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**The next SCMG Association
meeting is
Thursday, November 4, 2021
At 11:30 AM at
Tyler Rose Center**

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Mary Jo Madden, Editor

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A Note from the President

It's Crunch Time!

There are only two months left for Master Gardeners to earn the Volunteer and Continuing Education hours that are required for recertification! And between the upcoming holidays and the expectation of foul weather, opportunities are dwindling. We have attempted to contact every Master Gardener who is at risk, some without success.



**PLEASE DO NOT PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER!
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING!**

We can't work with you if you don't.

Mary Jo

November 4th Monthly Membership Meeting:

For the November 4th meeting, we will be meeting at the Rose Garden but will be in the larger room this time and will have the new parking lot available for this one. Again, that lot is not large, so if you like to get exercise, please park in the newly opened Heritage Garden parking or by the IDEA garden on Houston. Our speaker will be our very own Claudann Jones, Smith County Extension Agent for Family and Community Health. The title of Claudann's program is "Pumpkin Spice and All Things Nice" and per her description of the title, the all things nice will cover some fall foods from the garden. I won't be a spoiler for the program but it is guaranteed to make you salivate! I think I say this with every program, but I don't think you will want to miss this one! Please SignUp!

Belinda

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-november1>



Money Matters

Greg Grant

The Smith County Master Gardener Association has always been in good financial shape, but as you know, Covid-19 cut back on our fund raising opportunities. And on top of that, “supply chain disruptions” delayed a good portion of our fall bulb sale shipment. I wish all the adapted bulbs we sold were locally available but unfortunately they aren’t and Holland rules the world when it comes to bulb production and sales.

Because we’ve always had money in the bank and annual money making ventures, it’s very easy to get spoiled and either overspend or not spend wisely. Here are a few pointers on how to make the best use of our hard-earned funds.

Sponsorships: A number of banks, insurance companies, horticulture product suppliers, and lending institutions in town frequently sponsor the refreshments and meals at Extension and other educational and non-profit events, so let’s make sure and ask them when we are having programs that require such.

Donations: There are quite a few wholesale and retail nurseries in Smith County along with numerous big box stores with many tools and gardening products that we could use in the garden or for door prizes at events. Don’t hesitate to ask. I know Walmart in other counties donates all their seed, seeding kits, and seedling mixes to the local Extension program to use in their school programs and demonstration gardens.

Partnerships: There are many different service and supply companies that might be willing to help our program including places like Scott’s Miracle Grow, Kinney Bonded Warehouse, BWI, Bonnie’s Plants, Ran-Pro farms, Texas Organics, and many others. Think

about what we need from them and how they can help us education the public using their money, support, or products. Don’t ever buy if somebody will donate.

Gifts: As with the Kluber Lubrication maple donation to the garden, there are often local businesses or individuals that would be proud to support the efforts of a dynamic, hard working, successful organization like ours. Keep your eyes open and cultivate them when you can. At SFA, we got numerous gifts including half a million and a third of a million dollars, plus plants and materials for the garden including an expensive metal bridge to cross a creek and drilled water well for the azalea garden.

Wholesale Purchasing: As a non-profit, tax exempt organization with a nursery-floral license, we can purchase plants and supplies wholesale. I suggest NEVER purchasing any plant or product at retail prices unless it’s a specialty mail order plant not grown in the industry. It’s very easy to waste money on retail price markups.

Grants: And don't forget grant writing. At SFA Gardens we used grants to pay for trails, boardwalks, salaries, labor, and signage.

We always want to keep “money in the bank” in case of disasters, pandemics, or other national calamities. Stuff happens. SFA Gardens is going through such hard times right now. We want to charge for some of our programming when we have to, while offering others for free. And when worthwhile projects come along that need money, we want to make sure we have it to spend wisely.

Note From Our Historian....

As usual Master Gardners have been involved in many projects. The bulb sale had a big group working and with great success.

The different gardens always have lots of activity. They are so beautiful and a pride to all!

A group of us went to Overton with Brent. We did a walk through and came home with lots of goodies.

Lucy Morgan



REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS

Heritage Rose Garden

We thought the summer went fast and here it is fall and time is flying by! So much to do and so little time to do it! As the Heritage Rose Garden entered the cooler fall weather, we began to work on the renovation of the garden to ensure that all beds reflect the mission statement of educating the public about old garden roses and complimentary companion heirloom plants that were found in early Southern homesteads, and by displaying them show that they have a place in contemporary gardens due to their beauty and sustainability. We still have much to do so come join us and help!

Our beds are mulched with pine straw and our supplier has not been able to harvest any due to the rainy weather on the Gulf Coast. We are finally anticipating a delivery and opened up ordering to the membership to assist them with obtaining some.

The Tyler Sprinkler Company is scheduled to start on the Irrigation Project for the Heritage Rose/Shade Gardens at the beginning of November. They were scheduled to start the first week of September but the owner struggled with a severe case of COVID, which significantly delayed the start.

The cooler weather has encouraged our members to come out to the gardens and volunteer and the interns have hit the ground running after their graduation from class. It is a blessing to be able to spend Tuesday mornings with such enjoyable, like-minded people.

Debby Watkins & Henry Burch



Shade Garden

Leadership changes have take place in the Shade Garden. Liz Wiley has taken an extended leave of absence. In her stead, Katy Barone has been appointed Shade Garden Leader. The Shade Team has been working on sprucing up the garden beds, to include the addition of 'Dorothy Rees' azaleas from SFA. We will be adding pine straw to the beds in the coming weeks.

We are happy to report that the Camellias, both sasanqua and japonica, are continuing their recovery and many are putting on buds. We have fingers crossed for some pretty blooms this year. We look forward to the changing colors in the space, particularly the Japanese maples, as temperatures cool and daylight hours wane.

Katy Barone



IDEA Garden

For the month of November we are highlighting a plant called 'Snow Fairy' Variegated Bluebeard (*Caryopteris divaricata* 'variegata'). It was given to the IDEA garden by Keith Hansen, our retired Smith County Extension Horticulturist.

This lovely plant brightens up any perennial border with its soft textured, feathery light green and white variegated leaves that maintain their color all season. If that is not enough, the 'Snow Fairy' delights and rewards you with delicate, fragrant lavender-blue flowers arranged in loose clusters at the end of the stem. It is a late summer-early fall bloomer. It grows best in partial shade to full sun. It can be used for both sunny borders or for containers. In our IDEA garden it is thriving in full sun with adequate moisture and rich, well-drained soil. This great perennial is low maintenance. It comes back from the base each spring and responds well to heavy pruning to force a nice full form. It grows in the hardiness zones 5-9 and is about 30-36 inches in height and width.

The 'Snow Fairy' Variegated Bluebeard is an unusually striking accent plant that can be used to make a statement in any garden. If you are needing a plant that attracts pollinators including bees and butterflies, then 'Snow Fairy' could be your plant. Keep this undemanding plant on your future gardening list. It could be just the one you need!

Linda Munn



REMINDER, PROMPT, CUE, NUDGE.....LOL!

Hello Fellow MGs and Interns! The weather is cooling and I know we're all getting ready for winter and planting our beautiful bulbs we all bought at our Bulbs to Blooms sale!

So probably the last thing you want to do right now is write a newspaper article, but I just wanted to remind our Interns that your **first article is due November 15th**. I've received a few and man, they are awesome! Thank you so much! Here are some basic requirements to refresh your memory:

- 1) Articles must be at least 250-500 words
- 2) Must be submitted in digital word processing format
- 3) All photographs must be yours or you must have permission to use
- 4) Email articles to lynnmac@suddenlink.net

For ALL Master Gardeners – would love to see some of our more seasoned Master Gardeners share some of your gardening experiences in articles. I personally enjoy learning from you and I really think our readers would too! So if you need to catch up on your continuing education and or volunteer hours, please write us an article sharing your expertise!

Newspaper articles are published in the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* every Sunday and in the *Lindale News & Times* every Thursday. These articles are NOT duplicated each week so we need plenty of articles to cover each month. As always, if you have any questions or need assistance with articles, please let me know. And thank you for your volunteer time, I'm looking forward to reading your articles!!

Lynn McGinnis, Class 27



REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING October 28, 2021



Debby Watkins, Past President/Parliamentarian

The following were the highlights of items discussed:

- Review of members deficient in hours continued – A report was given of members that were non-responsive to any communication and of those that elected to not re-certify.
- Work on irrigation project in Shade and Heritage Rose Garden will begin on November 2.
- New Policies and Procedures on New Class Attendance and Bulb Sale Shopping were approved by the Board and will be posted.
- The final revisions to the current Policies and Procedures were approved and will be posted.
- Budget Committee Report – The Board reviewed, refined and then approved the 2022 Budget presented by the Committee. It will be presented to the membership at the November meeting.
- December Membership Meeting – Planning continues for the meeting on December 9 at the Rose Center. Details and signup will be forthcoming.

Fun, Friends and Frolic in the Gardens!

The **Garden Guides** have been buzzin' in the Gardens! We just hosted three tours for about 71 folks attending the Tyler Rose Festival. I say "about " because people already at the gardens would see us on our tours and jump in and join us as we went along. We would start with 20 and end up with 35! How fun! We hosted people from all over the US. On my particular tour, I had a couple from New Jersey, but most people were from the Dallas or Houston areas. All were duly impressed with our, excuse me, THE Botanical Gardens. Oh, and on October 14th, a reporter with the Tyler

paper joined that tour and took pictures as they went along. Go to

https://tylerpaper.com/news/local/photo-gallery-tour-of-the-tyler-rose-garden/article_b74c56ac-2d51-11ec-b5f5-f39727a22cco.html

There are 25 pictures of our gardens and our Garden Guides. And the paper calls the IDEA garden the THINK garden. I wonder what they thought THINK would stand for?? Anyway, enjoy the pics, they are really good. We have three more tours for October and a possible one more in November. More information to come! If you would like to join us, please drop me a note and I'll let you know our schedule. We would love to have you!

Susan Buntz



Youth & Community Garden Update

Two events this week, so different

In talking to the teacher I am working with at Griffin about building some raised beds, she stated that the question of most concern was about eating fresh vegetables. One student made the statement “we do not have fresh vegetables, my mom said they cost too much.” Others in the class said the same thing. We are not talking about I-pads, games, etc, we are talking about food. The teacher stated that some had gardens, but many of her students lived in apartments. I cannot wait until these students have the experience to garden in raised beds and containers. I would like each student to have a pot of their own, so if you have extras and would to donate, I will clean them, please let me know (beckylwade@gmail.com). Seeds of all kind would also be welcome, because we know beautiful flowers and plants make for good health. As Greg reminded us in May 2021, Grapevine, horticulture is agriculture and part of the vision is providing science based information and solutions in agriculture and health to every Texan.

My second event is on the lighter side. I had the opportunity to participate of the first multicultural event at Moore Middle School. Paul Wick delivered materials to me and help me set up. Elizabeth Waldrop did a culinary herb around the world sheet and put together the materials needed for the table. Many of the participants were teachers, parents, and community organizations. They represented the Middle East, Mexico, North Africa, England, Germany and more with tables displaying objects from the countries. There were activities for children. It was really well done. There were families buying tee shirts and enjoying the day together, it was great to see, I was next to the tee shirt place. I was glad that Master Gardeners were a part of this multicultural event.

Becky Wade

Griffin Elementary

Fourth grade students and students participating in the after school garden program at Griffin Elementary undertook a garden site selection study to determine placement of the new garden beds. A great time was had by all. The beds are put together and sites selected. Students will be planting cold season vegetables in the days to come.

Becky Wade

Caldwell Youth Garden

Third grade classes at Caldwell Arts Academy had a lesson on fall and winter vegetables. A curious and enthusiastic group, the students learned a bit about soil science, cole crops, sword beans and winter peas. They also heard about how celery grows and sampled leaves straight from the garden.

Katy Barone



OUR FACEBOOK PAGE NEEDS YOUR HELP



I told a friend the other day that I was going to be so glad when October was over because it seems like every organization in Tyler and the surrounding area held major events this month. So between all the events and fall planting, there is plenty of news to report on our Facebook page.

As we head into the winter months, however, I have to dig much deeper for fresh things to post on the site. I follow several gardening magazine as well as the Facebook pages of 31 other Master Gardening and other garden-centric groups for interesting material and events. But as we head into the colder months, there are fewer and fewer posts from all these sources.

So here's how you all can help me to ensure that our page continues to deliver valuable horticultural information all through the dreary winter months:

If you have pictures of Master Gardeners working in the gardens or greenhouse, send them to me

If you see an interesting gardening article, send me the link

If you come across a great gardening meme or gardening joke, pass it along.

Together we can assure that our award-winning Facebook page continues to deliver excellent gardening information all year long.

Andie Rathbone

FALL WORKSHOP UPDATE

**FALL WORKSHOP for NOVEMBER 8th IS FULL
To be added to wait list, contact Belinda Kromer**

Thank you to all those signed up for the Fall Workshop! Your quick response to the box lunch option request was much appreciated! Some have asked about paying for the workshop, so just to let you know, there will be an email with instructions from Terri Gerber very soon if you haven't gotten it already! Thanks Terri for your help with this as well! It is going to be great!

Belinda



HELP DESK UPDATE



For those who did not attend the October Membership meeting, we have decided to try a hybrid system for providing horticultural support. Throughout October, everyone was a good sport as we started the implementation and began working the kinks out of the system.

A group of trained volunteers will staff the office in three-hour shifts, hopefully five days each week. Another group of MGs with expertise on a given topic have agreed to serve as Specialists, and will provide answers on-the-go via email. Thanks to everyone who signed up as a specialist or as an office staffer!

Thanks to Debby Watkins for her assistance in developing and presenting the training that was held last Friday. We had a great turnout for the session, and are planning the next session for sometime in January.

MaryJo

The Education Dispatch

This month was, as always, a busy one for the Master Gardeners. The Fair info booth went well. Tons of information was given out, questions were answered or referred to the Help Desk, and we acted as ambassadors to the community. Thanks to all our interns and MGs who volunteered. I want to send out a super special thank you to Belinda Kromer who filled in lots of empty spots with her consistently upbeat chirpiness. All you folks are amazing, and your helpful presence says more about our organization than any other metric I can think of.

Right on the heels of the Fair was the Bulb Sale. We really enjoyed manning an information table at the On-Site Bulb Sale. We talked to everyone who came by, close to 100 folks, and encouraged them to buy calendars and books. Sometimes it worked! A special thank you to my table partner Martha Fowler, oh Ye of Indomitable Energy, I salute you! And a big clap for Ann Patullo, Hannah Dietz, and Andie Rathbone who all offered much wisdom, interesting asides and amusing anecdotes to all and sundry. Such a fun successful day.

We set up a last-minute education presentation for Moore Magnet School's Cultural Fair, where we discussed culinary plants from around the world. Becky Wade was our Rockstar for that impromptu performance. Thank you, Becky!

I am always so impressed and gratified by how amazing everyone is and how generous with their time. This month has been busy and yet everyone has stepped up to make our projects top notch and reminded our community what a smart, helpful and fun organization SCMGA is!

Elizabeth Waldrop

Photo of Greg Grant speaking on
First Tuesday in October on Bulbs
101.

Programming Committee

First Tuesday in the Garden,
November 2nd , 2021
noon

Our last program will be presented by Elizabeth Waldrop and is entitled "Creating an Autumn Tapestry, Using Color successfully in your Garden". The flamboyant colors of the Fall Garden can sometimes compete with our Spring and Summer plantings, leaving us with a jumble of color that can have a jarring effect. In the talk, Elizabeth will present a few strategies to help integrate nature's changing hues into our year long plan for a garden whose color scheme is charming and peaceful in all its seasons.

Paul Wick



From Bulbs to Blooms Update

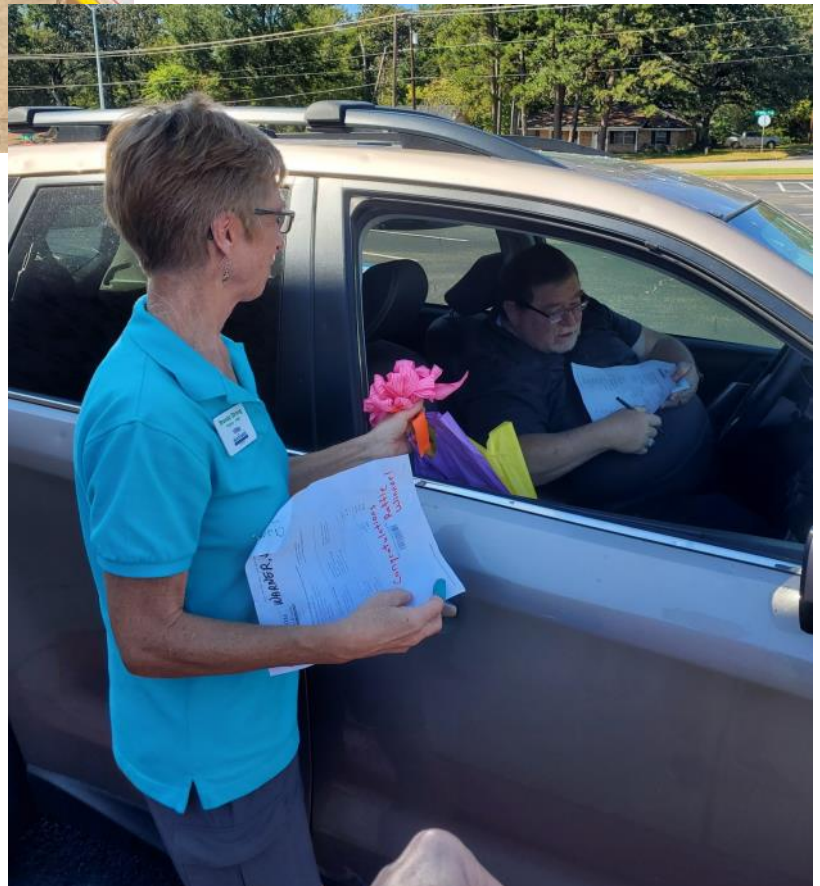
By the time you read this, the bulb sale that never ends should finally be completed! The sale was successful, meeting our budget goals. The first pickup went very smoothly at Pollard United Methodist Church. The on-site sale went incredibly well! The public obviously found our marvelous salespeople talking about the merits of each of the bulbs impossible to resist!! Hopefully our 2nd pickup and on-site sale will go equally smoothly and successfully. The committee



will meet in November to critique and document what went well, what didn't and how we can improve the process for next year. If you have any suggestions or feedback, please send me an email within the next week so it will be included in our discussion.

This sale would not be possible without the participation of the entire membership. From the entire bulb sale committee, thank you everyone for stepping up and signing up when asked! There was lots of laughter and lots of visiting while taking care of the tasks and work involved with this sale. On a personal note, I would like to thank Chris Cochran for arranging the use of Pollard United Methodist Church for the first pickup and on-site sale and welcome Lenka Johnson to the committee as co-chair.

Brenda



Greenhouse Update

The greenhouse has been up and running for a month now and the Master Gardener volunteers have been busy at work. We have propagated probably 20+ different kinds of plants. A few of our latest editions to the table are Mexican Honeysuckle, Purple Sapphire Showers Duranta, Blue Butterfly (Clerodendrum Ugandense), Neches River Rose Mallow just to name a few. We try and pot up at least 5 different plant varieties each time we meet.

Starting plants from cuttings can be a little tricky at times. I was just by the greenhouse today at noon and the outside temperature was 78 and the inside temperature was 97. I got busy and shifted things around and hopefully that will provide good results. That kind of extreme heat calls for plenty of water for all plants and some shade for others. Nothing is ever a given in the greenhouse, but with attention and luck with the weather, the cuttings will grow to be lovely plantlings.

Working in a greenhouse is natural for me since I've had one for more than 25 years. I hope

some of the Master Gardeners come to love being in the greenhouse as much as I do. I wanted to thank all the volunteers who come to work in the greenhouse. It is a community project and it can't be done without you. You give it your all to make the plants and the greenhouse a success. The greenhouse is a collective group of gardeners teaching and learning from each other. That is what being a Master Gardener is all about.

I want to thank Cindy Harrington for giving us the OK to take cuttings from the Idea Garden. You're awesome Cindy. Also, I want to give a big thanks to MG Betty Atchely for showing some of the volunteers where to take cuttings from different plants. She demonstrated her technique in her section of the Idea Garden. She then demonstrated to us her technique for potting up in order to achieve success. Thank you Betty for sharing your knowledge and making us better gardeners. Debby Watkins has given approval for a few cuttings in the future and we thank her in advance for helping us gain inventory in the greenhouse. Master Gardeners are great folks.

Debbie Taylor



The Greenhouse suffered extensive damage from the strong winds late last week and is virtually unusable. I'll be in touch when I know what the repair plans are.

VMS....VMS....VMS....VMS....VMS....



How to Count Hours and CEs:

In general, you can count volunteer hours **OR** CEs but not both for the same time period. For example:

Regular MG meetings count for 1 CE, but no hours of any sort including travel time.

AgriLife supported educational opportunities such as seminars, on-line educational events, and other presentations such as 1st Tuesday in the Gardens and the Library series count for a specified amount of CEs, but again no travel time. (CEs for the length of the program)

If an MG has an opportunity for an educational event that has not been specified by AgriLife or SCMGA, such as a program at another county's event, ask the SCMGA President, Vice President, or the AgriLife Agent if the event will count for CEs. They can tell you.

There can be hybrid events that combine education with work such as Overton, and work in the gardens when Greg is there to make a presentation. In this case, you can count a CE for Greg's or Dr Pemberton's part, and then both work hours and travel time for the time spent working. Be careful to keep these apart. Another example would be our past years bulb sale and conference. The conference counted 3 CEs and then those who worked could also count work time.

All strictly work events count the time worked and travel time to and from the work site, except for interns, who cannot count travel time.

Interns have special requirements. There are certain projects for which they have required hours, and these hours are entered into VMS as regular volunteer hours. In addition to required hours, interns may earn as many volunteer hours as they wish by participating in SCMGA activities, and enter them as volunteer hours in VMS. Interns are not required to earn CEs, but they are welcome to do so, and enter those into VMS as CE hours.

Mary Hamlin

November 2021

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM 1st Tues. in the IDEA Garden lecture—noon 	3 Shade Garden workday 9:00	4 SCMG Meeting Tyler Rose Center 11:30 AM	5 Programming Committee 10:00 AM Rm 114	6 Shade Garden workday 8:30
7 	8 Big Freeze Workshop 9:00 AM Glass Rec.	9 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM	10 Shade Garden workday 9:00	11  AgriLife Office Closed	12 BulbSale Com- mittee 9:00 AM Rm 116	13
14	15	16 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM	17 Shade Garden workday 9:00	18 SCMG BOD CottonBelt 10:00	19	20 Shade Garden workday 8:30
21	22	23 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM	24 Shade Garden workday 9:00 <i>Grapevine deadline</i>	25 	26 AgriLife Office Closed	27
28	29	30 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM				