Guest Presenter...

Matt Welch on Plants for Sequential Blooms

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On Plants for Sequential Blooms

Do you want year around color in your garden? Planting for Sequential Blooms by Matt Welch will help you learn plants which will fill the color voids. He’ll include examples of plants for full sun, some shade and full shade conditions with an emphasis on plants requiring lower amounts of water.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in horticulture from Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA), Matt moved to Raleigh, NC to work as head propagator at Taylor’s Nursery, a wholesale grower. After two years working at Taylor’s and living at Plant Delights Nursery, a specialty mail order nursery, Matt moved back to Texas to help build the Ruby Mize Azalea Garden on the campus of Stephen F. Austin.

After two years as Azalea Garden Technician he began construction of the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, also on the SFA campus, which fueled his fascination for native plants and their habitats, and led to a year of graduate work in plant ecology.

Later, Matt partnered up with garden writer Greg Grant and gardening friend Bill
Jobe to build Naconiche Gardens, a retail destination nursery specializing in heirloom, hardy and hard-to-find plants. As nursery/garden manager and head of the landscape division, Matt saw the small nursery grow from flat spot to 2 acres of display gardens, greenhouses, retail space and lecture barn which featured guest speaker authors Joe Liggio, Felder Rushing, David Creech, and Greg Grant. Since moving to Austin four years ago, Matt has managed a tree farm and worked as manager/special events coordinator at The Great Outdoors. He’s written many plant articles and given lectures on subjects ranging from container gardening to prehistoric plants to great bulbs for southern gardens.

Currently, Matt owns Plantsmith Gardens, a garden design/landscaping company he runs with his fiancée Meagan and his dog, Merle.

Please thank Hella Holoubeck for suggesting this topic! Carolyn Williams deserves the credit for suggesting the first two speakers this year, Carol Ann Sayle of Boggy Creek Farms and Keith Amelung owner of Heirloom-TomatoesofTexas.com and Have Spade, Will Travel Landscape & Consulting.

Meeting information:
Wednesday, March 3rd, 2010 starting at 7 pm.
Zilker Botanical Garden
Hello Master Gardeners:
A Message From Your President

Spring Needs to be Sprouting!

Texans do not appreciate nor are we fans of a long winter! No indeed, we need a sign of the upcoming spring around here...fast! Daffodil and iris blooms, redbuds and Lady Banks roses all in their beautiful spring colors will soon make their appearance. We head outdoors to work in new compost, plant those early spring veggies, prune and fertilize our roses and break in our new trowels. Is there anything any better than the smell of freshly turned soil?! Yes, gardeners need springtime!

We have experienced a brutal past summer (even by old Texans’ standards), a glorious autumn with much needed rains that have lasted through this cold winter. Now, with springtime approaching, the rains should help provide us with a marvelous showing of beautiful Texas wildflowers. If you have never experienced the drive of the Willow City Loop (right outside of Johnson City), give yourself a treat and plan on it this year. You will be amazed at what the Texas Hill Country can provide in the way of beauty!

Another way to celebrate spring is to volunteer for one or more of the several upcoming March events. First is the East Austin Garden Fair, “Gardening the Earth-Kind Way”, on Saturday, March 20th. Contact: Manda Rash, manda-rash@austin.rr.com. Followed by Zilker Garden Festival on Saturday, March 27th and Sunday, March 28th. Contact Cheryl McGrath, mcgmil@sbcglobal.net. Our greenhouse staff is working diligently and can always use a pair of extra hands in getting ready for both of these events. Watch for their announcements asking for volunteers. The Demonstration Garden at the AgriLife Extension Office is also gearing up and looking for volunteers. So, springtime is approaching and much work is needed. All of us need to “pitch in” and volunteer wherever we can to make it all work!
Big thanks go out to two of our members: Becky Waak, computer guru, who worked tirelessly on several projects regarding our membership reporting forms and rosters. Also to Mike McGiffin, Speakers’ Bureau, who has worked diligently through numerous long meetings to upgrade and update our speakers’ outreach program. Job well done Becky and Mike!!

Savor the sweet smell of spring’s early delights, volunteer to help our organization and enjoy your garden.

Happy Springtime!

Carolyn Williams, President

Heads Up! After The April Meeting...
Garden to Garden Plant Exchange

Hate to throw away all of those extra plants that have sprouted in your garden or do you just want to exchange them for new plants? Pot up your extras and bring them to the plant and garden-related exchange, which will be held immediately after the April meeting (next month.) Make sure your plants, seeds and cuttings are well labeled. If you have extra garden magazines, there will be plenty of takers at the meeting also.

Don’t forget to bring plastic bags, boxes or flats to take your new plants home. Baggies and labels are also needed. We need some volunteers to stay and help with clean-up, too. Also, please plan to take any of your extra items back home.

We also want to say a big “thank you!” to Roxane Smith for heading up this most popular plant exchange for the past few years and for keeping it going so efficiently.

Liz Caskey & Frankie Hart
In The Vegetable Garden
By Patty Leander

It’s go time, vegetable gardeners!

In March, we generally see nighttime temperatures in the high 40’s and lower 50’s and daytime temperatures in the 60’s – perfect “working in the garden” weather. And more importantly, our last frost usually comes this month, and soil temperatures will begin to warm up which means quicker germination and growth. If your garden space is limited, now is a good time to harvest most of your cool-season crops to make room for new plantings. Turn the soil and mix in a 1-2” layer of compost, removing weeds as you go and forming a smooth, level surface for planting. One half to three fourths cup of garden fertilizer (like 15-5-10) can be added per 10’ of row; if you are using an organic fertilizer (like 8-2-4 or 6-2-2) double the amount since it is lower in nitrogen. These are general recommendations; a soil test is the best way to determine your soil’s specific fertility requirements. Once you have your garden bed prepared and ready to go, take a moment to stand back and contemplate your work. A freshly prepared garden bed, amended with organic matter, soaking up the sunshine and teeming with microbes is the foundation for a successful garden season!

Heat-loving vegetables like okra, sweet potatoes and Southern peas should be planted next month, but most warm season vegetables can, and should, be planted this
In The Vegetable Garden

month as they don’t take the scorching heat of a Texas summer very well. The key to a successful spring garden is to plant early and harvest before the inferno takes hold. We have been known to have a blast of freezing weather even in April, so be prepared to protect your young plants with row cover, sheets, hot caps or boxes. Tomatoes, peppers and eggplant take a long time to reach maturity and should be planted from transplants, but the other spring crops can easily be planted from seed. Transplants should be hardened off by gradually exposing them to the outdoor environment over a 4-5 day period before planting in the garden. Water them in with a dilute fertilizer. If you feel like taking a gamble, set a few tomato transplants out early in the month; wrap the cages with plastic or row cover to protect from cold weather and strong winds.

Check out the ‘Gardens and Orchards’ heading of the Central Texas Horticulture website, http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/index.htm, for recommended vegetable varieties and planting dates.

If you planted onions in January, be sure to keep them watered and weeded; potatoes that were planted in February should be hilled up this month with soil or mulch. Weeds are
In The Vegetable Garden

abundant this time of year, especially if we are blessed with rain. They compete with our vegetable plants for water and nutrients, so pull or hoe them and throw them in the compost bin before they have a chance to produce seed. Also add spent plant material from your garden and fruit and vegetable waste from your kitchen – this is a good way to minimize your personal contribution to the city’s landfills.

Coming Events

Cool Plants for the Shade Garden

Friday, April 9, 9:00-11:00 am
Demonstration Garden at AgriLife Extension Office of Travis County
1600B Smith Rd., Austin TX 78721

Cool Plants for the Shade Garden is a free in-the-garden discussion. See some of the shade loving plants growing and learn about other perennials and annuals which require limited sun. This seminar is free and open to the public. It is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. For information, see http://www.tcmastergardeners.org or call the Travis County Master Gardener’s help desk at (512) 854-9600.
Hints from Wolf’s Garden - Companion Gardening
By Becky Waak

Part of planning our garden is determining which plants thrive when planted together or perhaps which plants might help repel bugs, fungus, or other problems that confront the gardener. I love the idea that these wonderful living things have properties we can use to enhance our gardens. There are different kinds of companion gardening.

The most common companion gardening technique is deterring pests. Simply by planting a row of strong-smelling plants next to a row of vulnerable vegetables, you can ward off many pests such as white fly and aphids. Alliums (leeks, onions or garlic) mask the smells of sweeter smelling vegetables, such as carrots and salad leaf crops, and deter pests from attacking your vegetables. Alliums also prevent fungal infections, so a row of onions planted near strawberries helps prevent strawberries from developing mold.

Basil and marigolds act as a natural insect repellent when planted among tomatoes, helping to ward off whitefly. We have planted a new variety of marigold at the greenhouse this year that is supposed to repel nematodes. We hope all of you will test this new variety. And then it’s said that nettles attract cabbage white butterflies, keeping them away from the brassica crops.

Did you know that tomato and asparagus are a dynamic duo? There’s something about asparagus that tomato hornworms don’t like, and asparagus beetles avoid tomato plants. Plant them together to rid both crops of their deadliest enemy. If you can’t keep tomato hornworms out of your tomato patch, try planting some dill nearby as a trap crop. Hornworms like dill better than tomatoes, and they’ll go eat that instead.
Hints from Wolf’s Garden

For a list of some of the plants that grow well together, visit http://www.companionplanting.net/ListofCompanionPlants.html.

Most plants have certain odors and root secretions that repel certain insects, but some have more than others. Plants that are universally “unappealing” to insects include marigolds, chrysanthemums, chives, onions, garlic, basil, horseradish, mint, and nasturtiums. The more you have in your garden, the fewer pests you’ll have. Be sure to check the companion planting list above for plants that are not compatible as well.

Eventually natural predators and parasites will arrive at the feast you’ve provided. Beneficial insects are a wonderful organic way to limit the damage of pests. Planting brightly colored flowers near your crops will attract a wide variety of insects to the garden. Attracting ladybugs and lacewings to your garden will help reduce damage from aphids. The predators will lay their eggs on your plants. These will hatch into larvae which can each eat up to 150 aphids per day. Of course another benefit of planting flowers is that more bees visiting your garden will result in more pollination which will lead to bigger yields of vegetables. To attract beneficial insects, plant candytuft, cilantro, sunflowers, lavender, Echinacea, Phacelia, and buckwheat.

Sources of these companion gardening ideas include 1,001 Gardening Secrets by Gayle K. Wood and the Editors of FC&A Publishing; and the websites CompanionPlanting.net and GrowVeg.com.
Home Invading Termites
By Wizzie Brown

**Inspecting Your Home for Termites**

While termites may not come to mind for gardeners, it is easy to keep an eye out for signs of the damaging pest while you clear areas preparing for spring planting. There are three main types of termites that can cause problems for homeowners in Central Texas- formosan termites, subterranean termites (Fig. 1) and drywood termites. While these termite each come with their own specific set of problems, the first problem homeowners need to tackle is realizing that they have a termite infestation.

![Subterranean termite workers and soldiers.](image)

**Fig 1.** Subterranean termite workers and soldiers.

**Tools and equipment you may need:**

- Flashlight
- Ice pick or screwdriver
- Ladder
Termites

- A floor plan of the structure (clipboard & pencil)

Signs of infestation:
- Presence of shelter (mud) tubes (Fig. 2) - looks like a mud-like substance often going up the foundation; active tubes will have workers and/or soldiers inside
- Swarmer termites - termites swarm at different times but swarmer have four wings of equal shape and size, no pinched waist (differentiates them from ants) and straight antennae
- Wings - termites often swarm to window and leave their wings behind on the sill
- Damaged wood, sheetrock (Fig. 3), etc. - wood damage can be hidden under paint, wallpaper, etc.; termite damaged wood often contains soil deposits

Fig 2. (above left) Shelter (mud) tube going up a foundation. Fig 3. (above right) Sheetrock damage due to termites.

Where to look outside:
• Foundation of the house & other structures- Look for mud tubes (Fig 1) or cracks in the foundation. Any locations where the foundation is covered with soil should be noted. Soil should be moved away from the area so the foundation is exposed.

• Attached porches (Fig. 4), patios, etc.

• Areas where pipes penetrate the structure (AC units, gas & electric services)- Look for wood decay and moisture problems.

Where to look inside:

• Door & window facings (Fig. 5), baseboards, hardwood floors- Look for wood damage.

• Ceilings- Look for water damage.

• Foundation cracks or expansion joints- Look for termites or mud tubes.

• Plumbing areas (Fig. 6) - If no bath trap exists install a removable hatch so this area may be inspected periodically.

• Attic - Look for mud tubes, water leaks, rotting wood or water damage.
Termites

- Pier & beam areas (on pier & beam homes) - Look around piers for mud tubes or damage.

![Fig 5. Debris on a windowsill.](image)

If you are not a do-it-yourself person, then call a pest management professional to inspect your home for termites.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

![Fig 6. Shelter (mud) tube going up plumbing.](image)

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Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.
The day was bright and sunny and the air was crisp and cool...it was a beautiful day for a garden tour. A total of 18 Master Gardeners (15 from Travis County and 3 from Williamson County) were treated to a very special afternoon at Peckerwood Garden.

John Fairey who has developed this garden over the last 39 years talked with us about the history of the garden and its development. When he first purchased the property near Hempstead in 1971 he set about to plant a more traditional garden that focused on azaleas and camellias. Following a devastating tornado in 1983 and a plant finding expedition to the mountains of Mexico in July 1988, his entire concept changed and the garden became what is known today as Peckerwood Garden.

The majority of the plants are rare and unusual specimens that were found in the United States, Mexico and Asia. Many of these plants are now available in nurseries because of the work of John, Lynn Lowrey and many others.

Plant material is introduced to the garden at a very early age and once established is not pampered with regular watering or fertilizing. Many sections of the garden do not have irrigation at all. Peckerwood Garden is fortunate to have neutral soil that you can actually dig in (wouldn’t it be nice?!) and the garden receives on average of 46 inches of rain. However, like Austin they can receive all of their rain in a very short period of time and go months without much at all.

Some specimens were lost this winter, others were damaged but will survive and many did just fine. The yuccas and agaves had some serious damage and were in the process
of being cleaned up. Some plants will be omitted from the garden because of their performance, which of course, makes room for another planting opportunity. Chris, our fabulous guide, told us that one very large palm will be removed to make way for an acacia tree.

I had visited Peckerwood one spring a couple of years ago so it was very interesting to see the garden in winter. A few specimens were actually blooming including a flowering apricot (the fruit is edible but it is not very tasty) according to Chris. Even in dormancy the garden is lovely. At this time of year, you can truly see the “layers” of the landscape from ground covers to shrubs/small trees and large trees. You really get a sense of the
overall plan. It is stunningly beautiful. Following our garden tour we were allowed to shop from their selection of agaves, yuccas, palms, sedums and much more that they had propagated from the plants in the garden. I came home with 4 lovely specimens including a cactus that is really spineless. They are very tiny now but I saw one of the older plants in the garden and know that I will enjoy watching it grow.

If we have an opportunity to visit Peckerwood Garden again, I hope that some of you who couldn’t make this trip will want to go along. The garden is only open by invitation and hosts some open days throughout the year. To learn more about this garden, visit the website at www.peckerwoodgarden.com.

Left: Chris, our tour guide at Peckerwood Gardens

**A Celebration of Urban Birds**

**Saturday, March 6, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Austin Nature & Science Center, 301 Nature Center Drive

Learn all about urban birds and celebrate their amazing presence in our city! Many on-going fun, family activities throughout the event including bird walks, biodiversity survey, bird talks, citizen science bird counts, bird of prey demonstration, kids bird drawing and more. Please come join the fun and bring your family and friends!

Visit www.keepaustinwild.com for more information or call 512-327-8181 ext. 29 or email wildlife@ci.austin.tx.us Presented by Austin Parks and Recreation Department and Travis Audubon Society.
Cellphone Gardening Apps
By Liz Caskey

Road Trip Via Computer This Month — Using Gardening “Apps”

I’ve heard of smartphone applications or “apps” to perform functions, such as calculate tips, but I never imagined that there would be one that could help me with gardening! What is an app? It’s is fun or useful software that, in the case of this article, works with an iPhone providing a specific function or information, such as weather, sports or games. The cost varies, but there are many free apps.

I’ve researched some iPhone/iTouch apps and discuss them below. These apps do not work with other types of smartphone hardware, but you should be able to do a web search for the apps that fit your device. Many of these applications may be similar to those available on the iPhone, but will not be exactly the same.

To get started, I used key search words in the iTunes app store like “garden,” “wildflowers,” “garden design,” and “Texas garden” to find lists of gardening apps. From the ones that looked promising, I then checked the reviews and a sample of the app appearance. I found the reviews to be very helpful. For instance, reviews for one app that I was interested in indicated that the app frequently crashed. I didn’t really want to pay for that, but I might check it out later, in hopes that the problem is corrected. Another app was rated only 2 out of 5 stars, with most people rating it a 1 star. Once again, I’ll keep that app in mind for later, hoping for a better product. I was also looking for an app to help me landscape some
of my beds. I had heard that there were some that let you take a picture with your phone and then “try out” plants from a database by inserting them into the picture. Unfortunately, the apps I found did not receive very high ratings, so once again, I will postpone purchasing them.

These are the ones I chose:

**Floral Envi Free** (free) This app has beautiful photographs of flowers and is very relaxing. Unfortunately, it was also an ad for the Floral Envi, which is not free.

**AllOrganic** ($ .99) This app lists restaurants, stores and farmers markets that feature organic items. Sixteen cities are preprogrammed, but it allows you to search by zip code and city too. It also includes an awesome soil calculator in the “tool” section. Once you select the length, width and depth to be filled, the soil calculator will figure out how much soil you need. A handy shopping list page is also included.

**Garden Ideas** ($ .99) This app includes videos, narrated by Rebecca Kolls, on topics such as “Growing a Pizza Garden,” “Creating a Bamboo Trellis” and “Growing Lettuce in a Pot.” The videos are fun and include projects that I would try in my garden. Hopefully, they will add more videos in the future.

**iLocate Gardening Supplies** ($ .99) This is my favorite garden app. I love to stop and see nurseries in cities that I visit and this allows me to enter a zip code and get a list of shops in the area. I wish it would provide a little information about the shops, since some didn’t seem to fit the gardening theme. Also, there are some listings that do not appear to be retail businesses. It provides the address and phone number and allows you to view the business
Gardening Apps

location on the map. Note: there is also an iLocate Plants app, but I did not purchase it.

**Master Gardener** ($ .99) - I have been trying to figure out how to put together a database of the plants in my gardens and this handy app seems to be the answer. It allows you to name the garden and catalog your plants. It has a database of 30,000 plants, with useful information. Unfortunately, because of licensing problems, they were not able to include a picture of each plant, but the app allows you to take a picture of a plant and upload it. In addition, it includes a to-do list, which can be linked to each garden. It also provides a journal.

**Gardening News and Updates** ($ .99) This fun app helps you to stay current on blogs and tips and trends in the gardening world. I never seem to take the time to access garden blogs, so I’m excited to now have them readily available. This app allows you to include a link to your favorite blog. Unfortunately, iPhone cannot always load the blog pages, depending on the size and/or how the blog is formatted. However, it includes an option to open the blog on the web.

Other apps that looked interesting, but I didn’t buy include: MyLite flashlight, for working late in the garden; Botanical Interests (one of the top rated garden apps), a seed company with tons of information and beautiful pictures and Audubon Texas Wildflowers. Hopefully, this will inspire you to check out apps that will help and inspire you in your garden.
**Designing Small Garden Spaces (Part Two)**

By Anne Van Nest

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**For smaller gardens - Keep things small!**

Scale down ponds, benches, sculpture to sizes that fit the garden. The same impact can be made with smaller scaled items as with grandiose ones. To make smaller scaled items appear even bigger - paint them bright colors like yellow, orange or red. An 8-person patio set (with oversized umbrella) that fills the entire back garden is a valuable accessory for parties but not appropriate for small garden life. Use a couple of café or bistro tables for two instead so that there’s room to garden. An Abelia is a great shrub for a small garden. It has these wonderful glossy evergreen leaves and beautiful pinkish white bell-shaped blooms for most of the year.

**Manage your resources and use space conservatively**

Space is a precious commodity in small gardens so be restrictive about how you give it out. Tough decisions may have to be made about which plants can realistically fit into the garden. Avoid the “there always room for one more plant” syndrome or stick to annuals. Yes there is often lots of room just after planting but not when perennials, shrubs or trees reach full size. Using space conservatively means that you may have to make sacrifices and take your favorite tree or shrub off the planting list because they are “ground” hogs. Realizing the fact that the garden has restrictions and some plants won’t make the cut is a key step in small garden design. A promising trend in the nursery industry has been to breed plants for smaller areas. Adapting the garden to hold miniature versions of your favorite plants is a good solution.

**Consider all the seasons**

Like large gardens, smaller areas should reflect all four seasons and make the most of each one. Plan for something of interest during all the months. A narrow front garden can have
tulips and narcissus that are a colorful start to the season. Coleus and other groundcover annuals can follow through the beginning of the summer and drought-tolerant Gazanias for the end of the summer. Snapdragons and dianthus can carry on into the winter with pansies.

**Use layers**
Consider the upper storey tree layer, the mid layer of shrubs and the ground level layer of perennials, annuals and bulbs. All three of these layers can hold plants. The most action is in the lowest layer that can have a different show for every season. Consider using perennials as groundcovers to increase the excitement in the garden. Don’t waste space on boring traditional groundcovers in a small space when so many other small stature plants will do better.

**Look at forms**
Plants that grow low and wide are highly prized in the garden but they take up too much valuable ground level space. Plants like this that are low and wide are not going to allow for many layers. Reach for the sky and choose high and wide instead.

**Use borrowed views and landscapes**
To take advantage of anything that you can — think about what you can use that is beyond the garden. One easy tip is to use your neighbor’s trees as part of your landscape. Design your garden as if the space were bigger. Just a small opening, big enough for one person, is all that is needed to open up a dramatic vista view of someone else’s landscape. Half the fun is pretending that it is all yours.

**Use plants as screens**
Smaller city gardens have more unwanted views to contend with than larger gardens. Ugly buildings, nosy neighbors, noisy highways, power lines, signs, parking lots, the list goes on and on. Use plants to block out the sight (and reduce the
Designing Small Garden Spaces  

sound) from these ugly views. Tall upright perennials such as Salvia along a drive are very good at blocking a view of a neighbor. Other plants like ornamental grasses and Dwarf clumping bamboo will also create great living screens.

**Use colors to your advantage**

Small amounts of bold reds, yellows and oranges have a huge impact. Use cool colors in a narrow space or along the perimeter to make the garden appear larger than it really is. Cool colors recede, while warm colors come forward. Balance the quantities of color, because a little yellow goes a long way especially in a small garden. Also remember the smaller the space the fewer the colors that should be used.

**Use several mediums**

Think about the number of different construction materials that are in a small garden. Having diverse materials such as stone, wood, brick, metal, and ceramic is fine up to a point but don’t use too many different ones. Small gardens are usually not large enough to hold more than three of these types of materials comfortably.

**Focus on textures**

Look at the amount of coarse and fine textures that there are in the garden. Coarse textures come toward the viewer and close in. While fine textures expand the garden by making it seem larger.

**Use magic**

Think about using shiny surfaces, mirrors and reflection to expand the area and make it look larger. The reflection of plants on water can greatly enlarge the feel of a garden.

**Use angles**

Angles can be used to make a garden appear larger. A small garden between two buildings can appear at least two times larger because of the angles used in the centre. The journey to the end of the garden will take longer and the view will be more interesting when angles are incorporated into
the design. Another garden illusion tip is to hide part of the garden from view.

**Plant intensively**
Consider the good old gardening tradition of mixing plant groups. Put annuals, perennials, vegetables, shrubs and vines together in the garden. Small gardens do not have room to keep everything separate. Besides the surprise of finding vegetables with perennials is quite fun. Imagine the surprise of finding ‘Bright Lights’ Swiss chard, roses and rosemary together. Companion planting aside, putting annuals with vegetables makes aesthetically pleasing gardens.

**Goodbye Lawn, Hello Garden**
Small gardens don’t have the space to waste on lawns!

**Prune to your heart’s content**
Learn to sculpt to keep plants in bounds. Sometimes this is the only way to grow what you want to grow in the space that you have. Pruning shrubs does not have to be dull geometric shapes. Try some fun by trimming a rosemary into a seal (complete with ball).

**Use prospective**
Narrow a path as it retreats to make it appear that the distance is greater. Make the journey interesting along the way (no matter what length the path). Hide the end of the path from view to increase the mystery about what might be around the turn of the path.

**Plant vegetables above ground**
No space for a vegetable garden then grow them in containers. Now vegetables can be grown where they have never been grown before. If you don’t have room for the full sized version of a vegetable, grow the miniature one.

**Design using all the vertical spaces**
Buildings, walls, and fences are excellent spaces for adding plants. Use window boxes, wall bags and half pots to grow plants in mid-air. Also consider vines on a fence or wall.
Designing Small Garden Spaces

Each one takes up less than 1 foot of ground space. Espalier is the technique of growing and training plants so that they are flat against a wall or fence. It is a great space saver.

So to deal with a small area and still have a rewarding garden, use all your space wisely. Use both the horizontal and vertical surfaces. Don’t think a small garden is a liability. Gardening in containers opens up many possibilities. Grow plants where they have never been grown before. Most importantly, be creative and have fun.

Coming Events

4th Annual A Passion For Plants: An East Austin Garden Fair

Saturday, March 20, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Govalle Park, 5200 Bolm Road, just East of Airport Blvd.

Govalle Park will once again be the site of A Passion for Plants: An East Austin Garden Fair on the last weekend of Spring Break. The theme of the fourth annual fair is “Gardening the Earth-Kind Way”. This FREE public gardening event will feature hands-on demonstrations of how to dig a garden bed, harvest rain water, grow fruits and vegetables organically, create wildlife food and shelter, start plants from cuttings and seeds, and how to cut back on chemicals that harm our environment and ourselves. Come for the free advice from our on-site experts to answer all of your gardening questions, for tips on living healthier and happier, and for fun educational activities for kids to get them out in nature in your own back yard! Visit our booths and get a free plant! Get ready for Spring with all the free information you need to start your own Earth-Kind garden, whether it’s one plant in a pot or a whole yard full, and then relax with a free massage!

Hosted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Travis County Master Gardeners Association, the Sustainable Food Center, the Green Corn Project, and the Holistic Education and Health Network.

Call the Texas AgriLife Extension Service at 854-9600 for more information
**Coming Events**

**DIY Pond Building**

*Wednesday, April 28, 7:00-9:00 pm*

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin TX

Always dreamt 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. This seminar is free and open to the public. It is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. For more details, see http://www.tcmastergardeners.org.
Coming Events

Heart O' Texas Orchid Society's 39th Annual Orchid Show & Sale,
"Easter Orchids"

April 3rd & 4th, 2010

Zilker Botanical Gardens Center
2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78746 (512) 477-8672

Show & Plant Sale: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Saturday & 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Sunday.

This year we are very proud to present the 39th Annual Orchid Show here in Austin. Orchids are Mother Nature at her best, so come join us and check out all the beautiful orchids that will be on display. There will also be hundreds of blooming orchids for sale, as well as helpful information for growing these beautiful plants from vendors and society members. Need flowers for Easter...orchids are becoming one of the most popular flowers in the U.S., so why not get an orchid this year for that special occasion. Admission to the event is free and the public is encouraged to attend. For a complete schedule of events, or for more information, please contact: Geoffrey Frost, 1011 Strickland Drive. Austin, TX 78748-4847 Telephone (512) 413-3199; e-mail geoffreylfrost@yahoo.com), or visit our web-site: http://www.hotos.org/

53rd Zilker Garden Festival

March 27-28, 2010

Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78746 (512) 477-8672

Support the TCMGA by buying your Zilker Garden Festival tickets from Joe Posern at the next meeting only $3 each ($5 at the gate) Volunteers still needed to fill many positions. Contact Cheryl McGrath for details.
**Coming Events Continued**

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**Gardening For Butterflies and Hummingbirds**

**Friday May 7, 2010, 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

Demonstration Garden at AgriLife Extension Office of Travis County

1600B Smith Rd., Austin TX 78721

Gardening for Butterflies & Hummingbirds is appropriate for anyone wanting to incorporate the correct plants into the garden to attract these beauties into your surroundings. Learn plant foods sources, host plants, and nesting places for the most common butterflies and hummingbirds in Central Texas.

This seminar is free and open to the public. It is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. For information, see http://www.tcmastergardeners.org or call the Travis County Master Gardener’s help desk at (512) 854-9600.

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**How To Create a Wildlife Habitat**

**Saturday May 22, 2010, 9:00 - 11:00 am**

Demonstration Garden at AgriLife Extension Office of Travis County

1600B Smith Rd., Austin TX 78721

Learn how to attract butterflies, birds, insects, toads, etc. by utilizing plants which create food, cover, places to raise young and water. A Master Naturalist volunteer will lead the discussion. This seminar is free and open to the public. It is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. For information, see http://www.tcmastergardeners.org or call the Travis County Master Gardener’s help desk at (512) 854-9600.
TRAVIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

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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 Service...

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512-854-9600

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

The End...

Time to Get Gardening!