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**The next SCMG Association
meeting is
Thursday, Nov 3, 2022
At 11:30 AM at
Tyler Rose Center**

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Garden Winks

With our 24th Bulbs to Blooms Sale and Conference in the books, it will be hard to top it in 2023 when we will be celebrating the 25th! I cannot praise the leaders and volunteers enough for a job well done. You worked hard in the days of preparation, at the sale, the conference and even in the cleanup! I am so proud of all of you for providing such incredible events for our community. Thank you all!



The year is winding down now. One more 1st Tuesday in the Garden and one last big event our Master Gardeners are sponsoring with Greg Grant and that is our SuperStar Advanced Training this month. We will also be hosting this group of Master Gardeners from all over Texas for a tour of our Tyler Botanical Garden on the morning of November 3rd and then they will join us at our monthly membership meeting. I know they will be blessed by our group and I look forward to hearing the comments as they share time with us! Hope each one of you will be able to attend the November Monthly Meeting. The other treat that day is our program will be provided by our own Greg Grant, double win!

At the end of every year as we wind down, the focus is always on the re-certifications of our members. We monitor the VMS hours to make sure no one is left behind because they may not have kept up with inputting hours into the VMS system. I am at the top of the list of those who do not like to harp on this subject but I am also at the top of the list to make sure everyone is back next year. That puts me in the position to remind you regularly if your VMS hours aren't where they should be by this time of year. I am reminding you again that it is a requirement to have the volunteer and continuing education hours in the VMS system. Some of you have worked really hard, have the hours in your head, on a napkin or even on your calendar. Those hours have to be in the official system and that is the TXMG State's rule. So once again, please get those in VMS so that we are all together again in 2023. Several of us have volunteered to help anyone who has challenges inputting hours. Just email or call us! Let's get them in early and celebrate one more wonderful win in our organization!

Have a blessed November! Eat turkey! Celebrate family and friends! There is so much to be thankful for in this season of Thanksgiving!

Belinda Kromer

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November Membership Meeting

Greg will present *Gardening Naturally: Landscaping with Native Plants* and talk about basic design principles, why we should use native plants, show us some examples, and point out a few of his favorite native plants.

Elizabeth Waldrop



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Greg Grant

One of my first jobs was as the Bexar County horticulturist in San Antonio, for what was then known as the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. It was where I first met legendary Texas vegetable specialist, teacher, entertainer, and local folk hero Dr. Jerry Parsons. It was also where I got to know what was left of the famous Belgian farmers, the Verstuyfts and the Verstraetens, in the northern part of what was known as “The Winter Garden” area of Texas. They were amazing folks and even more amazing growers. They didn’t just grow vegetables—they produced vegetables. It was in their blood, and it showed.

The Extension Service was a wonderful place to start my career, as I’ve always loved learning and as both of my parents were teachers, I’ve always loved teaching. The Extension Service does both. The Texas Agricultural Extension Service later changed its name to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, but still carries out its mission offering practical how-to education to the public based on university research. Every county in the state has a county agent whom you can contact for gardening information by calling them or visiting their office. Traditionally, most county agents specialized in “cows and plows,” but today the offices offer a wide range of expertise—ranging from managing your retirement money to preparing healthy meals. We still offer recommendations on what varieties of fruits and vegetables to grow, so check them out if you haven’t already. Most of the information is available online

through the Texas A&M Department of Horticultural Sciences website at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>.

In addition to traditional agricultural-natural resources agents and family and consumer health agents, most urban areas of the state also employ county horticultural agents, or “county horticulturists,” who specialize in horticulture only. If you really want to learn about horticulture, these are the guys and gals to visit. Not only was I the county horticulturist in Bexar County, I was also later the county horticulturist in Cherokee County, where the majority of the state’s bedding plants are produced. Most of the counties which have county horticulturists also have Master Gardener programs. To become a Texas certified Master Gardener, you have to complete a minimum of fifty hours of formal training through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and contribute back fifty hours of volunteer service. Being a certified Master Gardener is a great way to serve your community while sharing the camaraderie and friendship of others who enjoy gaining and sharing horticultural knowledge. As far as I know, I’m the only person in Texas ever to teach a Master Gardener program and take the Master Gardener program at the same time! Yes, Greg Grant WAS a certified Texas Master Gardener at one time. Believe it or not, Ripley.



Greg teaching a spontaneous session in the Heritage Rose Garden on a recent work day.

REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS

Heritage Rose Garden

The Heritage Rose Garden has been busy transitioning from summer to winter. We pulled up all the perennials and annuals in the main center bed and are allowing the bluebonnets, poppies and other wildflowers to sprout. With no perennials in that bed, the roses will be showcased. Greg gave us an enthusiastic demonstration on pruning cannas and crinums and his presence in the garden is always a treat. The garden has dedicated volunteers who are really making a difference and it is being noticed by visitors to the garden.

Linda Gurasich



IDEA Garden

By the time you read this, the ooms may be spent but you can see from the picture taken this mid-October week just how pretty these are! Candlestick (cassia alata) or candletree as Neil Sperry tags them, are in the senna family. We have four in the back, lower section of the IDEA Garden in full sun and they make quite a bold statement! Suited to the tropical south but here we are in the lower south zone able to grow them as annuals. Grown with other tropical foliage really compliments these beauties!

The seeds are harvested when the pods turn brown and dry and our beautiful specimens were started in our own greenhouse earlier this year. Jeff Brown shared some babies he grew last year in his greenhouse and also gave

me valuable info on how to grow. Germination occurs only when the soil is kept consistently warm. Cool nights will keep them from germinating so starting indoors is best. They grow 60-72" in height and almost as wide so you need plenty of room to let them show off and do their thing!

Our garden is beautiful this time of year so do come out and enjoy the blooms before first frost takes them down!

Laurie Graham



Shade Garden

With the arrival of fall, shorter days and milder temperatures, the Shade Garden is getting ready to shine. Japanese maples are beginning to put on their Sunday best, teasers in shades of red, orange and gold. A good many *C. sasanquas* are in bloom, with others not far behind. Look for Ginkos, oaks, Chinese pistache, Bald Cypress, dogwood, beautyberry and more to lend a hand in the autumn display.

October started with a bit of shopping. Joining the throng of plant enthusiasts at the SFA plant sale, we picked up beautiful azaleas and special hydrangea to add to the new woodland walk and to replace some casualties from harsh seasons past. Continuing on with our spree, we found a gaggle of lovely Camellias at Breedlove Nursery, aiming to replace the many lost after storm Uri. All have been planted and are looking spectacular. If that weren't enough garden joy, the second installment of *Carex* for our trials arrived just in time for fall planting, courtesy of Hoffman Nursery and Keith Hansen. Keith came out to our Saturday work day to give us a lesson and oversee the project. We learned that fall's cool temperatures signal *Carex* growth, so come spring, we expect the sedges to be well on their way. Those planted in June have proven tough, hardy and beautiful. Now eight varieties in total, the *Carex* are spread throughout the garden and will add texture, movement and beauty for seasons to come.



To end, a special thanks goes to Jeff Brown and Ivy Greening for their hard physical labor and sorting out the irrigation. Thank you to all the volunteers who have come out on work days: planting, weeding, digging out nut sedge and smilax and any other chores that need doing. Finally, a huge "Muchas gracias," to Dana Anderson for his leadership, dedication and all he does to keep the Shade Garden beautiful.

Katy Barone

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 \(txmg.org\)](http://txmg.org/Members-Resources)

Youth & Community Garden Update * New Volunteer Opportunity*

Here's a new Volunteer Opportunity if you want to work in a school garden and inspire kids:

We do at Kissam Intermediate School in Chapel Hill but Greg is it for right now while waiting on our new BLT Agent to take it over. There's a wonderful little teacher out there and over a dozen beds, both wooden and metal. Almost two hundred kids! Contact Amanda if you want to get involved!

Youth & Community Garden Update

The Moore Middle Magnate Middle School multi-cultural fair was great. We had 59 people stop by our table! They really were delighted with the seeds and brochures. Several were very interested in the Tuesday in the Garden and the MG at the Library series. We had 2 people interested in going through the Master Gardener program this year.

The students and parents really enjoyed the herb plants, thanks Elizabeth, and told us how they used them in cooking. Lots of different cultures were featured using dress, food and facts that high lighted each country. Thank you Mary Jo, Andie and everyone else that contributed seeds that made this fair successful for our Master Gardener table.



Becky and Dale Wade

Overton Trials Maintenance * New Volunteer Opportunity*

Here's a new Volunteer Opportunity if you want to work at Overton:

The Rusk County Master Gardeners can use some help to maintain the Perennial Trial beds. They meet weekly on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 to do lots of weeding, mulching, and so on. With the personnel losses out there, the efforts are being led by one of the Rusk MGs with "some" guidance from Greg.

They will not be working tomorrow, November 1.

If this sounds like your cup of tea, please contact Amanda (amanda.southard@ag.tamu.edu).



REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 10/20/2022

The February 2022 Board of Directors Meeting was held in person at the CottonBelt.

Among the items discussed are the following:

- Liability insurance coverage for off-site events, such as Bulb Sale and Home Garden Tour
- Garden Guide Project status
- Sales of the Calendar/Garden Guide
- The need to plan for storage of supplies used by our ETSF project
- Status of plans for the Christmas luncheon



Mary Jo Madden, Past President/Parliamentarian

Greenhouse Update

I usually write about conditions in these articles that affect the growing of plants in the greenhouse. This article is going to be about all the gardeners who have shown up this year to help out in the greenhouse. I can't list them all by name, but you know who you are.

There are all kinds of folks that come to the greenhouse: interns, Master Gardeners, folks who know less than me, and others who know more about gardening and plants than me. It is a great mix of gardeners that all have something to share and learn. There is no gardener that I know personally who knows it all - except for Greg.

I'm always grabbing my phone in the greenhouse checking and researching the types of cuttings we are working on. There is a time and place for our phones and this is one of them. I tell everyone to research it before you plant it. It's just easier that way. Lynette is extremely helpful in that she has a plant identifier app on her phone and she helps me out in that aspect. And, yes, we do get plants in the greenhouse that we are uncertain of their proper names. Thank goodness for technology and those who are smart enough to have the right apps on their phones.



I'm just so proud to have everyone want to come, help out, learn and teach others. It's hard work sometimes for sure, but for me it's always fun. If you can't laugh and enjoy it then you might be in the wrong place. It makes getting up early on Wednesdays and running around in a panic trying to gather everything together all worth it.

Thank you greenhouse workers. The greenhouse couldn't exist without you.

Debbie Taylor

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

This month, I think it is really important to spotlight for our ‘Above and Beyond’ the leaders of our Bulbs to Blooms Sale and Conference. I also want to share unsolicited member comments for this dynamic duo along with my own! What a blessing they are to our SCMGA! Thank you Brenda and Lenka for always going ‘Above and Beyond’ for SCMGA!

First from our co-chairs, Brenda Strong and Lenka Johnson:

Great job everybody!!! Lenka and I are so appreciative of all your time and effort that went into making the bulb sale such a success and a smooth-running event. Thank you all very much!

Next a few comments from members of our organization to these special leaders:

Smoothest sale yet! Excellent effort by all MG’s lead by an outstanding team.
Cindy Harrinton

Ditto on all the positive comments. Such a great bulb sale. Thank you, Brenda and Lenka, for your amazing organization and leadership.

Katy Barone

Lots of fun working with all of you! Brenda and Lenka are the best!
Jan Moch

What a terrific pair of hard working, calm and efficient ladies. I appreciate all you have done.
Wayne Elliot

Just wanted to commend Brenda and Lenka on their outstanding job in leading our 2022 sale. Fantastic job!
Gail Bean

You two are the most calm, organized, efficient, considerate, helpful leaders anyone could ever ask for. Another fabulous job under some trying circumstances! Thank you and now back to your other lives!
Anne Pattullo

I so agree with Anne, and it was a lot of fun.
Thanks for doing all this with consideration of each person.
Becky Wade

Thanks to you & Lenka for organizing another great event. It was a fun day seeing everyone
Andie Rathbone

Thank you to Brenda and Lenka for your leadership in making it another successful bulb sale!
Jolana Montgomery-Matney

Brenda and Lenka are awesome beyond words. I am so very proud to work in this organization and to have leadership like the two of you provided through the sale for two years now. Things were really smooth and it felt so good. I saw lots of smiles, heard no complaints and I enjoyed the conversations with our customers. It just doesn't get better than that. We will always see things we want to change or do different but honestly, it was beyond my expectations for a great event! From the start to the finish!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!
Belinda



Belinda Kromer

From Bulbs To Blooms

By now, From Bulbs to Blooms 2022 is virtually over. We already a wrap-up meeting, lightly attended – only 16 people – possibly due to its being held at 8 a.m. It seems mostly-retired folks don't like to get up early! Thank you to: Jolana Damkroger, Colleen Huntsberger, Gary Gardner, Gail Bean, Neysa Mueller, Bob Barnes, Jan Moch, MJ Madden, Sara Emry-Arthur, Terri Gerber, Andie Rathbone, Chris Cochran, Morgan Wood, Janet Burns, and Belinda Kromer for attending. We missed fearless leader Brenda Strong due to a death in her family. Thank you also to those who sent comments, which we included in our discussion.



But back to the sale: Brenda and I want to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make 2022's sale so successful. A cooperative work spirit was definitely a hallmark of this year's sale!

Starting back at the beginning of 2022 with setting the dates; poring over catalogues to select bulbs to order; then all the behind-the-scenes work of writing descriptions, finding photos, putting together the web-store; developing marketing materials, writing articles for publication; proof-reading everything – again and again; digging bulbs; so many e-mails!; posting highlighted bulbs and calendar details; talking on the phone; figuring out the logistics of an in-person presentation; putting together Sign-up Genius pages, then changing them; writing more descriptions and finding more photos for last-minute additions; cleaning and trimming, and tucking fresh bulbs back into soil; counting and re-counting bulbs, bags, and more; running reports and more reports – so many things before we even got to the part many of you and then the public saw. Such an incredible team “back-stage”!

Then there's the crazy warren of rooms where we get together and share space to count and bag and organize orders. The stress of things not arriving on-time or not arriving as expected – or being misplaced and showing up again (or not). The caravan of trucks moving everything from one place to another – and back again. Setting things up; taking them down. So many moving parts; so many smiling faces!

Terri will tell you that the numbers tell the story. And they do, as far as they go – we made marginally more money this year than last. Our expenses were up; tree/shrub sales were up. Master Gardeners didn't spend quite as much this year. There are still some things we can do better; some mistakes were made. We keep learning and we will adjust. Flexibility is our middle name. 2023 is just around the corner.

I'm proud to be a part of this incredible group of people and everything we accomplished with this sale. We will continue to sell only the best, proven, and locally-trialed bulbs and we'll put the money we earn back into this community to continue our mission to educate people about all the great things we can grow. You'll get one last chance to shop November 3rd. I'm hoping we sell out.

THANK YOU!

Lenka Johnson

Education Dispatch

Whew! October is over and honestly, I am glad. It is always so much fun to do the Fair and then the Bulb Sale, but it really does take all of us and all our time to manage those two huge and hugely important projects. I want to reach out to everyone who volunteered to work on either of these and the other educational outreach projects we have put on in the last two months. You have my gratitude and appreciation. Thank you!

Of course, there is no rest for the wicked or gardeners, (I wonder what that says about us?) We are hitting the ground running preparing for our end of the year educational projects, which include the new partnership with the Smith County Food Security Council. These great folks educate both children and adults who live in food deserts or are from underserved or marginalized communities to grow their own fruits and vegetables year-round to supplement their diets. We have agreed to help teach their classes once a month at Saint Paul's test garden and to help trouble shoot real time problems that client growers are having as they work in their gardens. We are very excited about this program, although it is on hold due to personnel changes on their end.

Our other big project is helping Greg host the Advanced Training for Texas Master Gardeners in Texas Superstars, November 1-3. We will be hosting this event again in 2026, so anyone who wants this training should plan on signing up or helping with the planning committee in a few years.

I am still seeking folks who have skills or talents that they want to teach other Master Gardeners either in an in-person class or a short how-to video we can put on our YouTube page. I know there are so many amazingly talented folks in our ranks, and I am calling, begging, cajoling, pleading, for you to lend us your skills. Please contact me at sevendrows87@hotmail.com or phone call or text 903 805 0768.

Elizabeth Waldrop

HELP DESK UPDATE



We have had a fairly busy month at the Help Desk. A number of calls and emails were requesting information about becoming a Master Gardener, and we provide some details about our program and then send them along to Amanda, who sends and receives the applications. She is such an integral part of the business of the Help Desk, and of the MG program. Thanks, Amanda!

We also provided answers to many questions about bulbs—the sale, the store, the in-person pickup. How to store bulbs, how to plant bulbs.

Plant ID apps and Google Lens have come in handy a few times this month, as people have brought us leaves, fruit, and branches, and sent us photos of others that have stumped their gardeners.

Questions are now, predictably, moving on to how to overwinter—trees, potted plants, etc—and when to prune, how to prune, should I prune?

Gardening is a cycle, and the questions we get at the Help Desk follow that cycle. And every time we volunteer for a shift, we learn. Think about joining us—if you've had the training class, here's the SignUp link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054da5ae2aaaf94-helpdesk1>

MaryJo

EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!

Tyler Morning Telegraph (Sundays only)

November 6 – “Hello Beautiful” – Heather Stephens

November 13 – “Help My Yard is All Shade!” – Maggie Talliaferro

November 20 – “Mums & Pumpkins?” – Lynn McGinnis

November 27 – “Snap, Crackle, Crunch!” – Miranda Arney

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

Lindale News & Times (Thursdays only)*

November 3 – “Winterize Your Garden” – Jolana Damkroger

November 10 – “Cascading Wisteria” – Jim Powell

November 17– “To Spray or Not to Spray” – Janine Purcell

November 24 – “Mums & Pumpkins?” - Lynn McGinnis

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

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

Lynn McGinnis



Programming Committee Report

First Tuesday in the Garden continues on Tuesday, November 1st at noon in the IDEA Garden with a timely program by Andie Rathbone titled "Bundle Up Your Garden".

Andie will present best practices to prepare your plants for a cold winter.

Paul Wick

November 2022

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM 	2 Shade Garden workday 9:00 Greenhouse workday 8:30	3 SCMG Meeting Rose Center 11:30 AM	4	5 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
6 	7	8 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM	9 Shade Garden workday 9:00 Greenhouse workday 8:30	10	11 	12
13	14 <i>National Pickle Day</i> 	15 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM	16 Shade Garden workday 9:00 Greenhouse workday 8:30	17 SCMG BOD Classroom 10:00	18	19 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
20	21	22 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM	23 Shade Garden workday 9:00 <i>Grapevine deadline</i>	24 	25 <i>Black Friday</i>	26
27 <i>Advent Starts</i> 	28 <i>Cyber Monday</i>	29 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM <i>Giving Tuesday</i>	30 Shade Garden workday 9:00 Greenhouse workday 8:30			