk this month. Of course, most of the calls and emails are people worried about their lawns! We've also had queries about blueberries, azaleas, powdery mildew, and where to buy Grandma's Yellow Rose (a new SuperStar). We are very grateful to those who volunteer as Specialists!

Several interns who have completed their first "First-Timer" shift have commented that working the Help Desk isn't nearly as scary as they had feared.

125 volunteer hours have been entered into VMS for the Help Desk in April, and we are always looking for Master Gardeners who can come join us and share their knowledge. If you've had the training, please sign up for a shift (or two!). If you are interested in getting trained, please get in touch (maryjmadden@gmail.com).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054da5ae2aaaf94-helpdesk1>

MaryJo

From Bulbs To Blooms

By the time you read this, the Bulb Sale Committee will have had their first general meeting of the year to discuss what this year's sale will look like. Stay tuned for updates! Our bulb sale is unique in that we only offer bulbs that have been TRIALED in this area of Texas. We do purchase some bulbs that are available from commercial growers in order to provide the quantity of quality bulbs that our customers desire, but they must meet the stringent requirements of our bulb expert – Greg Grant.

As you all know (or should know), when the online bulb sale opens on October 3rd, MGs and their significant others CANNOT immediately begin shopping! However, we do offer a means to guarantee you are able to purchase certain bulbs. This is through the member pre-sale. This year the member pre-sale will be managed by **Morgan Wood and Stephanie Osborn**. The list of bulbs which you can pre-order will be available by the May 5th meeting and your order must be placed by the June 2nd meeting. Included in this list of bulbs will be a short list of a few bulbs that are ONLY AVAILABLE through pre-order and will NOT be offered to the general public. A special eBlast has either been sent out or will be very shortly with the list and the order form by the time you get this issue of the Grapevine.

Brenda



MGs in the Newspapers

Tyler Morning Telegraph (Sundays only)

May 1 – “Good Moth Bad Moth” – Ginger Sawyer
 May 8 – “Petal of Mother Love” – Lynn McGinnis
 May 15 – “Pass Along Strawberries” – Marybeth McCown
 May 22 – “Caladiums” – Bill Powell
 May 29 – “Texas Superstars Workshop” – Elizabeth Waldrop

Tyler Morning Telegraph under Lifestyles at <https://www.tylerpaper.com>.



Lindale News & Times (Thursdays only)*

May 5 – “Petals of Mother Love” – Lynn McGinnis
 May 12 – “Not the End All Bee All” – Stephanie Osborn
 May 19 – “Tithonia Rotundifolia, the Mexican Sunflower” – Asa Johnson
 May 26 – “Texas Superstars Workshop” – Elizabeth Waldrop

You can read the Lindale News & Times online for free at <https://www.lindalenewsandtimes.com/current-edition>.

**Note: Please remember the Lindale News & Times is a small local newspaper with lots of hometown flavor, so if there's an important community issue or the 4H is having a livestock show or even if a large corporation buys a full page ad, we get bumped that edition. They do try to use all the articles we send, however the date might be different.*

You guys are doing a great job on your articles, I love reading each and every one of them and our readers do too! Keep up the great work!

Lynn McGinnis

Calendar Committee

The calendar/garden guide is progressing well. We are writing articles about beneficial insects in the garden. There are also a few about bad insects. It will include pictures of different stages of their life cycle so you will be able to identify them. We need lots of pictures to include - anything you see in your garden. We need pictures of your cute pets, lizards, insects, flowers, shrubs everything you see outside. We can make this another great garden guide with everyone's help. Send your pictures

to: matthews1952@sbcglobal.net.



Sherri Matthews

Programming Committee Report

The Master Gardeners at the Library program on April 23rd was by Jay White, editor of the Texas Gardener magazine. Jay presented a fun and entertaining program on cut flowers. Selected guests were able to make their own floral arrangements using techniques discussed in the lecture.

The next and final program of the Library series for this season will be on May 20th. Elizabeth Waldrop will present a talk on "Night Gardens: The Magic Mix of Plants and Moonlight". Gardens that are planted to be at their most beautiful in the evening and by moonlight are a magical sensory experience. They also allow gardeners who are busy during the day to experience their gardens when they have time to enjoy them. Also discussed will be historic night gardens, basic design plans for your own and the enchanting plants that bring these gardens to life.

Paul Wick



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

Katy Barone – Another spotlight with input from a fellow MG. Katy received an award at our ceremony in April but this came before that and it is truly a glowing recognition from another MG. Many of us work with Katy in our program but most of us don't know the depths of her love and dedication to gardening and especially the children in the gardens. From a fellow MG:

Katy not only is the coordinator of the Shade Garden, but also was able to have a landscape architect to help make a plan for the Shade Garden. She has been so helpful in the start of the Griffin Garden. She is such a source of knowledge with Master Gardeners in the area of education, especially with children. She teaches lessons at Caldwell as well as helps plant and harvest with the children. When an individual was limited with physical disabilities, Katy was willing to help with accommodations. She is such an asset to Smith County Master Gardeners.

Thank you Katy for going Above and Beyond and for all you do for SCMGA!

Belinda Kromer

Garden Guide Project

I want to thank the Master Gardeners who have participated in this program. Your volunteer efforts have met a definite need, and you have done a great job!

The Garden Guides will not be offering Rose Garden tours for the foreseeable future. The project needs revitalization, renewed commitment, in order to be successful. The shortage of reliable volunteers is distressing, and must be dealt with before we can continue.

Susan Buntz

May 2022

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM	4 Shade Garden workday 9:00	5 SCMG Meeting Rose Center 11:30 AM	6	7 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
8 	9 TMGA Conference begins	10 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM	11 Shade Garden workday 9:00	12	13	14
15	16	17 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM	18 Shade Garden workday 9:00	19 SCMG BOD CottonBelt 10:00	20 MG Library Series Tyler Public Library 11:30	21 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
22	23	24 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM	25 Shade Garden workday 9:00	26 <i>Grapevine deadline</i>	27 Pollinator Program Rose Center 9:00—12:00	28
29	30 	31 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM				