The Compost Bin
October 2010

A Publication of the Travis County Master Gardeners - a volunteer program of Texas AgriLife Extension

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October Meeting Speaker — Cathy Slaughter

What’s in Your Herb Garden?

Cathy Slaughter is a member of the Herb Society of Texas and the Austin Herb Society. She is devoted to growing and utilizing herbs. Central Texas has ideal growing conditions for many herbs. Learn about expanding your garden with fragrant, ornamental, culinary and medicinal herbs from this expert.

Cathy and her husband Sam are co-owners of a 2-acre wholesale nursery business, Gabriel Valley Farms where they specialize in certified organic culinary herbs and vegetable plants. Natives, perennials, sedum and succulents are also available. Gabriel Valley Farms is located near Georgetown and serves retail garden centers, landscape companies and farmers in Central Texas as well as the Travis County Master Gardener greenhouse. Cathy and Sam also specialize in custom growing lavender plants for field production.

Last year TCMGA member Patty Leander spotlighted Cathy, Sam and Gabriel Valley Farms in an article written for Texas Gardener magazine. The article, “Gabriel Valley Farms a Behind-the-Scenes Look” can be viewed at www.texasgardener.com/pastissues/janfeb09/GabrielValleyFarms.html.

Master Gardener Meeting information:
Wednesday, October 6th, 2010 starting at 7 pm.
Zilker Botanical Garden

Below: Pumpkins on display at the Dallas Arboretum in September.
Hello Master Gardeners:
A Message From Your President

Golden October!
October, my favorite time of the year! I love everything about it and look forward each year to this special month. The colors of October are gold, ruby red, mustard, purple and orange. All of my favorite colors. Even the air of October is like spun gold when the light hits it just right in the evenings. And those crisp, fresh mornings when you go outside and can smell fall hanging in the air — huddle in your sweater, enjoy the walk and savor nature in its finest season!

I’ve ordered a bigtooth maple tree to plant in my son’s backyard as the focal point as I start to do his landscaping. You can bet that there will be lots of salvias, sages and roses — everything that makes our Austin autumn really come alive with color. We really do have quite a bit of fabulous color here and it is always special to look out over the hills and see the reds, oranges and yellows blend together and create a fall Texas tapestry.

In my own garden area, I love to plant and enjoy all the purple salvias, mustard-colored herbs like Mexican mint marigold, tons of fall-blooming asters, and pots and pots of garden mums. My roses have always been given their late summer pruning and fertilizing so when the cooler temperatures arrive they bring with them a second bloom cycle. Ahhh … the joy of planting and working outside when you love where you are in life!

So here is my list of the favorite reasons why I love October:
Pumpkins, gourds, little kids in Halloween costumes and older children with Halloween stories, fall wreaths, crisp apples, sweaters, all kinds of salvias and sages, Mexican mint marigold, red oaks with their bright red foliage, soups, football, mums, flameleaf sumac, the Texas hill country in its fall colors, grasses with their plumes, leaves falling, pecans, comfort food, windows open with fresh autumn air coming in, pumpkin bread, fall asters, chili hotdogs while watching college football, copper canyon daisy, and lovely fall rains!
Just a few of the things that make autumn a perfectly wonderful time of year for me and a time to celebrate with all my gardening friends!

Happy Autumn Gardening!
Carolyn
In The Vegetable Garden

By Patty Leander

Tropical Storm Hermine swooped in just in the nick of time last month — she filled empty rain water collection tanks all across Central Texas and soaked the parched earth, making our garden beds moist and receptive to seeds and transplants. There were some downsides to the storm — flooded streets, traffic woes and stifling humidity to name a few — but I hope none of you suffered any serious misery or damage.

Hopefully you took advantage of the moist soil last month to start your fall vegetable garden, but if not, there is still time for lots of planning and planting. There is no reason to go dormant just because winter is coming. Just as okra laughs at our summer heat, collards, kale and winter greens laugh at our so-called cold weather. Lettuce and spinach can be planted this month and we can still put in transplants of broccoli, cauliflower and bok choy. Soil microbes are active and alive as long as the soil temperature is above 40° and around here it rarely dips below 40° all winter. Of course the sunlight is diminished and air temperatures are cooler, so plant growth is much slower than what we are accustomed to in spring. Most of our cool-season vegetables can take temperatures into the 20’s, but since we don’t know exactly what kind of severe weather might come our way, keep a supply of row cover handy. Root crops, kale, collards and most greens can take the cold, but heads of broccoli and cauliflower can suffer damage in the event of a severe cold snap if not protected.

Watch for garlic bulbs at nurseries and feed stores and plant them anytime during the month; many gardeners have success using organic garlic from the grocery store. Garlic is fairly easy to grow, just be sure it gets regular water and occasional fertilizer throughout the winter. Separate the cloves and plant them with the pointed tip up, 2” deep and 4-6” apart, in compost-enriched soil. They can even be planted in 10-12” deep pots.

Fall is also the best time for establishing strawberries — look for transplants of ‘Chandler,’ ‘Sequoia,’ ‘Sweet Charlie,’ ‘Camarosa’ or ‘Ventana;’ all are varieties that do well here. But remember that, like garlic, they take 4-6 months to produce, so they will be taking up space in your garden for a long time.
If you planted warm-season crops in late summer you should be reaping the rewards of green beans, squash and/or cucumbers later this month. Peppers and eggplant may also be producing and if you are lucky you may even have some blushing tomatoes by now. Be careful when harvesting peppers as they have brittle stems and it is easy (and unfortunate) to break off an entire stem loaded with unripe peppers rather than that one pepper you wanted for supper. Harvest winter squash when the rind is hard and store in a cool, dark place for later enjoyment.

Keep an eye out for harlequin bugs and caterpillars — the two main pests in the fall garden — especially on leaves of cole crops like broccoli, kale and collards. Inspect your plants regularly and destroy the black and white barrel-shaped eggs of the harlequin bug and the baby caterpillars before they have a chance to proliferate. Those little caterpillars often look just like the vein of a leaf, but don’t let them fool you. They may be good at camouflage — but we have bigger brains!
Geophytes in Your Garden, Oh My!

by Bob Beyer

Bulbous-type plants are one of the most overlooked options for the garden. I confess, this is one area of gardening in which I don’t practice what I preach. Changes are on the way, though! How well we who have lived in colder climates, remember the gorgeous daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, crocus, snowdrops, etc. that were harbingers of past springs — but also don’t think of using bulbs (albeit different ones) in our central Texas garden.

The truth of it is that we can have blooming bulbous plants that cover the entire garden season, from early spring until late fall. I look at bulbous plants as finishing touches to our ornamental gardens in central Texas, where the garden is not dependent on them for color or texture, but when they bloom, they add an exciting accent to the palette of flowers. For those open areas between other garden plants or to provide temporary color to an area of dormant perennials, bulbous plants may be used as garden accents. There are choices ranging from a few inches to over three feet in height, sun or shade, and many are durable under the extremes of the hot and cold, wet and dry periods we endure in central Texas. Once established, little to no further care is required!

Although I don’t intend to provide a glossary of horticultural terminology, one area of confusion is the meaning of various names for specialized underground roots containing food-storage systems that sustain them through dormancy periods (also known as “geophytes”). Many common garden perennials that we grow have these structures. Let’s look at the botanically correct terms for differentiating these types of plants.

**Bulbs:** A bulb is like a seed inasmuch as a new plant generates from the embryo contained within. The bulb contains all the plant structures and nutrients for growth — just waiting to emerge when conditions are right. Most bulbs are round and contain a thin scaly covering. The pointed end should always be positioned upward so stems emerge properly and the other end develops good roots for the maturing plant. Examples of bulbs are: amaryllis, crinum, lilies, narcissus, oxalis, Dutch iris and onions

**Corms:** These are flattened, swollen, underground stems. The tops of which are generally flat. Corms have scale-like coverings that protect the dormant plant but do not store food. Examples of corms are: gladiolus, freesias and crocosmia.

**Rhizomes:** These are swollen horizontal underground stems with roots. They can be most any shape, slender or thick, all of which have buds on the growing end. Examples of rhizomes are: canna, calla, ginger and bearded iris.

**Tubers:** Tubers are thick, often lumpy structures that are fatter and shorter than rhizomes and contain growing buds on their surface at non-specific locations. Examples of tubers are: caladium, cyclamen, dahlia and yes, potatoes!

**Tuberous Roots:** Thick root sections sometimes held in clusters from which new plants can generate from a single root structure. Examples of tuberous roots are: agapanthus, daylily and tuberous begonias.

There are many lists of suggested plants for these categories from many excellent sources so I won’t attempt to recreate another, but offer some suggestions for
Geophytes in Your Garden, Oh My!

Easy-to-grow choices for those beginning to use bulbous plants as part of their year-round garden.

Early spring blooming (plant in fall): paperwhite narcissus. These bulbs have clusters of small, daffodil-shaped blooms on a single, terminal stalk. Most daffodils (really a species of Narcissus) require a cold treatment to initiate bloom which we don’t have enough of in central Texas, however the paperwhite narcissus seem to bloom regularly and reliably in our warmer region without special treatment. These will be the first to announce spring is coming.

Spring blooming (plant in fall or very early spring): iris (most varieties) and gingers (when warm enough).

Early summer blooming (plant in fall or very early spring): daylilies rule! Iris, lilies, canna, crinum and *Gladiolus byzantium* (hardy gladiolus).

Summer blooming (plant in early spring): caladiums for colorful foliage (require winter digging), agapanthus (dwarf and tall), canna, *Crinum* spp., calla, *Bletilla* (ground orchid), *Dietes* (African iris), *Hippeastrum* *johnsonii* (the hardy amaryllis) and other South African hybrid varieties) and *Hymenocallis* (spider lily).

Early fall blooming (plant in spring): *Rhodophiala bifida* (oxblood lily), and *Lycoris radiata* (aka naked ladies).

Fall blooming (plant in late summer): Cyclamen will bloom into late fall, however they must be protected from the summer heat (dug and stored over summer).

Spring through fall blooming (plant fall through spring): Zephyranthes and Habranthus hybrids (rain lilies) and society garlic. The exact time any bulbous plant will bloom is dependent on climate and environmental conditions.

Bulbs not recommended include tulips, daffodils, snowdrops, hyacinths, crocus, or others requiring a freeze period. Oh, they can be chilled, planted and bloomed as annuals. But they take up space in your freezer to duplicate the chilling requirement and it’s a lot of work for a short period of bloom in the spring.

Bulbous plants should be divided every two to three years when the plant goes dormant. The nice thing about bulbous plants is that they are easily shared with others as they multiply. When investing in new bulbous plants, take time to research their climate tolerance, adaptability, soil type/water and drainage, light requirements, and bloom period. Also, after blooming, the foliage should be left alone — not trimmed off — to allow the plant to produce food. Only trim off foliage when it has died.

Some bulbous plants that are purely tropical, but add a lot of color to your warm season garden include the caladium (shade only), dahlia, and *Montbretia/Crocosmia*, and tropical gingers.

The bottom line is that you can have pleasant surprises pop up in your garden at different times of the year to add to the excitement, but not take away from the evergreen and more permanent plantings that show year-round. Working bulbs and bulbous plants into the garden palette offers yet another way to creatively create a year-round garden of interest and beauty.
Garden to Garden Plant Exchange

Notice

Garden to Garden Plant Exchange at the October Meeting!

Are you looking for a ‘Blue Elf’ Aloe, a fancy leaf begonia or maybe some really cool succulents? Then get ready for the plant exchange after the October meeting. And as you clean up your gardens for the fall, pot up those extra plants that would make your gardening friends happy. In addition, plan to bring those extras seeds, garden magazines and pots that you’d like to share with other master gardeners.

In order to get a better selection of plants, prizes will be awarded for the most coveted plant and the best labeled plant! Please no muddy messes and plan to take home any of your plants or items that don’t find a home.

If you can help out, either before the meeting and/or after the exchange, please let me (Liz Caskey) know, by emailing me at luciludog@austin.rr.com

Composting

Fall is just around the corner, so I keep telling myself! Crickets chirping, the "scent of fall" early in the morning, and leaves - falling leaves, at first just a sprinkling, swirling down as breezes stir the trees.

Leaves ... are an opportunity to invest in one’s soil bank, a mineral and nutrient resource for soil microbes! Perhaps neighbors don’t realize the value of leaves; they bag and place them at curbside on trash day. Rescue those leaves! Don’t let them end up in a landfill; put them to work in your garden or collect them for our Extension Demonstration Garden compost bin!

Leaves are a carbon source (brown stuff) for your compost pile; Leaves can be composted by themselves (leaf mold); Leaves can be trench composted in vegetable garden paths; Leaves can be shredded or left whole and used as garden mulch.

Educate your neighbors — help them turn trash into treasure. To learn more attend our “Composting Basics Seminar,” Saturday, October 23, from 10 am - 12 noon, at the Travis County East Service Center, 6011 Blue Bluff Road — all gardeners welcome, your neighbors too!

Composting Tip for Leaves: If composted alone, leaves are slow to breakdown in a conventional wire cylinder. Break them up by running the mower over them or running them through a shredder. Spray with water to moisten as you add layers and sprinkle with a little organic fertilizer and/or finished compost to hasten breakdown — don’t let the pile dry out.

Tommie Clayton & Richard Moline
TMG Compost Specialist Interns

Left: A pumpkin house, part of a pumpkin village at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden’s Fall Pumpkin Festival.
Cockroaches develop by gradual metamorphosis. The life stages include egg, nymph and adult. Eggs are contained in a purse-like structure. The egg case (Fig 1.), or ootheca, is usually dropped by the female or glued to a surface. In some species, the females carry the egg case with them until the nymphal cockroaches are ready to hatch. The nymphs, or baby cockroaches, look similar to the adults, but are smaller and without fully developed wings.

Cockroaches are able to enter buildings through infested boxes, grocery bags, furniture and dried pet food. They may also enter around loose-fitting doors and windows as well as through sewer lines, attics, and where pipes penetrate the structure.

Cockroaches are nocturnal, or active at night, and are usually only visible during the day if they are disturbed or there is a severe infestation. Cockroaches are omnivores, feeding on numerous plant and animal products such as meats, starchy foods, baked goods, leather, book bindings and wallpaper paste.

The common cockroaches found outside include the American and Smokybrown cockroaches. American cockroaches (Fig 2.) are about 1½ - 2 inches long, reddish-brown with yellow markings above the head. The adults have well-developed wings, but seldom fly; they do often glide. American cockroaches are usually found outside near decayed trees and plants, in crawl spaces and sewers. Smokybrown cockroaches (Fig 3.) are often mistaken with American cockroaches. Smokybrowns are about 1 inch long and dark brown to black. Adults have fully developed wings and are capable of flight. This species often inhabits leaf litter, compost piles and ground cover.

Fig 1. (Above Left) Smokybrown cockroach egg case (ootheca) glued to substrate.
Fig 2. (Above Right) American cockroach adult.
Cockroaches

If you find cockroaches in your compost pile, in leaf litter or other outdoor locations, it isn’t really necessary to kill them. You may want to make sure that your house is excluded to avoid having the outdoor cockroaches move indoors when the temperatures cool down. The following tips may help:

- Prune back any vegetation touching or overhanging the home.
- If you have a brick or stone façade, stuff weep holes with steel wool* or copper mesh.
- Make sure screens are in good repair.
- Replace weather stripping where doorways do not have a good seal.
- Repair any water leaks.
- Clean debris from gutters.
- Place stainless steel screening over vent access in the attic.
- Use sealant around pipe penetrations or other cracks or crevices into the home.

*Steel wool will rust if it gets wet and may stain light colored facades.

Fellow Master Gardeners:
Master Gardeners are such a wonderful, hard working, special group of gardening people! September’s SFC Republic Square Farmers’ Market was a great first adventure into a new area of gardening and volunteering. From the greenhouse gang and everyone that came to the greenhouse in July and August to work on the plants, to the speakers giving mini-talks to the volunteers selling plants in our booth......many, many thanks!

It takes everyone working together to make these community events happen smoothly and smoothly it went. Everyone showed up to work with a smile and willingness to give out gardening expertise to the public. It was a great way to get our message out to the public that the fall season is the perfect time in Central Texas to be outside planting a veggie garden, trees, perennials, herbs and roses. Our veggie plants and seeds flew off the shelves.

Thanks again to everyone that worked so hard to make this fall event such a success!
Carolyn Williams, President

Fig 3. (Left) Smoky-brown cockroach adult.

Left: Some of the 40,000 pumpkins (and squash) that lead the way through the gardens during the 2010 Great Pumpkin Festival at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.
Inside Austin Gardens Tour 2011

By Link Davidson

The Date: Saturday, May 14, 2011

The Travis County Master Gardeners Association, in cooperation with the Travis County AgriLife Extension Service, will host the Inside Austin Gardens Tour 2011 on Saturday, May 14, 2011, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. This year, the tour will focus on water-wise gardening.

The tour will feature the work of Master Gardeners Sheryl Williams, Sue Nazar, Rebecca Matthews and Joe Posern, each of whom uses a variety of water-wise techniques in creating their distinctly different spaces. A collaborative effort between Master Gardener Link Davidson and neighbor Wendy Brennan demonstrates that cooperation can have some pretty nice consequences, including a more efficient use of rainwater. Finally, Jeff Pavlat, president of the Austin Cactus & Succulent Society and speaker at a recent TCMGA meeting, will open his phenomenal succulent and cactus garden to tour visitors.

Sheryl Williams moved to Austin from Oregon in the last couple of years. In the brief time in her new home, she’s stripped her Wells-Branch-area yard — both front and back — of its lawn. In the front space, she’s planted native sedge grasses. Her back yard she’s converted into a food-producing area with everything from vegetables to herbs to fruit trees. About the periphery of the property, she’s used a mounding technique to retain water during rain showers. Her two rain-collection systems — one driven by gravity, the other by pump — provide water to all of her gardens.

Sue Nazar has participated in the Inside Austin Gardens tour once before. Since the 2006 tour, she’s planted the “hell strip” — the area between street and sidewalk — in front of her own and her neighbors’ properties with drought-tolerant plant varieties. She’s also developed a rain garden. Now the rainwater which follows a slope away from her home catches in a planted area. Sue’s front-yard shade gardens join with the rain garden to create a tropical feel in a climate which is often anything but tropical.

Rebecca Matthews’ space includes a front-yard collection of heat and drought-tolerant native and adapted plants and a back-yard shade garden. Her quaint, back-yard garden feels far-removed from the Central Texas heat, reminding the visitor of a series of cottage rooms, something Rebecca has created with a variety of cast-off objects and a sense for artful placement. Underground, she’s replaced the existing hard dirt with a rich, productive soil. Water requirements are at a minimum in this tree-shaded, wildlife-friendly oasis.
From his front yard, no one would guess that Joe Posern’s home sits on nearly a half acre. But go through the gate into the back yard and what reveals itself is an expansive series of water-wise gardens. From rain gardens brimming with wildflowers to a production area abundant with food crops to landscaped areas, Joe relies on water-conserving techniques to keep everything looking good and doing well. He plans to take an even bigger step this fall, when he hopes to install a rain-collection system much larger than his existing city-issued barrels. Perhaps most amazing about Joe’s gardens is that he’s done it all in the last several years.

Not too long ago, neighbors Wendy Brennan and Link Davidson worked together to create a natural-looking, low-maintenance transition between the front yards of their two properties, and to re-make Wendy’s front yard which was an expanse of struggling St. Augustine. Today it is a minimal space interrupted by little else than a dry-creek bed, a recycled sidewalk, and a shade garden has replaced the St. Augustine. The transition space between the properties features a series of terraces that work to catch and hold rainwater, and a dry-creek bed which works in tandem with Wendy’s version below it to direct excessive rainfall to a sideyard rain garden.

Jeff Pavlat and his gardens have appeared on KLRU’s Central Texas Gardener several times. To many, he has become one of the best information sources for everything cactus and succulent related in the area. Jeff’s Westlake home features a yard populated almost entirely by cacti and succulents, but peppered with a native plant or two. A series of walls terrace the severe slope which separates street level from front yard. At house level, a pond gently disrupts the space, creating an oasis about which more of the gardener’s favorite plants thrive. As if the space itself were not enough, Jeff’s greenhouse contains a collection of still more cacti and succulents. It’s a yard not to be missed.

Information on ticket sales and educational seminars along with a schedule is forthcoming. Save the date, and plan to learn something!
Recent Additions to the Photo Album

By Carolyn Williams and Anne Van Nest

Above: Pumpkins and squash on display at the Dallas Arboretum during their Fall Pumpkin Festival.
Right: Glorious American beautyberry, autumn sage, *Salvia greggii* and flowering senna are all flourishing after the rains fell on Carolyn Williams’ front garden during the last several weeks.
Urban farming, edible landscapes, whatever you call it, is “growing” in popularity; converts flock to talks and demonstrations given by AgriLife Extension and Master Gardeners!

Now it’s your turn, join us for an educational fun filled day learning about the concept of Urban Farming from the microbes in the soil to the fruit, flowers and vegetables perfect for your home grown edible landscapes. Our esteemed speakers are: Dr. Larry Stein, Dr. Diane Boellstorff, Dr. David Reed and Dr. Joe Novak.

In addition to our educational talks, vendors will offer books, plants, fruit trees, and goodies for your gardening pleasure. Visit our educational displays on honey bees, backyard poultry, beneficial nematodes, compost tea and more!

Our objective is to offer Master Gardeners who usually don’t attend the State MG Conference an opportunity to participate in a quality one day event located in Central Texas. Master Gardeners attending this conference will be granted 6 continuing education hours.

The conference registration is now closed. Contact George Ammermann, conference registrar at gsammermann@gvec.net or 830-491-1246 with any questions.
How to Make Compost

Saturday, October 23, 2010
10:00 am-Noon
Travis County East Facility
6011 Blue Bluff Rd., Austin TX 78724

Turn trash into treasure!! Take what Mother Nature gives you and make the best soil amendment available — without additional cost! Learn the basics of composting; the great number of items in your trash that can be used; and the steps needed to make excellent compost.

This demonstration is free, open to the public and requires no reservations. It is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. For more details, see www.tcmastergardeners.org.

The Best Places to Find Butterflies in the U.S. and Mexico

Monday, October 25, 2010, 7:00 pm
Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78746 (512) 477-8672

Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg is the president of NABA (North American Butterfly Association) and the author of many books about butterflies. He wrote both the Eastern and Western guides, "Butterflies through Binoculars"; "Butterflies of Mexico" and is the editor of "American Butterflies", the quarterly publication of NABA. Dr. Glassberg’s books will be for sale at the meeting.

Presented by the Austin Butterfly Forum. For more details visit their website at www.austinbutterflies.org. Admission of $5 will be charged for non members.

Caring for Your Trees

Saturday, October 30, 2010
1:00 -3:00 pm
Yarborough Public Library
2200 Hancock Dr. Austin TX 78756

Join Austin’s City Arborist, Michael Embesi to learn about the benefits of trees, our urban forest, and why trees are an essential part of our lives. Learn to select appropriate trees for your Central Texas landscape, those that are appropriate for our native soils and tough climate. Understand how to select and care for the right tree, in the proper location, considering size, longevity, and biological needs. Finally, hear about your opportunities within multiple community programs, including grant opportunities, which promote the urban forest.

This seminar is free and open to the public. It is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. www.tcmastergardeners.org.

Continued ...
**Coming Events**

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**Beekeeping 101**

*Saturday, November 6, 2010*
*8:45 am - 4:30 pm*

Austin Community College
South Campus
1820 W Stassney Lane, Room 1130
Austin, Texas

This Advanced Educational opportunity is for Travis County Master Gardeners and Master Gardeners in surrounding counties. TCMGA members will receive 8 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEU) toward 2010 MG recertification. TCMGA members must sign-in for credit. MGs from other counties are responsible for obtaining CEU approval for the class and for report hours.

Cost: $30 (lunch not included)

Beekeeping 101 gives you easy-to-understand, step-by-step instructions on how to start your first hive. Presenters are San Marcos Area Bee Wranglers experts. Class is expected to cover:

- **Bees, flora & the apiary**
  - Bee biology
  - Castes
  - Life cycle & jobs
  - Reproduction, swarming and supersedeure cells

- **Apiarist location characteristics**
  - Bee flora

- **Apiarist equipment**
  - Bee space — the hive and its components
  - Tools of the trade

- **Hive management**
  - Checking a hive (the process)
  - Finding the queen, brood
  - Feeding the bees
  - Supervising the hive
  - Moving the hive to the nectar and pollen
  - Other management

**Pest, honey and winter**
- Diseases
- Honey harvesting
- Bees in the winter

RSVP deadline Oct 22: $30 check made out to TCMGA, mailed to Rosalie Russell, must be received by Oct 22. Minimum of 20 students or class will be canceled and checks returned. Maximum class size is 40 students.

Parking is free. There will be a 45 minute lunch break. You are encouraged to bring your own lunch or utilize the café in the building. A small kitchen with refrigerator and microwave adjoins the class room. There is a large area of tables and chairs inside and outside of the building. There are a number of restaurants within two blocks of the campus offering other possibilities.

If you have questions, email or call Rosalie Russell, TCMGA VP of Programs, gisathcc@aol.com or 512-804-2257.

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**Growing Culinary Herbs in Texas**

*Saturday, November 13, 2010, 10:00 am - 10:00 noon*

American Botanical Council
6200 Manor Rd., Austin TX  78723

Herbs are a delight to the senses and an easy way to add beauty to your landscape! This class will cover the basics of growing both seasonal and perennial culinary herbs in central Texas, and will offer some suggestions for their use. Class size is limited, so sign up early by calling the Master Gardener Help Desk at (512) 854-9600.

This seminar is free and open to the public. It is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County.

www.tcmastergardeners.org.

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**Bee photos courtesy of Wizzie Brown**
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This issue of the Compost Bin has been published thanks to the contributions of the following Travis County Master Gardeners and Wizzie Brown — Texas AgriLife Extension:

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Visit the websites: www.tcmastergardeners.org and http://travis-tx.tamu.edu

The End...

Time to Get Gardening!