



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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SCMG Luncheon
Annual Awards & Recognition
April 6th
 At the Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

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 Martin Davis, Editor

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SCMG Association Luncheon April 6, 2017

A reminder that if you have not signed up for the Awards luncheon, please email Ann Smith.

Those that have volunteered to help with setup for the luncheon, please be there at 10:00 AM.

Information for May and June monthly meeting. The May meeting will be on flower photography and Cally from <https://callynthphotography.com> will share tips on flower photography.

In June we will travel to Mineola after a short business meeting in the Rose Garden Center. The subject of the day is a visit to a Guernsey Dairy Farm called Waldo Way. It was recently written up in the Tyler paper one Sunday morning. Waldo Way is a robotics operated dairy farm. It is fascinating to see an automated dairy farm, especially for an ole country boy that did it by hand (pun intended). For those that are not up for a road trip we are working on a speaker at the Rose Center. If you have questions, please call.

Wayne Elliott

Hear ye, hear ye—Ann Smith needs your RSVP for April 6 luncheon. If you prefer having a plate and fork to eat on and with, we need to know if you are coming, how many in your party and what you plan to bring to share. Don't forget to bring a serving utensil.

Email smithvae@aol.com. Thanks and see you soon.

Ann Smith

Susan Stone Sez....



Spring is a time to plant and a time to attend lectures on all things gardening. There have been many lecture opportunities of late and I've managed to attend quite a few. Mostly on daffodils it seems, but a few other topics

as well. The best lecture by far was the recent offering by the East Texas Garden Lecture Series. The topic was Native Plants and the lecturer was Greg Grant. It was a fascinating history of ecosystems, extinct species, and native plants with a little preaching and a bit of a comedy routine thrown in. It was a fun, informative way to spend a Saturday morning. If Greg gives this lecture again somewhere, it's well-worth attending.

There's a lot going on, no doubt about it. From the Rose City Artisan and Flower Market, to the Azalea Trails (with possibly fewer azaleas this year), to Dallas Blooms at the Dallas Arboretum if you can work that in. Steven Chamblee will talk about "Peace, Love & Milagros" on April 11 at The Hub. Plus, we have two more Library Lectures with Neysa Mueller and Andie Rathbone and a trip to Blue Moon for the East Texas Garden Lectures series. Finally, after a little breather, there's the Home Garden Tour on June 3.

And don't forget that our April meeting is our Annual Awards and Recognition celebration. It's time to welcome our new interns and congratulate our newly certified MGs. We'll also recognize fellow Master Gardeners who've contributed so much this past year. Since the meeting is also a luncheon, be sure to let Ann Smith know if you plan to come so she can add you to her list. A headcount is important if you want a plate and a seat.

Look forward to seeing you at the April 6th luncheon at the Rose Garden Center.

See you there, Susan Stone, President

Fake News

By Greg Grant

We've all heard much about "fake news" lately. But this is old news to gardeners however, because we invented fake news! As volunteers for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service it's crucial that we stick to science-based proven facts, not pass-a-long hearsay.

Two things make this difficult however. First, gardening is arguably the most popular of all hobbies which means there are many, many, people "experimenting" on their own at home. And because gardening is so popular these same folks like to share their findings and successes. But most home gardeners don't have a clue about randomized, replicated, scientific trials. And most don't include any controls or other plants or practices for comparison. Just because something appeared to work doesn't mean it's the best option or explains why it works. Unlike home experimentation, scientific trials are peer reviewed which means other scientists critique the study to make sure it holds up to academic scrutiny. In the scientific world of horticulture, information is only turned loose to the public when it's proven to be accurate.

Unfortunately, in these days of the internet and social media all sorts of what I call "gimmick gardening" is spread from one side of the globe to the others. Much of it is based



on being novel not on fact.

There are a couple of ways to see through this "fake gardening news." One is to always check the source. The most accurate source of gardening information generally comes from land grant universities and will have a web address ending in .edu. But that's not enough. To be applicable to East Texas, it needs to be from a land grant university in the southeastern U.S. since gardening here is similar to gardening in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, etc. Never forget that gardening information from the North and Europe is often just the opposite for East Texas, which means yes can be no, and right can be wrong.

Another way to "fact check" information you are reading and sharing is to note whether the author has a bachelor's degree in horticulture. You'd be amazed how many freelance garden writers and web "experts" have no degree in horticulture at all. In addition to hopefully a lifetime of gardening experience, this is where true experts learn the scientific basis for horticulture and learn the difference between fact and fiction. There are plenty of horticulturists with Masters and PhD degrees in horticulture that lack B.S. degrees in the subject. They often stray from basic horticulture due to either not having much hands-on gardening experience or the fact that they never took four years of basic horticulture classes. And certainly, always pay attention to those selling products. Their job is to sell, not educate.

Smith County Master Gardener Home Garden Tour

The tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 3.

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Tickets \$10 in advance \$15 day of tour

The gardens are secured. The tickets are being printed. MG's are signing up to be docents on June 3. Have you? Everything is moving along, but MG help is still needed.

The gardens on the tour are as follows:

- Garden 1 Hipke Garden-4213 Fillbrook
- Garden 2 Loeppky Garden 4405 Lazy Creek
- Garden 3 Wade Garden 3309 Oak Knoll
- Garden 4 Mattek Garden 6018 Covey Lane
- Garden 5 Strauss Garden 9163 Chisholm Trail

There is a need for 2 or 3 men to put up the banners when the time comes and take down after the tour. Two team leaders are still needed (or find a buddy and do it together). If you can fill any of these jobs, please let Jean Smith know.

Lots of slots are still open to be docents in the gardens the day of the tour. Signup sheets will be available at the luncheon in April so gather your friends, mentors team up with your intern, and sign up for a garden.

If you can't make the April luncheon, email smithjean17@hotmail.com with your garden selection and time slot. All gardens need afternoon docents.



April Showers & May Flowers

by Sam Griffith



Spring has sprung. So, let us get ready to plant.

But is it too early to plant our vegetable garden? It depends on which of the “signs” you want to follow. Some of the old time folk lore says that there is often a frost around Easter, which, this year is April 16. And some say that one is to watch the pecan buds to determine when the last frost is to occur, for supposedly the pecan buds do not open until all danger of frost is past. And the pecans have not yet budded. And, as I suggested last month, one should read the planting directions on the back of seed packages to decide when you are “safe” to plant, and many of the seed packages suggest not planting until April, which is a week away.

So, is it too early to plant delicate plants and vegetables now? Of course, according to the “signs”, it may be too early.

But the soil is warm (the soil temperature is over 60 degrees because the bermuda grass is sprouting). And the birds are singing. And I have “spring fever”. So, heck I am planting, and if there is a late frost around Easter, well, I’ll just replant. But if there is no more frost (which I suspect will be the case), I’ll be ahead of the curve.

So, this past weekend, I planted my tomatoes and tomorrow, I intend to plant watermelons and cantaloupes. I am going whole-hog in planting my spring garden.

However, I would suggest multiple, sequential plantings of your favorite vegetables. Since we are starting our gardening a little early, it would be beneficial to have new waves of newly-sprouted squash and cucumbers and such coming on as the season progresses.

So it is great news that spring came early.

But there is a downside to the early spring, and the relatively mild winter: BUGS!!! Last week, I was admiring a beautiful iris, but then I noticed some weird “growths” all over one of the flowers. I looked closer, and the “growths” were moving. They were actually fully grown stink bugs! And yesterday, I glanced into a tub near the house and it was full of wiggly mosquito larva. So, we must be proactive about emptying containers of water in the yard to quell the mosquitos. And we had better get ready to contend with early and massive waves of bugs, bugs, bugs all summer.

But enjoy the spring planting season. It is what we vegetable growers have been waiting for.



The Executive Committee met on March 17, 2017. The following action items were discussed:

- Project Status– Rose City Artisans & Flower Market, Home Garden Tour and the Bulb Sale projects are all successfully underway. The Calendar and Gardening Guide and AgriWorld projects will have completed initial meetings by the end of March.
- IRS Form 990-N – Due to issues with filing the 2016 tax return, the Committee voted to become a part of the Texas Master Gardener Association’s umbrella process to assist individual associations with annual filings. SCMG will retain its own tax ID number and will complete its own 990-N filing, but will receive advice and updates from TXMGA.
- Bylaws – Based on the decision to become part of TXMGA’s IRS 990 process, SCMG Bylaws will need to be revised in accordance with specific mandatory verbiage. A subcommittee of the Executive Committee will address the IRS issues as well as clarifying other language. The Bylaws will be presented to the membership for approval in accordance with current Bylaws’ requirements.

Membership Directory

The 2017-2018 *Membership Directory* will be available at the April 6th luncheon. Check it out and if you find any errors, please advise Martin Davis.

One change that came to us too late to make the new book is: Gary Newman’s new email – n5xpd@att.net

Garden Gala Day Plant Sale

Stephen F. Austin State University’s SFA Gardens will host its annual Garden Gala Day Plant Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St., in historic Nacogdoches.

The sale will feature a variety of hard-to-find, “Texas-tough” plants, including Texas natives, heirlooms, tropicals, perennials, shrubs and trees, with an emphasis on pollinator friendly selections, as well as exclusive SFA introductions. The featured plants are extensively trialed before being offered to the public and are produced by staff members and volunteers of the SFA Gardens.

Parking will be available at SFA’s Janice A. Pattillo Early Childhood Research Center, 2428 Raguet St., and visitors are encouraged to arrive early and bring a wagon for their plants.

For more information, call (936) 468-4404 or visit <http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu/index.php/gardenevents>. The list of plants for sale is available at that website.

2017 East Texas Garden Lecture Series

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service invites you to their 2017 Garden Lecture Series. Registration will begin at 9 AM.

Ticket Information: Season tickets for all six seminars are \$45 per person and may be purchased in advance at the Extension Office at 1517 W. Front Street, Suite 116 in Tyler. Single tickets on sale the day of the lecture are \$15 per person.

Schedule of lectures: (all at the Tyler Rose Garden Center, unless otherwise noted)

Apr 8 – Blue Moon Nursery “From Garden to Vase” at Blue Moon Nursery – Edom

Sep 9 – Pella-legna Vineyard/Winery “In Vino Vertias” at Pella-legna Vineyard

Nov 11 – Dawn Stover, SFA Gardens “Designed Plant Communities-Planting for Pollinators in a Pest Wild World”

Texas State Awards

The Texas Search for Excellence Awards Program is sponsored by the Texas Master Gardener Association (TMGA) with guidance provided by the Texas Master Gardener Coordinator from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

This year, the Annual Awards Luncheon will take place at 12:30pm, Monday, May 1st in Galveston in the elegant Frances Anne Moody Ballroom in the Moody Gardens Hotel. Tickets are \$45 per guest.

“Peace, Love, & Milagros: Life Lessons from the Road”

Steven Chamblee (Chandor Gardens Horticulturist)

During his thirty-something years road-tripping around Texas, Steven has collected great stories about horticultural heavens, botanical blunders, and tender tales that will melt your heart. Heeding the advice of a close friend, Steven has brought his favorite stories together for a very personal presentation of inspiration, enlightenment, and humor.

The date is April 11—from 6PM to 8PM

R. B. Hubbard Center “The Hub” 304 East Ferguson, Tyler, Texas

Master Gardeners at the Library

These programs will be held on Fridays at 11:30 AM in the Tyler Library’s Taylor Auditorium. See the schedule below:

April 21, “Garden Flower Arranging” with Neysa Mueller

May 5, “Heat Loving Plants” with Andie Rathbone

This series promises to be innovative and informational, and hopefully. Each lecture is worth 1 CE. Please plan to join us on Fridays for “Master Gardeners at the Library”.

April 1, 2017 - MG Plant Sale at Marshall, TX

Opens 8 am until 2 pm - 105 N. East End Blvd, Marshall, TX (Tractor Supply Parking Lot) Herbs, Annuals, Heirlooms, Perennials, Vegetables, Figs, Roses, Hanging Baskets and so much more!



MG Class 24 visits Blue Moon Nursery



Photos by Greg Grant