



MG Grapevine



<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

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The next SCMG Meeting
February 2nd
 At the Rose Garden Center
11:30 AM

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 Martin Davis, Editor

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 Wayne Elliott, Greg Grant, Laurie Graham, Sam Griffith, Cindy Harrington, Sherri Matthews, Linda Sargent, Susan Stone and Pat Welch.

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SCMG Association Meeting February 2, 2017

The program will be presented by Brandon Jones, Tyler Kung Fu and Fitness.

Dues are Due

The SCMG Association bylaws say that the association dues are "payable annually by January 31st". If you have not already paid your dues, Treasurer Linda Sargent will once again receive them at the February 2nd meeting.

Hours Reports

Any Master Gardener who volunteered during 2016 should have reported those hours by now. If you have not, go to your computer now and send that report off to Pat Welch.

We all know how important it is to file those reports and yet there are some who just procrastinate each year. Don't be one of those people!

MG Pictures

Once again this year, those MGs who would like to have a new photograph in the MG Address Book may come to the Extension office (MG phone desk) on February 14th between 1 PM & 2 PM.



New pictures will be taken prior to taking pictures of the students in the 2017 MG class.

Susan Stone Sez....

"Mercy, y'all are a busy bunch!" That's a quote from the TXMGA awards co-chair upon reading our awards submissions for 2016. She's right; and we're not just busy, we're very good! I thought our awards submissions were exceptional and a big thank you goes to the writers Anne Pattullo, Jean Smith, Andie Rathbone and Wayne Elliott. Good writers, all, with great material to work with. And special thanks to Mary Hamlin for managing the process and Pat Welch for proofreading. I'm not biased or anything but I think we should win first place in each category.



As busy as we were last year, 2017 will be just as busy. Already, planning is underway for the Bulbs and More Sale in October. This year will be different and exciting with Greg's participation, so plan to come to our kick-off meeting on Wednesday, February 1st, and see how you can be a part of this new adventure. Other committees will also be forming soon. Jean Smith will chair the Home Garden Tour and we are actively looking for gardens to showcase. Sherri Matthews will chair the committee for the 2018 Calendar and Garden Guide. The 2017 calendar was a huge success and clearly loved by the community. That leaves our other big project, AgriWorld. Who will chair that committee, I wonder? You, perhaps?

Finally, one other big thank you. A lot of things happen behind the scenes and we tend to take for granted that someone just did it, of course, because it's there and operating as it should. Beginning in 2017 the SCMG financial process is moving to an online system. Linda Sargent has put in countless hours and while maybe not blood, some sweat and tears have been shed for sure. No small feat, and we are grateful.

Our next meeting is Thursday, February 2, at 11:30 in the Rose Garden Center. That's Ground Hog Day to some people; but we all know this year will be different and definitely not a repeat of the past!

Susan Stone, President



Narcissistic

By Greg Grant

Anybody that knows me is aware that I've had a life-long love affair with flower bulbs. I was even chastised in kindergarten by Miss Gilbert at *Peggy Ann's* school in Longview for including tulips in all of my artwork. I went on to play a little Dutch Boy, costume and all, with a cast of other "Dutch" children in front of a big windmill at our school play that year. Miss

Gilbert strongly suggested that I diversify into other flowers, and that I did!

Thanks to the many old homeplaces in Arcadia, I found many assorted heirloom *Narcissus* and zero tulips. That's because the climate in most of the South works primarily on a wet-dry cycle like the Mediterranean region instead of a warm-cold cycle like Holland.

Instead of digging into the many pass-a-long *Narcissus* I've uncovered in my rude ancestral hamlet here, let's start with what a *Narcissus* is and isn't.

Narcissus are members of the amaryllis family (Amaryllidaceae), my favorite family, and are native to Europe and the Mediterranean. There are over 50 species, but not all are adapted to the mild winters and hot summers in the South.

Botanically they all belong to the genus *Narcissus*, named for the son of Cephisus and Liriope who couldn't get over himself in Greek mythology. This is why a botanist refers to them all as *Narcissus*. Unfortunately this is an oversimplification for the diversity most gardeners come in contact with.

The American Daffodil Society (daffodilusa.org) refers to them all as daffodils, which once again is a deceptive oversimplification. They even divide them into 14 different categories which in my humble opinion is an over-complication for the average gardener.

Making matters even more confusing are those in some parts of the South that refer to them all as jonquils or "johnny quills" as one of my former aunts used to say.

However, if you are going to be one of my horticulture students, there are three fairly distinct categories that I want you to learn and use. The first category is "narcissus." These belong to or descend from polyanthus flowered *Narcissus tazetta*. They have white or creamy white, powerfully fragrant flowers in clusters and tend to bloom early in the season. They have very small cups in the flowers which is where the species name *tazetta* ("little cup") comes from.

The second category is "jonquil." They belong to or are hybrids of *Narcissus jonquilla*. These have clusters of small yellow flowers and a strong sweet fragrance. They too have very small cups. The species name *jonquilla* is a corruption of the *Juncus* genus because of their similar rush-like foliage.

The final category is "daffodil." They hail from *Narcissus pseudo-narcissus*. These are mostly yellow with one flower per stalk, a large trumpet in the middle of the flower, and little to no fragrance.

So do like I do and don't give them a choice. Make any *Narcissus* you see fit into one of my three categories, whether it wants to our not!

2017 Class XXIV SCMG –Training Schedule

Classes will be held at the Extension office, Room 257 from 1:00—5:00 PM, unless otherwise noted.

Feb 7–Perennial & Roses–Dr. William Welch–9:00 AM

Feb 9–Rose Pruning Class @ Heritage Garden, Annuals & Plant Propagation– Dr. Brent Pemberton–9:00 AM—4:00 PM all day

Feb 14–Landscape Plants–Greg Grant

Feb 16–Entomology (Insect Pests)/Pesticides & Safety– Erfan Vafaie–at TAMU–Overton

Feb 21–Diagnosing Plant Problems; Working with the public–Chad Gulley/Greg Grant

Feb 23–Vegetable Production– Dr. Joe Masabni–at TAMU Overton

Feb 28–Earth-Kind Landscaping–Greg Grant

Certified Master Gardeners earn 3 CE credits for each class audited.

The schedule of classes for March will be in the March newsletter.

Mentors Needed

Class 24 is well under way and looks to be an enthusiastic group! It will soon be time to assign mentors to the interns, so please give this serious consideration. If interested, please email me at lrgraham48@gmail.com. Thank you - Laurie Graham and Ann Smith

MG Address Book

The Address Book for 2017-2018 will be put together soon. Look at the current book and make sure the information included is accurate. Some of you have already notified us of a new address, phone number or e-mail address, but if you have a change or notice that the current information is incorrect, please advise of any change needed. Simply e-mail Martin Davis at mred2853@sbcglobal.net.

2017 MG Calendar

The 2017 Master Gardener Calendar is still available at several locations including the Extension Office. It will be sold through March 2017.

Planning for the 2018 calendar will begin in March. Put your thinking caps on and let me know what you would like

New Phone Number

Joanie Ma hews 903-590-7712



IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY FOR A LIFETIME, PLANT A TREE

by Sam Griffith

“If you want to be happy for a year, plant a garden;

“If you want to be happy for a life, plant a tree.”

English proverb

“If your plan is for one year, plant rice. If your plan is for ten years, plant trees.

If your plan is for one hundred years, educate children.”

Confucius

Gardens come and go, with seasons lasting but a few months. Plant some squash seeds, and in three or four months, depending on heat and insect infections, the squash season will be passed. But trees, trees can last for your lifetime, providing shade, maybe some pecans, and, if spaced about ten feet apart, can even provide support for a restful hammock. Some trees can even thrive for centuries. A sequoia tree has an estimated life span of eighteen hundred to twenty-seven hundred years, and soars to a height of almost three hundred feet. The Joshua tree can live over a thousand years.

Maybe we won't be planting for the centuries, but our vision should be beyond the next solar equinox.

As we plan our gardens, let us plan not just for a season, but let our plans include our kids and grandkids. My grandparents planted a fruit orchard and a pecan orchard in 1927. The last apple tree finally died a few years ago. The pecan trees, now a year shy of ninety years old, again produced a bountiful crop this year, and has provided my family with decades of beautiful, cool shade from the harsh Texas summers.

So let us plant some fruit trees this year. Winter is the time to plant fruit and nut trees. One should plant fruit and nut trees as early in the winter as you can obtain quality trees, starting in November. A problem for us in east Texas is getting the trees before February or even March. Go to the garden stores tomorrow, and you will be hard-pressed to find trees for planting. I would suggest going to Texas Pecan Nursery in Chandler, ten miles west of Tyler on U.S. 31. Texas Pecan Nursery is where many local garden stores get their fruit trees in those tiny plastic root bags containing the small, fibrous beginning roots. But if one goes to the Texas Pecan Nursery, one can buy large trees with fully developed roots, often for less than twenty dollars. And they have twenty-nine varieties of bare-rooted peaches and thirteen kinds of bare-rooted apple trees and eight varieties of plums. But the Texas Pecan Nursery selling season will be over by mid-February, so go quickly. And the trees need to be planted in their permanent location NOW. So don't wait until the little trees come to the garden store. Plant now.

A key consideration in planting fruit trees is that one should plant different varieties that produce sequentially. For instance, a Gala apple tree produces apples from July to August in east Texas. Granny Smith apples ripen in August, while Honey Crip and Winesap apples ripen in August. And Pink Lady apples ripen in late October. So one can plant apple trees that will produce apples from July through October. Similarly, judiciously selecting appropriate peach trees can produce peaches from May (Floridacrest and Rio Grande), into June (Belle of Georgia and Sam Houston) and July (Red Haven, Ranger, Red Globe, Loring and Elberta), and flowing into August (Red Baron). So you can eat fresh peaches picked from trees in your own back yard for four months, from May through August.

Plant the trees as soon as you get them home. Keep the roots damp until they are planted. If you cannot plant them the first day, plant the roots in some damp soil until you can permanently plant them. Dig large holes for the new trees, at least twice the size of the roots. If there is any potting soil around the new tree roots, remove the potting soil. Refill the hole using the native soil in which the tree will be growing. Wet the newly planted trees thoroughly so dirt is washed into every crevice around the roots, making sure that there are no air pockets among the roots. Then build a small dyke several feet around the tree trunk so you can water the trees for the next few weeks as the trees are getting established.

Then get ready for years, maybe decades, of bountiful fruit. Want to be happy for decades, maybe for a lifetime? Plant a tree.

Gardening Newspaper Columns are Back!

After a long absence, the weekly newspaper columns, published in the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* each Thursday, are available once again on the SCMG website. To read them, go to <http://txmg.org/smith/garden-notes/newspaper-columns/>

Landscape Design School

The George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A & M University will be the site of Landscape Design School II, **February 27-28, 2017**. The Schools are sponsored by Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. & the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A & M University. This course is popular with Texas Master Gardeners and can now be utilized by them for continuing education credit.

Registration form may be obtained from: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDFeb17/>

Library Series Off to a Good Start

The first in our new series of lectures at the Tyler Public Library, “Winter Sowing” by Trish Whiting, was held on Friday, January 13. The successful presentation was attended by approximately 30 people, with the majority representing the community.

The next lecture will be on Friday, **February 10, at 11:30 am**. The topic will be “The Rose Rustlers,” with that renowned author and lecturer, Greg Grant. Be sure to come early to grab a good seat.

Webinar Online Seminar

I am hosting a webinar series in 2017, once a month starting in February on a lunch hour. Anyone can participate in these webinars. Go to <http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/smallacreage/>. On the date of the webinar, just click on the link for that date and use 'online' (without quotes) if you are asked for the password. The first of the series is at noon on February 2nd (sign in at 11:30AM).

Joe Masabni Extension Small-Acreage Vegetable Specialist

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. For more information, call the Extension office at 903-590-2980.

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

Feb 11 – Dick Counts “The Buzz about Bees”

Mar 11 – Greg Grant “The Natives are Restless – Native, Exotic and Invasive Plants”

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

Gregg Co. MG Spring Gardening Seminar

March 4, 2017

Conference speakers include: Tom LeRoy, Vegetable Gardening in Containers and Steven Chamblee, Shade Gardening and Peace, Love & Milagros.

Doors open at 8:00 AM. Cost is \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For information, call 903-236-8429.

At First United Methodist Church, 400 North Fredonia St., Longview, TX

Propagation Specialist Course

The Master Gardener plant specialist course, March 24-25, at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington gives you two full days of hands-on learning a variety of propagation techniques.

Propagation experts and specialists will teach the course. Registration is limited to two MGs per county.

Cost is \$225. The registration form is available on the Texas Master Garden website, txmg.org. Click on the Specialist Training link. Deadline to register for the propagation course is March 1. Participants are encouraged to stay at the Sheraton Hotel, the host hotel. Hotel reservations are due by February 24.

For more events and more details - go to—<http://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>



Picture by Jan Moch

Go to <http://txmg.org/smith/about/> for close-up pictures.