



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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**The next SCMG Association meeting is
Thursday, January 5, 2023
At 10:00 AM at
Tyler Rose Center**

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Garden Winks

Where do I start? I gave you my promise at the beginning of the year to do my best to support all of you and our organization this year. Thankfully, the 2022 BOD, my team, was the greatest group any President could wish for and because of this great team and all of our members, we had an outstanding year! I want thank all of you for your feedback, advice, critiques, and most of all your dedication and time commitments to the SCMG. We had a really busy year with lots of 'irons in the fire' and even adding new events and programs to our already long list of volunteer opportunities. The enthusiasm and hard work in this group is so admirable. We grew because each one of you supported that growth! We are blessed by all of you and what you give back to this community!



The new year welcomes a new President, Elizabeth Waldrop. There is no limit to her talents and ideas to grow the program and make us even better. We are in great hands and I know that first hand from her incredible support as my Vice President. The new board is loaded with great talent and skills. I look forward to this new year with this team in my new advisory role as Parliamentarian.

January is the start of our new class and this year it is Class 30! We have a large group again and it will require our help to get the students through our program. That means we will need volunteers for our mentoring program when that time comes. Please consider it a privilege if you are asked to support one of these new potential Master Gardeners as a mentor. It is such an important part of our program.

As a reminder, January is also our annual dues month. We have a deadline by TXMG to have them in by the end of January and need to get them in as soon as possible. You will hear from the Treasurer team of Terri Gerber and Sara Emry-Arthur on methods to get those paid.

Thank you all for your diligence in VMS in 2022. Remember in 2023 if you have challenges with the system let one of us know. We are happy to help! Don't wait, try to get your hours in at least by the end of each month. That is helpful to all of us and especially Greg Grant!

Finally, I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year 2023! Let's make this the best year ever!

Belinda Kromer

Inside this issue:

Board of Director Notes.....P 6
Committee Reports.....P 2-8
Garden Reports.....P 3
Greg's Column.....P 2
January Calendar.....P 10



New Maples at TBG Greg Grant

If you didn't get a chance to visit our Shade Garden at the Tyler Botanical Garden this fall, you missed an amazing show of color. Our three main plant themes in this garden are azaleas, camellias, and maples, and though the sasanquas recovering from the 2021 made a bit of a show, everything in town paled compared to the show of our amazing maple collection. As a matter of fact, we have so many maples, I've deemed our collection an "Aceretum."

In addition to many dozens of Japanese maples we also have bigtooth maple, chalk maple, Mexican sugar maple, red maple, Shantung maple, silver maple, southern sugar maple, and trident maple plus a number of cultivars and hybrids. As most of our maple species are small statured at maturity, I'm working on adding more tree sized maples to expand the color upward and outward. This is especially critical after losing a number of large oaks during this summer's drought. After all, we can't call it a Shade Garden without shade!

Lucky for us, my distant cousin and now distant Smith County Master Gardener Liz Wiley made a generous donation of several new maples in memory of her late husband. I picked them out, purchased, and planted them during a day of sleet in December so I can say for sure that they were planted with love and care.

Here's what we added;

Coral Bark Maple (*Acer palmatum* 'Sango Kaku'): This popular Japanese maple is even more known for its beautiful coral colored bark than its yellow fall color. The two colors together create a striking combination. I planted it in Liz's former bed.

Brandywine Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Brandywine'): Brandywine red maple is a cross between 'October Glory' and 'Autumn Flame.' Fall color transitions from a brilliant red to red-purple color.

October Glory Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'October Glory'):

'October Glory' is one of the most popular red maple cultivars. Its foliage turns a brilliant orange to red color in fall.

Summer Red ® Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Summer Red'): Summer Red® is a beautiful and unique *Acer rubrum* selection. This newer cultivar exhibits outstanding burgundy red new foliage. Mature foliage is a dark purplish green with a silvery white reverse. Fall color is distinctive with older leaves turning yellow while the younger leaves change to orange or purple; very unique.

We already have 'Burgundy Belle,' 'Florida Flame,' (the only Southern selection available) and 'Autumn Blaze' (a cross between red maple and silver maple) in our collection. Just imagine what a sight (and site) to behold it will be when these get some size on them. Thank you sweet Liz and thank you Smith County Master Gardeners for making this such a showplace.

Several Smith County Master Gardeners and I will be attending the Texas Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta January 18-20 hosted by the Houston Arboretum. We have lots to be proud of considering we have no paid employees and only a small budget.

January Membership Meeting

Please remember our January Monthly Meeting is the installation of the BOD for 2023 and a business meeting. It begins at 10 am in the Camellia room in the Rose Garden Center Thursday January 5.

Elizabeth Waldrop

REPORTS FROM THE GARDENS



IDEA Garden

How special the beautiful fall color was this year! And it lingered into December with the leaves finally falling everywhere as we were decorating for Christmas. And now with leaves gathered for the compost bin and with garlands, decorations and lights put away, plants in the garden start their winter sleep. But come spring, then summer, they will emerge, ready to put on their show! Newly purchased plants and those propagated will also appear in the form of new designs and placements offering interesting ideas for observers to copy at home. That's why it's called the IDEA garden! About that same time, the new interns show up eager to participate and learn and we welcome them with open arms and gloved hands!

Activities this past year in the garden included the greenhouse folks gathering cuttings and/or seeds that can be propagated and shared later with all the Botanical Gardens. And new to our organization this year are the CBS-19 Thursday noon TV spots, many of which have taken place in the

IDEA garden. Andie has done a great job helping the presenters and it has been fun to watch while showing off the blooms. Then there is the popular First Tuesday in the Garden, tours from garden clubs, visiting classrooms and a tour of the Superstar trained Master Gardeners from all over the state in early November. Plus Greg had an impromptu color tour of the gardens for Tuesday workers in late November which was wonderful and informative!

With the New Year, we reflect on the past and remember all the hard work that goes into the garden every Tuesday morning. We have such dedicated section leaders that faithfully show up every week to tend their parcel. Without all of them, including extra members and new interns, the IDEA garden wouldn't look so outstanding. They all deserve many thanks and much appreciation! 🍌

Come see us in the garden and from all of us, we hope you have a happy and bountiful New Year!

Laurie & Cindy

Shade Garden

December was generally a quiet month for the Shade Garden though we accomplished a good bit of maintenance, added some new plantings and repositioned a few, young, Japanese maples. We have also spent some time making plans for projects in the new year. Look for activity around the new woodland walk area in the coming months!

Katy & Dana



“Above and Beyond Master Gardener Spotlight”– SCMGA – January 2023

The 2022 Board of Directors for SCMGA without hesitation is the December “Above and Beyond” winner! It is so appropriate to Spotlight the leadership members of our outstanding organization and the people who held me up as President for 2022 as the last Spotlight for the year. To say each one of them went Above and Beyond is an understatement! Being a member of the BOD is a commitment to time, leadership and work in areas that require attention to detail throughout the year. No one person can lead this group alone. It takes a great team that there is no better group anywhere! It has been a privilege to work with each one of these people!

THANK YOU for always going Above and Beyond and for your dedication to the SCMGA in 2022. Each one of you contributed so much to make this a great year for all of us! You are all blessings to SCMGA!

Elizabeth Waldrop-Vice President, Mary Cantrell-Secretary, Terri Gerber-Treasurer, Sara Emry-Arthur-Assistant Treasurer, Mary Jo Madden-Parliamentarian, Lucy Morgan-

Historian, Andie Rathbone-Board Member-At-Large, Debby Watkins-State Director, Janet Burns-State Director, Susan Seale-Alternate State Director, Henry Burch-Alternate State Director, Lynn McGinnis-Communication and Technology.



Belinda Kromer

From Bulbs To Blooms 2023 - Year #25!

If you want to be a part of this committee this year, we want you! Please reach out to Lenka or Jolana and we'll hook you up with others of like interests. There are lots of new opportunities as we explore sponsorships, new products, new technology, and more.

We need scouts! Please begin to look for blooming bulbs - early ones are appearing in a landscape near you. If you see bunches of blooms, numerous enough to suggest harvesting, note the location and take a photo. We're moving "back to our roots" this year, hoping to offer more local bulbs and limiting those ordered from afar. This will take a concerted effort, so we need you!



Finally, if you have any ideas on how From Bulbs to Blooms can make this year special, the time to speak out is now!

Lenka @ lenka_7@msn.com; 970.215.2988 or Jolana @ hoxieanne@hotmail.com; 785.226.1898

Lenka

Education Dispatch

We are already getting requests from the community and having members step up to do education.

On January 17 at 1:30 in the classroom in the Cotton Belt Dan Gerber will teach us how to sharpen our tools in a hands on tool sharpening workshop. Bring your favorite tool and come to learn this important skill.

We are also helping out with the Arbor Day Celebration at Fun Forest in Tyler on January 21st. We will have volunteers manning our education table and anyone who wants to help plant trees should be there at 9 am.

Elizabeth

EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!

Tyler Morning Telegraph (Sundays only)

January 1 - "Master Gardeners at the Library" - Lynn McGinnis

January 8 - "Texture in the Garden" - Ann Hooks

January 15 - "Care for Your Garden Tools" - Trudy Haynes

January 22 - "Seeds" - Bill Faber

January 29 - "Beginnings" - Sam Lackey



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

Lindale News & Times (Thursdays only)*

January 5 - "Master Gardeners at the Library" - Lynn McGinnis

January 12 - "Gardening - It Does the Body Good" - Beth Guinn

January 19 - "The Thrill, The Fill and The Spill - Creating a Stunning Container Garden" - Sylvia Masters

January 26 - "Keyhole Gardens" - Doc Fletcher

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.*

Hope you all have a safe and Happy New Year!

Thanks again for all your amazing articles.

Lynn McGinnis



REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING December 15, 2022

The December 2022 Board of Directors Meeting was held in person at Clear Springs Restaurant, Tyler.

Among the items discussed were the following:

- SCMGA Budget for 2023
- Status of State Award submissions
- Storage space at the Cotton Belt
- report on the TXMG meeting held December 2

Mary Jo Madden, Past President/Parliamentarian

Greenhouse Update

There is a lot that has happened in the greenhouse in the month of December. So much of it was really good until this last week. We had plants blooming and putting on lots of new growth.

Then as life happens, the weather changed drastically and left the greenhouse with lots of damage. Our beautiful Cat Whiskers, Coleus, Amaranthus, and some others took the hardest hits. These are not cold hardy plants, but I was not expecting what I found.

I had high hopes, but they were quickly snuffed out by the cold temps.

That's the thing about a greenhouse, the heater must be capable of keeping the temps above freezing in order to avoid this kind of damage. That apparently wasn't the case for this greenhouse. Those were some bitterly cold, nasty days and the heater couldn't keep up. I wasn't able to access the greenhouse for 4 days so I had no idea what I was going to find. I'm sure ours wasn't the only damage in town. Yet, it's painful all the same.

Most of our cold hardy plants seemed to weather the cold temps. There wasn't a lot of cold damage to them. Plus, they're hardy so they'll bounce back during the warm temps over the next 10 days. I'll be reporting on how those plants are doing as they have had time to heal. I would like to be outraged, but I can't be. It's winter and winter in Texas has been bitterly cold early this year. It's nothing I can control and I can't worry about it too much. You can just do what you can and hope for the best. Overall, I thought we came out ok from the storm. It won't stop us from doing what we do there and that's create new plants to share with the gardens and the gardeners.

I'm definitely hoping for a milder rest of the winter though.

No Photo

It would be too sad



Debbie Taylor

VMS Update

Thanks to everyone who has entered their hours and CEs into VMS this year! The numbers are amazing so far. And if you still have those crumpled napkins, multiple paper scraps and phone notes that still need to be entered, there's plenty of time so please get those in!

Mary Hamlin

Programming Committee Report

Dale Wade



The poster is titled "2023 Master Gardeners Library Lecture Series" and is set against a light beige background with a torn-paper edge effect. It is decorated with illustrations of red chrysanthemums, pink cherry blossoms, and two monarch butterflies. The Texas Master Gardener logo, featuring a star and the text "TEXAS MASTER GARDENER TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION Smith County", is at the top center. The event details, including the location at the Tyler Public Library and the fact that lectures are free and open to the public, are listed below the title. Five lectures are scheduled for January, February, March, April, and May, each with a date, speaker, and topic. A QR code and contact information are provided at the bottom left, and a Facebook logo is at the bottom right. A small disclaimer at the very bottom states that the members of Texas A&M Agrilife provide equal opportunities in programs and activities.

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Smith County

2023 Master Gardeners Library Lecture Series

Please join us at 11:30 a.m. at the
Tyler Public Library Taylor Auditorium
201 S. College Avenue, Tyler, Texas
Lectures are free and open to the public

January 20
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."

February 17
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.

March 17
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".

April 21
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.

May 19
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.

 For more information contact: 903-590-2994
<https://txmg.org/smith/events/>
follow us on Facebook 

The members of Texas A&M Agrilife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and any other classification protected by federal, state or local law and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M Agrilife.

Social Media

We have come to the end of another year and as I look at my new calendar I wonder how it's possible that we've arrived at 2023. It also reminds me that twenty years ago this month I sat down at a table in room 116 of the Cotton Belt Building and began my training to become a Smith County Master Gardener. A lot has happened in those twenty years, and much of it has involved using technology to advance our mission of educating the community about horticulture. This year will be no exception as we're looking forward to a new library lecture series, more workshops, weekly TV spots on Channel 19, restarting our Home Garden Tour and the 25th Anniversary of our award winning From Bulbs to Blooms sale.

We'll be promoting all of these things, plus posting gardening tips and information on our Facebook page. Again, thanks for all the pictures, jokes, and magazine articles you've sent me to share on the page. *Please keep these coming!*

Everyone have a safe and Happy New Year. I know 2023 is going to be great!
Here are the top three Facebook posts from November.

Andie Rathbone



11/4 – Friday Funny
16,007 people reached



11/8 Gulf Coast Muhly Grass
7000 people reached



11/30 – Shade Garden
5373 people reached

New Class and Mentor News

The 2023 New Member Class begins January 5 with 28 students expected for Class 30. This means a nearly full classroom, so certified MGs desiring CEs should coordinate with Heather Stephens or Chris Cochran to ensure space is available.

Heather.e.stephens@gmail.com

Reldac@yahoo.com

28 students means that we will need 28 Mentors beginning in April. Your participation in the Mentor Program is really vital to ensure the best possible Intern experience. Please consider volunteering for this mutually rewarding role! Mentor Training will be held Feb 6, 9-11 am, in the Extension classroom. Contact Heather Stephens to volunteer as a Class 30 Mentor.

Heather.e.stephens@gmail.com

Heather

HELP DESK UPDATE

December gave us the opportunity to learn about growing pears and strawberries in East Texas! Dr. Masabni helped us out by providing a source for much needed freeze protection supplies, and Greg sent us an article to distribute right before the Big Freeze. Educating the public is always a team effort!

Traffic is light these days, given that everyone's attention has been on the holidays, but we all know how cyclical gardening is. Gardening questions are too—it won't be long before the calls and emails are all about "my St. Augustine" and "my azaleas". But for now, we have plenty of time for research!

Winter is here—in case anyone didn't notice! Those who volunteer at the Help Desk earn their hours in relative warmth and comfort, so think about signing up for a shift or two!

Mary Jo

A Note From Elizabeth:

A new year brings new promise, hope, challenge and opportunity. That's why we place so much importance on our New Year traditions. It is also why we look back at the old year to see what we should carry forward and what we should let go so we don't clutter up all that possibility with stale situations and worn-out solutions that don't fit this new thing we have been given.

When I was working, a new year was a bigger deal to me than it is now. It brought me one year closer to whatever dreams I had for the future. It made me a year older, (darn those January birthdays). It seemed to me to be a big looming balance sheet of what I had saved, what I had done and not done, what praise and reprimand I may have garnered and what boxes I had to tick off to do better.

I am happy to say...to heck with all that! I am very lucky and grateful not to have to measure my life that way anymore. I gauge it now, especially after the horrors of Covid, by how many friends and family I can talk to or spend precious time with. I add up how many hours I get to work on my hobbies, or how much time I can sit with a cup of coffee or a cat in my lap. I tally how clean and orderly my house and garden are (they aren't, but I can dream). I jealously count every wildflower that pops up in the pasture, and how many honeybees verses bumblebees visit my herb garden. My days are purposefully simple and mundane. Most people hearing a recap of my daily life would think it was the most boring thing they ever heard, and that's just the way I like it.

So, as your new President, I just want to remind everyone of you. You are important. You are valuable. We need you and your talents to strengthen and enrich all that we do. You are the reason we can do so much and I appreciate you more than I can say.

You are also grown folks who have had hard jobs and complicated lives. Many of you have run businesses, been in charge of people, money and had big responsibilities. Those experiences shaped the incredible talented people you are today. I trust you will continue to do what you say you will, accomplish all the things that are required of you, and if you need mine or anyone else's help, advice, or encouragement you will seek it, because it will be freely and happily given. But being a Master Gardener isn't a job, it's a privilege. As Greg so beautifully says, "If you can't be happy gardening and teaching folks about loving nature, you are doing it wrong!" I am going to borrow that as a mantra for this year. I am not a micro manager, I am not a fussy, and I don't fret over what anyone else is doing or not doing. Also, like you, I am a volunteer. I take weekends off, and my phone goes silent from 7pm to 7am every day. It takes that kind of downtime for me to stay sane, and I am a big proponent of sanity.

So, here is my promise to you. I am going to work hard this year and give 110 % to everything I do. I am going to support each and everyone one of our programs, projects and members. But I am also going to live my little boring life and hoard my private time like a Tolkien dragon hoards gold. And, I ask the same of you. Do Master Gardener activities you love. Share your enthusiasm, energy and knowledge about gardening with others. Build on our projects and progress as an amazing, award winning, absolutely awesome Master Gardener Association. Pitch in to help remedy our problems and give the best you have to this organization when you are engaged and log all that precious time in VMS. Then, go fishing or sew or bake bread or whatever it is you do the rest of the time and enjoy it, you deserve it. Together we can flourish as an organization that is just as accomplished and active as we have come to expect and still be volunteers with rich lives (or boring ones in my case). If we all do a little, we will accomplish everything. Is it a deal? Good. Happy New Year's ya'll!

Elizabeth Waldrop

January 2023

Smith County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 Office Closed	3 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM	4 Shade Garden workday 9:00 Greenhouse workday 8:30AM	5 SCMG Meeting Rose Center 10:00 AM Class 30 Meets 9:00	6	7 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
8	9	10 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM	11 Shade Garden workday 9:00 Greenhouse workday 8:30AM	12 Class 30 Meets 9:00	13	14
15	16 Office Closed 	17 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM	18 Shade Garden workday 9:00 Greenhouse workday 8:30AM	19 Class 30 Meets 9:00 SCMG BOD Room 114 10:00	20 MG at the Library 11:30	21 Shade Garden workday 8:30 AM
22 	23	24 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM	25 Shade Garden workday 9:00 Greenhouse workday 8:30AM	26 Class 30 Meets 9:00 Grapevine deadline	27	28
29	30	31 HRG/IDEA Garden Work-day 9:00 AM				