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**The next SCMG Association
meeting is
Thursday, August 10, 2023
At 10:00 AM at
Tyler Rose Center**

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Elizabeth's Thoughts

I have been thinking about time lately. I consider things most deeply when I can do little about them. (Curse you insomniac's 3A.M. philosophy). That might sound sad, but it isn't to me. After all, when you really acknowledge things are out of your hands you come to view them not as problems with solutions, or jobs needing doing, but as the philosophical and spiritual lessons that shape existence. When I ruminate on these weighty subjects, I often turn to nature for clues on how to view them. After all, though animals and plants don't philosophize on life (well maybe octopi, those are trixie creatures) they still deal with many of the things we do. Nature is such a good teacher, passing out lessons uniformly. When the rain falls, it falls on everyone, regardless of station.



My garden is probably the best textbook nature offers me, and that brings me back to time. I lost large sections of my lawn in last December's ridiculous freeze. I have a space, about 60 by 30 feet that I can call lawn. The rest is just assorted pasture plants parading as lawn. I hand weed and water that small plot just so I can walk barefoot in the grass. It's silly really. My husband points out regularly that the pasture weeds grow for free and from a distance look as good as my pampered San Augustine. This year while deciding what to do about huge freeze damaged bald spots I had to decide if I was going to let nature run its course. Allow the San Augustine to fill back in over the course of a couple of years, or re sod? I know the healthiest plan is to give it time to grow on its own. But it is so ugly, and the denuded spots are going to fill up with weeds and Bermuda in the interim. If I do replant, to what end? I can't pretend that the freeze was a freak weather event. We have had so called "100-year weather events" every year for 4 years running. Freak weather has become a regular occurrence, which I think classifies as just the weather.

But I am a gardener, and we are control enthusiasts. We manipulate nature as much as we can, as a hobby! So, I bought a few pieces of sod, cut them into smaller bits which were strategically placed to give the bald areas a head start. Plus, I pull weeds and Bermuda as best I can. It will take longer, but this is the bargain I am making. I will give nature time and hopefully she will give me back my bare foot grass on a schedule I can tolerate. She is in no hurry. We should not hurry so much either. As you go through this hot, dry, month save your strength, water, and chemicals for the things that really need them. Let nature have her way. She may happily surprise you.



Butterflies Greg Grant

If you don't follow Dr. Challen Allen from Pitkin, Louisiana, you should. Dr. Charles M. Allen is a botanist, plant taxonomist, retired professor, noted author, and conservationist who provides a variety of professional ecological and botanical consulting services as well as detailed instruction on plant identification. His in-depth courses provide continuing education for many of the most experienced field biologists and plant professionals and yet can leave the novice student with a much deeper and thorough understanding of plants thanks to his years of experience and patience.

Dr. Allen sends out a wonderful weekly email with information on native plant ID, moth ID, and butterfly ID. I've always considered butterflies "free flying flowers" and hope you'll do everything possible to encourage them in your garden and on your properties. There are 432 different species in Texas, all equally important. On a recent July butterfly count at Allen Acres in Louisiana, the following were identified and counted:

- * 6 Pipevine Swallowtails
 - 1 Eastern Tiger Swallowtails
 - 11 Cloudless Sulphurs
 - 16 Sleepy Orange
 - 59 Little Yellows
 - 1 Dainty Sulphurs
 - 1 Juniper Hairstreak
 - 4 Gray Hairstreaks
 - 10 Red-banded Hairstreaks

- 1 Easter Tailed-blue
- 4 Pearl Crescents
- 7 Buckeyes
- 2 Southern Pearly-eyes
- 2 Gemmed Satyrs
- 13 Carolina Satyrs
- 4 Horace's Duskywings
- 11 Common Checkered-skippers
- 1 Tropical Checkered-skippers
- 3 unknown Checkered-skippers
- 1 Southern Skipperling
- 1 Clouded Skipper
- 2 Fiery Skippers
- 1 Northern Broken-dash
- 1 Whirlabout
- 2 Dun Skippers
- 1 unknown Skipper

My favorite butterfly ID/information book is *Butterflies of Houston and Southeast Texas* by the late John and Gloria Tveten. I got to meet them briefly when I worked at Mercer Arboretum.

In addition to giving lectures, teaching classes, and putting on workshops, Dr. Allen also has a bed and breakfast at his place. You can find more information on his website at nativeventures.net or email him to subscribe to his weekly newsletter at native@allenacresbandb.com. He's a one-of-a-kind teacher.

Membership Meeting Changes

Speaker schedule change for August and September member meetings

We have changed the August and September speaker order due to scheduling conflicts.

The August 10 member meeting speaker will be:

Skyler Shively,

County Extension Agent-4-H, Smith County

His topic will be focused on Youth programming and 4H projects.

September's meeting will be September 7 at 10 a.m.

Dr. Rafia Khan Ph.D.

Assistant Professor and Extension Entomology Specialist at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Overton, Texas

Her topic will be "Common Garden Pests and Their Management"



Gail Bean

REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS

IDEA Garden

This month we're remembering one of our past presidents and good friend of Cindy Harrington. Pat Welch moved to Tyler in 2008 from Wisconsin where she was a master gardener. She quickly integrated into our local association, moving up to President in 2015. Sadly, Pat passed away in January, 2019 but she comes to mind every time we pass by 'Franky Boy'!! The 'Franky Boy' Chinese arborvitae came from Pat's yard, where Cindy lovingly rescued it (with permission) before the house sold. Pat purchased it at a Master Gardener conference plant sale and the perfect place for it is in the IDEA garden!

The finely textured foliage is mostly chartreuse green with brighter green new growth. It takes on a butter-scotch hue in the winter time. Planted between the succulent and Texas native sections in the garden, it thrives in full sun and has taken our last few winter freezes quite well. A bonus is that there are no known pests, that we know of, to bother it. The new growth cascades in threadlike strings over the old foliage. It can be pruned but we have left it to grow as it wants and it looks quite interesting compared to most other conifer shapes. The typical size is 4' wide by 3' tall but a specimen in the Dallas Arboretum is said to be 10' wide by 7' tall! Pat would be pleased that Cindy adopted it, planted it in a place she loves so much and to see that it has grown to over 4' wide by 6' tall! Come visit the garden and see how happy 'Frankie Boy' is in his new home!



Laurie Graham

Shade Garden

There is not much to share this month in regards to the Shade Garden. We are working at keeping things tidy, weeded and hydrated, and have been grateful for the odd "cool" mornings. Heavy mulching has been the order of the day, with more ahead of us. We are making mental notes of which plants are the "toughest of the bunch" in regards to heat and drought tolerance. The carex are certainly contenders. Irrigation issues have been an ongoing theme.

Many thanks to Jeff Brown for working in the sweltering heat to do maintenance on the system, and to Linda Gurasich for her leadership in coordinating with Keith to hash out the problems. Dana and Katy extend gratitude to all the regular volunteers, interns and mentors who opt to spend their discretionary time, braving the heat, working in the gardens.

Heritage Rose Garden

What is growing well in the Heritage Rose Garden even with this oppressive heat? Most of the roses are taking a break and preparing for the fall. But there are some stars that seem unaffected and happy to show their beauty. The Heritage Petunias should have died back to allow the periwinkle to reseed, but these are not giving up. Greg told us that he was very familiar with a small purple petunia that would come up around old homesteads. It's not big or showy so it wouldn't be available in nurseries. Once when he was in Stuttgart, Germany, he saw it growing and hunted for a seed pod that would be viable. He only found one very small one and he got 3 tiny seeds from that pod. These are like grains of sand. From those 3, 1 sprouted and he now had a start. From that and a plant that Dr Parsons had, they created a petunia that we are all familiar with. One time Laura Bush was visiting and Dr Creech wanted to present her with a plant, so he went to Greg and Dr. Parsons and this particular petunia is what they had. It became "Laura Bush".



The other stand out is the Philippine Lily, a close relative of the Easter Lily. These are highly scented after nightfall, which attracts hummingbird moths. They will reseed to develop new plants. The old stalks will slowly die back and can be cut once dried. Pulling the dead stalks could pull up the bulb.

We have some faithful volunteers that have managed the heat, wasps, and never-ending weeds. Much thanks to Gary Gardner, Stephanie Wadowsky, and Belinda Kromer as well as others who come as much as they are able.

Linda Gurasich

From Bulbs To Blooms

I can't believe it's August - actually, I can, which is sad, since I spent the majority of July in various hospitals, thankfully not generally as a patient. Those challenges continue. However, in just two short months, bulbs will be descending upon the warren of rooms behind the classroom in the Cotton Belt Building, waiting to be cleaned, sorted, bagged, pulled for orders, etc. I'd like to explain how this year's sale will progress.

We will, as we have for the past couple of years, take orders for bulbs through our online webstore. We're hoping to make it very easy to find the store this year. Monday, 9 October, the store opens to the public; SCMGs must wait until Thursday, 12 October, to shop. The store closes to everyone at 10 p.m. Wednesday, 18 October. Online orders, and any preorders, will be available for pickup beginning 10 a.m., Saturday, 21 October, at Pollard United Methodist Church.

This year, our 25th anniversary, we very much want to highlight the conference portion of From Bulbs to Blooms. Chris Weisinger of The Southern Bulb Company and our own Greg Grant will share the stage for an informative and entertaining presentation, beginning at 9 a.m. in Pollard UMC's gym. They will have specially selected local bulbs to sell at the conclusion of their talk, as well as a very special raffle, which includes overnight stays in two beautiful, historical sites not too far away. Every conference attendee will receive one free raffle ticket; more will be available for purchase. We want to pack that room! After all that craziness dies down, anything left will move outdoors to join the rest of our bonus bulbs, print items, and special artwork, including notecards, seed bombs, and 25th anniversary tee shirts. There will even be some special kid-friendly activities!

Please mark your calendars now, if you haven't already, and be prepared to come out for a good time on the 21st! If you're on social media, please give us a share anytime you see a From Bulbs to Blooms post, buy a tee shirt (available 10 August), and talk B2B up. This special anniversary only happens once!

Lenka Johnson

Greenhouse Update

Well, it may be hot as blue blazes (my mother's famous phrase), but it doesn't mean my gardening has stopped. I'm out there every day as soon as I can see to move around. I utilize the shade that is left in my yard, since removing two giant oaks this past February, for my super hot summer gardening. I find that you can keep things alive if you are willing to spend the time and the money for watering that is required.



I brought home 60 plus tiny Candlestick plants that were left in the greenhouse at the end of May. My intern, Kim Smith, came over at 6:15 a.m. a week back and we repotted those into larger pots for larger growth. I also repotted some tiny seed starters of Hibiscus moscheutos "Luna Pink Swirl" hardy hibiscus. It just got too hot in the SCMG greenhouse towards the end for these seedlings to do much. They have grown so well in my yard with lots of water and the correct amount of sunshine. They should be a nice size by next spring when they will be ready for someone's garden.

I have been working on a collection of Coleus for propagation for next fall. Now, those things have been water hogs in those pots they are in. It's just all about keeping them healthy until I can get them to the greenhouse and get them propagated by the Master Gardeners in the fall. We should have plenty of seeds for spring planting next year. I've been dead-heading my garden and purchasing seeds online. Oh, so many seeds we will have to plant next year. I've been reading and researching this supposedly new method of gardening referred to as Chaos Gardening. It's basically scattering seeds willy nilly. I laughed and thought I've been doing that for years. But, it is a method that I must say I do like. Amazing what will become a craze on Tik Tok.

Hang in there gardeners. The heat will subside sometime soon - it just has to. Then, maybe we won't have to go out at 6 to get our gardening done.

Debbie Taylor

Programming Committee Report

The Speakers Bureau continues to educate and promote gardening. We delivered no presentations in July. However, we have three lined up in the future. If you wish to participate and share your knowledge, let us know. If you belong to a group that includes programs at its meetings, let us know. The best way is to have someone call the Help Desk.

The Education Committee meeting is re-scheduled for 11 August at 10AM at Agrilife office. If you have an interest in the Speakers Bureau, Tuesdays in the Garden, and /or the Library Lecture Series, please join us. We will send out a reminder to regular Committee members. If you are on the Help Desk list of experts, we will discuss putting you on the list for the Speakers Bureau.

Tuesdays in the Garden will be here soon. It happens for three months, Sep-Oct-Nov. in the IDEA garden beginning at noon. This is open to the public so invite your friends.

Through July

SB YTD: 13 civic/garden clubs & 315 individuals

TG YTD: anxiously anticipating

LLS 2023 final: 399 individuals (if you missed any one of them, you could have been #400.)

Dale Wade

Social Media

It's summer and things have really slowed down because of our awful heat. As usual, I'm looking for appropriate things to post so if you come across anything interesting, please send it to me at andie.rathbone.66@gmail.com. Thanks to those of you who have sent me articles and also to those of you who have sent me pictures of events & of our work in the gardens. It's always good for the public to see all the good work that we're doing to keep the Tyler Botanical Garden beautiful.

We're also starting to promote our From Bulbs to Bloom Conference and Sale. As you see posts about this, please share them to your timeline. This helps us spread the word and we want as many people as possible to be excited about our event this year since it's the 25th Anniversary of the bulb sale. Also help us out by promoting our other activities like the lectures that will begin in September in the IDEA Garden, as well as some of Greg's seminars. We're always trying to raise our profile in the community.

Here are the top posts for June:

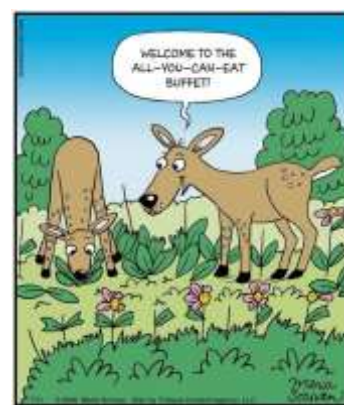
Andie Rathbone



#3 Friday Funny June 23
90,167 people



#2 Friday Funny June 30
623,635 people



#1 Friday Funny June 16
1,475,824 people

New Class and Mentor News

This month, we are focusing on recruitment for the 2024 New Member Class (Class 31). In addition to an article on our Facebook page, Greg's article in the Tyler Paper and a spot on Channel 11 *Mastering Your Garden*, we want to enlist you all as recruiters! We are looking for experienced gardeners who are willing to commit to active participation in the many educational programs and projects that the Smith County Master Gardeners offer in support of Agrilife Extension. Classes will be held each Thursday, January-March 2024. Please tell your friends and neighbors who love gardening, want to learn more about it and would be excited to share their interest and expertise with the Smith County community. Interested applicants should contact Amanda Southard at the Extension Office: 903-5902980 or amanda.southard@ag.tamu.edu. The deadline for application is earlier this year – all applications must be received no later than September 30.

Heather Stephens and Chris Cochran

Books

The Educational Workshop on Landscaping was a great venue for selling Greg Grant's books. We ran out of the Heirloom Gardening books and also sold several of the Texas Fruits and Vegetables. Additional books were ordered and have been received. If anyone wants any of Greg's books, let me know by August 7th and I will bring them to the meeting on the 10th. You can bring cash, a check or use a credit card.

The books are:

Rose Rustlers - \$30.00

Heirloom Gardening in the South - \$30.00

Texas Fruits and Vegetables - \$25.

Also, if you are planning any programs and want books to be available, let me know!

Maggie Taliaferro

MASTER YOUR GARDEN – CHANNEL 19

August starts our second season doing our weekly gardening spots for Channel 19, and I want to thank those of you who came to the meeting to help put together the 2023-2024 schedule of topics, and also to those of you who have volunteered already to be on air. The station has had great response from their audience about the topics we've covered – especially the spots where we've demonstrated how to do things (plant tomatoes, make hanging baskets, prune roses, etc.). We're looking forward to another great year on the air. Here's our schedule for August:



August 3	Things to Do in August	Jolana Damkroger
August 10	Gardening in the Heat	Andie Rathbone
August 17	A Couple of Hens or Hired Hands	Vicki Lewis
August 24	Become a Master Gardener	Heather Stephens

VMS Update

Certified MGs must have 24 volunteer hours and 9 CE in VMS to recertify for next year. If you have questions please contact Elizabeth Waldrop (sevencrows87@hotmail.com), Mary Hamlin (mhamlin@flash.net) or Belinda Kromer (kromerb@aol.com).

Mary Hamlin

Historian's Corner

Kudos to our leadership teams throughout the ages

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the contributions of the SCMGA leadership teams throughout the history of our organization. Some of you may not realize that a three-year commitment is made when agreeing to be president. This includes serving as Vice President, then President, and finally Parliamentarian. We are fortunate enough to have twelve of the 28 former presidents still on our roster, and many still active. When I reached out to the past and present leaders, they all had interesting tales about what was going on during their time on the Board.

Many the time we have heard, "But we always have done it this way." However, in SCMGA that is not accurate. The organization has evolved to meet the needs of the membership. In communications with past presidents, I have certainly seen that the flexibility of the Board has contributed to the longevity and success of our organization. This was particularly true just a few years ago.

Until 2020, the monthly meetings had been a touchstone of the organization. Suddenly everything changed. It was during this time period that our organization faced one of the biggest challenges ever, COVID shutdowns! Thanks to the dexterity of our leadership team of Debbie Watkins, MJ Madden, and Janie Fowler, and the entire Board, disaster was averted. With very little lead time, our in-person meetings were switched to Zoom meetings and the work of SCMGA was able to continue. Continuing education opportunities were found online. SignUp Genius was also used for the first time. Our class of interns were able to complete their volunteer hours and certify. The Bulbs to Blooms sale was able to continue with great success by going online. None of these innovations came without considerable work in the background. We were able to stay viable and to thrive when many organizations faltered. This ability to think outside the box and to adjust to the new environment proved vital.

In a future series of articles, I will highlight the contributions of former presidents and their teams. It is only through the countless hours dedicated to this organization that Smith County Master Gardeners have been able to continue their mission. Perhaps some of you have served on the Board or as project chairs. If so, thank you for your tireless work. If you haven't yet stepped up, then I encourage you to consider ways that you might help as well.

Tommie Ann Grinnell

EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!

Tyler Morning Telegraph (Weekend only)

August 6 – Sensory Garden for the Visually Impaired – J Googins

August 13 – Lore of the Garden – GG Martin

August 20 – Finally Figs! – Ginger Sawyer

August 27 – A Fungi – Mushrooms – Bob Taliaferro

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

Lindale News & Times (Thursdays only)*

August 3 – Things to do in August – Andie Rathbone

August 10 – Poison Ivy/Oak – Jim Powell

August 17 – Caladiums – Marketta Tefteller

August 24 – Growing and Eating the Rainbow – Gavin Grieb

August 31 – A Sun Garden – Kimberly Smith

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.*

ATTENTION: ALL HANDS ON DECK – I REALLY REALLY REALLY NEED SOME COOL ARTICLES ABOUT BULBS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER! NEED AT LEAST 9!! THESE ARTICLES WILL BE USED TO PROMOTE OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BULBS TO BLOOMS!!! DEADLINE TO EMAIL THEM TO ME IS AUGUST 20TH. COME ON YA'LL SEND ME SOME GOOD STUFF! lynnmac@suddenlink.net

Lynn McGinnis



Education Dispatch

Education was really busy this month.

We held our summer workshop, Garden Design from Vision to Reality, and were so happy to see so many folks not only from our own organization but also from Rusk, Gregg and Wood Counties. Thank everyone who came out and took part and especially the volunteers who helped us put this together: Belinda, Maury and Janice, you guys are the best help anyone could have. Terri, Sara and Maggie, thank you all for checking folks in and selling books. You all handle our business so beautifully. One of the reasons so many people like these events is how smooth they go. Even the folks at Glass are impressed with our organization, so I want to thank everyone and pat you on the backs for a job well done.

The next weekend I did a small class for Glass called Cultivating Calm. I had the most wonderful time discussing how plants can help people lower stress and caring for plants can actually be a form of mindfulness meditative practice. It is very rewarding to talk to people about gardening and try to find new ways to make it relevant and important to their lives.

I am looking forward to all the education we will be doing this fall for the ET State Fair and the Bulb Sale and the First Tuesday in the Garden Series. There are always so many opportunities to learn and teach.

Elizabeth Waldrop



August 2023

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	<i>2</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	<i>9</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30	<i>10</i> SCMG Meeting Rose Center 10:00 AM	<i>11</i> Programming Committee Meeting 10:00 CottonBelt	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	<i>16</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30	<i>17</i> SCMGA BOD CottonBelt 10:00	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM Tech Meeting 1:00 CottonBelt	<i>23</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> EarthKind Program Rose Center 8:30	<i>26</i> Grapevine deadline
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	<i>30</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30	<i>31</i> Pocket Prairie Class 10:00 Cotton Belt		