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June 2023



The next SCMG Association meeting is

Thursday, June 1, 2023
At 10:00 AM at
Tyler Rose Center

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Elizabeth's Thoughts

Ah, June! Sigh. While May has always seemed like a warm, colorful, heavily scented hugger. June is handsome but stern. May is a grandmother of a month. June is a father; it has always made sense to me that Father's Day falls within it.

June is when my garden lets me know if my hopeful new additions or the sickly dears I have been nursing along are going to make it. June doesn't have time for plants that are weak, or poorly placed, or badly planned experiments. This is the month that lets you know where the rubber meets the road, we aren't playing around, things just got real. It's not that June is cruel or unkind, that's August. June does everything for your own good, it's here to teach you life/garden lessons, and boy, does it.

My foray into rhubarb growing is going better than expected. June will let me know if I was crazy to try. It will also inform me if the fancy begonias I have fallen in love with and placed all over the porches should be indoor-only princesses. June won't care that I am mad for the lemon pie scented beauties. If they aren't as tough as the old pass along angel wing that a friend gave me years ago, June will shrivel and bake them. One of the few things I have learned in these last few harsh weather years is listen to the advice of June, and all the other transition months. They quietly whisper "Take heed now, this is the easy part, the worst is yet to come." Hard headed as I am, I am starting to listen.

I will never be able to stop myself from falling madly and foolishly in love with some new plant that likely won't grow here or will be so much trouble after a year or two I will wonder what I was thinking. I fall in love and breakup with vegetation, or the idea of what it might become, so often that I am ashamed to admit to my foolishness or fickle affections. That said, after many failed romances I am focusing on the tried and true, the survivors of the droughts, Snowmageddon, crazy 12-hour temperature shifts that took my plants from a Mexican vacation to Minnesota cold. These are the loves that June approves of, as well as February and September, who also don't mollycoddle me, my plants, or my silly plans.

June is a big month for Master Gardening. (Are there any small ones?) We are having the Kid's Camp at Glass again this year. We have a tree focused conference June 14th at the Rose Center, and Keep Tyler Beautiful is having its Pollinator Celebration in the Rose Garden on the 22nd. There is plenty to do, in your own landscape and on all our projects, to have fun in the dawning days of Summer. Tip your gardening hat to June, the month of Dads and the advice you need, but don't always want to hear. As you work in your garden in the growing heat and humidity, listen to what it has to tell you.

Congratulations to our newest Lifetime Members, Jack Quisenberry and Harvey Collen.

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How Master Gardener Associations Fit Into Extension

Greg Grant

As a volunteer of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, it's imperative that you state that affiliation. Without Texas A&M AgriLife there would be no Texas Master Gardeners. This means stating to the public that you are volunteering under the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service umbrella, listing this partnership in every article you write, and putting the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service brand logo on every flyer or handout you produce.

I've noticed a tendency lately to only mention the Smith County Master Gardener Association in lieu of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at program events. Always remember that you are Smith County Master Gardeners, volunteer educators for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service educates the public, not a Master Gardener Association.

So where does an Association fall into the hierarchy of things? Let's start from the top. Texas A&M University (the Land Grant university in Texas) mandates teaching, research, and extension (that's us). The mission of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service *is to make Texas better by providing innovative solutions at the intersection of agriculture (this includes horticulture), natural resources, youth and health, thereby improving the well-being of individuals, families, businesses and communities through education and service.*

The Master Gardener program is an educational volunteer program conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of the Texas A&M University System. In exchange for their training, persons who become Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through their county's Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office to provide horticultural-related information to their communities. Master Gardeners are representatives of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. In all volunteer work related to the program, Master Gardeners follow the research-based recommendations of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. The Master Gardener Coordinator in the County Extension office (the county agent) decides how volunteer time can be best utilized.

A Master Gardener Association is made up of certified (by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service) Master Gardeners. The primary reasons that Associations came about were to facilitate monthly meetings and to handle funds

which county agent-coordinators aren't generally allowed to do. Funds generated or received by Master Gardener Associations provide support for educational projects, computer and office equipment for Master Gardeners and/or agents, horticultural libraries and resources, college scholarships, and educational and recreational activities for the Master Gardeners.

Master Gardener Associations don't decide who becomes a Master Gardener, who gets recertified as a Master Gardener, or the training that Master Gardeners receive. Those are all duties of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the county agent-coordinator. Think of Master Gardeners Associations as civic groups, garden clubs, or social clubs made up solely of certified Texas Master Gardeners. Everything a Texas Master Gardener (and a Master Gardener Association) does must align with the mission and goals of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the local county office.

In Smith County, the Smith County Master Gardener Association Board of Directors serves as my Program Area Committee to help guide my In-Depth efforts in training Master Gardeners and the public in horticulture. This relationship with the Smith County Master Gardener Association is critical to my job and my success as the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Smith County Extension Agent in Horticulture.

The whole premise behind the popular Master Gardener volunteer program was to assist urban county horticulture agents who couldn't possibly manage all the homeowner phone calls, walk-in inquiries, and requests for programs that interest in horticulture generates. This means that everything a Smith County Master Gardener does should be exactly the same as what I would be doing. Yes, Master Gardeners are volunteer county extension agents, tasked with the same mandate that I am: educating the public.

Thankfully, Smith County Master Gardeners do as good of a job at this as any Master Gardener organization in the state. But with new interns joining the ranks each year, it's critical that we share the roles and goals of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service with all of them.

REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS

Shade Garden

May brought a lot of canceled Wednesday workdays due to rain and thunderstorms. Still, we are grateful for the moisture helping along new plantings. Caladiums were added near the fountain, courtesy of Debbie Taylor's greenhouse crew (Thank you!) A stand of Farfugium japonicum var. *giganteum* was added to the new woodland area. (See below for further information on the plant.) We found these at Rowe Farms, a wholesale nursery in Jacksonville, thanks to Keith who tipped us off to the source. The coming months will bring more plantings, along with mulching and the addition of hard-scape features. We still have ongoing runoff issues, so we will be sorting that out as well. We are immensely grateful for all the regular volunteers, along with Class 30 interns and their contributions to the upkeep and beautification of the Shade Garden. We welcome any and all who would like to come out on a work day. We never turn away good help.

Farfugium japonicum var. *giganteum* is a shade-loving plant classified in the Asteraceae family. It is well-known for its large round leaves suggestive of a tractor seat. Native to Japan, this large, mounding plant sports large, glossy green leaves, 12 inches wide or more. Good for growing in zones 7-10, Farfugium giganteum prefers morning sun to dappled light and absolutely must have afternoon shade. The plant will wilt and scorch with too much sun. It is a thirsty plant, thriving in consistently moist soil, though tends to be hardier and more drought tolerant than its relatives. A regular healthy watering in the hot summer months will keep giganteum happy. In the late summer to early fall, tall spikes up to 30 inches will arise from the showy foliage and produce cheery yellow flowers, creating a dramatic effect. The profusion of blooms will keep the bees happy during autumn days. These bold plants have a 1-2 foot height and spread and make a lovely statement in the garden.



Katy Barone

Heritage Rose Garden



The Heritage Rose Garden has been very busy. Our benches have been in disrepair and the shed has termite damage and needs a coat of paint. We've had so much spring rain (not complaining!) that we had trouble repairing and painting the benches. But....they are finished and looking wonderful. Well, maybe not, but much better! Thanks to Lenka Johnson, Gary Gardner and Stephanie Wadowsky for repairing and painting.

Now on to the shed! We emptied the shed, reorganized, sprayed for termites, and will now paint. A HUGE thanks to Gary Gardner, for being the go-to-guy for this project. Also, to Holly Hollenshead and Tricia Wiggs for emptying the shed (and it was scary and gross!). Stephanie Wadowsky for jumping on the ladder and sanding away.

Meanwhile, the regular volunteers and the interns were busily weeding, gathering wildflower seeds, and making the garden look awesome! While no one was looking, the crinum lilies were doing their spectacular thing! Another name for Crinum asiaticum is Poison Bulb, according to Wikipedia! All parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested. So, simply, don't eat them! They are so beautiful, eating isn't necessary.

Linda Gurasich

IDEA Garden

Things are really beginning to heat up in the IDEA Garden, literally and figuratively. As the temperatures rise, more and more colorful blooms are showing up and showing out. Two such beauties that have been spectacular this spring are the roses in the Texas Superstar® section of the garden.

Introduced in 1992, Belinda's Dream Rose (*Rosa* 'Belinda's Dream') was the first rose to be named a Texas Superstar®. This shrub rose with an upright bushy growth habit grows to a height of five feet and a comparable width. Gorgeous pink double blossoms, which can be up to four inches in diameter and contain over 100 petals, cover the shrub. And those beautiful blooms can be enjoyed from the first days of spring through the hottest days of summer until the first frost. Another first for this outstanding shrub is that Belinda's Dream was also the first rose to receive the Earth-Kind® designation.

Another striking specimen is our Grandma's Yellow Rose (*Rosa* 'Nacogdoches'). Formerly known as Nacogdoches, the name was changed to Grandma's Yellow in honor of the grandmother of Dr. Larry Stein, one of the developers of the rose. It was designated a Texas Superstar® in 2010. It, too, is an upright bushy shrub growing to a height of four to five feet and a width of three feet. Its leaves begin with a touch of bronze before turning dark green. The deep yellow blossoms contain 17 to 25 petals and have what is described as a "light and spicy" fragrance. Prolific bloomers from spring until frost, they are also very disease tolerant.

To enjoy both of these roses to the fullest, plant in full sun and consistently deadhead spent blooms. But the easiest way to enjoy them is to pop in to the IDEA Garden and see these beautiful superstars for yourself. But you might want to hurry – it's getting hot out there!

Libby Sanson



REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING May 18, 2023

The May 2023 Board of Directors Meeting was held in person at the Cotton Belt.

The following topics were discussed:

- Bylaws and Policy & Procedures changes related to Lifetime Members.
- Texas State Directors' 2nd Quarter Meeting report.
- Discussion of Financial Policies and Procedures language.
- Renewal for Event Insurance Policy to cover 2023 From Bulbs to Blooms and the 2024 Home Garden Tour.
- Home Garden Tour discussion and final questions.
- Working with Texas A&M and SFA for SCMGA scholarship.
- Work at Goodman Museum gardens to continue on Friday announced work days.



Belinda Kromer, Past President/Parliamentarian

Greenhouse Update

May was our last month for the greenhouse meetups until mid September. I must say it has been a fabulous year. Master Gardeners did so much planting this year. We had oodles of tomatoes, cucumbers and pepper plants. I was very excited about how well our food crops turned out. We did a butterfly plant project for Belinda which turned out nicely. It was a busy productive year.

The gardeners that come to the greenhouse are a great group of hard working people. I really appreciate their enthusiasm for wanting to learn more about propagation and just growing plants in general. We all share our gardening knowledge each time we meet. I loved working with all of you this year and I hope y'all had as much fun as I did.

We had our first field trip as the greenhouse is empty and temps are rising, making it an unpleasant place to be. We met up for a quick coffee and went to Dory's Gardens. It's a shady joyful place filled with plants, pots, chickens and just pure love and zaniness. I was so pleased to see that the gardeners enjoyed themselves. It's always fun and educational to see how other people garden. There are just so many different ways to have a beautiful garden.

I hope those that haven't attended the greenhouse give it a try when we restart in September. To those of you who worked in the greenhouse week in and week out I can't wait for us to do it again next year. If I didn't tell you how much I appreciated your coming every week then I will say to you now. I could never do it without you!

Debbie Taylor



Calendar Update

The next calendar meeting will be on June 6 at 1:00 in room 116. We have been discussing places to sell the calendars. If you are a member of a garden club, would you please let me know. Also if you know of any other places that would be great to sell them, let me know about them.

We will be ready to sell the 2024 calendar in September. With everyone's help we can make this another great calendar. I am still needing more pictures, too. Thanks!

Sherri Matthews



VMS Update

As of May 24, we have 35 certified MGs who have 0 inputs in either hours or CEs, or both. We've seen lots of you at meetings and at work, but there's no record of it in VMS. Please take some time to get your inputs in. Lots of folks spent thousands of hours on the Home Tour. Please get that into VMS so AgriLife can boast about the efforts of SCMGA!

Mary Hamlin

Social Media

Thanks to all of you who shared our posts regarding the Spring home Garden Tour. You all helped to make the garden tour a great success. As we head into the summer I'll be looking for things to post as our gardening activities start slowing down in the summer heat. If you see any interesting articles, or have pictures to share, please send them my way. I'm always looking for interesting things to post.

Here are the top three posts for April:

Andie Rathbone



#1 Friday Funny April 14
789,710 people reached



#2 "Poor Man's Stained Glass" April 23
44,008 people reached



#3 National Gardening Day April 15
34,304 people reached

EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!

Tyler Morning Telegraph (Weekend only)

June 4 – Passalong Gardens – Gail Bean

June 11 – TX Superstar Spotlight – Libby Sanson

June 18 – Passion for Pumeria – Dana Bass

June 25 – Pretty Patterns – Lynn McGinnis

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

Lindale News & Times (Thursdays only)*

June 1 – Cascading Wisteria – Jim Powell

June 8 – Art in the Garden – Ann Hooks

June 15 – Applesauce Cake & Iris – Gary Gardner

June 22 – Children in the Garden – Brandon Pate

June 29 – Good Bug/Bad Bug - SCMGA

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, high school football 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.*

Lynn McGinnis



CHANNEL 19 – MASTERING YOUR GARDEN

I was pleased and honored that “Mastering Your Garden” won second place in the Written/Recorded Education Category at this year’s state conference. It’s due to the hard work of everyone who agreed to appear on television and teach our East Texas TV audience about your various areas of gardening expertise. It’s hard to believe that we are near to the end of our first “season.”

I’m in the process of putting together the schedule for the 2023-2024 season. If you have any ideas of topics we should cover, please send them my way to andie.rathbone.66@gmail.com. I’ll be scheduling a meeting later on this month to firm up the schedule & put names into on-air slots.

The schedule for this month is:

June 1	Things to Do in June	Andie Rathbone
June 8	Passalong Plants	Ginger Sawyer
June 15	Trees Don’t Get It Wrong, People Do	Greg Grant
June 23	Soil Tests	Andie Rathbone
June 28	Fall Vegetable Garden	Colleen Huntsberger

Andie Rathbone

Programming Committee Report

The Speakers Bureau continues to educate and promote gardening. We delivered no presentations in May. If you wish to participate and share your knowledge let us know.

The Library Lecture Series welcomed 92 attendees to hear Dr. David Creech talk about Japanese Maples, Azaleas, Camellias and More, much, much more. Five lucky attendees went home with plants from SFA Gardens.

Tuesdays in the Park will be here soon. It happens for three months, Sep-Oct-Nov. If you have an interest to share, please let us know. We will add you the list of wonderful Master Gardeners.

Lastly, but not least, we shout out to Paul Wick for his diligence and his work in making for a smooth transition for all of this to happen. Thank you, sir.

Through May

SB YTD: 13 civic/garden clubs & 315 individuals

TuPk YTD: anxiously anticipating

LLS 2023 final: 399 individuals

--

Dale Wade



Dr. David Creech speaks at the final Master Gardeners at the Library for 2023.

Education Dispatch

I want to give a shout out to every one who worked on the Home Garden Tour. It was perfect weather, in perfect gardens, it's never a hard day's work when you can say that. I had so many good conversations with people about their yards and gardens. We gave away tons of handouts and landscaping plants lists from AgriLife, and the ever-popular, Greg Grant creation, Realistic Down to Earth Lawn Care. I always tell women it will be their trump card when arguing with their husbands about lawn care, they all take one!

I am always so impressed at how receptive people are to learning. It just goes to show how much we do is, and can be even more, education focused and helpful to our community.

Elizabeth Waldrop

From Bulbs To Blooms



We have made our selections from two sources for the sale, so it's time for pre-sale! These orders will be filled before webstore orders, so if there's something you want to be sure you'll get, order it now. Please consider ordering from our Members Only choices as well - it's always fun to try something new and we've got some new pretties, especially if you like pink! The deadline for pre-orders is June 9th. Orders must be received by Colleen Huntsberger via e-mail (rchuntsberger@gmail.com) or you may phone them in to Brenda Orbaugh (903.571.7692). You'll pay for and take delivery of pre-sale items during regular sale pick-up in October.

Just because spring things are mostly off to a good sleep now doesn't mean there aren't bulbs blooming! It's time for summer-bloomers like lilies/daylilies, crinum (check out the Heritage Rose Garden!), crocosmia, and hardy gloxinia to show off. Ginger and Philippine lily foliage is up; blooms follow soon. Take a look at your landscape and see where you might tuck a few of these beauties in - there's a bulb for every situation, sun/shade, wet/dry... If you don't follow Chris Weisinger of The Southern Bulb Company on-line, consider doing so - he highlights a bulb every week of the year. We're so happy to have him as a co-speaker for our B2B conference this year. (And he's bringing special bulbs available only to attendees, too!)

Pre-season bulb sale needs include writing descriptions/finding photos of new bulbs, organizing signage, counting bags, and lots of articles for print and web release. Especially if you won't be around in October and need B2B hours, please contact me and we'll find something for you to do. There will be even more opportunities as we get closer to opening the webstore. Any new MGs with publicity, art, or graphic design experience? I want to talk to you!

As always, thank you for your support. B2B is SCMGA's biggest fundraiser and we're celebrating 25 years!

Lenka @ lenka_7@msn.com; 970.215.2988

Lenka Johnson

Help Desk Update

If you are planning an event, please send any PR material available to the Help Desk. We get calls and emails with questions about everything related to SCMGA, so it would be a good idea to let us know about what's planned, before we get the questions!

Thanks

MaryJo



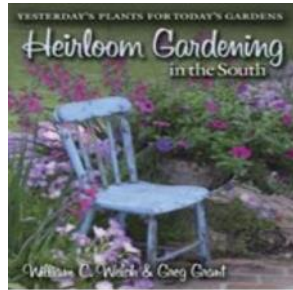
Seed Bank Update

We are collecting Bunny Bloom Larkspur seeds right now, with plans to sell them at the annual From Bulbs to Blooms sale in October. If you would like to contribute some, please leave them in the MG office for us—we'll clean them!

MaryJo

Books Report

One of my goals is to have Greg Grant's books available at many of the SCMGA events. This won't happen overnight, but we can start building on the success we have had selling books at the Bulb Sale and more recently at the Library Series. In order to expand our book sales, I need your help with two things:



1. When you are organizing an event that you think would be a good opportunity for book sales, let me know as early as you can. Right now, it is just me and my schedule is a little complicated.
2. And that brings me to the second thing. I would like to have 2-3 people willing to assist with book sales so that the SCMGA is able to have books at many of our events. If you are willing to work with me to "learn the ropes" and expand our offerings, please contact me directly at 903-309-0265. Thank you!

Maggie Taliaferro

Home Garden Tour Report

Saturday, May 20th was a perfect day for the return of our Home Garden Tour! The gardens of six current Master Gardeners were visited by approximately 225 members of the public, welcomed by our willing and knowledgeable volunteers as well as the homeowners themselves!



Although all sorts of weather possibilities loomed, it turned out to be a very pleasant, overcast day. Plans have already begun for next year's tour, with many possible improvements under consideration.

One thing is for sure: We have an incredible workforce within our organization! More than 120 dedicated Master Gardeners and Interns contributed many hours over the last year to help re-start this favorite community project.

Mary Cantrell

June Membership Meeting

Please join us for our June membership meeting.

This month our speaker is Greg Grant, Smith County Horticulture Agent, who will be showcasing the work of the Southern Garden History Society and also highlighting their recent annual conference held in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Along with historic Creole sites, homes and gardens along the Cane River, Natchitoches was made famous by the 1989 movie, *Steel Magnolias*.

Also featured was Briarwood, the home of naturalist Caroline Dormon, Louisiana's first female forester.

Time: 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Place: Tyler Rose Garden Center

VMS: 1 C.E. Available for attending this program

Gail Bean



Great turnout for our May monthly meeting!

June 2023

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 SCMG Meeting Rose Center 10:00 AM	2	3 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
4	5 The Miracle Monarch @ 1:30 pm	6 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM Calendar Meeting @ 1:00 pm	7 Shade Garden workday 8:30AM	8	9 Backyard Garden- ing & Management Pactices Rose Center 9:00 am	10
11	12	13 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	14 Shade Garden workday 8:30AM 	15 SCMG BOD CottonBelt 10:00	16 Trees don't get it wrong, People do Rose Center 9:00 AM	17 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
18 	19 <i>Office Closed</i> 	20 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	21 Shade Garden workday 8:30AM	22 Pollinator Celebration Rose Garden 9:00 AM	23	24
25	26 <i>Grapevine deadline</i>	27 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	28 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM	29	30	