



## **TCMGA Public Gardening Education Seminars**

### **Rainwater Harvesting and Waterwise Gardening**

January 10, 2009

10am- Noon

Zilker Botanical Garden

Come enjoy a free seminar on capturing rainwater and lowering water usage in your landscape. This session will cover all the basics of building a non-potable rainwater harvesting system. In addition, learn how to design beautiful gardens designed for lower water usage. Don't be misinformed, xeriscaping is not "zero-scaping"

Vendors representing tank and gutter companies will be available to answer specific questions. City of Austin representatives will be available to answer rainbarrel, permit and rebate questions.

### **Everything's Coming Up Roses**

February 21, 2009, 10am-Noon

Sunset Valley City Hall

3205 Jones Rd.

Sunset Valley, TX 78745

Roses aren't just for Valentine's Day - they can bring color and sweet smells to your garden year round! Come attend this free seminar presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association on selecting and planting roses in your garden. We will be discussing Earth Kind Roses, a designation indicating high performance and outstanding disease and insect tolerance, as well as the basics of pruning and rose care.

And just as important as selection is care for your roses. Pruning rose bushes is intimidating to many gardeners, but actually very good for the plants. Becoming an accomplished rose pruner takes time and practice. Learn about properly pruning plus the basics of rose care.

### **Getting Ready for Spring Gardening**

February 26, 2009, 6:30-8:30pm

Yarborough Branch, Austin Public Library

2200 Hancock Dr.

Austin TX 78756

The 2009 Gardening Series continues with Preparation for Spring on February 26th. Learn how a little planning now results in healthier and more beautiful gardens all year, what makes plants thrive, and pruning and fertilization techniques to get perennials, trees and shrubs off to a strong start. We'll also cover lawn care, including the how and when of fertilization. Do your plants a favor and don't miss this great kick-off to spring gardening.

### **How to Grow a Great Lawn**

Saturday, March 14, 2009

10am-Noon

Zilker Botanical Garden

With Spring just around the corner, it's a great time to learn about growing a healthy lawn. Master Gardener Susan Decker teams up with Denise Delaney from the City of Austin's GrowGreen program to give you the latest information on the care and feeding of your lawn. Topics will include choosing the right turf for your site, irrigation, fertilization, proper mowing technique, and disease diagnosis and treatment. This class is free and does not require reservations.

## **Growing a Spring Vegetable Garden**

March 18, 2009

7pm-9pm

Zilker Botanical Garden

Enjoy juicy tomatoes, crisp cucumbers, and delectable green beans straight from your garden. Baskets of okra and armloads of squash can be grown in your garden! Learn how to plant and maintain a spring vegetable garden from Master Gardener Patty Leander, who will share her expertise on vegetable varieties that perform well in Central Texas, recommended planting times, and composting. This seminar is loaded with basic facts and helpful ideas, useful to both new and experienced vegetable gardeners. This seminar is free, open to the public and does not require reservations. Please arrive early as this is one of our most popular seminars.

## **Gardening Above Ground**

April 15, 2009

7-9pm

Zilker Botanical Garden

Love to garden but don't have the space or soil for the plants you love? This free seminar will increase your knowledge of working with plants in containers. It is an ideal learning experience for anyone wanting to know more about growing flowers or vegetables on a patio, an apartment balcony or in other locations. We will discuss what plants grow well in containers, types of containers, soil, fertilizer and watering. In addition, we will introduce you to using Grow Boxes, an easy to construct gardening container made from a plastic storage box that allows for growing of vegetables or flowers without weeding and only needing infrequent watering. A limited amount of Grow Box kits will be offered for sale.

## **Going Native in the Garden**

April 30, 2009

7-9pm

Zilker Botanical Garden

Having trouble picking the right plants for your Central Texas garden? Attend our Going Native seminar and hear more about the beautiful native and adapted plants that can grow well in Central Texas and still be earthwise plant choices. Let us help you discover plants that are drought tolerant and resistant to pests and diseases, yet offer the color and texture you desire in your garden. These plants will allow you to build a breathtaking garden while using plants that require less fertilizing, less watering, and less chemical control. Going native is an experience everyone should have in their garden!

## **Creating a Wildlife Garden**

May 2, 2009

10am-Noon

Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill

5125 Convict Hill Rd.

Come learn how to build a habitat that is more attractive to beautiful songbirds, butterflies, frogs, and other beneficial wildlife. Using native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees will increase the beauty of your property, protect the environment, and provide a nurturing refuge for all types of animals. Requirements for building a certified wildlife habitat will also be covered.

## **Rainwater Harvesting and Waterwise Gardening**

June 13, 2009

10am- Noon

Riverplace Country Club

4207 River Place Blvd.

Come enjoy a free seminar on capturing rainwater and lowering water usage in your landscape. This session will cover all the basics of building a non-potable rainwater harvesting system. In addition, learn how to design beautiful gardens designed for lower water usage. Don't be misinformed, xeriscaping is not "zero-scaping"

Vendors representing tank and gutter companies will be available to answer specific questions. City of Austin representatives will be available to answer rainbarrel, permit and rebate questions.

## **Becoming a Garden Detective: Diagnosing Plant Problems**

June 16, 2009

7-9pm

Steiner Ranch Towne Square Community Center

12550 Country Trails Lane

Just when you think you've done everything right by your plants, one of them starts to go downhill. One of the biggest challenges for gardeners is correctly diagnosing plant problems and finding effective, safe solutions. Is your plant dying because of an insect, environmental or disease problem? Join us to learn the causes of plant problems, the process for diagnosing plant problems, and preventive garden management techniques.

## **Becoming a Garden Detective: Diagnosing Plant Problems**

July 11, 2009

10am-Noon

Zilker Botanical Garden

Just when you think you've done everything right by your plants, one of them starts to go downhill. One of the biggest challenges for gardeners is correctly diagnosing plant problems and finding effective, safe solutions. Is your plant dying because of an insect, environmental or disease problem? Join us to learn the causes of plant problems, the process for diagnosing plant problems, and preventive garden management techniques.

## **Fall Vegetable Gardening**

Saturday, August 22, 2009

10am-Noon

Riverplace Country Club

4207 River Place Blvd.

Cooler weather is just around the corner and now is the time to prepare your vegetable garden for the fall and winter season. Join Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist Patty Leander to learn the basics of vegetable gardening with an emphasis on varieties that flourish in the fall and winter months. Broccoli, lettuce, swiss chard, radishes and spinach are among the fantastic crops that grow well in our cooler season. Vegetable gardens don't end in fall, so come learn how to keep yours going year round.

## **Redesigning Your Gardens**

Saturday, Sept 12, 2009

1pm-3pm

Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library

7051 Village Center Dr (off Far West Blvd.)

512-345-4435

Does your garden need a remodel, but you're just not sure where to start? Attend this seminar to learn basic landscape design and gain the confidence to go from analysis through concept to a final planting plan. Using design principles such as texture, color and function, this seminar will teach you how to create a landscape plan for the garden you've always wanted.

## **DIY Pond Building**

Saturday, September 19, 2009

10am-Noon

American Botanical Council, 6200 Manor Rd

Call 512-854-9600 to reserve a space

Always dreamed of a little pond in your yard? Not only can you have one but you can build it yourself. Come attend this free seminar and learn step by step lessons on the basics of building a pond yourself. This seminar will help you determine the supplies and equipment needed for the job, gather information about pond plants, and determine which fish will do well in your pond. In addition, hear instructions on general pond maintenance, installing pond lighting and how to prevent unwanted critters in your pond. There is no charge for the seminar, but seating is limited so please call 512-854-9600 to reserve a space.

## **Propagation 101: Growing New Plants for Your Garden**

Saturday, Sept 26, 2009

11am-1pm

Yarborough Branch, Austin Public Library

2200 Hancock Dr.

Fall is the perfect time to plant perennials, but you don't have to go buy new plants. Attend this free seminar on plant propagation and learn how to grow your own plants from seeds or existing plants. Attendees will learn multiple ways to propagate plants including cutting, layering, division, and seed propagation. In addition, learn tips on transplanting and care for your new plants to get them off to a strong start when planted.

## **For the Love of Trees**

Saturday, October 10, 1-3pm

Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library

7051 Village Center Dr (off Far West Blvd.)

Join us to learn all about how to do right by your trees. Learn the right trees to choose for your Central Texas landscape by choosing those that enjoy our native soils and tough climate. Understand how to select the right tree for the right location by considering mature height, longevity, light needs, and leaf coverage. Hear how to correctly plant a tree to give it a strong start and secure location for its lifespan. Finally, learn how to care for and prune your tree for long-term health and during times of stress such as construction or drought.