May Meeting Speaker Dr. Creech

Our speaker for the May meeting will be Dr. David Creech, Director of the SFA Mast Arboretum. His presentation will be on Japanese Maples. Dr. Creech has done extensive work with Japanese Maples and is recognized as an expert on Japanese Maples.

After Luncheon Garden Tour

Following the May meeting we will visit the garden of Master Gardener Frieda Colfelt and her husband Bill at 2215 Firestone Circle in Hollytree West. They have a small yard with a long water feature with fish, surrounded by a variety of plants.

Directions: From Front St., go to SW Loop 323 and head South. Take a right onto Old Jacksonville Hwy. Go past the second traffic light (at Grande). Just after the Calvary Baptist Church on the left, turn left into Hollytree West, turn left again as you enter onto Firestone Circle. Follow it around to 2215 on the left. Frieda’s house is just in front of where Firestone intersects with Sawgrass. Carolyn Bonifay

SCMG Trip to Metro Maples

There is still some space available for the SCMG trip to Metro Maples in Ft. Worth on Friday, May 4th. The cost of the tour is $10.00 and includes the admission to the Japanese Gardens. The cost of lunch is each member’s responsibility.

The bus will be in the parking lot of the Tyler Rose Garden on Friday morning at 7:00 AM and will leave promptly at 7:30 AM.

If you wish to go, see Treas. Susan Holloway at the May 3rd meeting.

Awards and Recognition

The following awards were given for activity during 2006 at the Annual MG Luncheon held on April 5, 2007.

Award for most hours Master Gardener, John Brasher and intern Cindy Harrington.

Master Gardener of the year, Don Davis and Intern of the Year, Cindy Harrington.

Other awards given include: Lifetime Award, Anne Brown; New Initiative Award, Craig Reiland & Jean Watson; Youth Award, Jeanne Crotty & Mary Hamlin; Project Award, Sherri Watts; Helping Hands, Linda Sargent; President’s Award, Sue Clark and Special Award of Excellence, Martin Davis.

Mark Chamblee was made an Honorary Master Gardener, in recognition of his contribution to the Master Gardener program in Smith County and around the state.

Tyler Flower Market

This first-year event, held at the end of March, was considered a success in spite of an unusually cold day on Friday which limited the turn out.

With roses on consignment from Chamblee’s, the SCMG display garnered its share of interest and during the two-day event, 119 rose bushes were sold.

A number of people picked up educational information from the MG tent and several people indicated their interest in next year’s MG class.

A special thanks to Sue Clark for organizing the effort on short notice and to all who turned out to work during the event.
April was a month of recognition for Smith County Master Gardeners, and a new beginning for Class XIV. Let me say first, “Thank you” to all 131 certified Smith County Master Gardeners for a great year. Elsewhere in the Grapevine you can see all the members who recognized at the April Graduation and Awards Luncheon for outstanding educational programming service to our County. Smith County Master Gardener Association also made a good showing at the Texas Master Gardener State Conference in Kerrville. The online Junior Master Gardener Game that Mary Hamlin created, and many of you helped with questions and answers, received 2 awards – one from the Texas Junior Master Gardener Association for the Community/County Award, and also a 2nd placing for Educational Program from the Texas Master Gardener Association. You can read elsewhere of the other awards received at the State Meeting. Congratulations on jobs (projects and programs) well-done!

There are lots of programming and projects and planning going on. The Rose Garden docents are leading tours of the Rose Garden, including the Heritage and IDEA Garden (which are looking spectacular right now), the Bulb Sale and Fall Conference committee is busy planning, the Education Committee has been active with displays at a number of venues, a group is meeting to come up with a new display for Agucation at the East Texas State Fair, there’s a whole lot of seeding and transplanting going on over at Overton, and it will be time soon for working on the 2008 Northeast Texas Garden Guide & Calendar.

Hopefully the IDEA Garden web site will be online soon, and go see what Martin Davis has put together for the prototype (or work-in-process) Smith County web site at http://grovesite.com/mg/smg. We don’t know if this will become our official web site home yet, but if you have any suggestions, send them our way. The Shade Garden area has a new irrigation system, so we can begin to renovate and update that trial site. The National Earthkind Rose Trial site will be at Lindsey Park, and the site is being sprayed in preparation for planting in the coming months. And the Master Junior Garden group is starting out on a new adventure. Thanks to everybody, including your Executive Board, for all your support of these wonderful projects and programs.

_______________________Shirts Anyone?

The shirts with the SCMG logo on them are purchased locally, made up especially for us. Once each year we offer the opportunity to purchase shirts. There are several types available, including Denim (both short or long sleeve), Polo shirts in plain white or with colored collar and cuffs. The colors available are: Black & Putty trim, w/ white body; Blue & Navy trim, w/white body and Navy & Royal trim w/butter (yellow) body.

An order form is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience, showing all of the types and sizes available. To make a purchase, you must fill out the form to show the items you want to purchase. Make your check payable to the Smith County Master Gardeners and give your order to Martin Davis at the May 3rd meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, mail your order to him at 1506 Kensington Dr., Tyler, TX 75703, no later than May 15th. All orders must be prepaid.

JMG Registration in Process

Registration for the next Junior Master Gardener group is now open for both the JMG and Wildlife programs. These programs are for children who are students in grades 3 thru 5. Contact Linda Childress or June McClain. Registration closes on May 18th.

_______________________New Address Book Corrections

We knew there would be errors and here a few that we have found. If you have noticed any other mistakes, please let Martin Davis know.

Dorothy Hersey is listed as an Intern and she should be listed as a member of Class 13.

Two e-mail address corrections are:
Kathy Nelte - kathy-n@suddenlink.net
Joan Thorpe - jr-thorpe1@sbcglobal.net.

We notice also that the number one and the letter l (lowercase) look a lot alike, thus if one version of an address doesn’t work, look closely to determine if you are looking at a number or a letter. We’ll look for a different font for another year.

_______________________Shirts Anyone?

__________New E-Mail Address

Lorraine Reazin - vlreazin@embarqmail.com

__________New Phone Number

Pat Welch - 903-894-8722
Now that we are almost at May, I hope our crazy weather is behind us. I don’t think my poor tomatoes know if it’s spring, fall or winter with the wild swings in temperatures we’ve had this past month. Hopefully, we are now into warm (but not too hot) weather for good.

April was a busy month beginning with our graduation and awards luncheon. Many thanks to John Brasher for organizing the event, and to all the Master Gardeners who brought their delicious side dishes and desserts. Once again, many of us found very little room on our plates when we got to the table with the barbecue! It was also a pleasure to recognize the graduating class of new Interns and the certification of last year’s Interns, as well as see the efforts of our Master Gardener projects being rewarded.

Over the weekend of April 11th I went to Kerrville for the TMGA State Conference. Although it was a long drive, it was a beautiful one. The bluebonnets began at Corsicana and continued down to the Hill Country. We are so lucky in Texas to have our wealth of wildflowers that beautify our roadsides every spring. I only wish there were more places available to pull off the road and take pictures of them. The conference focused on conserving our water with presentations on Rainwater Harvesting, Waterwise Gardening, Planting Wildflowers, and Saving Our Water. I think we all came away determined to be more concerned about how we used this precious and increasingly scarce resource. I was also pleased to be able to accept several awards for our group at the Awards Luncheon. We won third place for the Calendar & Gardening Guide in the Publications category, third place for our “Tips of the Week” in the Mass Media category, and second place for our electronic JMG game in the Educational Program category. Additionally the JMG game won a separate JMG award for the best JMG program in 2006. It was especially gratifying to have our group win these awards when you look at our competition – the other MG groups that are in the “Large Group” category. We are the smallest association in that group, with most of the others being twice to almost three times our size. Hearing what the other associations are doing as projects kept my mind whirling with ideas all weekend. Next year’s conference will be held in Conroe on April 24 – 26. I would encourage you all to try and attend. It is a fun and educational event.

Now that I’m back home, my thoughts are once again centered on my garden. May is really the last month to plant many annuals and perennials before it gets too hot. Now that my mulch is all down I’ll be adding some heat-loving annuals and be looking forward to harvesting the first of my warm season vegetables. It still isn’t too hot, so get out there and smell your roses and other blooming plants.

Happy gardening!

Prune, Plant, Putter;
Garden Work Is Never Finished
by Dee Bishop

I was just getting caught up I thought, when a million other little things need doing. I need to cut back my Reeves spirea this year, also Phlox subulata (thrift), Phlox divaricata (La. phlox) and some of the dianthus, which will often rebloom if clipped back now. All those things can also be rooted. Cuttings of just about anything will root now. Some shrub cuttings will do better just a little later. I planted a flat of thrift to finish off a bed I never got around to until now. I also want to root some more cheddar pinks. I like their foliage better than their blooms.

As most of you know, I love sedums. I got one last year called Black Jack and it is just a wonderful plant. It grows like Autumn Joy, but has purple, black foliage that stays black throughout the heat of summer. It's blooms are pink, a really pretty combination. I found some at Lowe’s last week that were mislabeled and got some more. I will chop them up and start lots of others from the cuttings.

Plant seeds of summer annuals now. Zinnias, marigolds, celosia and many others will sprout in a few days and grow so fast. Plant them right where you want them to grow and you will have much stronger and bigger plants than if you use transplants. Remember to pinch out the top set of leaves to make them branch out.

I am still trying to coax more sun into my yard without sacrificing any of my precious trees. The trees always have their way, because I know summer is just around the corner and my shady yard is so cool and refreshing to work in. I had sun in Dallas. I will keep the shade and grow shade plants.

Enjoy May, have fun growing and putting in your yard, pruning and planting cuttings. Don’t forget to bring bouquets indoors to enjoy and take some to shut-ins. Flowers make us all smile.

Address Books

If you have not yet obtained a new address book, you may pick up a copy by visiting the Extension Office. The books are in the lower left hand drawer of the desk in the MG office area.
Plant Swap
This month we have Kathy Nelte looking for some Indian grass. If you have some you could divide or know who might have some for sale, please contact her at kathy-n@suddenlink.net. Also, Joanie Matthews is looking for hardy ferns so if you have some you could share, please contact her at joanmathews@msn.com.

I have a couple Pomadoro tomatoes and one cherry tomato blooming in one gallon pots and looking for homes. Also, I have a six pack of okra ready to go into the ground. I will be bringing these to the May meeting so if you want them, e-mail me at davidandjoyce60@hotmail.com so I can put your name on them. Thanks, Joyce Gay

Awards Luncheon Photos
For several years I have enjoyed posting my pictures at PBase, which is a place on the web for photo galleries. Following the April MG luncheon, I posted the pictures I took at the event that day and notified all of the SCMGs via e-mail that the pictures were there. As this is written, there have been 350 visits. For those who have not seen them, or for those who wish to visit again, go to http://www.pbase.com/mrd/scmg. Enjoy and thanks for looking. Martin Davis

Anderson Co. Spring Conference
Master Gardeners will present the Third Annual Spring Conference, Friday, May 11 from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at Elmwood Gardens, 680 ACR 446 in Palestine, Texas. If you have never been to Elmwood Gardens, you are in for a treat. Go to www.elmwoodgardens.com for more info.

Prompted by recent droughts, the focus of the conference will be "Let's Talk Water" with the experts. Included on the program are: Dr. Monty Dozier, Rain Harvesting; Dr. John Nielson-Gammon, Gardening in a Changing Climate; Keith Hanson, The Compost & Mulch Plan; and Dr. Dotty Woodson, Landscape Practices That Save Water.

Registration for this conference is $20.00 per person including lunch. Registration forms may be obtained at the Anderson County Extension office, 101 East Oak Street, Palestine, Texas 75801, or call (903) 723-3735. Registration forms may also be made online: http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/anderson. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required by Friday, May 4th.

Hunt County Garden Tour
The Hunt County Master Gardeners in Greenville, TX are hosting garden tours of five local gardens, plus a Herb Sale on June 2nd (rain date June 9th). The tours are scheduled from 9 AM to 1 PM at a cost of $5 per person. For more information or tickets, call 903-455-9885.