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by Jack Neff
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April Meeting Speaker — Jack Neff

The Native Bees of Texas: Who They Are, What They Do, and Why We Should Care

Come hear bee expert Dr. Jack Neff give us the low-down on the importance of our native bees. An Associate at the University of Texas at Austin Brackenridge Field Lab, Jack is currently the Director and Curator of the Central Texas Melittological Institute.

Dr. Neff has been studying bees for 30 years. He has done extensive field work in Latin America and is the author of more than 50 book chapters and scientific papers on bees and pollination. He holds a BA in Biology from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Meeting information:  Wednesday, April 7th, 2010 starting at 7 pm.
Zilker Botanical Garden

Heads Up! After 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.

Liz Caskey & Frankie Hart
Hello Master Gardeners:
A Message From Your President

Enchanted April!
Bluebonnets are sprouting, redbuds and Mountain Laurels are blooming, early roses are budding and my peppers and a few tomatoes are in my veggie garden......all is good in my world! Can you tell I truly enjoy spring? What’s not to love about the land’s rebirth, renewal and with our welcome spring showers (so different from last spring), we see again the promise of a wonderful fresh start with our gardening!
I have Queen Anne’s Lace, Poppies and Larkspur seeds all growing fast, iris that are sending up flower stalks and Winecups that have spread and should be blooming soon. Everywhere I look little sprouts are showing their new leaves and I so enjoy being outside now that the spring warmth has arrived. I find myself even enjoying pulling up weeds that come easily out after a little rain shower. Folks, that true love of gardening!
My husband, Michael and I can never seem to plant enough tomatoes, so again this year we will be trying out new heirloom varieties, along with our normal basil and you know what many of our upcoming meals with consist of.....oh, those wonderful fresh from the garden tomatoes!!
Now that East Austin Garden Fair and Zilker Festival are over with, I hope you all were able to volunteer and enjoy one or both events. It is very important that we send out large “kudos” to Susan Decker, who works extremely hard to make the East Austin Garden event happen and to the Greenhouse Managers, Chris Giaraffa, Dorothy Akin and Vicki Olson, along with Marian Stasney, Holly Plotner & Becky Waak. These ladies plus many others managed to turn a greenhouse where little was growing after such a long, cold winter into a lush, seed sprouting wonderland! But, most especially to all those who worked at the very, very cold East
Austin Garden Fair for enduring the rain, high winds and nasty cold weather to come out and make this event happen!!

A huge applause to a wonderful group of Master Gardener volunteers!!

It is also my pleasure to announce that Link Davidson will chair our upcoming MG Garden Tour next April. You all have one entire year to decide how you would like to volunteer and help Link make our new tour project the best ever. Thank you Link for taking this important task!

I know as fellow gardeners you all feel as passionate as I with gardening so, I truly hope you all have a wonderful and enchanted April!

Happy Gardening,

Carolyn Williams,
President
In The Vegetable Garden
By Patty Leander

March brought the promise of warm weather and mild days, and April will bring more of the same. The possibility of frost has probably passed, but there is always chance of a cold snap in April, so keep some row cover, milk jugs or boxes handy for cold protection. Tomatoes, peppers and eggplants should be planted from transplants now; water them with a dilute fertilizer every week or two and use row cover to protect from strong winds in early spring. No need to spend your money on transplants of cucumbers, beans, corn, squash or melons – the seeds are big, they germinate quickly and are easy to seed directly in the garden. Wait until the soil reaches 65-70° to direct-seed okra and Southern peas.

A short list of dependable tomato varieties for Central Texas gardens would include ‘Juliet’, ‘Celebrity’, ‘Sungold’, ‘Roma’ and ‘Yellow Pear’, but if you have the room, do experiment with different varieties. Last year Becky Waak had success with a French variety called ‘Carmello’, so I hope to try that one this year. Just because a tomato produces small fruit does not mean it produces a small plant, so if growing in containers, look for determinate varieties such as ‘Patio’, ‘Viva Italia’, ‘BHN 444’ or ‘Solar Fire’. Plant them in 5 gallon (or larger) containers and be prepared to water frequently, and, if necessary, support them with a stake or cage as they grow.

Most heirlooms don’t produce as reliably or prolifically as the hybrid varieties, but their beautiful colors, juiciness and complex flavors are hard to resist. ‘Brandywine’ and ‘Cherokee Purple’ are two varieties I always plant, and some years are better than others. The descriptions in seed catalogs and on plant tags may have been written by a gardener in California or Maine and are sometimes a bit exaggerated, so it’s best to ask local and experienced gardeners for their personal recommendations. You just never know when you are going to find that perfect variety that fulfills all of your tomato expectations. When you do I hope you’ll share it with me!

Save space in your vegetable garden this season by growing cucumbers, winter squash or melons on a trellis, fence or tomato cage. Cucumbers and smaller squash do not need support as they vine, but melons and large squash can be supported by making a sling out of panty hose and tying them to the trellis or fence before they get too heavy.
In The Vegetable Garden

Onions that were planted in January should be sidedressed with fertilizer as the bulbs begin to swell. Two cups of organic fertilizer per 10 feet of a double row is recommended. Strawberries will also benefit from fertilizer as they start producing fruit. Mix in one tablespoon of fertilizer around the perimeter of the plant. Spray your plants every week or two with a water soluble fertilizer or fish emulsion and watch out for pill bugs as the berries begin to ripen. Strawberries don’t care for our hot summers, so it’s best to treat them as annuals, pulling up the plants in late May or June after harvest time has passed, and then starting with new plants in the fall.

If you planted potatoes in February they should be getting big with lots of leafy growth. Hill them up with soil or mulch as they grow so that only the top 6” of leaves is visible; the tubers will form along the stem and if they are exposed to the sun they will turn green. When corn seedlings are 6” high thin them so they are 12” apart in the row.

Once your seeds are up and growing, be sure to mulch to discourage competition from weeds. Mulch also helps retain moisture, regulate soil temperature and over time it will decompose, releasing nutrients into the soil. And be sure to plant some herbs and flowers in and around your vegetables; not only will it add to your own sensory, visual and culinary enjoyment, but beneficial insects will be attracted to your garden as well.
Butterfly gardening is a wonderful way to watch the life cycle of insects and add some beauty to your backyard, but it may not be for everyone. Before starting a butterfly garden, realize that caterpillars, the immature stage of butterflies, will eat plants, so if you do not want the occasional tattered plant in your yard, you might want to skip butterfly-attracting plants.

The best butterfly gardens provide a wide variety of food sources for both adults and immature stages. Adults feed on nectar, so you should try utilizing plants that will provide blooms in each season as well as providing a variety of color. Larvae will eat the foliage of plants, but some are very particular about what plants they will eat. Groupings of the same plant can allow butterflies to find them more easily. You can find some ideas of plants you can use at the bottom of the article.

It is also a good idea to provide open areas in the garden to allow butterflies to bask in the sun as well as shaded or protected areas so they can hide from the elements. Butterflies also need a water source. Using a shallow dish filled with pebbles or sand to hold water will allow butterflies to drink without the problem of drowning.

Be careful about using pesticides around your butterfly garden. Remember, butterflies are insects and can be killed by many common insecticides that are used to manage insect pests, including many natural or “organic” pesticides. Also, be aware of pesticide drift that may occur when applying pesticide to other areas of your yard.

*Left: Mating Common Buckeye Butterflies*
Some larvae feed only on particular plants. The following is a list to help you with your plant selection:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Butterfly</th>
<th>Plant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monarch butterfly (Fig. 1)</td>
<td>milkweed, butterfly weed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen butterfly</td>
<td>milkweed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viceroy</td>
<td>cottonwood, poplar, willow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black swallowtail</td>
<td>parsley, dill, fennel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spicebush swallowtail</td>
<td>spicebush, sweet bay, sassafras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipevine swallowtail</td>
<td>Dutchman’s pipevine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant swallowtail</td>
<td>citrus, Hercules club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazilian skipper</td>
<td>canna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brush-footed butterflies</td>
<td>nettles, thistles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairstreak butterflies</td>
<td>pecans, walnuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf fritillary (Fig. 2)</td>
<td>passionflower vines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fig 1. (left) Monarch butterfly larvae. Fig 2. (right) Gulf fritillary larvae.*
Butterfly Gardening

Giant purple hairstreak  
Gray hairstreak  
Question mark  
Texas crescent  
Painted lady (Fig. 3)  
Buckeye (Fig. 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant name</th>
<th>Flower color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asters</td>
<td>lavender, pink, purple, white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blazing star</td>
<td>lavender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly bush</td>
<td>lavender, purple, white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly weed</td>
<td>orange, yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coneflower</td>
<td>fuchsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flamebush</td>
<td>red-orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldenrod</td>
<td>yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adult butterflies need a source of nectar in the garden. The following is a list of plants they might like:
### Butterfly Gardening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>Color Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ironweed</td>
<td>pink, purple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lantana</td>
<td>combinations, lavender, orange, pink, white, yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loosestrife</td>
<td>lavender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican heather</td>
<td>lavender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican milkweed</td>
<td>red-orange, yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican mint marigold</td>
<td>yellow-orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mist flower</td>
<td>blue, white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phlox</td>
<td>pink, purple, red, white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvia</td>
<td>blue, lavender, pink, red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbena</td>
<td>blue, lavender, pink, purple, red, white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinnia</td>
<td>orange, pink, red, white, yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fig 5. (left above) Question Mark Butterfly*
*Fig 6. (right above) Mexican Milkweed*
*Fig. 7 (left below) Blazing Star*
*Fig. 8 (right below) Monarch butterfly*
10 Spring Tips for Central Texas

By Bob Beyer

Thinking spring? Here are a few related thoughts for preparing for the spring garden.

1. Planning, planning, planning: Develop a garden plan for the coming season, both short, and longer term. Know what it is you want to do before digging - what goes where and why.

2. Select your plants for the coming season carefully. Research them on the Internet or check with a non-commercial reliable sources for advice as to adaptability and growing features of plants that you are considering for your garden. Remember, there is a right plant for every place depending on the micro-environment of the growing location. Impulse buying at a plant center can be wasteful.

3. Prune back any dead wood or expired vegetation to allow new growth the opportunity to take over in spring. It is usually best to wait until new growth actively occurs before pruning.

4. Cultivate bed areas to aerate and refresh them. Add new organic materials and compost to encourage microbiotic activity. The health of your soil will directly affect your gardening success.

5. Don’t be too eager to begin planting tender plant materials as we are always subject to late freezes or wintry blasts. In Central Texas, April 1st should be a safe date for planting anything tender.

6. If moving plants from indoors or low light areas where they were protected over winter, re-acclimate and re-climatize them to the higher light intensity levels in slow gradual phases.

7. Most nurseries carry fresh stock in spring through summer but phase out stock in fall and winter, so your healthiest plants will be those purchased as early as they become available. Many nurseries have difficulty taking good care of container stock during off seasons so buying prior year stock can be risky.

8. When planting new shrubs or perennials, cut through tightly wound root balls and spread roots outward before covering with soil. This allows new feeder roots to spread and the plant to establish itself faster. The consequence of not doing that might be “girdling” or the plant strangling itself over time.

9. If you have yard maintenance service, tell them not to pile mulch around tree trunks, not to prune back plants more than 1/3rd their size (esp. Crape Myrtle), or use their string trimmers within striking distance of any plant trunk or base. These are common problems with such services.

10. Learn about the plants you grow. The more you learn, the more economical and enjoyable gardening will become. You should learn about which plants do well in your specific environment and climate zone and not try to “push the limit” of plant tolerances.

Used with permission from the Gardening In Central Texas blog www.centraltexasgardening.blogspot.com
Dallas and Fort Worth are my favorite places to visit nurseries. Each garden center in the metroplex is unique and many are very high quality, both in nursery stock and customer service. I’ve listed some of my favorites, both in the area and on the way up to DFW.

Bonnie’s Greenhouse:
Bonnie’s Greenhouse in Waco has a new owner and a new web site: http://bonniesgreenhouse.com. One of the nursery’s long time employees recently bought Bonnie’s and it has maintained its high quality. This is the type of nursery I’d like to own. It looks like someone started with “hobby” greenhouses, then got carried away. The staff is very friendly and knowledgeable. They frequently have many begonia varieties to choose from. Located at 5198 Orchard, Waco.

Calloway’s:
Although this is a chain nursery, the quality is unbeatable. The plants are always in top shape and the staff is knowledgeable. For me, the best part about Calloways is the wide variety of pottery, which usually is reasonable priced. There are many locations in the DFW area, but a few of the most memorable are the 100,000 square foot store in Fort Worth, designed to look like a Texas homestead and the 80,000 square foot store in McKinney, with a replica of Monticello at the back of the nursery. Don’t forget to check the website for weekly specials and locations: www.calloways.com

Metro Maples:
This wholesale grower is only open from 8-2 on Saturdays. However, if you love Japanese maples, it is worth the trip. Metro Maples grows and sells Japanese Maples and Shantung maples from 1 gallon to 25 gallons. The website, www.metromaples.com, is a great resource for growing Japanese maples in warm
weather. Located at 4890 S. Dick Price Rd., Fort Worth, 76140, (817)-797-3419

**Weston Gardens:**
“English Gardens-Texas Style.” This is one of my favorite nurseries. When Randy and Sue Weston opened their landscaping business in 1984, they had no idea what was across the street. The 10 acres were completely overgrown with briars, hackberries and other weeds. It had been the showcase property of Leon and Peggy Bandy, who abandoned it years earlier because they thought the taxes were too high. Much of the property has been rehabbed—so look for the New England Barn, the lily pond and my favorite, the stone ship. Last time I visited, they had lots of handouts for garden ideas and also printouts explaining the history of the property. Located at 8101 Anglin Drive in Fort Worth, www.westongardens.com

**North Haven Gardens:**
The store looks like an unassuming, old-time nursery in an urban neighborhood. But once inside...oh my! If you are a plant collector, don’t miss this nursery. I usually head to the greenhouse for all varieties of plants. The plants are in good shape and the staff is very knowledgeable. The website is awesome and has tons of information, including plant lists, suggested blogs and much more (www.nhg.com). It also will indicate the specials and any lectures for the weekend. Located at 7700 Northaven Road in Dallas.

**Redenata’s:**
Always fun to visit, with a wide variety of plants. They also have a good selection of gifts, including some great soaps. Two locations: 5111 W. Arkansas Lane, Arlington and 2001 Skillman in Dallas. Visit their website at www.redentas.com

**Archie’s Gardenland:**
Yet another long standing nursery, which is still run with good, old fashioned customer service. It carries all types of bedding and nursery stock, in addition to a
nice greenhouse full of orchids, bromeliads and begonias. They also carry bulk seeds.
www.archiesgardenland.com, Located at 6700 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth, 76116-7113, (817) 737-6614.

**Marshall Grain:**
This is also a feed store, so you can find most everything you need for your yard and animals. The Fort Worth store carries low cost barrels that can be converted into rain barrels. They also have had a large variety of vegetable plants each time I have visited. Last time I visited, they were still offering a discount for Master Gardeners (ask for more information in the store.) Locations in Fort Worth and Grapevine.

**Nicholson-Hardie Nursery & Garden Centers:**
Both location are beautiful. The garden shop at 5725 W. Lovers Lane in Dallas has tons of tropical plants, blooming plants for baskets and gift items. It’s also a good source for bulk seed. The second shop is down the street at 5060 W. Lovers Lane. It carries a large selection of bedding plants, trees, perennials and many other garden fixtures. www.nicholson-hardie.com.

If you have time, visit the **Dallas Arboretum.** Dallas Blooms will be in its last few days and is a “must see.” Dallas Blooms is the largest floral festival in the south, showcasing over 500,000 spring-blooming bulbs. The Dallas Arboretum has trial gardens each year to test what will make it through our hot summer. Make sure to visit the trial area and ask about recommended varieties. The Fort Worth Arboretum & nearby Japanese Gardens are also well worth the trip. If you go to the Japanese Gardens allow an hour+, as it is very large. I only scheduled an hour visit and was disappointed that I missed so much.
Zilker Garden Festival
By Chris Giraffa

Above: The start of the Friday booth set up preparations for the TCMGA Plant Sales Booth at the 53rd Zilker Garden Festival.
Below: After a full day of work! The plants and booth are ready for the opening day plant buyers.

Chris, Vicki and Dorothy, TCMGA Greenhouse Managers, thank everyone for all their hard work!
New US Hardiness Zone map Launches Soon!
by Anne Van Nest

Graham Rice posted some exciting news on his Transatlantic Gardener blog recently about the latest version of the USDA hardiness zone map nearing online release. Discussion and rumors of this event have been circulating for years and this is the best news about an impending release of this updated map. To read more about the news on Graham’s blog visit this link http://transatlanticplantsman.typepad.com/transatlantic_plantsman/2010/03/new-hardiness-zone-map-launches-soon.html

The new hardiness map will be an interactive web friendly, GIS-based (Geographic Information Systems) map. The improvements include better definition between zones with more detail provided so that the influence of large bodies of water, elevation increases, city radiant effects, and more can be shown. The extra detail is made possible through the use of more weather stations and analyzing 30 years of records (the old map used 12 years of weather records).

Another big change to the soon to be released map is the addition of three more hardiness zones on the warm end for tropical growers. The original zones 1-11 a & b will stay the same as previously used. The new map will be extended through zone 14 a & b. The result is a map of zones and subzones that is differentiated into 27 zones that reflect a 5 degree F. difference between each. A big boon for gardeners! But once we have scrutinized the new map and come to identify our zone (new or not) — 7b, 8a, or 8b, then we need to have the independent and big chain nurseries, magazine and book authors put a serious effort into correctly identifying the hardiness zones for our plants. It is little consolation to have a wonderful, new hardiness map with great detail for our Central Texas area if the plant hardiness information is incorrect.

And as Graham Rice says, “Of course, this whole system can never be more than a guide. Other factors like soil drainage, exposure to cold winds are also important and
snow cover. But, at last, we’re going to have a zone map that reflects recent changes in our climate. So you may find that you’re now in a warmer zone than you thought – and you can grow far more plants than you thought.”

The present (ie: outdated) USDA hardiness map (above) can be found online here: http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html Watch for news of the newest version soon!
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: www.hotos.org

Austin Invaders of Texas Workshop,  
Saturday, May 1st 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Austin Nature and Science Center  
301 Nature Center Drive, Austin, TX 78746

Presented by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Invaders of Texas is a unique program whereby volunteer “citizen scientists” are trained using a specially developed Invasive Species Early Detection and Reporting Kit. With this kit, volunteers can help detect invaders’ arrival and dispersal in their own local areas. They can submit this information to a national database and to those who can do something about it. The idea is simple. The more trained eyes watching for invasives, the better our chances of lessening or avoiding damage to our native landscapes. For more details and to register visit www.keepaustinwild.com or www.texasinvasives.org/invaders/workshop_results.php, email alice.nance@ci.austin.tx.us or call 512-327-8181 x 29.
Plant Propagation
Saturday, April 17th, 9:00-11:00 am
AgriLife Extension Office of Travis County
1600 B Smith Road, Austin, TX 78721 (512) 854-9600

Learning how to propagate from existing plants is a great way to populate your garden or pass along your favorites to friends. This seminar covers various propagation methods including cuttings, layering, and division, and help you overcome that fear of starting plants from seeds. The seminar will be part presentation, part participation so class size is limited to 30 participants. Participants must also bring scissors and an empty, clear plastic, 2 liter soda bottle with lid for the hands-on project.

This seminar is free and open to the public. Presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. www.tcmastergardeners.org. Call the Travis County Master Gardener’s help desk at (512) 854-9600 to reserve your seat.

All About Trees
Saturday, April 24th, 9:30-11:30 am
Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78746 (512) 477-8672

Join Liz McVeety, Garden Center Coordinator, Zilker Botanical Garden for a tour focusing on tree identification. Did you know that we have a Dawn Redwood tree in ZBG? Yew don’t say! Ginkgo, Kapok, Buckeye, Persimmon, Papaya, Banana, Cherry, Date Palm, Saw Palmetto, Needle Palm, Sandpaper tree, Lead-tree, Kidney Wood, Elbow Bush, Big Tooth Maple, Blood Maple, Birch, Magnolias, Cypresses, Oaks, Elms, Junipers all flourish in ZBG, and that’s only the beginning! All are welcome. Presented by the Zilker Botanical Garden Docents. For more information, call Marion at 970-3405 or Anita at 261-1497
Master Gardener Advanced Education Classes
These free advanced level classes are an additional avenue available to Master Gardeners to complete your yearly Continuing Education Units (CEUs). These MG only classes offer an in-depth study of specific topics. There is also the advantage gained from interacting with other Master Gardeners. Locations vary. Questions and reservations are taken by Rosalie Russell, gisathccs@aol.com.

Red Oak Monitoring  
Monday, April 5th, 12:30 -3:30 pm  
This is a field trip to an oak wilt disease center with the purpose of learning to identify diseased red oaks and diseased red oaks with fungal mats. Discussions will include oak wilt and the oak wilt disease triangle. After the class you will have the opportunity to voluntarily monitor red oaks twice a year near recognized oak wilt disease centers.

Plant Propagation  
Saturday, April 24th, 9:00 am -4:00 pm  
This class is full.

Diagnosing Plant Health Problems  
Saturday, June 5, 9:00 am -5:00 pm  
The Diagnosing Plant Problems class includes topics such as: IPM, insects & mites, infectious plant diseases (fungi, bacteria & viruses), cultural & environmental problems, organic & chemical treatment applications. More details will be arriving via email to the TCMGA membership soon.

How to Create a Wildlife Habitat  
Saturday, May 22nd, 9:00-11:00 am  
AgriLife Extension Office of Travis County  
1600 B Smith Road, Austin, TX 78721 (512) 854-9600

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 www.tcmastergardeners.org or call the Travis County Master Gardener’s help desk at (512) 854-9600.
**Become a Garden Detective**

**Saturday, May 29th, 10:00 am - noon**

Zilker Botanical Garden

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

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. 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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**Rainwater Harvesting**

**Saturday, June 26th, 10:00 am - noon**

Zilker Botanical Garden

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

Come enjoy a free seminar concentrating on capturing rainwater and lowering water usage in your landscape. This session will teach you all the basics on building a non-potable rainwater harvesting system. In addition, lower your water usage by learning about rain gardens which capture valuable rainwater in your landscape. Vendors representing tank and gutter companies will be available to answer specific questions. City of Austin representatives will be available to answer permit and rebate questions.

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. 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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*The position of Director of Publications remains open
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The End...

Time to Get Gardening!