

MG Grapevine

<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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

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Garden Winks

Hot and DRY! Wait, I think that was July's weather and wow, we are still seeing the same forecast for August. Heat, drought, tree and plant stress have been our garden woes this summer. We definitely need a break! Scattered but much needed rain showers for some of us brought hope the past few weeks. Conserving water is becoming even more critical.



Come rain, cold... EXTREME HEAT... work in the Tyler Botanical Garden does not stop. The crews in each of the gardens are doing a wonderful job even with the heat. Interns continue to shine and impress. Thanks to all of you!

We completed our "new" project of Summer Workshops with the final one in July. What a great success these have been for our association. A big thanks to our Education Leader, Elizabeth Waldrop, for the sacrifices she made in sleep, for the time she spent in planning and designing them, and her incredible teaching skills in each one. The community responded with great compliments and return attendances!

Our next "new" project is well under way with the excellent leadership of the new chair, Andie Rathbone. Schedules are made and very close to all being filled with exceptional Master Gardener volunteers. Everyone needs to set their TV to tape the CBS 19 segments every Thursday at noon or better yet, when you can, watch it live! Master Gardener TV Stars here we come!

We had a break from monthly membership meeting in July but the next few months will be back to 'busy busy' with State Fair planning, Blooms to Bulbs preparation and our gardens continue to need our love and care! The Nominating Committee is looking for new Board members for 2023 and the Budget Committee is putting the pencil to the paper for our 2023 budget needs. First Tuesday in the gardens is only a month away! Opportunities continue for Master Gardeners to get those volunteer and continuing education hours needed for 2022 but they have to be in VMS to count! Remember we are here to help should you need it!

Thanks to this great group for all you do for SCMG!

Belinda Kromer

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August Membership Meeting

Our August 4th Membership Meeting will feature Mark Tietz, certified arborist and native landscape restorer. He will be speaking on Modern Arboriculture: Busting Old Myths with Science. I know it will be a great presentation and a timely one at that, so we hope to see you all there.

Good news—the Rose Center parking has been expanded and the entry from 31 onto Rose Park at the Civic Theater is open, so hopefully it will be much easier for everyone to get in and out.

Elizabeth Waldrop



Gardening with Kids

Greg Grant

Gardening as a child literally changed my life. It gave me a lifelong connection with nature, the outdoors, science, hard work, and healthy nutrition. Unfortunately, today most children are disconnected from the outdoor environment. Humans were made to till the soil and harvest their own food. It just doesn't seem natural to me to do otherwise. Children are like dry sponges when they are young, soaking up new ideas, concepts, knowledge, and habits. Why not start them on the road to a physically and mentally healthy life by encouraging them to garden?

Miss Mozelle, my legendary first grade teacher at Mozelle Johnston Elementary School in Longview appointed me keeper of the class terrarium in first grade. She was a *real* teacher and knew just what each student needed to learn. My fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Sandra Field allowed me to read a book about George Washington Carver, which forever inspired my horticultural career. Elderly Mr. Adams, a short walk from my house, let me help him garden and taught me how to grow Irish potatoes. I'll never forget putting pieces of potatoes in the ground and later bringing a sack full of whole potatoes home to my mom . . . pure magic. My grandfather, Eloy Emanis, taught me how to produce all the common vegetable crops, and my grandmother, Marquette Emanis, showed me how to put them up and prepare them. And, my parents, Neil and Jackie Grant, assigned me my own separate patch of the vegetable garden to do with as I pleased. It didn't take long for them to realize how interested I was. They quickly turned the whole garden over to me!

An entire school curriculum could be taught from an

outdoor gardening environment, including history, biology, chemistry, math, literature, art, and more. It's all there. Unlike classroom learning, it's hands-on and interactive. It's hard not to be interested and learn when something's growing before your very eyes, thanks to your own input. And, for sure, the beauty of the whole setup is you get to eat your homework! There's no reason the dog should have all the fun.

For childrens' gardens, it's best to start small. If experienced adults will be helping, an open patch with tilled rows will work. However, in most cases a raised bed, as small as 4 x 4 feet, is a good place to start. It can easily be filled with a professional-grade potting soil or a composted vegetable garden mix from a local landscape supply company or home-improvement store. If drip irrigation is installed along with a generous mulch of straw or dried grass clippings, watering and weeding will be much simplified.

For more information, check out the *Junior Master Gardener* program. The Junior Master Gardener program is an international youth gardening program available through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. JMG engages children in novel, "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that provide a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind. Also check into *Learn, Grow, Eat & GO!* (LGEG), a research-based, evidence-based curriculum project of the Junior Master Gardener Program. For more information, visit the JMG website at jmgkids.us.

"Above and Beyond Master Gardener Spotlight" – SCMGA – August 2022

There are so many among us who do so much for our association. I appeal to each of you to share your thoughts on Master Gardeners that you observe going "Above and Beyond" because I can't possibly know what everyone is doing. I got this glowing recommendation from Laurie Graham for his work and contributions to the IDEA Garden!

Wayne Elliot –Wayne is always willing to help us out in the IDEA garden and not always just on Tuesdays! He comes out when asked to work on irrigation system, build rock walkways, rework stone steps, haul soil/mulch, install fencing or any other odd job that needs attention.

Thank you, Wayne, for all you do for us and always with a smile (or joke)! We know we can depend on you to help!

And thank you Wayne for always going "Above and Beyond"!

Belinda Kromer

REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS

Shade Garden

In the Shade Garden during the month of July there were ups and downs. We had robust work days with a good number of hard working Master Gardeners and interns. The crew made use of the time weeding, dead-heading, light pruning and keeping the space watered through the three-digit days. Irrigation issues had us watering some areas by hand. Nevertheless, the Shade Garden is looking good as a result of the team effort.

Further, we are pleased to report that all four carex species in our trial are doing well. An ongoing drama, our fountain is on the fritz – another burned out motor. However, we have been assured that a new one is on it's way. In other news, city arborist, Maddy Burton, kindly came by to take a professional look at a few of our oaks that have us concerned. Sadly, two of them at the north end of Bed 6 will have to be removed. Another, near the far bed we call Pluto, is also on it's way out.

On that note, the SG bed leaders met to prioritize tasks and projects for the remainder of 2022 and to discuss the budget for next year. Having lost so many trees in the spring has much of the garden now in full sun. This challenge has provided the leaders an opportunity to re-image bed plans going forward, to include adding new tree varieties. Still highest on our list of priorities is replacing the many camellias lost in winter storm, Uri. We are in the process of identifying nursery sources who have camellias in stock as we prepare for fall planting.

Lastly, on the happiest of notes, East Texas Preferred Properties has generously sponsored the purchase of two concrete planters for the Shade Garden. We found some nice ones at Breedloves Nursery and are looking forward to snazzing up the area by the fountain. A very special and heart-felt thanks goes to Ann Hooks and her daughter, Holly, for making it all happen.

Katy Barone



IDEA Garden

Even in this heat wave and drought, the IDEA Garden is ablaze with color. If you haven't been by there recently, you should go. There are multiple beds in very different micro-environments. Some are very dry, some very wet. Some are very sunny, some very shady. Some have cypress knees, some buried rocks. No matter what the growing conditions are at your home, you can find inspiration.

Each of the beds has its own character, not only because of its micro-environment, but also because of the experience and personal taste of the section leader. Some are designed to showcase particular types of plants, e.g. native plants, Texas Superstars,

bulbs, succulents, container plants, and hanging baskets, to name a few.

Plants are changed frequently. Annuals are replaced when their blooming season is over unless their foliage is attractive as well. Perennials are replaced when they no longer add beauty to the garden. Some are replaced because they just didn't thrive. Replacements may be "old friends" or newly-introduced cultivars. We want the public to see for themselves "what works and what doesn't" in the Smith County area.

Martha Fowler





Heritage Rose Garden

Henry and I want to share with you that we are stepping down as co-leaders of the garden and have notified the Board of Directors of our decision. We have truly enjoyed our time but are ready to hand the baton over to new leader(s). So, the hunt is on for our replacement(s)! Henry is going to be spending lots more time in Colorado and I want to just be a willing weekly worker and support the leader(s). We are hoping for a speedy turnover of leadership but will continue in our roles till the end of the year if the Board has challenges in recruiting new leadership. However, we will be laying down our batons at year's end for sure.

We have prepared an in-depth Project Guide so the new leader(s) can hit the ground running. Plus, we will assist in any way we can to transition the leadership. The new lead-

er(s) will enjoy working with a core group of regular and dedicated volunteers in the Heritage Rose Garden that bring both knowledge specific to the garden and most importantly, good camaraderie. There have been many improvements in the garden such as new rose beds, many new heirloom plants in addition to heirloom roses, renovated/new hardscape structures (thanks to the Gertrude Windsor Garden Club) and the very new state-of-the-art irrigation system. The new leader(s) will be able to jump in and just build on the hard work and accomplishments of all the Heritage Rose Garden volunteers.

If you want to find out more, we are available in the garden on Tuesdays, or by call, text, or email.

Debby Watkins & Henry Burch

REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING July 21, 2022

The July 2022 Board of Directors Meeting was held in person at the Cotton Belt Building. Among the items discussed were the following:

- The MG TV Project status
- Updates to several Policies & Procedures
- Necessity of having someone in control of book orders/purchases/sales
- Budget Committee status
- Nominating Committee status
- Planning for MG presence at ET State Fair
- Date change for December membership meeting
- Leadership change in the Heritage Rose Garden



Mary Jo Madden, Past President/Parliamentarian

Education Dispatch

This has been a quiet month for education after a jam packed June. We are focused on the final workshop and supporting other upcoming projects like Bulbs to Blooms, the Fair and the Superstars Conference. One thing we would like is to get some feedback on how you feel about the education opportunities we have offered this year and what types of educational offerings you would like to see in the future. It would really help us to know what the membership thinks and wants. Also we would like to hear your opinions, good or bad, of what you have seen so far. This goes not just for workshops or education at events, but also monthly meeting topics and things on our You Tube Channel.

Please email, call or text Elizabeth at sevincrows87@hotmail.com or 903 805 0768 with your ideas or opinions to help us plan for next year.

Elizabeth Waldrop

Have you moved, gotten a new phone number, or a new email address? Please be sure to update your personal contact information in VMS—we don't want to lose touch with you!

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

CBS 19 – NEW Project Committee and Leadership!

Andie Rathbone who so graciously volunteered to chair this new project. She immediately stepped up, created a schedule, met with the folks at CBS 19 to determine the process and the protocol to produce the weekly 3-minute segments and began things rolling. She held project planning meetings with great success as well. SCMGs stepped up and have filled almost every weekly slot for this year and 2023. From there she set up with the help of Lynn and Bill McGinnis the most incredible training session for the future MG TV stars. Thanks to great project volunteers for mock up 3-minute segments on the fly and most of all to Lynn and Bill for the incredible instruction, training and videoing the practice interviews. The talents among our MGs never cease to amaze!

Thank you, Andie Rathbone, Lynn and Bill McGinnis and the incredible CBS 19 project team for always going “Above and Beyond”!

Belinda Kromer

CHANNEL 19 TV SPOTS

Our weekly gardening spots on Channel 19 kicked off on Thursday, July 28 with Elizabeth Waldrop talking about her Dog Days of Summer workshop. We will be talking about a different gardening topic each Thursday for Channel 19's Noon newscast. Upcoming shows for August are:

August 4	Things to do in August Jolana Damkroger
August 11	Gardening in the Heat Andie Rathbone
August 18	Protect Your Landscape from Fire Andie Rathbone
August 25	What's Bugging You? Terri Gerber



I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to do a spot. As of writing this, we only have three topics uncovered: November 24, Forcing Bulbs; July 20, 2023. Composting; and July 27, 2023, Rainwater Harvesting. If there is anyone who can cover these topics, please let me know.

Also, special thanks to Lynn McGinnis and her husband Bill, for their media training on July 14. It was not only informative, it was also a lot of fun.

Everyone is looking forward to this project. Not only will we be giving excellent gardening information to our East Texas community, but we will also be giving our Master Gardener organization excellent community exposure. stly, for those of you who will be presenters, Mary Hamlin will be setting up a new category in VMS (TV SPOTS) to record your hours on this project.

Andie Rathbone

VMS Update

Earlier this week we had a zoom meeting with state MG reps, and one topic we discussed was eMail non-delivery or going to junk mail. There still is no resolution on that problem, but they gave us three different addresses that they are requesting MGs add to their contacts. There is no guarantee that this will solve the problem, but might help, so we are asking MGs to add the below three addresses to their contact list. This is especially important for persons who are repeatedly having issues with VMS email. And it's also especially important that if you do add the three addresses, and your VMS email continues to non-delivery or goes to junk mail, to let us know. We are trying to keep pressure on state to solve this problem. So here are the three addresses. Again, be sure to let us know if you continue to have VMS email issues even after you whitelist these addresses.

noreply@email.texasmg.org

email.texasmg.org

vms.texasmg.org

Mary Hamlin

Need VMS instructions for entering your hours? Mary Hamlin put together a great document with step by step instructions, and you can find it in the members section of our web site. Here's the link: [Members – Resources \(txmg.org\)](https://www.txmg.org/members-resources)

Social Media

Just checked the weather data for Tyler the past couple of months and as of 7/27 we have had 47 days over ninety degrees (10 days over 100 degrees) and only 1.51 inches of rain recorded at Tyler Pounds Regional Airport. Smith County and most of the other counties in East Texas have declared burn bans and many municipalities (along with Southern Utilities) have announced restrictions on watering. It has become a real challenge to garden this summer and we still have to get through the month of August.

To give our Facebook followers some hope I've been running a series of posts on plants that bloom in 100 degree weather. So far these have been based on what's performing in my own garden, but I'm running out of happy blooming plants. If you have plants that are blooming in our intense summer weather, please send me a picture along with the plant's name and I will use it in a Facebook post. No need to write anything more, I'm just looking for some ideas.

My family in St. Louis experienced a storm this past week that dumped 10" of rain in 8 hours! I call that an embarrassment of riches and I've asked them to blow some of that stuff our way.

Here are the top Facebook posts for June

Andie Rathbone



#1 6/22 Rainwater Harvesting
Reach: 11,945



#2 6/3 Friday Funny
Reach: 8,488



#3 6/10 Friday Funny
Reach: 6,431

East Texas State Fair

The East Texas State Fair dates for this year are September 23nd-October 2nd.

We will start setting up our Master Gardener exhibit the day after Labor Day, September 6th. The exhibit will be located again this year in ETSF building C. Setup will begin at 9:30AM and last until noon each weekday until the exhibit is completed.

Tear down is scheduled for October 4th at 9:30AM and most likely will take a couple of hours.

If you're looking to earn hours this coming month and love creating, we need crafters that are willing to grab a glue gun and make things happen. We have several projects, including weather clouds, visual boards to be mounted and a tree to build! Drawings, instructions, and most materials provided. Projects need to be completed on or before September 6th. You can work individually or as a team.

Want to help crafting, on your schedule and in your own home?

Want to sign up and join us for set up, manning the booth or tear down?

Email Denise at denise@rascos or Delane at dgcaesar@yahoo.com. We would love to have you join us! We always have a great time together.

Delane Caesar Sykes



First Tuesdays in the Garden

Join us at noon on the patio in the IDEA Garden on the
First Tuesday
In September, October and November for our Fall gardening
series of programs.

Seating is limited, so you may want to bring a lawn chair.
The lectures usually run about 30 to 40 minutes, followed by
a question-and-answer session.

All lectures begin at noon.
Tyler Botanical Gardens - IDEA GARDEN
420 Rose Park Dr., Tyler TX

September 6- "Winter Greens"
Navye Cummings will give tips on planting and
enjoying winter vegetables in your garden. She will
encourage you to think about your favorite greens and
how to cook with them.

October 4- "Not All Bulbs Are Daffodils"
Anne Pattullo will discuss 20 easy to grow bulbs
for every season.

November 1- "Bundle Up Your Garden"
Andie Rathbone will present best practices
to prepare your plants for a cold winter.

Look forward to seeing you there!
<https://txmg.org/smith/events/>



HELP DESK UPDATE

July has been a busy month at the HelpDesk! Many calls & emails about dead-looking trees and brown lawns, pear trees with blight, and questions about the best way to kill weeds.

Most things are over or under watered, or stressed



from the winter freeze and now the drought.

10 volunteers contributed more than 50 hours of service this past month. Think about joining us—we learn at least one thing every time we work a shift (and we work in an air conditioned facility)!

See the SignUp link below!

Mary Jo

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-helpdesk1>

Calendar Committee Report

Our 2023 calendar is right on schedule to be completed by September 1. I will put a list of vendors that will need calendars delivered to them in the next Grapevine. Thanks to everyone, there are some amazing pictures and articles included in this calendar. I think everyone will enjoy all the information it contains.



Sherri Matthews

Programming Committee Report



Mark your calendar for the start of First Tuesday in the Garden series which begins in September. This is one of the oldest SCMG lecture series. Originally the programs were scheduled for Spring and then picked up in the Fall. All speakers were master gardeners. When the opportunity came to establish the Library Lectures in the Spring, it was decided to stop the Spring First Tuesday talks and plan a series for Fall only in the garden. Since then, the seating area in the IDEA Garden has been enlarged and talks are given under the pergola.

Speaker requests have been increasing as many garden clubs and organizations are planning their fall and winter programs. If any of your organizations need a speaker, let me know. And we always need additional speakers on your special interest. Let me know if you have an interest in being added to our speaker list.

Paul Wick

From Bulbs to Blooms



We are in need of some artistic and industrious folks. Greg has offered the side of his barn which is behind his Earth-Kind bulb trial / production plot as an advertisement space. We would like to have it painted to say "Earth-Kind Bulbs and Blooms Conference and Sale, Third Saturday in October, Tyler, Texas txmg.org/smith/". The artistic people don't necessarily need to be the industrious people. If anyone would like more information about this project or would like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Strong.

Please continue to be on the lookout for summer blooming bulbs around town. Report them to Anne Pattullo. If you have any of the following that you are willing to donate for the sale, please let Anne or Brenda know: African False Hosta, Hardy Gloxinia, Achimenes, Voodoo Lily, Crocosmia, Hidden Ginger, Butterfly Ginger. You don't have to donate large numbers. We'll let you know when they should be dug for the sale.

Brenda Strong

Need Help with VMS?

If you are struggling with getting your Volunteer and Continuing Education hours into VMS, we are here to help you! We have Help Desk volunteers in the office almost every day, and they can work with you to get those hours entered, using our second computer. So call us or take a look at the SignUp Genius schedule and plan to come by when we are there. We are in the new office space—Room 117. Here's the link to the SignUp:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-helpdesk1>

Newspaper Articles

Tyler Morning Telegraph (Sundays only)

August 7 – “Squirrels Will Find a Way” – Dan Gerber

August 14 – “Sharing Succulents” – Ginger Sawyer

August 21 – “Basic Propagation” – Tammie Gibson

August 28 – “My Favorite East Texas Plants” – BJ Moore

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

Lindale News & Times (Thursdays only)*

August 4 – “Containing Succulents” – Jim Powell

August 11 – “Treating Fire Ants Organically” – Trudie Haynes

August 18 – “Not in Kansas Anymore” – Jolana Damkroger

August 25 – “The Disappearing Butterfly” – Jesse Earp

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

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

Lynn McGinnis



More Shade Garden Photos!



August 2022

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Workday 8:30	<i>3</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30	<i>4</i> SCMG Meeting Rose Center 11:30 AM	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Workday 8:30	<i>10</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30	<i>11</i> Tech Committee, 1:30 Plaza Tower	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Workday 8:30	<i>17</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30	<i>18</i> SCMGA BOD Classroom 10:00	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Workday 8:30	<i>24</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30 Superstar Committee, 1:30	<i>25</i> <i>Grapevine deadline</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> HRG/IDEA Garden Workday 8:30	<i>31</i> Shade Garden workday 8:30			