

# The Compost Bin

October 2015

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

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In the Vegetable Garden

Fire Ant Treatments

Meet the Master Gardeners

Monarch Appreciation Day

IAGT Death-Defying Natives



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Cover Photo: Beets don't have to be red: 'Bull's Blood', 'Chioggia', 'Golden', 'Blankoma' and 'Moneta'.  
By Bruce Leander

Right: Clinging to the net inside the tagging tent.  
By Jean Love El Harim



## October Meeting - Wizzie Brown

### What's Going On in the Bug Landscape

Presented by Extension's IPM expert and Bug Wizard Wizzie Brown.  
You can read Wizzy's blog at <http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com>

### October Plant Exchange

On your mark, get set, divide those plants! And save some for your MG friends! The theme for this fall's plant exchange is "Simply Succulents." Other plants are welcome, except for invasives.

Don't forget to bring extra seeds, cuttings, pots and other garden related items. You might even have extra herbs, like rosemary cuttings or bay leaves to share.

We do need help setting up and cleaning up, so plan to do your part. And please take home any of your extra plants. As always, please no muddy messes.

Master Gardener Meeting information:  
Wednesday, Oct 7, 2015, starting at 7 pm  
Zilker Botanical Garden

**Master Gardener meetings are open to certified Master Gardeners and trainees only.**

## In the Vegetable Garden

### by Patty Leander

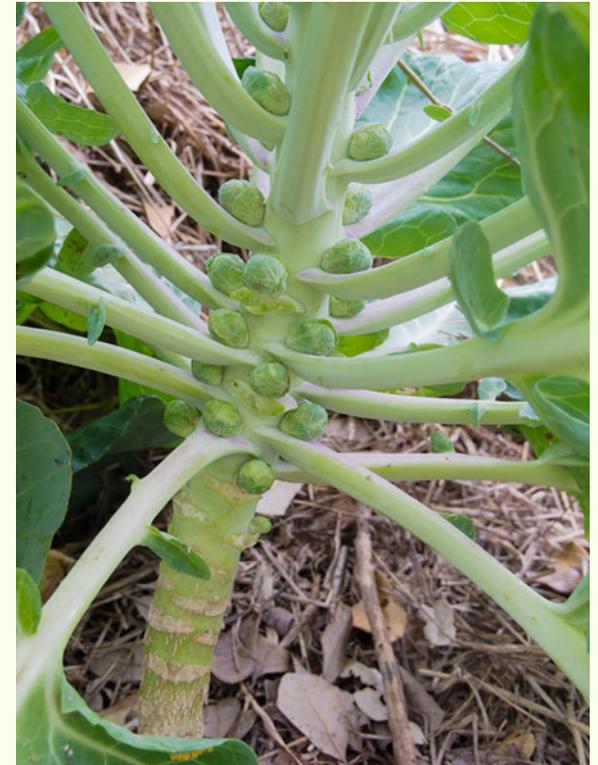


A successful harvest of 'Starica' and 'Cosmic Purple' carrots grown in a fabric container known as a Dirt Pot or Smart Pot.

The much anticipated fall season has arrived. It's not quite time to put away shade cloth as new transplants may still need protection during the sunniest part of the day, but the nights have finally started to cool off and that gives both plants and gardeners some relief.

If you haven't planted any cool season crops, now is the time. Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, pak choi and Chinese cabbage can all go in as transplants. Kohlrabi is an interesting vegetable to grow. It can be seeded directly in the garden and most varieties will be ready to harvest in less than 60 days. The German name roughly translates to 'cabbage turnip' so that gives you an idea of what it tastes like. If harvested at the correct time, when it is young and tender, the flavor is mild and the flesh is crisp. It is versatile in the kitchen and can be sliced, sautéed, chopped or shredded for use in soups, casseroles, stir-fries, coleslaw or salads.

Cooler temperatures signal the time to get started with lettuce and spinach. Lettuce needs light to germinate, so just scatter the seeds over the soil, press down lightly and mist daily. Don't plant too many plants or seeds at once unless you really, really, love to eat lettuce on a regular basis. Lettuce just isn't a good candidate for canning, freezing or drying, so it is best to plant a small section every week or two so you always have a fresh section to harvest.



Tiny sprouts are just starting to form along the stem of 'Franklin' Brussels sprouts.

Here is the vegetable gardener's checklist for October:

- Lettuce and spinach should be seeded throughout the cool season, either from seed or transplants. Soak spinach seeds several hours before planting for better germination.
- Continue to seed flats of your favorite vegetables so you have a new wave of transplants available as needed to fill any gaps in your garden beds.
- Watch for harlequin bug and its black and white barrel shaped eggs; destroy the eggs to avoid an infestation of adults.

## In the Vegetable Garden

- Plant strawberries if you can find transplants; if planted now they will start producing berries early next spring.
- Harvest and enjoy your second season of squash, beans and cucumbers, then pull them up and make room for additional plantings of cool season vegetables.
- Harvest sweet potatoes later this month (or any time they are big enough to eat). Handle them carefully to avoid cutting or damaging their skin and they will store longer. Wipe the dirt off but do not wash until you are ready to cook them. Cure them for about a week in a warm, humid spot (like the garage) before eating, this will initiate the conversion of starches to sugars and will improve their flavor.
- Grow your favorite herbs in a spot that gets full sun and has good drainage.
- Plant garlic this month. Look up Gourmet Garlic Gardens in Bangs, Texas ([www.gourmetgarlicgardens.com](http://www.gourmetgarlicgardens.com)) for a great selection of unusual varieties and everything you ever wanted to know about planting garlic.

Top Right: Broadcast a blend of lettuce varieties to create your own home-grown baby salad mix.

Bottom Right: These large, tender leaves of spinach are a French heirloom called 'Mostrieux de Viroflay'.

Left: Harvest sweet potatoes in October or November, handle carefully to avoid damage that might make the roots susceptible to rotting in storage.

Photos by Bruce Leander

Continued...



## Fire Ant Treatments

by Wizzie Brown



There are numerous ways to manage fire ants, but they are often broken into two categories, broadcast treatments and individual mound treatments. Individual mound treatments are used to treat one mound at a time, can be labor intensive, and may result in more pesticide being spread into the environment. Broadcast treatments will spread product (granular or bait) over a large area.

Individual mound treatments include pouring boiling water onto the mound, using insecticide mound drenches, spreading insecticide granules onto the mound and watering them in, sprinkling insecticidal dusts on top of the mound or using bait-formulated insecticides around the perimeter of the mound. There are also many "home remedies," but be advised that many of these do not kill fire ants. Many home remedies make the fire ants move to a new location (often 1-2 feet away), but do not kill the ants.

Bait-formulated insecticides most often consist of a defatted corn cob grit coated with soybean oil; the soybean oil is where the active ingredient (what kills the pest) is dissolved. Worker ants collect bait as a food source and take it back to the colony to share with other ants, including the queen. Depending on the active ingredient, the bait may cause the queen to die or be unable

to produce viable eggs, which gradually kills off the colony. When using baits, results are often slower to observe when compared to individual mound treatments, but can provide 80-90% suppression for 12-18 months. A bonus to broadcasting baits is that the amount of active ingredient is generally very small, which places less chemical into the environment.

With any pesticide treatment, read and follow all label instructions. Make sure to water in the pesticide if the label instructs to do so. Failure to water in chemicals when recommended by the label does an inadequate job of killing the ants. Baits should not be watered in or used before a rainfall event; baits will not be picked up by ants if they get wet.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

## Meet the Master Gardeners: Margarine Beaman, class of 2001

by Jean Love El Harim



Margarine was born and raised on the family farm in Mason, in the Texas Hill Country off of U.S. Highway 87. "You can get on Highway 87 and go all the way to Canada," she says. "I've always wanted to do that, but I never have."

"We always had a big garden and chickens and an orchard," Margarine tells about her interest in gardening. "We had apricot, pecan, pear, apple and peach trees." From the age of five, she worked in the fields where the family raised beans, peas, corn, oats, wheat, maize, watermelons, and peanuts in the rich, sandy loam soil. "My mother gave me 2 cents for every pound of dry pinto beans I gathered, but she paid my brother five cents," she remembers. "I was upset that she didn't pay me what she paid my brother, and that is why I've always worked for women's rights."

She had a garden when she was in 4-H. "We didn't have drip irrigation then," she notes. "We cut the tops and bottoms out of tin cans, dug a ditch, and lined the cans up in the ditch to get the water to the vegetable plants. One year I planted two pounds of potatoes and got 93 pounds."

After high school, Margarine came to Austin, studied accounting, and started working. "I worked at the Driskill Hotel when Johnson was president," she says. "I sewed wedding gowns. I worked in television sales, in a travel agency, and for a law firm, and taught at Nixon-Clay College." Margarine and her husband started Beaman Metal in 1972. In 1976, Margarine also became an accounting consultant after which she consulted mainly with colleagues on financial aid, curriculum and accreditation and served on several Southern Association of Colleges and Schools teams.

A Travis County Master Gardener since 2002, Margarine is a Firewise specialist and is currently serving as the TCMGA State Council Representative. Margarine likes all MG activities, especially "going out and doing plant clinics," she says, "visiting with people and helping them with their plant problems. And I would like to be more involved with Junior Master Gardener projects."

Margarine lives in the house where she was born in Mason, and enjoys a garden with wildflowers, irises, roses, and "dinner-plate dahlias," which she says are as big around as dinner plates and gorgeous. "I have a rose that I grew from a cutting off a rose bush my aunt had in Walburg, Texas. My mother taught me how to propagate plants from cuttings, and we did grafting, too." She has a vegetable garden surrounded by a 10-foot fence to keep the deer at bay, and a pond that is a painted metal boat filled with water, fish, and lilies that are blooming now. Her greatest gardening challenge is gophers, she says. "They eat everything. I had a tomato bush with a tomato this big," she says, putting her finger tips together to show the size of the tomato. "I was looking out the window and I saw that bush disappearing into the ground, until it got to the tomato that was too big to go down the hole. Now I plant a marigold and a tomato and a marigold and a tomato, and the gophers leave my tomato bushes alone. They don't like marigolds."

## Meet the Master Gardeners

Continued...

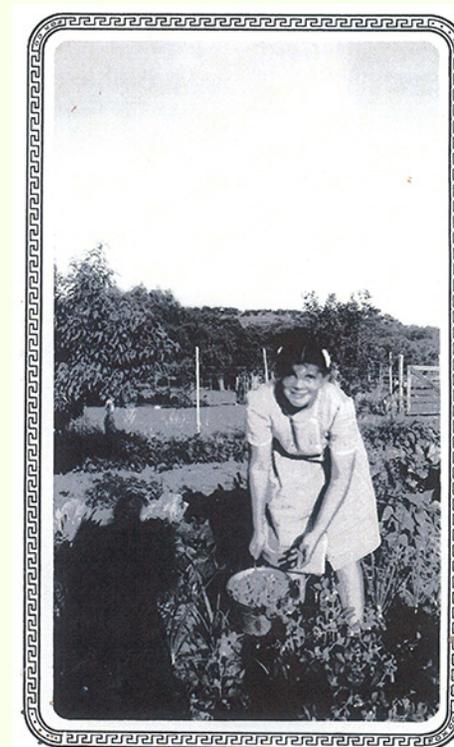
Margarine's other hobbies include hunting and fishing, though she doesn't have much time to fish these days. "In Mason we have coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions. I would shoot birds that were eating the apricots and squirrels that were eating the pecans. Those were the crops we took to the market." She likes to hunt deer. "The stillness in the pasture is rejuvenating. I dress the deer in the field," she says, "and bring the meat back to make sausage or dry it."

Margarine can also knit, crochet, macramé, quilt, and tat (make fine lace). "I know how to make Swiss cheese," she remembers with a grin. "My great grandfather was Swiss and he taught me how. My first language was German and I spoke German all through elementary school. Nearly everyone in our community spoke German. There were some words in English I didn't learn until I came to Austin."

When asked how she spends her days, Margarine answers, "It depends on which day." Margarine is a very energetic and busy lady who does more than can be listed here. In addition to being the owner of Beaman Metal, she offers accounting consulting services to local colleges. She volunteers with Blue Santa, American Youth Works, Blinded Veterans, the Travis County Historical Commission, the East Austin Rotary Club, the LBJ Presidential Library, and the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. She serves as volunteer ombudsman for two nursing homes, and still finds time to volunteer as a Travis County Master Gardener. Though gardening is a way of life for Margarine, she has an overarching interest in helping people, especially the disadvantaged. After overhearing a conversation between a young sighted man and an older blind man at an airport in 1980, Margarine decided that she wanted to help the blind gain independence. She started Sight Through Helping Hands, an organization devoted to providing Braille signs for shopping mall directories, elevators, ATM machines, and street signs. "At Highland Mall and Northcross Mall, we put up the first shopping mall directory in Braille in the world," she says. "Austin was the first city in the world to have Braille street signs and Braille numbers on elevator casings. In 1980, we installed the first Braille automatic bank teller. More than 500 articles and news pieces have been published about the Braille project, for example the front page and Money sections of USA Today. Now I travel all over the world installing Braille bank tellers." She has also worked with the International Blind Sports Association, which consists of Five Continental Delegations whose mission is to organize IBSA sports events for blind and partially sighted sportsmen and sportswomen.

To help high school girls who are at risk of dropping out, Margarine started a program called Youth Power. "Once a month for the school year, the girls would meet with a prominent woman of the community who would encourage them to continue their education," Margarine explains. "Often these women had overcome difficulties similar to the problems the girls were facing. If the girls completed the program, they got a small scholarship to help them continue studying at a community college."

Margarine also started a program at Blackshear Elementary School, a role-model fair, to introduce the children to community role models of all ethnic groups and various professions. "We had a judge who came in her robe and let the children bang the gavel," she recounts. "We have had attorneys, commissioners, and constables. A television cameraman brought his camera and let the children make and replay a video recording. A person from the medical field brought an EKG machine, a bug guy brought bugs. We had a pilot, bankers, engineers. We had someone who invents board games; he gave the school a game that they still have. You name it, we had it."



Margarine in her 4H garden.

## Meet the Master Gardeners

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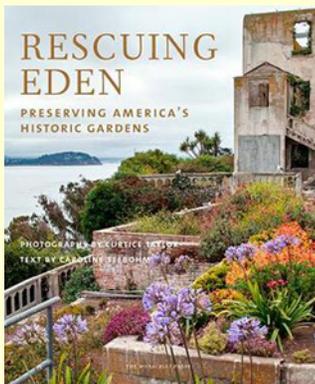
In her modesty, Margarine does not mention the many prestigious awards and recognitions she has received for her volunteer service nationwide. In 2006, the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas Legislature congratulated Margarine G. Beaman on her receipt of a MetLife Foundation Older Volunteers Enrich America Award, and the intensity of her volunteer service still continues. Though her feet are firmly in the garden, it seems Margarine's gaze has always gone to the horizon and beyond to see what she can do to help others.

## Weeds and Reads: A Gardener's Book Guide

by Liath Appleton

There's a lot of reading material out there, and new books are being published faster than anyone could ever possibly keep up! Hopefully these lists will help myself and others find fun and insightful new books to enjoy between the weeding and the watering.

### October 2015:

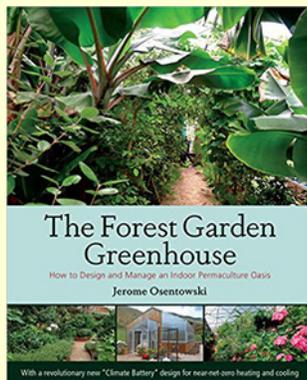
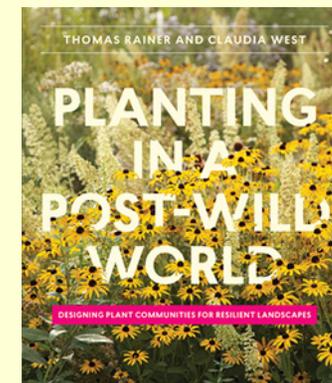


**Rescuing Eden: Preserving America's Historic Gardens** - October 6, 2015  
by Caroline Seebohm (Text), Curtice Taylor (Photographs)

From simple 18th- and early 19th-century gardens to the lavish estates of the Gilded Age, the gardens started by 1930s inmates at Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay to the centuries-old camellias at Middleton Place near Charleston, South Carolina—Rescuing Eden celebrates the history of garden design in the United States, with 28 examples that have been saved by ardent conservationists and generous private owners, and opened to the public. [\[more\]](#)

**Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes** - October 7, 2015  
by Thomas Rainer, Claudia West

This groundbreaking guide presents a powerful alternative to traditional horticulture—designed plantings that function like naturally occurring plant communities. [\[more\]](#)



**The Forest Garden Greenhouse: How to Design and Manage an Indoor Permaculture Oasis** - October 15, 2015  
by Jerome Osentowski

By the turn of the nineteenth century, thousands of acres of glass houses surrounded large American cities, becoming a commonplace symbol of the market garden and nursery trades. But the possibilities of the indoor garden to transform our homes and our lives remain largely unrealized. [\[more\]](#)

**Landscaping with Edible Plants in Texas: Design and Cultivation** - October 27, 2015  
by Cheryl Beesley

In this complete reference to integrating edible plants into a wide range of private and public landscapes, landscape designer Cheryl Beesley thoroughly answers the questions of how to plant, where to plant, and what to plant. [\[more\]](#)

# Monarch Appreciation Day

by Jean Love El Harim

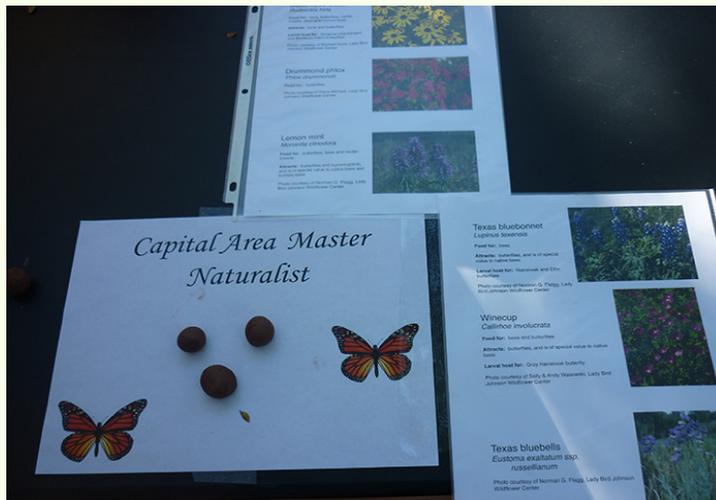
Monarch Appreciation Day on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at Zilker Botanical Garden was a great success, with more than 1300 visitors who enjoyed the activities in the Oak Grove and attended the presentations.

### Activities in the Oak Grove

Several organizations offered informational displays along the pathway through the Oak Grove, including the Native Plant Society, Wildlife Austin, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Resource Recovery, Grow Green, and the National Wildlife Federation. Julie Morales, a Senior Girl Scout earning her Gold Award, told people about mason bees and how to build bee houses.



Julie Morales and her Mason bee houses.



Wildflower seed-balls.

Capital Area Master Naturalist volunteers invited people to make seed balls. Visitors could combine a fine, powdery mixture of clay, sand, humus, and native wildflower seeds with a teaspoon of water, and roll the dough into small balls.

The volunteers explained that after the seeds balls dry out, they can be tossed out into a sunny location in the garden. The hard clay ball protects the seeds until the rain dissolves it and disperses the seeds later in the fall. September through December is the perfect time of the year to sow wildflower seeds.

Travis County Master Gardener volunteers sold host and nectar plants that they and Matt Morris had grown for the sale. Matt Morris is the manager of the Zilker Botanical Garden Butterfly Trail. Visitors could buy Gregg's mistflower (*Conoclinium greggii*), blue sage (*Salvia farinacea*), Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*), Flame

acanthus (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii*), Firebush (*Hamelia patens*), Passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*) and more. All proceeds from the plant sale go to **Monarch Watch** and the **Xerces Society**.

Visitors, especially little ones, could make butterflies and have their faces painted at the craft tables sponsored by **AAGC** (particularly Cathy Wood who brought her daughter and friends to do face painting) and manned by **National Charity League** volunteers, who also helped in the butterfly tent.

## Monarch Appreciation Day

Continued...

Two net tents were set up, one for monarchs ready to be tagged and released, and one for tending the caterpillars and chrysalides. Visitors could enter the first tent, carefully closing the zipper behind them. Inside the tent, Monarchs fed at a tower of small vases filled with a variety of sweet-scented flowers, clung to the net of the tent, or sipped nectar from a cotton swab in the hand of a delighted visitor. The second tent had a more subdued atmosphere, a place of quiet repose and protection for caterpillars feeding on milkweed, and chrysalides in various stages, some fresh green and some Monarch-colored with the developing wings of the butterfly almost ready to eclose. Many thanks to Liz Kannedy for the butterfly tent, and to the Austin Butterfly Forum for bringing the caterpillars and chrysalides. They made the day!

### **Presentations**

Here are some of the highlights of the three presentations that were offered during the day.

### **"Texas Native Bees," by Michael Warriner, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**



Clinging to the net inside the tagging tent.



Feeding on a cutting of milkweed.

Insects help pollinate most of our food crops, and most flowering plants rely on or benefit from insect pollination. These flowering plants produce nectar, fruits, and seeds for animals in the ecosystem. The whole ecological community relies on pollination, and bees are the best pollinators. The majority of native bees are solitary; they don't live in a colony and are not defensive of the nest site (most nest in the ground). The ground-nesting bees like open, well-drained territory where the female bee can construct chambers in the ground. The female bee mates in early summer and digs a tunnel where she collects pollen and mixes it with nectar to make a nectar ball. She lays an egg next to each nectar ball and then seals the tunnel. When the egg hatches, the larva feeds on the pollen and nectar over the summer and fall, emerging in the fall or spring to mate and repeat the process annually. Other solitary bees nest in cavities in dead wood or plant material. A few native bees are social, such as bumble bees, which live in a colony and secrete wax to make cocoons for their larvae and nectar pots to store nectar, but don't store honey.

## Monarch Appreciation Day

Continued...

Michael has a website, Texas Native Bee Co-op (<http://nativebeecoop.com/>), with photos and information about Texas native bees. For help with identifying the bees and wasps you find, visit the site Michael created on the [iNaturalist website](#), [Bees and Wasps of Texas](#).

The biggest concern for the conservation of native bees is loss of habitat due to urbanization and agricultural monoculture. Native bees need open, sunny habitats rich in herbaceous, flowering plants. To help bees, butterflies, and native pollinators, whether you have a backyard or a ranch, you can provide native, flowering plants, which are sources of nectar and pollen. You can plant five or six of the same species together to make it easier for the bees to forage, but also provide a diversity of flower shapes, sizes, and colors. Make sure to have a sequence of flowers that bloom at various times of the year. To help ground-nesting bees, you can leave portions of flowerbeds with exposed ground. You can provide nest sites for cavity-nesting bees by leaving some dead stems or fallen branches, or make a nesting block. Your back yard can make a difference.

### **“Monarch Waystations,” by Chuck Patterson, citizen scientist**

Populations of Monarch butterflies are extremely low mainly due to habitat loss and widespread use of genetically-modified herbicide-tolerant crops. The Monarch Waystation program, started in 2005 by Monarch Watch (<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>) at the University of Kansas, helps to create small pockets of habitat along the Monarch migration routes.

In the spring, the first generation of Monarchs hatches from eggs laid in Texas and northern Mexico and travels up through Texas and into mid-America. Monarchs come through Texas on their way north from March through May, and again on their way south in mid-October. Large areas of agricultural land in the Monarch breeding range have been converted to growing herbicide-tolerant crops where virtually every weed in the field has been obliterated, including the milkweed, which Monarchs need to reproduce, and the nectar-producing natives that Monarchs need for sustenance over the yearly transcontinental journey. Monarchs are tagged to gather information that will help answer the many unanswered questions about their migration.

To learn more about the different types of milkweeds that grow in Texas, visit Texas Milkweed Photos (<http://www.asclepias.org/>). Two types of milkweeds that grow well in Central Texas are *Asclepias asperula* and *Asclepias viridis*. It is essential to plant milkweed that has not been treated with or exposed to pesticides. Visit the website [Journey North](#) to learn more about Monarch migrations.

The reward we get from establishing a Monarch Waystation is seeing the re-migrant Monarchs, who have suffered wear and tear from their journey, coming up from Mexico. Knowing what they have been through, we are happy to provide what little resources we can: milkweed and nectar sources. Each Waystation has an impact, not just in helping Monarchs, but also in spreading the word about the needs of the Monarch butterfly.



Chrysalides one early-stage green, three late-stage monarch-colored, and three already vacated.

## Monarch Appreciation Day

Continued...

### **“Butterfly Gardening,” by Jeff Taylor, Austin Butterfly Forum**

Native plants improve the habitat for native pollinators and enhance the ecosystem of your yard. To help pollinators, you can create a favorable habitat by planting a diversity of native plants in various layers, for example, frogfruit or horse herb for ground cover, flowering plants and shrubs, understory trees, and high-canopy trees. Use the [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center native plant database](#) to look up plants that grow in different conditions and bloom in different seasons. You can add host and nectar plants to your yard for butterflies and moths, keep leaf litter as mulch in flower beds, and leave some areas of your yard undisturbed to allow native bees and moths to pupate in the hollow stems of plants. Don't use pesticides or bug zappers. You can put a banana in a suet holder to attract moths and butterflies. Native oaks and wild *Prunus* trees (Mexican plum and Escarpment black cherry, for example) support hundreds of species of moths and butterflies. Your yard makes a difference.

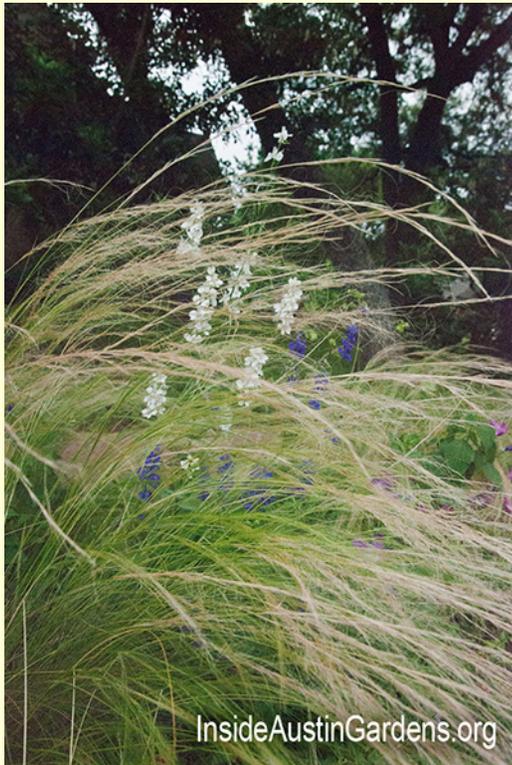
Many thanks to all the folks who organized and made the Monarch Appreciation Day happen. This event has given visitors an appreciation for the beauty and significance of the Monarch and native pollinators, the conviction that every yard counts, and the desire to plant more native host and nectar plants!

Photos by Jean Love El Harim

## Inside Austin Gardens Tour Sneak Peak

by Rosalie Russell

### TRAVIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SELECT GREGORY THOMPSON'S "DEATH-DEFYING NATIVES!" FOR INSIDE AUSTIN GARDENS TOUR



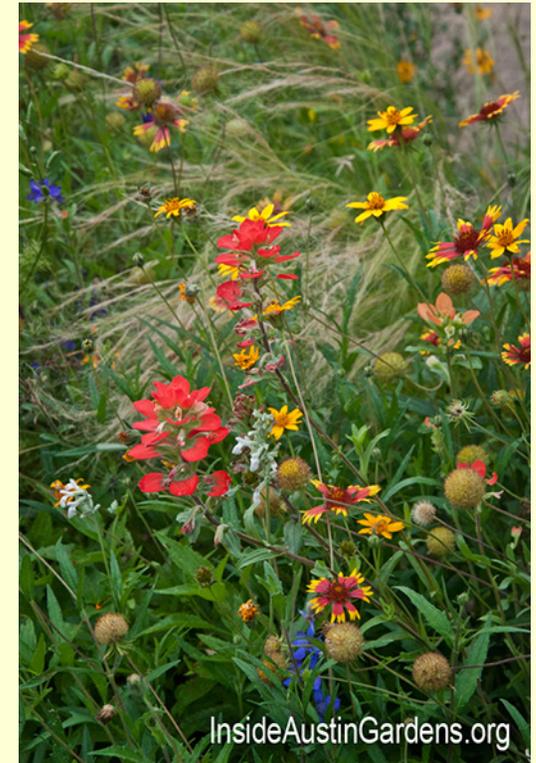
Valerie and Gregory Thomas live on a corner lot with a long distance of street frontage. The etymology of the word gardening refers to enclosure, and through their gardening efforts they've sought to create a greater sense of definition to their yard: making the public areas distinct from the private zones.

The street sides of their yard reflect the tandem ideas of giving passersby a visual treat and carving out some placid, semi-private space for the family. In their front and side yards, they have curbside beds filled with roses, smaller native trees, wildflowers, succulents, perennials, herbs and native grasses. These provide a functional and visually interesting border to their partially native front and side lawns.

Gregory, who is primarily responsible for the design and maintenance of the garden, is a garden designer as well as an architect.

Along the busier streets are what Gregory has christened "heaven strips"—beds filled with a mix of native grasses, perennials, wildflowers, roses, succulents and annual flowers. Awash in reflected heat and mostly full sun, these beds are in a severe environment, yet due to plant selection, the beds are mostly xeric. One of the goals of their garden is undoubtedly to be as water conservative as possible, which is reflected in their choice of mostly native and adapted plants, carefully located in the microclimates implied by the strips' mix of sun and shade.

Their west-facing back yard is intended to create a relaxing refuge and a focal point for the home interior. It is the definition of a private, peaceful retreat. A central, circular, Zoysia lawn is surrounded by a vegetable/herb beds, roses, native and other trees, perennials, and ornamental grasses. The native plants, water, and nesting areas support a number of birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Their yard is a certified wildlife habitat.



## Inside Austin Gardens Tour Sneak Peak



The goal of their gardening efforts, besides catering to their family and providing a functional and visually appealing landscape for visitors, has always been to have a more sustainable, Earth-kind landscape, awash in plenty of seasonal interest and variety, but with limited water and other inputs. Although they limit their water use, they have succeeded in their efforts to maximize flowers and year-round beauty.

## Austin Area Events

### **Backyard Basics – Plant Propagation**

Thursday October 8, 2015  
10am - noon

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
1600-B Smith Road  
Austin, TX

Learn how to make new plants for your yard through propagation methods such as rooting slips and cuttings. In this workshop you will assemble a self-watering propagator and select cuttings to grow new plants. All supplies, instructions, and cuttings will be provided for each participant.

Master Gardener Sue King, a Plant Propagation Specialist, is a retired school librarian, an avid soup-maker, and a life-long gardener. Master Gardener Carolyn Turman found propagating plants using cuttings as an easy and inexpensive way to add wonderful additions to her landscape.

CCost: \$25 thru 9/28, \$30 starting 9/29.  
Seating limited to 25. No on-site registration available. NO cash accepted – checks and credit cards only.  
Register: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty>  
Register by Phone: 979-845-2604  
Contact: Sue Carrasco, 512-854-9610 or [sacarrasco@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:sacarrasco@ag.tamu.edu)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Backyard Basics Series

### **Inside Austin Gardens Tour**

Saturday October 17, 2015  
9am - 4pm

various locations

The Travis County Master Gardeners Association will hold the ever popular Inside Austin Gardens Tour (IAGT) – Oct 17, 2015, 9 am – 4 pm.

The tour provides a rare look inside six special private gardens and one public experimental garden that demonstrate realistic, sustainable gardening practices for Central Texas.

Tickets may be purchased in advance via the website or at the garden sites. Complete information and tickets at [www.INSIDE-AUSTINGARDENS.org](http://www.INSIDE-AUSTINGARDENS.org).

Access to the public garden at 1600 B Smith Road is free and Master Gardeners will gladly show you how to create a garden utilizing soil building techniques, share guidelines on building a rainwater harvesting system, reveal efficient water delivery methods, introduce you to a wide range of adapted plants that survive and thrive plus tips for growing your own flowers, herbs and vegetables.

Tour presented by Travis County Master Gardeners Association and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Travis County, 512-854-9600.

## TRAVIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

### 2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Joe Posern, President

Jackie Johnson, Immediate Past President

Denise Harrelson, Vice-President for Programs

Sue King, Vice-President for Education

Rosalie Russell, Volunteer Coordinator for Projects

Mikala McFerren, Volunteer Coordinator for Trainees

Tina Landers, Secretary

Tina Landers, Interim Treasurer

Toi Powell, Membership Director

Pat Mokry, Greenhouse Manager

Sally Dickson, Austin Area Garden Council Representative

Tommie Clayton, State Council Representative

Susan Jung, State Council Representative

#### **Past Presidents (Non-voting):**

Bill Baldwin

Bill Boytim

Susan Cashin

Tommie Clayton

Susan Decker

Don Freeman

Manda Rash

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### The Compost Bin Submissions

We are always looking for Travis County Master Gardeners who are interested in writing for our monthly newsletter, and we would love to see your articles, photographs, book reviews and gardening ideas.

### General Guidelines

- Please first email the editor to discuss potential article ideas.
- Email contributions as attachments (preferably in Word with a .doc or .rtf suffix).
- Please send images as separate attachments (preferably .jpg suffix). Don't forget to include photographer acknowledgments and captions.

Send your submissions, announcements, questions and suggestions to: [editor.compostbin@gmail.com](mailto:editor.compostbin@gmail.com)



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"But I remember more dearly autumn afternoons in bottoms that lay intensely silent under old great trees."

- C. S. Lewis