The Compost Bin

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

January 2011

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Soul of the Garden

Guest Presenter...
The Garden of Your Dreams

with

Tom Spencer
The Garden of Your Dreams
From KLRU to Central Texas Gardener to Soul of the Garden to Where Wonder Was Born, Tom Spencer always has an ambitious project at the forefront of his life. His is currently the CEO of Austin Area Interreligious Ministries (AAIM.) AAIM unites faith and cultural communities to foster mutual respect in service of the common good. Prior to being hired by AAIM in 2008, Spencer served as a Host and Producer for KLRU-TV, Austin’s Public Television station for over twenty-five years. Employed by KLRU from 1982 - 2008, Spencer served as a manager and producer of local and statewide public affairs programs, nationally distributed documentaries on art and architecture, and a wide variety of special projects. Throughout his association with KLRU he has also served as the primary host for the station’s local programming. Since 1983, Tom Spencer has also produced and hosted a weekly radio program on gardening “The Wildflower Hour” for KLBJ-AM. He is the author of numerous articles and columns on gardening and landscape design. His work has appeared in a variety of publications including: The Good Life, Domain Magazine, The Austin Chronicle, and The Austin American-Statesman. He also currently hosts the Central Texas Gardener, a weekly gardening program presented by KLRU. An accomplished photographer, his work has appeared in galleries and has been published along with his written work. His current projects include the internationally popular and award winning website: www.soulofthegarden.com. His first book, Where Wonder Was Born, about childhood encounters with nature, is due out from UT Press in 2011.

At the January Master Gardener meeting Tom will speak about designing and creating a garden to satisfy your soul.

Master Gardener Meeting information:
Wednesday, January 5th, 2011 starting at 7 pm.
Zilker Botanical Garden
Hello Master Gardeners:
A Message From Your President

Happy New Year to you all and I hope your holidays were merry and bright! Our Holiday Party was a wonderful success with so much happening. I would like to thank several members who worked hard to pull this exceptional event together.

Pam Foster and Lisa Graybill – Chairing
Liz Caskey and Frankie Hart – History
Elaine Dill, Eleanor Pratt and Nancy Seibert – Decorations

We had a wonderful time sharing our history, giving out awards, welcoming our newly certified members and enjoying fabulous food with 140 of you!! Thank you all for making it such a special night. Liz and Frankie are contributing the history of our amazing three honored members (Don, Ron and Bud), as they worked to start TCMGA!

To the outgoing members of the Executive Committee: Vicki Blachman, Bonnie Martin, Marty Berdan, Sherrill Nilson, Jo Kautz, and Becky Waak – a huge thank you for your time and service!

To Peggy Stewart who was honored with a “Lifetime Member Status” for her exceptional service as President (1999-2000) plus 15 years of service to our association – we all owe you a great deal of gratitude!

To the five members we honored with a “5,000+ Hours of MG Volunteer Service Awards”; Jack Campbell, Tommie Clayton, Don Freeman, Bud Kane, Patty Leander, Ron Miller and Peggy Stewart — what an incredible service they have provided for our TCMGA, Extension program and to our community!!

Peggy Stewart Award – “Leadership Skills & Exceptional Work”
Vicki Blachman - Education
Bonnie Martin - Education

Golden Glove Award – “Down and Dirty Work”
Dorothy Akin – Greenhouse
Vicki Olson – Greenhouse
Van Alvarez – Austin Children’s Shelter

Certificate of Excellence
Tommie Clayton – Central Texas Gardener Conference
Susan Jung – Central Texas Gardener Conference
Mike McGiffin – Speaker’s Bureau
Sherrill Nilson – Master Gardener Class
Roxane Smith – JMG/School Garden Design
Rosalie Russell – Education/Demonstration Garden

Special Merit Award
Becky Waak – Membership

To the new members of the 2011 Executive Committee:
Cher Groody, Margarine Beaman, Richard Moline, Mary Lou Bell, Ferne Mizell, Barb Powell and Jackie Johnson, I welcome you and look very forward to working with you in the coming year!
A Message From Your President

January comes from the word “Janus”, the Roman god of new beginnings or new doorway. So January means “the door to the new year”. As we all begin 2011 there is much ahead for us, much continued work on behalf of AgriLife Extension, much garden education to spread to our community and much fun to share with one another.

New dates are already on the calendar, spring is ready to leap forward. But before all this begins, let’s enjoy and savor the month, think about what you wish to accomplish in your own garden, what you wish to volunteer and accomplish with TCMGA and what new garden varieties lie ahead waiting to be planted with tenderness and hope.

Being Irish we shared this blessing at my daughter’s wedding. I share it now with each of you in the spirit of love and friendship.

“May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

Happy 2011 from Carolyn Williams

Right: Narcissus ‘Falconet’ taken February 21st in Austin
Left: Narcissus ‘Abba’ taken February 14th in Austin.
Photos by Anne Van Nest
In The Vegetable Garden

by Patty Leander

With 2010 behind us, we can now look forward to the second decade of the 21st century. Will a vegetable garden be in your future? What will you grow? What will be your biggest challenges?

If you are a vegetable gardener I would love to hear from you. Please take a moment to look over the three questions below and send your responses to me at leander@austin.rr.com. I will compile the responses and share them in a subsequent issue of the Compost Bin.

1) Why do you grow a vegetable garden?

2) What are your 3 favorite and 3 least favorite vegetables?

3) What is your biggest challenge in the vegetable garden?

Thanks so much, and I look forward to hearing about your garden experiences and successes in the upcoming season!

Patty
TCMGA Honors Founders 2010
by Frankie Hart & Liz Caskey

The Travis County Master Gardener Association (TCMGA) was formed shortly after the third Master Gardener class. Although it was debated whether a new garden club was needed, a small group went forward with plans. The Association was incorporated in September 1993, with Don Freeman agreeing to serve as the first president. Bylaws from other Master Gardener associations served as a model and the meetings were set for 4 times a year. The first meetings were held at the extension office, but soon the organization applied to be a part of the Austin Area Garden Council and was assigned the first Wednesday as a meeting time. The people we are honoring tonight, Don Freeman, Ron Miller, and Bud Kane were founding members of our chapter, while Peggy Stewart served as an inspirational President for the years 1999 and 2000 as the chapter grew. It's hard to talk about these folks individually, since many of our chapter's early accomplishments involved all of them, but tonight we want to highlight each of them.

Don Freeman
Don was in the second Master Gardener class in Travis County and wanted to be a Master Gardener because it seemed a natural extension of his gardening interests. He was already involved with the Rose and Iris Societies and the Butterfly Forum. Doug Blachly, a member of the 1st class, wanted butterfly plants grown for all the schools in Austin and Don saw this as a "perfect fit" – both gardening and schools to work with. Don was instrumental in proposing the organization of the Travis County Master Gardener Association to a group of about 25. This first meeting quickly became dramatic when someone asked if there would be officers, dues, etc. When told yes, there would be dues and a formal organization, about half the group walked out. The rest of the group stayed and the formation of the TCMGA proceeded. Don thought the TCMGA would be a great opportunity with many good projects that could be done for the community and an organized group to help with projects at the botanical garden. One of the early projects that TCGMA worked on was the butterfly garden at Zilker. The project was started in February and Valerie Edelbrock, the Zilker manager, said the work had to be done by Zilkerfest, which was in 60 days. The project was done on time, which impressed Valerie. She said she had never seen a project completed so quickly and finished on time.

Ron Miller
Ron was a member of Travis County's first Master Gardener class and a part of the planning group that formed the association. Initially, Ron thought he was too busy to join the Master Gardeners, but Ted Fisher asked him to join saying that if he didn't like it, he could leave. All of Ron's gardening friends joined, so he stayed. Ron served as treasurer for 11 years, carefully setting up the books, making sure to comply with all the state and tax laws. Future treasurers conferred with him for years after he stepped down. Have you ever wonder how we got such a prime spot at Zilkerfest? The Master Gardeners had a plant clinic at the fest for several years, but had been moved around and didn't always get the best location. Ron had his own booth at the fest for 20 years, but generously offered it the master gardeners. He provided the leads and transportation to wholesale plant sources and even took care of the purchased plants at his home until time for the plant sale. The booth continues to provide a good source of income for the master gardeners. Ron also taught propagation to the early Master Gardener classes. Several professors who currently lecture the MG class still comment on how much they have learned from him.

Bud Kane
Bud was in the first class of Travis County Master Gardeners because he wanted to learn more about gardening. He lives in northwest Austin and, despite the challenging terrain, he wanted to do vegetable gardening (his favorite) and wanted to know how to do it better. At his last master gardener class, he tried to think about what he could do as a volunteer. There were no designated
volunteer projects established back then. Ted Fisher was the busy horticulture agent with lots of requests for his time. Bud realized that the extension office phone probably rang off the wall and that would be a way he could help. Bud volunteered on Monday mornings for years. He started to record the calls and still has lots of the old records. He feels that answering the phone is where he really learned about gardening as he had to know or find answers for all the questions on the phone. There was no internet available then, so if he didn’t know the answer, he would ask Ted Fisher lots of questions. One Monday, Bud answered 35 calls in just 3 hours.

During an early meeting of TCMGA, there was no money in the treasury and it was proposed that annual dues be collected. Some of the group, who were also members of other garden clubs, was against this because they already paid dues to other organizations. Bud spoke up and said he wouldn’t belong to a group that had no financial basis and that the dues should be collected. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Bud Kane was one of the early proponents of rainwater harvesting in Austin. Bud’s home was the first place many of us saw a rainwater collection system. He also spoke on rainwater collection at TCMGA meetings, as well as being a featured speaker at other events. Bud recommends starting with as large a rainwater collection system as possible because once you start rainwater harvesting, you will always wish you had a larger system.

Peggy Stewart
Peggy wanted to be a Master Gardener because she loved plants. Her parents were not gardeners, so she relied on her neighbor’s garden to provide inspiration. As she said, “I probably looked like a lost waif wandering the streets seeking not food, but plants I could love from a distance.” Once her youngest child left for college, she signed up for Master Gardener classes at Virginia Tech. Peggy was certified in Virginia…but as they say, she got here as fast as she could! Ironically, she was on a garden tour at Bud Kane’s house in the fall of 1996, when he told her about the Travis County Master Gardeners. She joined the chapter and soon was serving as a state representative for TCMGA. Vi Fowler asked her to consider the TCMGA president position for 1999. At first, she declined, thinking she didn’t know enough about the organization to serve. After much thought, she realized that there were many members with expertise who she could call on. Other early members have commented that she had the vision for the future and that she did a lot to help the chapter grow.

Peggy served as president during 1999 and 2000 and it was during this time that Skip Richter was hired as Travis County horticulture agent. Peggy indicated that, when planning the Master Gardener classes, she listed on a legal pad everything she could think of that needed to put on the class. They then divided the tasks between Skip, the master gardener and shared tasks. They made a good team and the chapter grew.

As exemplified by Peggy, the Peggy Stewart Award was created and awarded annually to a master gardener who exemplifies a diverse range of projects and leadership. Characteristics of the recipient include a willingness to help out anytime, anywhere. It was also during this time that Ron, Don, Peggy and Bill Boytim visited other chapters that had a greenhouse. In addition, in August of 1999, the Bexar County chapter asked Travis County to help with the International Master Gardener Convention. It was a lot of work, but the money earned from the convention, along with donations from chapter members provided seed money for the greenhouse. The greenhouse became a place to meet, learn and train. For years after the construction of the greenhouse, Ron and Don were known as Mr. Greenhouse. Bud Kane was the main force on the rain water system at the greenhouse.

He got the gutter company to install the gutters for just the cost of labor. He also wrote a letter to the City for a rebate on the tanks, which saved additional funds. Don and Ron cut trenches, installed the down spouts and the pipes going to the tanks, and made pads for the tanks to sit on. Don and Ron also did the plumbing work to get the water to the greenhouse. Bill Boytim completed the electrical work for the pump. As Don Freeman said, the early TCGMA as an organization was very fortunate in that the members were willing to get their “fingers and feet in the dirt” and get things done. This certainly applies to the four members honored here tonight (December 1st, 2010).
The lawn has turned brown, the perennials are sleeping underground, trees have lost their leaves, nothing is blooming, and garden activity has come to a winter halt. What could be more depressing to a gardener! Well, that’s one way of looking at it, but let me offer another perspective. Winter has it’s own unique show and advantages. You just need to stroll the yard and take a closer look.

Those features that come into prominence during winter include the predominance of evergreen plants, exfoliating bark, contorted twigs and branching structure, visually interesting bark, special winter colorations, persistent berries and seed pods, ornamental grass plumage, and prominent buds. In fact, these features that are not seen in the warmer weather, prime-time garden, are actually photogenic, and can keep the excitement of gardening going all year round.

Evergreen plants such as hollies, hardy palms and cycads, conifers, Loropetatum, Texas mountain laurel, hardy agaves and yuccas, viburnum, Abelia, Elaeagnus, hardy citrus, just to name a few, add color to the winter garden, especially if they are variegated. Some plants are semi-evergreen depending on how low temperatures fall, such as roses, dwarf pomegranate, and Barbados cherry. Green is a color to be enjoyed during the winter months.

Exfoliating bark can be very intriguing such as that which is seen on varieties of crape myrtles, Chinese elm, and sycamore as good examples. Exfoliating means a peeling away of a layer of smooth bark to reveal a deeper color beneath.

Contorted twigs and unusual branching structures are eye-catching in winter and not well seen during growth season when leaves hide these features. Examples are the contorted varieties of mulberry, hazelnut and willow.

In central Texas, you need not go far to see unusual bark. Just look at our native and local bur oak with it’s rugged and craggy bark. Branching patterns seen on “naked” trees range from the rigid, rough look of the bur oak to the fine textured, compact, smooth look of the Mexican plum. Some trees and shrubs have winged bark. Bark on a tree is definitely an ornamental feature not to be overlooked.

Special winter colorations can be seen on many yuccas, junipers, arborvitae, and other conifers. This is usually a bronze, pinkish, or reddening coloration brought about by cold temperatures, which, in effect, reduces photosynthesis during this dormant period of the year.

Persistent berries and seed pods are common among many central Texas plants. The yaupon holly, although evergreen also, holds it’s bright red berries throughout the winter to provide food for many of our local birds, and the deciduous possumhaw holly does the same thing - has red berries lining bare branches throughout the winter. The crape myrtles cling to their seed pods throughout the winter, even after the open and disperse the seed. Roses going dormant display colorful seed pods called hips.

Grass plumage can be very beautiful adding a unique texture to the winter garden, so don’t be to quick to prune back those dormant clumps of grass. That can be done in early spring. Enjoy the seed plumage while it lasts. Muhlenbergia and Miscanthus are particularly beautiful and maintain their plumage well into winter.

Prominent pubescent buds can be seen on deciduous magnolias during winter. They form during fall, persist through the winter and remind us that spring won’t be far away. The plants in the Magnolia family, whether evergreen or deciduous display this feature well.

Winter sometimes produces unusual happenings in the garden. Often a bulbous plant will get confused by changing weather patterns and pop up unexpectedly or a flower bud will open in warm weather thinking it is spring already. A walk through the yard and garden in winter can be interesting. Like any other time of the year, there can always be unexpected surprises.

If you plan your garden and landscape to provide for seasonal variations and ensure that there will be plantings to inspire you regardless of the season, your gardening joy will be never ending. Every season has it’s rewards including the dormant season of winter.

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A Winter Garden Needn’t Be Boring

Right: A collage of pleasant winter surprises in the garden. Photos by Bob Beyer

Left: A January ice storm in Austin. Photo by Anne Van Nest
Salt Marsh Caterpillars
by Wizzie Brown

Salt marsh caterpillars have been seen throughout Central Texas the past few months. I was asked to chime in on why they might be appearing.

Salt marsh caterpillars are larvae of a moth in the Family Arctiidae. This species has many color variations from black with orangish-red markings to pale yellow to reddish-brown. Caterpillars are generally lighter in color and darken with age. The body is covered with tufted hairs, or setae.

Some people also commonly call these caterpillars woolly bear caterpillars (there are numerous species of moths that can be called woolly bears). The caterpillars are often called woolly bears because of the numerous bristly hairs that project off the body.

The caterpillars are generalists and feed on broad-leaved plants. They usually feed as a group when they are young, but as they grow older and larger they tend to disperse. As they become full grown, they begin to wander away from the host plant to find a protected site where they can spin a cocoon.

Populations of salt marsh caterpillars are typically highest in the fall and are often seen in large numbers wandering across driveways or roadways. Wandering may be to find other food sources when old sources are consumed or it could be caterpillars in search of a protected place to pupate.

The stinging capability or irritation that hairs may cause seems to be in debate in entomological circles. Some entomologists claim that woolly bears can sting you or irritate your skin while others say that they cannot. I think that it probably comes down to skin sensitivity. While I haven’t had problems handling woolly bears, it doesn’t mean that everyone has no reaction; others may have sensitivity to the caterpillar hairs. Basically the take home lesson is to always be careful when handling a wild animal since you never can predict what may happen.
Fun with Plant Cultivar Names

By Anne Van Nest

A funny thing has happened to vegetable and flower seed. Plant names have become very interesting if you stop to think about what they really mean. It seems that the competition to jockey for position in the marketplace is so fierce that public relations companies are going wild with their plant names. Getting the public to recognize one plant from the others and to outsell the competition is the goal.

The notion that gardeners are a down-to-earth lot with pretty traditional likes and dislikes seems to have been overlooked by these marketing types. Their new introductions are getting noticed but maybe for the wrong reasons. How many flamboyant gardeners are there around that would really embrace growing ‘Bull’s Blood’ arugula or ‘Split Personality’ morning glory? What happened to the traditional (albeit sedate) names like early purple Vienna kohlrabi or ‘Janie Yellow’ marigolds? Have the creative inspiration of the non-gardening marketing types gone too far when naming plants?

Anyone looking at the dark red leafy picture and reading the catalogue caption below that proclaims that a vegetable is an exceptional baby green would probably persuade any gardener to order that seed for their garden. Reading on in the catalogue, the plant is described as having “deep red leaves that make an attractive, sweet tasting addition to salad mixes, and is very practical to add to your favorite mesclun mix.” The plant still is sounding quite attractive for the garden. What turns the tide on this plant is the name.

It is called ‘Bull’s Blood’ arugula. It may be attractive and a wonderful plant, but why is it called bull’s blood? Somehow the name does not contribute to a very appetizing picture. Would you want bull’s blood growing in your vegetable garden?

It’s not the name, dragon tongue, which is so annoying about a unique heirloom bean that is described as the best multipurpose one available. The name dragon tongue paints a vivid picture that somewhat fits these long yellow pod beans. The magical idea of dragons help to accept the purple streaks that is on the pods. Unfortunately the purple color disappears “like magic” when the beans are cooked. Disappointment reins for anyone that lifts the lid off the pot of boiling water to reveal plain yellow beans. Only marketing types would try to take a negative and turn it around to sell more seeds by proclaiming that this is the only variety that does this!!

Sometimes plant names are downright confusing. One of the seed catalogues that arrived in the mail recently lists Long Island cheese as a vegetable that is great for making pies. What they were really promoting was a winter squash and not a cheese at all. This squash was named Long Island Cheese because someone thought that it looked like a large, round wheel of cheese. The squash is unique because it is medium large in size and was lightly ribbed. Calling squash a cheese is a very tenuous connection that probably is causing more confusion than satisfied customers. Wonder what the marketing people are calling cheese is now?

Other catalogues have listed plants that breeders have used significant artistic licence and stretched the truth all for the sake of a name. One of these is an heirloom tomato called ‘Pruden’s Purple.’ Either the person who named this plant was color blind or they were wearing rose-colored glasses. The fruit is not purple. The skin color is dark pink and the flesh crimson. Maybe they were thinking of the additive properties of color pigments and were considering dark pink mixed with crimson might result in purple. Who knows? Vegetables are not the only plants that are given questionable names. I found a seed catalogue that lists one of the annual asters as carpet ball. Even though the flowers are somewhat rounded on this plant, to me the name carpet ball creates thoughts of indoor bocci or bowling with flowers.

The usual picture of delphiniums is one of beautiful, tall blue flowering spikes. This is not true for a delphinium called Green Expectation. Tall, elegant spires are still present but instead of the traditional color the large double flowers are creamy-green, lime green or just plain green. Who wants a green flowering delphinium? Maybe flower arrangers will appreciate this oddball plant. Gardeners might just as well plant delphiniums and cut off the blooms. To make the situation worse, Green Expectations seeds will produce some plants that have a white or blue flower! This is to only torment those that grow delphinium for their traditional look.

How does a plant get a split personality? A chameleon that changes color to match its
The environment could be regarded as having a split personality but are there plants that do this too? Certainly the morning glory called ‘Split Personality’ does not change color. It has a magenta pink color with a white center. The difference this flower shows is an unusual star-shape. In the catalog, the blooms are identified as being gently split giving this climber a striking personality. How does a flower get to be gently split and don’t gardeners still grow morning glories for that have nice rounded flower?

Sometimes the plants listed in catalogues are just too unbelievable to be true. A browse through some seed catalogues revealed that gardeners could buy burdock, chicory and thistle seeds. Burdock was said to be the hardiest root vegetable and winters in the garden easily for spring digging. It is a nutritious vegetable and curative medicinal plant that is delicious in hearty soups and bean stews. Burdock is cooked like carrots. Why anyone would buy this often noxious roadside weed is puzzling. There should be a warning on each seed packet. Just try to get rid of it when the leaves grow to elephant ear size.

Equally puzzling is the catalogue entry that lists our wild form of chicory. Apparently it makes a beautiful addition to a cottage garden border. The electric blue flowers are produced on the many, breezy stems throughout summer. What a nice way of describing another roadside weed throughout much of the United States. One clue to the invasiveness of this plant comes from the fact that this company is selling packets of 300 seeds for $2.29. They sure have lots to give away with these huge quantities.

The blessed thistle comes with its own warning that is evident only when reading between the lines. The catalogue states that this pretty, thistle-like annual stands out in the herb garden. The real reason that it stands out is that there’s too many that have self-seeded to miss them!

More catalogue chuckles can be found when reading about the common name for Asarina scandens. It is called Chickabiddy!! It may be a show-stopping climber, but it sure has a silly name. Speaking of silly names, the monarch of the veldt vulu prince is a plant that sounds like it should be saluted. Does it really live up to the royalty image portrayed by this name? Another interesting plant is Felicia ‘The Blues’, a great name for a new movie release or a musical group.

Have you found any plant names that gave you a chuckle during this garden catalog season?
Join us for this free demonstration of how to grow the best vegetables you can. It all starts below your feet, in the very soil your plants grow in; quality soil = quality vegetables. Master Gardeners will share techniques applicable to any soil type. Bring chairs if desired, but event will be rain or shine. Only street parking is available for this event.

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

If you’re a newcomer to Central Texas or need a refresher on the basics for gardening in our area, join us for tips and tricks to making your Austin garden a success! Included will be our seasonal growing calendar, how to work with challenging soils, maintenance schedules for pruning and planting, valuable information about giving new plants a head start and much more. Join Daphne Richards, Horticulture Agent at the Texas Agrilife Extension Service for Travis County to get the facts and ask questions of your own.

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

Roses add color and wonderful scent to your garden year round! Join us for this free seminar and you will learn how to select, plant, prune and care for these wonderful plants in your garden or landscape. We will discuss Earth-Kind and Antique roses which are known for their high performance, disease resistance and insect tolerance. Travis County Master Gardeners Carolyn Williams and Holly Plotner will arm you with the tools you need to explore this fascinating area of horticulture!

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
### Coming Events

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<th>Taking Care of the Lawn</th>
<th>Chickens in the Garden</th>
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| **Saturday, February 12, 2011, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm** | **Saturday, February 19, 2011, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm** | **Saturday, March 12, 2011**  
**10:00 am - 12:00 pm** |
| Sunshine Community Garden  
4814 Sunshine Drive  
Austin, Texas 78756 | Sunset Valley City Hall  
3205 Jones Road  
Sunset Valley, Texas 78745 | Zilker Botanical Gardens  
2220 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, Texas 78746 |

**Free!** Hands on seminar gives you knowledge on plant & seed selection, tips for increased germination, spacing and other techniques to ensure gardening success. Street parking available only.

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.tc-mastergardeners.org](http://www.tc-mastergardeners.org)

Two incredible sessions on lawn care. Join us for one or both. “It’s Dead! How to Establish a New Lawn” from 10-11 am; "How to Promote Lawn Health” from 11 am - 12 pm. Learn what to do to start a new lawn or replace a lawn, including grass varieties, soil preparation, and watering. Discover easy mowing, irrigating, and fertilizing tips for maintaining your lawn. Parking in Tony Burger Center across the street from Sunset Valley City Hall.

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.tc-mastergardeners.org](http://www.tc-mastergardeners.org)

Most any size garden can benefit from a few chickens. They root out persistent perennial weeds, eat insects, fertilize the soil, and provide eggs in the bargain! All it takes is a little planning and a small investment in fencing and shelter. Master Gardener Joy Williamson will explain how to select breeds, raise chicks, build and maintain a coop and how to protect these garden mascots from predators. Join us for this free seminar to explore the fascinating world of chickens in the garden!

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.tc-mastergardeners.org](http://www.tc-mastergardeners.org)
TRAVIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
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Visit the websites: www.tcmastergardeners.org and http://travis-tx.tamu.edu

The End...

Time to Get Gardening!