



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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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 realize this may be cause for my lifelong Texas gardener card to be revoked but, I have a confession to make. I don't garden in the summer. There, I said it!

My poor beds languish in the heat getting nothing more than a weekly watering and sorrowful apologies as I drag hoses while melting in the relentless sun. For all of you who get up at 5 am to garden in the cool of the day, I applaud you. I am sure your garden appreciates your herculean efforts. However, I counter, 88 degrees cannot be considered the cool of the day! Even if it is, mosquitos are the killers of thousands every year, so I try not to make myself that available to their nastiness.

Maybe some of you live in lovely oases of shade, ferny glens with nodding hydrangeas and jaunty hostas tempting hummingbirds for a sup. Not I. I live in a burning savanna that was home to cows for 100 years. There is nary a tree from my front door to the trickling branch that slices through the middle of the pasture. Excepting, a sneaky grove of three hackberries that grew through a shed, thus saving them from the brush hog's blades. Now in the summer those rare shade givers are claimed by my chickens and rat snakes that look like boa constrictors. I leave them to it. It is less stressful for everyone.

That said, I am not idle during the summer. Northern gardeners dog ear plant and seed catalogs, planning new gardens in the winter holed up next to a cozy fire. I do that in July and August, soaking up air-conditioning. I also read more, have a cleaner house than in Spring, and do needle crafts or take up some interesting new hobby I found out about on Pinterest, preferably ones that allows me to skulk around in hobby or second-hand shops.

I must say, I enjoy my summers. I have absolutely no shame, even if my gardens look abandoned. Thanks to good soil and mulch it still puts out tomatoes and squash. My herbs gasp through the heat fairly unscathed. Since I have turned more to hardy perennials and reseeding annuals, I still have a few spots of beauty peeking through the weeds. I won't ever get a spread in Southern Living but I also don't get heat stroke.

As you go through your summer, with a beautiful maintained garden or a creeping wilderness like mine, enjoy it. But, take some of our hot weather to fill your mind with new information or teach your hands new skills. We don't have a Monthly Meeting this month for CEs but there are plenty of opportunities on the Agrilife website for education hours. We also have our Summer Workshop at Glass July 14th. You can check out Facebook or our website; [txmg.org/smith](http://txmg.org/smith) to learn more. No matter what, this summer will be a long, hot one, be well, safe, and happy.





## Extension Program Planning Greg Grant

We recently held our District 5 Program Planning Workshop in Tyler with our bosses and Extension colleagues, so I thought I'd share our directives with you since everything a Master Gardener does falls within the auspices and guidelines of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Remember, as a Smith County Master Gardener, you are a "Smith County Extension Agent-Horticulture" and have the same goals and mandates that I do.

We'll start with our Extension Program Planning Guidelines for 2023-2024:

**Innovation** – Extension educators will use a new approach with a new audience during the year.

**Visibility** – Programs and activities will be planned to increase agency visibility. *(Remember to always list and mention that the Smith County Master Gardeners are volunteers for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.)*

**Technology** – In-Depth programs will incorporate some use of technology in educational delivery. *(The Smith County Master Gardeners are my primary In-Depth program.)*

**Partnerships** – Strategic partnerships will strengthen and bring additional resources to programs. *(The City of Tyler is one of our primary strategic partners.)*

**Volunteers** – All programs will be planned with significant strategies to mobilize volunteers.

**Mandates for county agents:**

Each agent will have at least two In-Depth plans and additional outreach plans to address county needs. *(My In-Depth programs are the Smith County Master Gardeners and the Earth-Kind Water Plan. My outreach plan is "General Horticulture.")*

In-Depth programs will include a series of educational events and a variety of educational methods targeted to a specific issue and a specific

audience. These programs will lead to strong participant outcomes, measured by specific evaluation tools.

In-Depth programs will be guided by a planning group that will meet at least three times a year and be actively engaged in the planning, marketing, implementation, evaluation, and interpretation programs. *(The Smith County Master Gardener Association Board of Directors serves as the program area committee for my Smith County Master Gardener In-Depth plan.)*

During program planning group meetings, specialists or other technical experts will provide subject matter updates and training for committee members. Agents will collaborate with specialists and involve them in the early stages of program development.

Multi-county programs will be guided by planning groups that include volunteer representation from the counties involved. *(We should consider multi-county programs with our neighboring counties that have active Master Gardener volunteer programs.)*

Agents will plan for interpretation – target audience will include elected officials, stakeholders, planning group members, partners, other Extension volunteer groups, and the general public. *(It's critical that we let the Smith County Commissioner's Court and the City of Tyler City Council and Parks Board know about what, when, and how much the Smith County Master Gardeners do for Tyler and Smith County each year in terms of projects, dollars, and volunteer hours.)*



## REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS

### Heritage Rose Garden

As the heat and humidity sets in, most of the wildflowers are finishing up. The Crinum's are still hanging in there, showing their beautiful blooms. The Confederate Rose is growing rapidly. The roses are mostly finished blooming and will take a rest preparing for a fall burst.

In keeping with Greg's water-wise plan, I haven't turned on the sprinklers except to try them out and do repairs and I watered the 2 entry beds as many plants are growing in sand and it just doesn't hold water. I'm happy with the sporadic showers we are still getting and will monitor it weekly.

The star in the garden has been the pink rain lilies. This pale fairy pink flower is a stunner, popping up after rains beginning in June and continuing throughout the summer. They will self-seed, so the clumps grow each year. 6-12" tall and grow in full sun or partial shade. These are in our bulb sale, so don't forget to put some in your yard.



*Linda Gurasich*

### From Bulbs To Blooms

Thank you all for your support of the B2B presale. We have now ordered the bulbs that will come to us from places farther afield and across the sea. May the crop be good and the winds behind them to get them here on time.

Now we return to locating our local bulbs - more and more of them are beginning to bloom! So many different kinds of "lilies", including "real" lilies, but especially daylilies, tiger lilies, white spider lilies, voodoo lilies, canna lilies, and rain lilies, are blooming now. Philippine lilies, crocosmia, and gingers will follow soon. If you have extras of any of these to share, we'll be happy to help you dig - just not yet (we'll wait until it's cooler). We can, however, dig dormant bulbs now, including any extra daffodils/jonquils/Narcissus. Be sure you know where they are! And we must mention crinum's, in all their summer glory - they are a chore to dig, but oh, so beautiful, fragrant, and hardy when it's so hot! These are what we're talking about when we say "Plant for a lifetime!" Take good, close-up photos of blooms and plants, please, so we can be sure of the identity of anything you'd consider sharing.

Please contact Morgan Elliott Wood ([morganm.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:morganm.elliott@gmail.com)) or Jolana Damkroger ([hoxieanne@hotmail.com](mailto:hoxieanne@hotmail.com)) for information about helping B2B through sponsorship of a bulb, a tent, or something more. We have filled some of our larger sponsorships - still have lots of opportunities for individuals, groups, or companies, even communities. It would be wonderful to have representation from all quadrants of Smith County. If you aren't shy about asking, we'd love to send you out to your area with a packet.

The Southern Bulb Company will be our major sponsor, so their logo will be featured on the sleeve of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary tee; the Smith County Master Gardener logo (also in white) will be on the opposite side chest; a large graphic across the back (see image on Page 10). Please plan to purchase one of these handsome shirts and help us advertise this milestone year!



Stay safe and hydrated this month. It's going to be scorching!

*Lenka Johnson*

## IDEA Garden

Tired of throwing away money on flowers that you plant that can't take the Texas heat? That was one of the reasons I became a Smith County Master Gardener. Meet Melampodium! This cheery little yellow flower is one of many plants I've discovered in the IDEA Garden in my volunteer time in the Tyler Botanical Garden. The IDEA garden is where Smith County Master Gardeners test and display plants of all shapes and sizes. Melampodium is a genus of flowering plants in the sunflower family. These are rugged plants native to the tropical to subtropical regions that include Central America, Southwestern United States, California, Florida, the Caribbean, and South America. This genus of plants includes daisies. Melampodium thrives in Texas heat and don't let the "tropical" description discourage you. Unlike other "tropical" plants in Texas that live only one year melampodium it is what we call a re-seeding annual meaning that the single plant has a one-year lifespan but "seeds out." This means where you plant it this year you will be rewarded with LOTS of

Melampodium plants next year from the seeds it drops as it matures. Those seeds will even plant themselves in nearby beds....which means you either let them spread out, dig those that travel too far to suit you and toss them or share them, or dig and replant where you want them after they get a little size on them. We grow both the dark yellow variety and a lighter yellow variety in the IDEA garden. As best as I can see, these flowers do not attract insects or diseases of any kind. Come on a Tuesday morning, (SCMG are there at 8:30-10:30 in the summer) to learn about other tough as nails flowers you should be growing.

Scientific  
name: Melampodium  
Family: Asteraceae  
Subfamily: Asteroideae

Brenda Orbaugh



## REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING June 15, 2023

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

The following topics were discussed:

- Potential Policy and Procedure language changes for Audit process clarification
- Board sponsored Leadership Appreciation Meeting, July 10<sup>th</sup>
- Nomination Committee for 2024
- Budget Committee for 2024
- Respect Amanda's workload and responsibilities to full office staff (not just MGs)
- Kudos to Lynn McGinnis for efforts in Tyler Today Magazine – Excellent article with two- page spread!
- No July Board meeting



Belinda Kromer, Past President/Parliamentarian

## Meeting Reminder!

We will not have a chapter membership meeting in July.

Our next meeting date has been changed and is August 10, 2023 at 10 a.m. At Tyler Rose Center The Topic is: Common Garden Pests and their Management Our speaker is Dr. Rafia Khan, Ph.D. Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Overton.

Have a safe and happy July and we will see you all in August!

Gail Bean



## Shade Garden

### Voodoo Lily

One plant is getting a lot of attention of late by visitors to the Shade Garden- the Voodoo Lily- and rightly so. Its splash of other worldliness certainly deserves a double-take. Scientifically known as *Amorphophallus bulbifer*, this science-fiction-worthy plant is native to the wooded foothills and monsoon forests of North East India and regions around the Himalayas. Because it naturally occurs at high altitudes, it has a greater cold hardiness than its tropical cousins, so is suitable to grow in Zones 7-9.

Originating from a bulb, the lily awakes in the early summer, emerging as a tall, thick mottled stalk (petiole) crowned by a large compound leaf that unfolds like an umbrella. Soon to follow, a flower that can only be described as supernatural, surfaces along side or near the stalk. Fleshy pink, the inflorescence is actually a spathe and spadex, reminiscent of Calla and Peace lilies. It produces a putrid odor, attracting flies which are its primary pollinators. Both bloom and stench are short lived.

In autumn, small bulbils, that look a lot like cankers, form on the leaves. Serving a vegetative function, bulbils drop to the ground, lying in wait, to ultimately shine in the next year's display. Voodoo Lilies are best grown in filtered light, preferring moisture during the growing season and dryness in winter. Let the large stalk die to the ground and cut it back in late winter. In regions where winter freezes are the norm, planting the bulbs a bit deeper and insuring a good winter mulching will serve as extra protection until the following spring.

Katy Barone



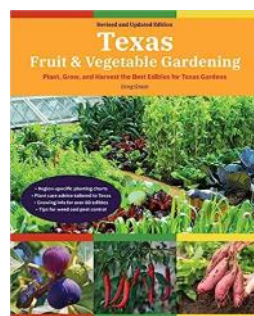
## Books Project

One of my goals is to have Greg Grant's books available at many of the SCMGA events. Books will be available at the Landscape Workshop being held at Glass Recreation Center on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

When you are organizing an event that you think would be a good opportunity for book sales, let me know!

Thank you!

Maggie Taliaferro



## Garden Guides

June 14<sup>th</sup> Navye and I were able to give a tour to the Mount Pleasant Master Gardener Club. Belinda Kromer was in the Shade Garden and graciously gave her expertise.

There were 4 interns who helped shepherd along the way. They were Julie O'Brien, Marlyn Waddleton, Chris Pruitt, and Von Hogan.

They had scheduled 10 to attend but only two were able to actually participate. The two were very knowledgeable, appreciative, and full of questions. All in all it was another wonderful day at the Tyler Botanic Garden.

Thanks to all who were giving of their time.

Susan Seale

## PR Update

### EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!

Tyler Morning Telegraph (Weekend only)

July 2 – East Texas Blueberry Country – GG Martin

July 9 – Texas Native Plants – Kimberly Smith

July 16 – The Sassafras Tree Meant for Me – Laurie Graham

July 23 – Soil pH Makes all the Difference in East Texas – Terry Strecker

July 30 – I Don't Wanna Dig – Allyson Shealey



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

Lindale News & Times (Thursdays only)\*

July 6 – Things to do in July – Andie Rathbone

July 13 – Growing Jasmine – Jim Powell

July 20 – Planning Your First Garden – David Googins

July 27 – How to Clean Your Garden Tools – Susan Buntz

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.*

Tyler Today – June/July edition is on the shelves. There is a beautiful and entertaining article written by our own Marinda Arney all about 4<sup>th</sup> of July in the garden. If you get a chance, read it. Thank you Marinda! I hope you all have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

Lynn McGinnis

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## Programming Committee Report

The Speakers Bureau continues to educate and promote gardening. We delivered no presentations in June. However, we have two 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.

A Committee meeting is scheduled for 10 August at 10AM at Agrilife office. If you have an interest in the Speakers Bureau, Tuesdays in the Park, and /or the Library Lecture Series, please join us. We will send out a reminder to regular Committee members.

Tuesdays in the Park 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 June

SB YTD: 13 civic/garden clubs & 315 individuals

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

Dale Wade

## Social Media

Thanks to all of you who have sent me gardening jokes. They have turned out to be the most popular feature of our Facebook page enforcing my theory of bring people in with laughs and they'll stick around to learn something. We are now entering our slow summer season. It's super-hot and working outside is definitely no fun, plant sales are over, and most activities are shut down until our cooler weather starts to arrive sometime in September. I'm always looking for interesting things to post, so if you come across anything, send it my way to [andie.rathbone.66@gmail.com](mailto:andie.rathbone.66@gmail.com).

Andie Rathbone

Our top posts in May were:



**You know you're a serious gardener when...  
Your neighbors don't recognize your face  
because that's usually not the end they see.**

#1 May 12

1,410,557 people reached



#2 May 19

666,065 people reached



#3 May 26

11,576 people reached

## VMS Update

In looking at VMS reports, CONGRATULATIONS to our 50 certified members that have completed both their hours and CEs for this year. Thank you for getting those hours in the system because they help not only SCMGGA, but our AgriLife office as well. Our hours count toward the accomplishments that AgriLife uses to justify letting the City of Tyler provide SCMGGA with free use of its facilities, a huge advantage to our program. Our hours also help retain quality staff such as Greg and Amanda. So if you have hours and CEs not entered, please get those in.

On the other hand, we still have 25 certified members with zero volunteer hours and/or CEs. We only have 4 more regular membership meetings this year that count for CEs, so time to start planning. And with few opportunities for work hours in December, plan to volunteer for the bulb sale and East Texas State Fair. All certified members must have at least 24 volunteer hours and 9 CEs in VMS by the end of the year to recertify. If you need help getting your hours into VMS let Belinda Kromer ([kromerb@aol.com](mailto:kromerb@aol.com)) or Mary Hamlin ([mhamlin@flash.net](mailto:mhamlin@flash.net)) know.

Mary Hamlin

### Help Desk Training

The link in the eBlast was incorrect. Here is a good one for the SignUp:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-help1>

MJ



## Education Dispatch



Bee Day in the Garden was so much fun this year. We had a prime spot by the fountain and set up two tables.

Katy Barone got the seed bomb project together for the kids. She and her amazing assistants Sharon Walhood, Stacie Stultz and Alice Bailey, kept the kids entertained. They worked with 73 kids over the course of 4 very hot hours.

I talked with the grown ups about gardening and handed out lots of materials from AgriLife. 25 adults and young adults who were so excited to get to ask questions of a Master Gardener. It's amazing how many people are moving to Tyler and have so many questions about our weather and what to plant. It was truly great to spend time with people and discuss gardening.

A big thank you to all our volunteers for getting up and out there on a Saturday morning and dealing with this crazy heat. You guys are the Best!

Elizabeth Waldrop

## CHANNEL 19 MASTERING YOUR GARDEN

We are coming to the end of our first season of Mastering Your Garden this month, and once again I want to thank everyone who raised their hand to go on camera this past year to spread gardening information and to promote SCMG's projects and events, as well as a big thank you to Lynn and Bill McGinnis for putting together our training session last summer before we started our TV spots. We've all learned a lot and everyone has said "Well, that wasn't so hard" when their first spot was over.

CBS 19's noon broadcast reaches an estimated 15,800 weekly viewers, so you all have really helped to get our message of good gardening practices out to the public.

I'm in the process of putting next season's schedule of topics together and am scheduling a meeting in the next couple of weeks to put names in slots. Watch your E-blast for the date and time. I'd love to see more people participating next year.

Here's the schedule for July. For all of you doing the spots, we will be pre-recording everything this month because our Channel 19 person, Savannah Hale has to do the noon weather as the noontime weather guy has left the station for another job. Therefore we'll be recording at 9:30 AM. Lucky for you all because it won't be so hot.

July 6	Fall Vegetable Gardening	Colleen Huntsburger
July 13	Accessible Gardening	David Gary
July 20	Worm Composting	Stacie Stults
July 27	Rainwater Harvesting	Mary Hamlin



Andie Rathbone



## East Texas State Fair Report

Planning for the SCMG butterfly exhibit for the East Texas State Fair is well underway. We recently visited the Heard Wildlife Museum in McKinney, toured their butterfly habitat and met with the butterfly director Amy Monroy. Amy was a wealth of information which she graciously shared and we learned so much. The entire museum is an incredible and beautiful outdoor and indoor experience. It would be a wonderful field trip for our SCMG chapter. Our greatest need at this time are volunteers willing to grow host and nectar plants from seed. We will not be able to use nursery plants because they have been sprayed with chemicals making them detrimental to the larvae and butterflies. Several wonderful members signed up to grow plants at our last monthly meeting, but we are hoping more of you can help us with this. It is going to take many plants to make our exhibit beautiful and viable for the larvae and butterflies. You will receive volunteer hours for this. Milkweed and passion vine are the host plants we need. Blue salvias, phlox, prairie verbena, clasping heliotrope, goldenrod, Greg's mist, liatris, pentas and sunflowers are suggestions for nectar plants. If possible we would prefer these to be grown in gallon pots or larger. Please contact us at [abguinn7@gmail.com](mailto:abguinn7@gmail.com) if you would be willing to grow plants for our exhibit. Thank you in advance for helping our SCMG chapter provide wonder and enjoyment to our community as the opportunity to experience and learn about our most beautiful pollinators.



*The Butterfly Committee—Delane, Beth, Brenda, Stacie and Karen*

## Historian's Corner

### What a Magnificent IDEA ... Garden



I'm sure that all Smith County Master Gardeners are familiar with the IDEA Garden. It is truly the showstopper for the Tyler Botanical Garden. Highlighting the latest in plants, composting, Earth-Kind principles and all the newest techniques, the IDEA garden is a delight to visitors. But this garden had humble beginnings.

In 1996, Smith County horticulturist Keith Hansen and Master Gardener Sue Adey planned the IDEA garden. The concept was to create a garden that would give visitors ideas to incorporate into their own backyards. The acronym IDEA, which stands for innovate, demonstrate, educate and apply was born. SCMG volunteers put in the work to make the garden a reality.

The land that was available for the garden had some major issues. The most problematic was that all the topsoil had been removed in the 1940s and the space had then been used as a general dumping area. The first order of business was to amend the soil and to prepare it for planting. This did not happen overnight. In fact, it was not until 1999 that the garden was completed. It was a hit and in 2001 the IDEA garden was expanded.

The IDEA Garden educates the public in various ways. In one area the three-bin composting system is demonstrated. There is a dedicated Butterfly and Monarch Waystation. Plants designated as Texas Superstars are highlighted throughout the garden. Another area of the garden showcases the beauty of our Texas natives. There is even a succulent area. Yes, with proper care, even succulents can do well in East Texas. All of the plants used are adapted to the East Texas area. When a visitor walks through this gorgeous garden, they can imagine how the ideas demonstrated could be used in their own backyards. From the plants, to the trails, the area for boggy plants and the rainbow borders, there is something for everyone. The IDEA Garden has been the winner of multiple awards, including the Search for Excellence Award at the International Gardener Conference in 1999.

So, what is in the future for this amazing garden as we head into the next 30 years? Garden coordinators Cindy Harrington and Laurie Graham are looking forward to the installation of a new irrigation system that can be controlled via phone. A blossoming partnership with Debbie Taylor and her greenhouse crew produces plants that find a home in the IDEA garden. There's always something new to see in the IDEA garden.

*\*Thank you to the many Smith County MG members who have written the tale of the IDEA garden. I drew heavily on your work to create this article. And thanks to Cindy Harrington and Laurie Graham for their input.*

*Tommie Ann Grinnell*

From Bulbs to Blooms 25th Anniversary T-shirt



Photos from Nature Detective  
Camp 2023





## Youth News

June was a busy month for youth programming.

**Nature Detective Camp:** Early in the month, back by popular demand, the Nature Detective Camp returned to Glass Recreation Center. A collaboration of Smith County AgriLife, Smith County Master Gardeners and Tyler Parks and Recreation, twelve campers took part, ranging from 6 years old (just barely) to 12. It was like a one-room school house, but it all worked. The children quickly connected and made fast friends. The week was action-packed. A team of 12 Master Gardeners lead investigative learning about habitats, birds, insects, lizards, plants and pollinators. Campers explored Woldert park where they spotted a beaver dam, turtles, rabbit, bird nests and all manner of insects. Favorite activities included: collaborating on a site selection for a bat box, crafting models of the butterfly life cycle, a lizard release and planting pollinator plants. On the last day, campers were given an opportunity to provide feedback about the camp. All of it was encouraging and positive. Their favorites were time exploring outdoors, hands-on activities and making new friends. Parents told us their children came home everyday excited and sharing about their morning. We call that a win.

**Pollinator Day:** Smith County AgriLife and Smith County Master Gardeners sponsored a youth activity station at the City of Tyler's annual Pollinator Day event at the Rose Garden. Children of all ages, along with their parents, made seed bombs for planting wildflowers at home; close to 100 participants in all. We Master Gardeners had a great time facilitating the activity, but were amazed at how many of the children were not accustomed to getting their hands dirty! Hand washing stations were standing by which saved the day. All in all it was a wonderful opportunity for teaching and learning, and a fun day was had by all.


*Katy Barone*





# July 2023

## Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
2	3	4 	5 Shade Garden workday 8:30	6 <b>NO MG Meeting!</b>	7	8
9	10	11 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:30 AM	12 Shade Garden workday 8:30	13 MGs on TV Meeting 1:00 PM	14 Landscaping Workshop 9:00—11:00 Glass Rec Cntr	15 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
16	17 Help Desk Training 9:30 AM	18 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:300 AM	19 Shade Garden workday 8:30	20 <b>SCMG BOD CottonBelt 10:00</b>	21	22
23	24	25 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 8:300 AM	26 Shade Garden workday 8:30 <b>Grapevine deadline</b>	27	28	29
30	31					