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MG Meeting Speaker
Linda Whetsell will present a program entitled *Beware of Old Wives Tales* at the October 4th meeting. Linda, a member of Smith County Master Gardener class #1, will be talking about poisonous plants.

After Meeting Garden Tour
Following the 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.

If you think that we have already had this visit scheduled, you are correct. Last May, when it was raining every day, this visit was planned, but rained out. Perhaps the weather will be more cooperative this time.

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

Well Done!
By any measure, the Fall Conference and Plant Expo, were a success. The entire committee from Merlin Eck, Chairman and including Jana Bowman, Linda Childress, Harvey Collen, Joan Cook, Luanne Harms, Cindy Harrington, Monica Klein, Joanie Matthews, Anne Pattullo, Rhonda Rhodes and Ann Smith deserve your standing ovation.

Ratings on both the conference and the bulb see Conference - page 2

Changes are a Coming!
by Sue Adee
Change is coming to the IDEA Garden. Soon you will see a pergola being constructed over the patio area. This will enable the Master Gardeners to provide more educational programs during the growing season and add workshops. It will also add anther educational element to the garden and provide shade for Master Gardeners who are working in the garden.

Speaking of educational programs in the garden, Jana Bowman has agreed to become the educational coordinator for the IDEA Garden. She will decide the types of programs offered in the garden, secure speakers, get the information to the city for their activity guide, publicize the programs, and work with the rest of the coordinators of the IDEA Garden. Welcome her, by supporting her, and saying YES if she calls on you to help with one of the programs.

The database for the IDEA Garden is coming together, thanks to Keith, Martin, and John Brasher. This is a huge undertaking, since plants are moved in and out of the garden, as most of you know, throughout the year. Coming on board to help with this endeavor is Rhonda Rhodes. She will keep the database current by adding the new plants and keeping up with the ones that die or are removed.

The interns have done a good job this year getting their hours in the garden. October is just around the corner, signaling in cooler weather which means changing out the garden. Extra help will be needed this year because most of the plants will be ordered and delivered for both the IDEA and Heritage Gardens on the same day. An e-mail will be sent informing you of the date see Change - page 2
Thanks to all Smith County Master Gardeners for making September, 2007 a month to remember! We had 2 very successful educational programs – first the Fall Garden Conference and Plant Expo, and at the end of the month, Our Secret Garden project for Agri-World at the East Texas State Fair.

A big THANKS to Merlin Eck and his committee for all of their efforts making the Fall Garden Conference and Plant Expo an outstanding success in every way. Their hard work and creativity showed forth throughout the entire event. New additions included the attractive powerpoint showed before and during the Conference, thanks to Beth Eck (she even burned out parts of her laptop, but thankfully it was fully covered under warranty)!!! Having the Plant Expo venue at Harvey Convention Center worked out great! Thanks to Merlin for securing this facility!! The raffle was exciting and lots of very attractive items were donated to the cause, and the educational workshops were very well attended. The photo display was outstanding, and I don’t envy the task the judges had in picking the winners. The Education Committee also did a terrific job during the Plant Expo with their publications and Help Desk.

Be sure to make it by the East Texas State Fair grounds to see our Agri-World exhibit in the Commercial Building. A very creative, talented, and dedicated group of Master Gardeners spent months brainstorming, preparing, begging (for material donations) and finally building a very attractive and educational exhibit. The ET State Fair manager is very excited about and happy with the exhibit, stating it was exactly what he was envisioning Agri-World would be like – interactive and engaging. When you first walk through main door, the first thing you see is Our Secret Garden. Thanks to Texas Nursery and Landscape Association’s partnership, we have a miniature landscaped garden, complete with a mini-house (thanks to Jan Moch, John Wilbanks and Ron Hill). We’ll see how the school kids react to the exhibit during the last week of the Fair, as they tour Agri-World every morning Monday through Friday.

Martin Davis keeps the SCMG web site very interesting, attractive and up-to-date with timely information and photos of various activities and events. Visit often to see “What’s New”. Thanks Martin!

As we get ready for the next training class, encourage qualified friends to consider becoming Master Gardeners. I appreciate all that you do for Texas Cooperative Extension and our educational programs!!

Conference continued from page 1

were high, with only a few critical comments.

Both speakers and their topics received rave reviews. The education table, help desk and demonstration area were well attended.

Nearly all of the bulbs, both sacked and potted were sold. The raffle provided both income and decoration. The photo contest/display exceeded expectations with 80 entries and provided a great display at the entrance to Harvey Hall. And, don’t forget the cow, he defies comment!

Change continued from page 1

of arrival. If you can, please plan to help on that day.

As most of you know, the IDEA Garden is a designated Monarch Waystation. A very informative brochure, written by Ragna Neill, on butterfly gardening will soon be available in the IDEA Garden and on the website. Thanks, Ragna

Words to the Wise

Interns sometimes expect to work in the gardens early next year and therefore they are not too concerned now about completing the requirement for hours in the gardens. This often becomes a problem later when weather during January and February doesn’t cooperate. “Don’t wait!” Get out there this fall and work in the gardens.

Yellows Disease

by Sue Adee

Have your Purple Coneflowers blooms turned green and distorted? The ones in the IDEA Garden had and we could not find out what was the problem. Keith discovered they had yellows disease.

Horticulture and Home Pest News advises that yellows disease is caused by a microorganism called a phytoplasma. Phytoplasma live in the phloem (food conducting tissues) of their host plant. The disease is spread from plant to plant primarily by phloem feeding leafhoppers, which acquire the microorganism while feeding on infected plants. After an incubation period, the insect spreads the disease organism to healthy plants as it feeds. The yellows phytoplasma has a wide host range, including echinacea, monarda, caraway, marigold, snapdragon, aster, daisy, carnation, strawflower, carrot, broccoli, tomato, squash, ragweed, thistle, dandelion and see Yellows - page 4
Rathbone’s Ramblings

What a month September was! The Fall Conference was just terrific. The speakers were great & it was great to see all those bulbs disappear into the hands of willing gardeners. Plus, new this year, the photo contest gave a beautiful entrance to the sale, the outside vendors lent an extra compliment of merchandise for sale and the educational talks were well received. As for the cow, what can I say? Congratulations to Merlin and his team for a great event.

Agri-World at the East Texas State Fair is also looking to be an outstanding educational exhibit. I know that John Brasher and his committee have been working fast and furiously to get everything done in time for the fair’s opening. I hope that many of you were able to tour Agri-World while the fair was open. This exhibit will be a great addition to the annual educational displays at the fair and our organization should be extremely proud of it.

October is now upon us an, hopefully cool days will be upon us soon. The mornings have been wonderful. Now I’m just waiting for afternoon temperatures below 90 degrees. This is the time of the year that I get very impatient with hot weather. I love the cool fall days and at this point in the year, I’m really impatient for them to arrive.

My garden is telling me that fall is on the way. The roses are sending out lots of new growth and are forming buds for their big October show, and my asters and Country Girl mums are not just starting to bloom.

Fall is a great time to plant and plant sales and nursery fall festivals are providing excellent opportunities for me to buy new plants and empty my wallet. The Fabulous Fall Festival at Stephen F. Austin University will be held on Saturday, October 6. It’s worth getting up early to drive to Nacogdoches to get the great plant buys. They always have hard to find native plants and the special items in Dr. Creech’s corner are really special.

Closer to home, Blue Moon Gardens will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday, October 13th. We all know about the wonderful plants that Blue Moon has for sale and during the day, they will have a great line-up of talks to help us all in our gardening efforts.

If touring gardens appeals to you more than buying plants, The Dallas County Master Gardeners will be holding their Fall Garden Tour from 10:00 Am to 4:00 PM on Saturday, October 6th. The tour will feature five private and two public gardens. Tickets for the tour are $10.00 and are available at any of the gardens on the tour. Full details are available at www.dallasmastergardeners.org.

Additionally, the Garden Conservancy organization is sponsoring two open garden days in the Metroplex. Six gardens will be open for touring on October 14th, and six additional gardens will be open in Dallas on October 20th. Tour tickets are $5.00 and are available at www.gardenconservancy.org. Click on “Open Days” Program.

As the days get cooler, get out and enjoy the beautiful weather. Happy gardening sand Welcome Fall!!.

Fall Bulbs For Surprise Color
by Dee Bishop

About the time old hot August ends and September arrives, promising a cooler night or two, if we are lucky. Things really begin to happen in the garden. By now we are sick of watering and get to the point of, ‘who cares’, when one day, out of nowhere, SURPRISE! Our little lycoris lilies are blooming everywhere. Squirrels move my bulbs around and plant them in the oddest places and my surprise is never ending. How fun to see their little red blooms burst from the ground and bloom with such joy. These little lilies are found all across the country. We just got back from a trip to the eastern coast or Virginia and Maryland where they are in nearly every yard. British soldiers, they are called there. My Grandma called hers, Guernsey lilies. Some call them naked ladies and some surprise lilies. Call them what you will, get some. They put out foliage after they bloom which resembles Liriope with a light stripe in the middle of the leaf. Plant them in the shade of deciduous trees or in sun. They make their food during winter while actively growing. They are dormant in summer; so mark the spot so you won't dig into them.

Pretty soon the old jonquils and narcissus will be peaking up out of the ground. You can dig them and separate them then or wait til late spring. If we do not get fall rains, water well where your bulbs are so they will make good root systems and bloom well. Unfortunately in the last few years, we haven't gotten the good fall rains like we used to. My bulbs often work themselves up too near the surface and have to be replanted deeper. I guess drought and shallow watering causes that, because they didn't always do that.

Enjoy your garden surprises. Bask in the wonderful fall weather. Have fun in your garden.

New Addresses
Sylvia Hoffman - schofmann@gmail.com
Pat Turinsky - pbtur@sbcglobal.net
Bill Kelldorf - 5901 Plantation Drive, Tyler 75703 (no change to phone or e-mail address)
IDEA Garden Series
The series continues on October 2nd at 12 noon, with the subject, “Trees for Fall Color in East Texas”

SFA to Host Fall Plant Sale
The annual Fabulous Fall Festival plant sale at Stephen F. Austin State University's Mast Arboretum will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, October 6.

Yellows - continued from page 2
others. Symptoms are similar on these plants, and include yellowing, stunting, abnormal production of shoots, sterility of flowers, and malformation of organs.

Master Gardener Specialist - Plant Propagation
Montgomery County Extension Center, Conroe, Texas on November 2-3, 2007.

The Master Gardener Specialist - Plant Propagation program is designed to train and certify Master Gardeners to become part of a state corps of Plant Propagation experts and educators.

Registration fee: $125.00 $ (Includes dinner(1), lunch(1), snacks, drinks, propagation equipment.

Our Secret Garden
As this is written the E.T. State Fair is in full swing and the new SCMG display, “Our Secret Garden” is part of the Agri-world presentation in the Commercial Exhibits building.

The committee responsible included MGs John Brasher, chairman, Hazel Bateman, Scherel Carver, Debrah Golden, Cindy Harrington, Sylvia Hofmann, Dorothy Hersey, Ann Kelley, Tamara Listiak, Jan Moch, Judy Pirtle, Julia Randolph, Rhonda Rholes and Pat Welch.

Others providing input and support include: Derrick Bruton, Mark Chamblee, Keith Hansen, Bill Price, Brian Triplett and John Wilbanks.

With the display in place, the following people volunteered to water plants: Sue Adee, Anne Brown, Sue Clark, Donna Cole, Joan Cook, Lynne Merryfield and Nancy Nelson.

Quoting John Brasher, “These folks just took all in stride and kept on working to make this happen and happen it did thanks to them.”

Never got to the fair? See the display by visiting http://grovesite.com/mg/sm and check “What’s New?”

Or look at a few pictures below........

Keith talks about water drips.

These guys read about trash.

Tell me about Jr. MGs.

“Now if you kids see one these, don’t play with it.”