

MG Grapevine

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**The next SCMG Association meeting is
Thursday, Dec 8 2022
At 11:30 AM at
Rose Garden Center**

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Garden Winks

The year is almost a wrap! Cold mornings, frost on the ground and frost cloth covering plants are things that challenge gardeners, but they are not show-stoppers. We put on our long johns, hats and gloves and take care of our favorite spaces preparing them for warmer days ahead.

November started with a statewide advanced training class right here in Smith County. If you haven't had the experience of attending the Super-Star Advanced Training, put it on your bucket list for 2024. It will be two years before we have the opportunity again and it will be in San Antonio. Many thanks to Greg Grant, Terri Gerber and the committee for leading the planning and organization of this class. The audience was spellbound by the lectures of the Certified SuperStar Experts. Included in the training was a well-attended tour of our Tyler Botanical Garden and some even stayed around to attend our Monthly Membership Meeting. Compliments and praises were abundant from our gardening friends that came from far and near in Texas. Thank you to all those who volunteered to assist in the training, to those who hosted the Garden Tour for these guests and to those who shared cookies at the meeting!



It has been a great year for the SCMGA. Our accomplishments have been many and the number of volunteer hours are impressive. You all have blessed my life and my experience as the 2022 President in so many ways that I couldn't possibly list them all. Being really honest, in January when the year started, I was apprehensive about my ability as a leader in the opportunities ahead. Thankfully, I was blessed with a wonderful and supportive team. No one could do this without this incredible group. You all have made this year very special not just for me but for this organization and our gardening family. Finding words to show my appreciation and thanks would never be grand enough, so I hope each of you know how much your contributions and support have meant to me and to SCMGA. I have said it before and will say it again, you all are blessings to this community!

Congratulations to the newly elected 2023 SCMGA Board of Directors! Installation of these new officers will be held at the January Monthly Membership Meeting. Thanks to each one for agreeing to serve in a role for this organization that leads and develops our Master Gardeners!

May the New Year 2023 bring even more wonderful gardening experiences for all of you and the SCMGA! God bless you all in the Holiday Season with good health and the love of family and friends celebrating the "Reason for the Season"!

Belinda Kromer

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December Membership Meeting

Our annual holiday luncheon returns—please see page 5 for details!

Elizabeth Waldrop





THANK YOU!!! Greg Grant

I know Thanksgiving has come and gone but I'm a firm believer that thanks giving should come every day of every month.

There's not one day that goes by that I don't read or hear somebody ranting about what they aren't happy with. I realize that this is some folks' nature and apparently makes them happy somehow, but not me! I don't always succeed, but I try my best to be like my Granny Ruth who found something beautiful in every weed and was thankful for life (in any form) itself.

I know you guys are used to me ranting, bossing, or wanting something, but in this newsletter, I want to share the most important information I've ever written to you, and don't you ever forget it. I am eternally thankfully for each and every Smith County Master Gardener! As you know I'm usually running around like a chicken that never even had a head to cut off and don't thank you nearly enough. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

I am forever thankful for the ones that share educational information in newsletters, newspapers, videos, photography, calendars, the internet, and social media. I am thankful for those of you that help with the East Texas State Fair. I am thankful for the Master Gardeners that give talks as part of our Speaker's Bureau. I am thankful for those of you that work tirelessly at the Tyler Botanical Garden. I am thankful for those that work with children, classes, and school gardens. I am extremely thankful for those of you

that work the endless job answering questions at our Help Desk. I am thankful for the masses that put on and pull off our amazing bulb conference and sale. I am thankful for those that help put on programs, lectures, and workshops. Thank you for cooking, cleaning, setting up, and cleaning up. I am thankful for those that put together and help us haul in our many awards. I am thankful for all of you that submit your volunteer hours each month to keep my bosses happy and me employed. I am thankful for all of you that help me gather data for my mandatory annual In-Depth Summary and Achievement Report. Thank you to all of the officers that keep the Smith County Master Gardener Association running on all cylinders. I know it's not fun or easy. Thank you for cleaning seed, sharing plants, and keeping each other engaged and happy. Thank you to my incredible helpers that put on the training classes each year. And of course, thank you for those that remind me to tie my shoes, put my shirt on right-side-out, and spell my name correctly. I know I've probably missed some, but if you are a Smith County Master Gardener, thank you for trying, thank you for helping, and thank you for being.

Working for the public and educating the masses isn't easy or for the faint of heart and I literally couldn't do my job and wouldn't survive without you. So, from the bottom of my heart and the top of my head, THANK YOU, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

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

Greg Grant, Amanda Southard, Terri Gerber, Lynn McGinnis and the whole SuperStar Advanced Training Committee

It was an easy call to determine the "Above and Beyond" choice for November. If you have ever been part of the preparation and planning for a statewide training event, you know the efforts required to be successful. If you haven't, you can't imagine the hours of work that goes into such an event. With an outstanding team of Greg Grant, our incredible Amanda Southard, our treasurer and committee chair for the event, Terri Gerber, Lynn McGinnis and all the SuperStar AT committee members, this advanced training set a high bar for any future training events in the State of Texas! Lynn McGinnis and Amanda Southard knocked it out of the park with Door Prize Donations and Event Donations from the community. Swag bags for all attendees were the best and even included creative homemade touches from Terri Gerber. The registration team worked wonders welcoming these class members from all over the state. The Holiday Inn proved to be an excellent location for the event, with exceptional service and delicious food. Our own SCMGA member's hospitality gave me great pride on that final day with the Tyler Botanical Garden Tour and Monthly Meeting attendance of these statewide guests.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the success of this training that only occurs every two years and only comes to Smith County every four years! You all went "Above and Beyond" in so many special ways!

Belinda Kromer

IDEA Garden

Every fall, we dress up the IDEA garden with a wide variety of ornamental or flowering cabbages, kale and other leafy greens such as 'Bright Lights' chard. These aren't known for their flowers but instead for the colorful leaves forming a rosette or sometimes colorful stems. The best method of planting these ornamental cabbages is to tilt them forward in the bed facing the best viewing angle instead of straight up. This positioning lets you see the entire top of the plant but makes it harder to hold water, and that can damage the plant during freezes.

In addition, these leafy ornamentals are complimented with plantings in varied colors of pansies, violas, panolas, snapdragons and dianthus. It is a winning combination going into the winter months since these guys are all tough enough to survive freezes. The pansies, etc. go somewhat dormant during that time but come spring, they are showing off again with more blooms. Snipping off spent blooms and shaping them up helps prolong the blooming season in spring.

If the term 'panola' is new to you as it was to some of us, it is a plant that is the best of both the regular pansy and viola. Being same size as the pansy but with a wider variety of color choices, it has the cold-hardiness of the viola.

Come out and look around at the interesting planting patterns with the aforementioned plants to get IDEAs for your own beds! Christmas decorations will soon be adorning the gardens to help get us in the spirit of the season! Happy holidays from the IDEA garden!

Laurie Graham



Shade Garden

Fall is looking good on the Shade Garden; camellias are blooming and the Japanese maples are beginning to show out. With this issue it seemed the perfect time to showcase one of our favorite *Acer palmatum*: 'Arakawa.' A quiet and sturdy beauty in the center of the Shade Garden, it is a true gem.

'Arakawa' is known for its beautiful form, seasonal color and unusual cork-like bark, from which its other common name comes, 'Rough-bark Japanese Maple.' The warty covering develops as the tree matures,



around the fourth year, adding particular dimension and specific note in the winter. The striking bark, com-

bined with its graceful horizontal habit, adds a quiet but sculptural element to an outdoor space, making it an ideal garden muse.

Known for its year-round interest, 'Arakawa' has striking foliage—deeply palmate with 5 to 7 lobes per leaf. During spring, leaves turn a glimmering chartreuse. Small umbels form in shades of red and purple. While insignificant, the inflorescence adds a dimension of depth and understated color. These flowers give way to pretty paired samaras that mature August to September. By summer the leaves become bright green which persists until fall, when they transition to a kaleidoscope of yellow, red, purple, bronze and orange. Come winter, the leaves are shed, revealing the tree's beautiful bark.

This gem prefers moist, well-drained, mildly acidic and richly organic soil. In East Texas, 'Arakawa' makes an ideal under-story planting, but does well with morning sun and mid to late afternoon shade. With good care, the *Rough-barked Maple* grows 10-14 feet in 10 years, reaching 20-25 feet at maturity.

Katy Barone

Greenhouse Update

Here's hoping that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I have been most thankful for the rain we're getting as I write this article. The lack of rain has been worrisome for me as we entered fall, so I am happy to see it. I know some would rather not have it, but for gardeners it's a wonderful thing.

The greenhouse was doing well when I was over there just this past week. Everything was in order for a winter greenhouse. It is closed up with the heater running for when temperatures dip. It will have 4 days of no prying eyes as the city facility is closed for the holidays.

We have cuttings galore that were donated most graciously by the Idea Garden. Some of these are non cold hardy cuttings that will hopefully go back in the garden come



spring. We have started Alternanthera, Orthosiphon aristatus (cat whiskers), Tapioca plant and many others. I say hopefully because at this moment I have no

idea what winter holds for us. I hope it's not too drastic.

I wanted to thank Cynthia Siegel for dropping by and teaching her propagation method of starting rose cuttings with toilet tissue. I had never heard of this method before, but it is an interesting idea. We are currently testing the technique in the greenhouse. I hope to see roots on these cuttings in the weeks to come.

I want to thank folks who drop off plants for our use. We have had some plants donated by MGs that I know and some plants just show up on the table with no notes. Usually the unknown is quickly identified by one of the gardeners using the plant identification app. That way we can research the propagation methods and exactly what the plant needs.

As always, thanks to all the folks who come to the greenhouse on Wednesdays to help out. You make the time we spend there educational and enjoyable. Since no one gardener knows it all, sharing ideas and experiences makes it fun for all. We hope to see you at the greenhouse to share your ideas on growing plants.

Debbie Taylor

REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING November 17, 2022

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

Items discussed included the following:

- Projects to be submitted for State MG awards
- Status of the efforts of the Budget Committee
- New storage space for ETSF supplies
- Status of plans for Christmas luncheon
- Status of new projects of Development and Home Garden Tour
- Proposed methods of encouraging cash donations to SCMGA

MaryJo Madden, Past President/Parliamentarian

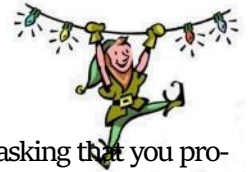


VMS Update

While most MGs have well completed their volunteer hours and CEs for the year, please don't stop inputting what you do. It's very important that we capture all of the great work done by our organization. So please get those hours and CEs into VMS and help us finish out a record breaking year!

Mary Hamlin

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON SIGNUP IS READY! THE CHRISTMAS POT LUCK CELEBRATION IS BACK!



Please click on the link below and signup to celebrate the holidays with your SCMGA Family! We are asking that you provide us the dish you will be bringing, and the number that will be attending because you are allowed to bring your spouse, significant other or special family member. These fields are mandatory, so if you are unsure what you will be bringing, just provide the generic description, like salad, dessert etc. We will be providing the meat, tea, coffee and water. Thanks in advance for signing up! We are looking forward to having this opportunity to be together again to celebrate this special season!

DATE: 2nd Thursday! December 8th

PLACE: Rose Garden Center

TIME: 11:30 am

The cutoff for signup is December 1st. We need to make sure we have enough meat and seats for everyone!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054DA5AE2AAAF94-scmga2>

SuperStar AT Training Photos



EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!

Tyler Morning Telegraph (Sundays only)

December 4 – “Searching for Balance” – Dan Gerber

December 11 – “Why Did You Plant That There?” – Marinda Arney

December 18 – “Chestnut Trees” – Stephanie Wadowsky

December 25 – Eat, Drink and Bee Merry! – Tish Kennedy

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

Lindale News & Times (Thursdays only)*

December 1 – “Feed the Birds” – Holly Hollenshead

December 8 – “Shirinyoku – Japanese Forest Bathing” – Gavin Grieb

December 15 – “No Figgy Pudding This Christmas!” – Ginger Sawyer

December 22 – “Eat, Drink and Bee Merry!” – Tish Kennedy

December 29 – “Using Recycled & Repurposed Junk for Garden Containers” – Jim Powell

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.*



Master Gardener family you are all a blessing and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Lynn McGinnis

Social Media

As I write this on Thanksgiving weekend, I'm reminded of everything that I'm thankful for in the projects I coordinate. I'm thankful for the 11,079 people from, not only East Texas, but all over the country (and abroad) that follow our Facebook page, and start interesting discussions on all things gardening.

I'm also thankful for the 21 Master Gardeners who raised their hands to do one of the "Master Your Garden" spots that we do every Thursday on Channel 19. I was so gratified that I haven't had to beg anyone to appear on TV and that you have all shown up prepared and full of excellent gardening knowledge to impart to the Channel 19 viewers. And I'm thankful to everyone who has sent me content for our Facebook page. Please keep that coming – especially as we enter our slower winter season.

Here's the top posts for October:

Andie Rathbone



#1 October 14
12,307 people reached



#2 October 3
11,232 people reached



#3 October 1
5,684 people reached



HELP DESK UPDATE

Inquiries have slowed down this month, as changes in the weather and the season have taken the focus off of lawns.

Our most frequent question right now is "What's wrong with my tree?" as trees are reacting to the stresses of our weather extremes. We get photos of trees with bark falling off, trees with blackened limbs, trees with no leaves. It's nice to have a current list of Certified Arborists in the area to send out to these folks who want to save their trees!

"How/When do I prune my tree?" is a close second. Sometimes the tree is a fig, or a peach, or even an apple, and luckily we have AgriLife publications available to send them.

We've had a few interesting photos asking for insect ID and weed ID, and once again, our apps came to the rescue! Andie Rathbone ID'd the one on the left!

If you've had the training, now is a good time to get some volunteer hours in on the Help Desk—low stress!

Mary Jo

Programming Committee Report

Here is the Master Gardeners at the Library schedule for 2023:

20 January - Dr. Andrew King, "Something old, Something new: Exciting new plants from one of Texas' oldest nurseries" Andrew King, a fourth generation east Texas nursery professional, will share many exciting new annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees for the east Texas garden. In addition to introducing the plants, Andrew will share stories and tips about each species that will aid gardeners in their quest to get the most out of their landscape."

17 February - Andie Rathbone, "Prep Now for a Beautiful Garden Later"

Learn from a Smith County Master Gardener what you can do in our colder winter months to ensure a beautiful garden when spring arrives.

17 March - Elizabeth Waldrop, "The Physic: Gardens that Heal, Gardens that Harm"

A Smith County Master Gardener gives an exploration of Physic Gardens, natural medicine both ancient and modern, and the plants that have been panacea and poison through time".

21 April - Katy Barone, "No-till Garden for Small Spaces"

A Smith County Master Gardener shows how to transform that small space into something beautiful with little effort.

19 May - Dr David Creech, "Japanese Maples, Azaleas, Camellias and More-How Many Varieties Are Enough?"

For over 35 years, SFA Gardens has been a collectors' garden acquiring as wide a range of plant materials as possible with a backbone of unusual trees and shrubs. The diversity of special collections and cultivars adapted to the Gulf Coast is part of the mission to educate, entertain and enlighten visitors and students to the wonders of adventuresome gardening in East Texas.

Dale Wade

SEED BANK UPDATE

This month, we have taken in seeds and we have given out seeds! That's the way any bank works! We made seed packets for those who attended the Texas Superstar Advanced Training, as well as for a large group from out of town that toured the TBG.

Everyone who received seed packets was thrilled, according to those who distributed them! We do need to work on our label alignment, though.

Recent additions to the Seed Bank include Honey Locust and Red Bud seeds. If you are working on a project that could make use of our seeds, please let us know—that's what they're for! And if you have seeds to contribute, bring them on!

Mary Jo



December 2022

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
4	5	6 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM	7 Shade Garden workday 9:00	8 SCMG Meeting Rose Center 11:30 AM	9	10
11	12	13 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM	14 Shade Garden workday 9:00	15 SCMG BOD Clear Springs Restaurant 11:30	16	17 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
18  First Night of Hanukkah	19	20 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM	21 Shade Garden workday 9:00	22	23 Grapevine deadline Office Closed	24
25 	26 Office Closed	27 HRG/IDEA Garden Work- day 9:00 AM	28 Shade Garden workday 9:00	29	30	31 