

The Compost Bin

May 2016

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

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Cover:

Tiny *Tradescantia*
By Liath Appleton

Right: The primary bud of an artichoke is usually the largest and first to mature, followed by smaller secondary buds.
By Bruce Leander



From the Editor

Have you taken our Compost Bin survey yet? It's not too late! It's really short, I promise. Your answers will help us improve our monthly newsletter for both Master Gardeners and the public. You do not need to be a Master Gardener to voice your opinion.

Many of you have already provided input on article ideas and other improvements, but I want to hear from all of you! I will be compiling your responses in the June newsletter.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B5M67N7>

Our May meeting will feature Plant Diagnostics by the fabulous Dr. Ong

Master Gardener Meeting information:
Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 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

During the month of May our well-established, well-tended and well-mulched vegetable gardens grow by leaps and bounds. Delicate blossoms give way to miniature vegetables that develop practically before our very eyes. It is truly a sight to behold. Do take a moment to step back from the weeding, watering and fussing to appreciate the extraordinary process of growing your own food.

Though I don't have a crystal ball, history tells us that cool weather is a thing of the past, and by now cool season vegetables should be, too. As you remove worn-out plants from the garden replace them with heat lovers like okra, sweet potatoes, Southern peas, eggplant, hot peppers and Malabar spinach. With the exception of sweet potatoes, these sun-loving vegetables will start producing in a couple of months and will keep it up into fall.

Soak okra seeds in water or pre-sprout in a damp paper towel for quick germination. Okra is a vigorous grower so give it plenty of room. Most varieties will reach 4-6 feet in height and should be spaced 3-4 feet apart for easy picking – which you'll be doing all summer!

Southern peas are multi-taskers that provide delicious peas for fresh eating, peas for drying or freezing and seed for planting next year. And because they are legumes, they enrich the soil with nitrogen for subsequent plantings. Popular varieties include 'Cream 40' (developed by TAMU), 'Pinkeye Purple Hull,' 'California Blackeye No. 5' and 'Mississippi Silver.'

Sweet potatoes grow best in sandy or loamy soils and should be planted in raised beds with good drainage. Amend the soil with compost and apply about ½ cup of garden fertilizer per 10 foot row. Plant the rooted cuttings, also called slips, 12-15 inches apart, burying the roots and leaving just the leaves above ground. Water the plantings with a half-strength fertilizer and mulch well. As the plants grow, vines will cover the surrounding bed. Most varieties take 3-4 months to reach harvest size, so keep in mind that they will be taking up garden space until September or October. 'Georgia Jet,' 'Beauregard' and 'Centennial' are suitable varieties for Texas gardens.



Take time to observe and appreciate the process of growing food.

In the Vegetable Garden

Continued...

Here is the vegetable gardener's checklist for May:

- Remove any lingering cool season crops from the garden; their taste gets bitter as the days warm up, and they usually become a beacon for undesirable insects.
- Pull back soil and mulch from your largest potato plants, and carefully dig up a few tender new potatoes from the base of the plants. Replace the mulch and allow the remaining potatoes to grow larger for later harvest.
- Inspect your plants regularly for pests and disease, as early treatment will give better control. Always look on the underside of the leaf and along the stem for aphids, insect eggs and spider mites.
- Blossom end rot in tomatoes is most likely to develop if soil moisture fluctuates. Mulch tomato plants well and try to maintain a consistent level of soil moisture. Plants often outgrow this problem as a larger root system develops.
- Vegetables benefit from supplemental applications of fertilizer throughout the growing season; use either a soil drench of liquid fertilizer or side-dress with a granular fertilizer according to label instructions.
- Pumpkins usually take over 3 months to reach maturity, so plant seeds this month if you want to grow your own Halloween decorations.
- Start or maintain a compost pile (or two or three) using leaves, grass cuttings, kitchen waste and garden trimmings. If possible situate it close to where you plan to use it.



Left: Space sweet potato slips 12-15 inches apart and mulch well before they produce vines.
Right: Okra is a vigorous grower so give it plenty of room.

In the Vegetable Garden

Continued...



Top Left: Take time to observe and appreciate the process of growing food.

Right: Easy-to-grow Southern peas are a staple in the Deep South, providing peas for eating, freezing, drying and seed-saving.

Bottom Left: If allowed to grow past their prime, cool weather plants attract undesirable insects to the garden.

Photos by Bruce Leander

Grasshoppers

by Wizzie Brown



Grasshoppers can be a common sight in most yards each year. They tend to feed on various plants, and in some years can occur in large numbers and lead to severe damage. It's best to start managing grasshoppers now while they are still small and do not have fully developed wings.

Grasshoppers lay their eggs in the soil in groups of 20-100 eggs. Eggs can be laid in ditches, fence-rows and weedy areas. Eggs begin to hatch in April-May, or sooner weather permitting, and continue hatching throughout June. Immature grasshoppers, or nymphs, resemble adults but do not have fully developed wings. It usually takes about 1-2 months for a grasshopper to reach adulthood.

Grasshoppers have natural enemies and many may die from fungus, protozoa, nematodes and predators such as beetles, robber flies, birds and small mammals.

The protozoan, *Nosema locustae*, is sometimes incorporated into a bran-based bait for grasshoppers. The baits may kill some nymphs, but have little effect on adult populations. With baiting, there is reduced egg-laying in adults, but the bait will not be helpful in areas that need immediate grasshopper control or

where there is high pressure of grasshoppers moving in from adjacent areas.

Plowing or turning areas before planting can help to unearth grasshopper eggs and reduce hatch rate. Controlling weeds in and around the property can help reduce food sources as well as egg laying sites.

Prized plants can be covered with row cover. Make sure the cover is firmly attached to the ground and it's on before any pests are on the plant. Pesticides may also be used for grasshopper control. The benefit of managing grasshoppers early in the season is that immature grasshoppers are easier to kill with pesticides; they are smaller in size and they don't have wings to escape the treatment area.

Refer to the following publication for a list of non-preferred food plants:

<http://citybugs.tamu.edu/factsheets/landscape/lawns/ent-1005/>

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

59th Annual Zilker Garden Festival

by Carolyn Williams

At 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 2nd the gates opened as usual to the annual Zilker Garden Festival, with serious gardeners, their red wagons and totes ready to purchase from wonderful vendors that come from all around Texas. It is a wonderful sight that never gets old!

Behind the scenes, getting Zilker ready for her annual plant party is something to behold. After months of planning, the crown jewel of Austin gardens seems serene and ready. But the Friday before opening always finds a lot of loading, unloading, hurry – scurry problems and answers, golf carts darting the hill top in between rain showers and yes, even lightning bolts. Slowly everything moves forward, and with the help of many, many volunteers, it all folds gently into place!

It was a wonderful crowd, complete with Smokey the Bear and a newly opened Beer Garden filled with good food vendors and plenty of the public sampling both.

After the event, Marion Alsup, President of AAGC, spoke at April's MG meeting to thank all the Master Gardeners who put in many hours of hard work in each and every nook and cranny of the festival. From the tickets takers at the front gate, to the many golf cart drivers, to the Children's Corner, right on through to the volunteers at the back gate, our organization once again proved they are ready and willing to work hard to make the annual event a great success.

And they did. And it was!



Smokey the Bear and Carolyn Williams



Top: Susie Easley selling plants in Master Gardener Booth. **Bottom:** Pam Penick, Austin gardening author, promoting her book.

10th Annual East Austin Garden Fair

by Mikala McFerren

Preliminary numbers are in, and the 10th Annual East Austin Garden Fair held on April 16th was a HUGE success, with 771 people taking advantage of this great opportunity to learn and have fun in a friendly, casual environment. Even with the threat of rain, attendance nearly doubled over last year! Almost 900 free plants (tomatoes, peppers, herbs and ornamentals) were distributed to attendees along with free gardening magazines, books and catalogs (generously donated by MGs/Interns) and plastic 5 gallon buckets (thanks to the Travis Co Jail).

Leading up to the fair several MGs helped construct a new raised bed for vegetables on site at Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center. The previous two beds are now an insectary and perennial herb garden. These beds will all be used as learning gardens for the children attending the after-school and summer programs at the center. A sturdy two-part compost bin was also installed near the beds for use as another teaching opportunity.

On the day of the fair about 150 volunteers and partners shared their time, energy, and knowledge to reach out to the community in an amazing array of educational choices: 20 topics (8 of them new!) specifically of interest to children with insects, animals, healthy habits, multiple plant crafts and activities, and toolbox construction; plus more than 30 booths covering various aspects of health and nutrition, horticulture, landscaping, animals, insects, and environmental issues such as rainwater harvesting, recycling and soil screening. Whew! The beautiful photo boards were also a big hit with the crowd, and added to the festive atmosphere.



Returning community partners included Sustainable Food Center, Green Corn Project, Master Wellness Volunteers, BriteIdeas, Home Depot Kid's Workshop, City of Austin Public Library, Travis County 4-H, AmeriCorps and Prairie View A&M University. New partners joining the event were Austin Resource Recovery, Austin Fire Department, City of Austin Urban Forestry, Garden-ville and free soil screening and testing through the Soil Kitchen with a grant from Kansas State University.

Other additions this year — Lawn and Turfgrass, Keyhole Gardening, and Beekeeping tables each won awards! These booths received the most votes from fellow MGs and community partners present because of the table display and/or the educational value demonstrated. What a great way for us



East Austin Garden Fair

Continued...



to express ourselves creatively while sharing our knowledge and serving the public!

Appreciative comments were overheard as attendees left the fair. So many of them were surprised at how much they enjoyed themselves, and by the scope of material offered. This event's success was made possible by all the volunteers' commitment and dedication to the mission of AgriLife Extension and the TCMGA. Be sure to get in on the fun next year! It's a great time to volunteer alongside your fellow MGs and learn something new!



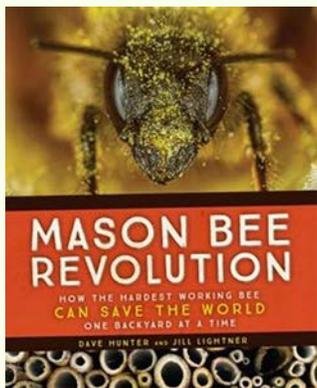
photos by Caroline Homer

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.

May 2016:



Mason Bee Revolution: How the Hardest Working Bee Can Save the World - One Backyard at a Time - March 22, 2016

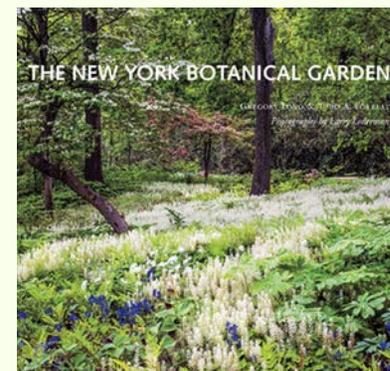
by Dave Hunter

Mason Bee Revolution explains how docile, hard-working, solitary mason bees (and their compatriots, the leafcutter bees) are even more productive pollinators than honeybees, and keeping them can be a fun, easy, backyard hobby for gardeners, conservationists, foodies, and families everywhere. Mason Bee Revolution is an easy-to-follow guide to keeping both mason and leafcutter bees. It tells you how to set up, care for, and harvest your own bees and what types of plants and habitat encourage mason and leafcutter bees, as well as provides general information on other common pollinators and bee-related facts, projects, and personalities. [\[more\]](#)

The New York Botanical Garden: Revised and Updated Edition - April 5, 2016

by Gregory Long, Todd A. Forrest

In The New York Botanical Garden, the institution's remarkable history and collections are presented in one magnificent volume. Through hundreds of exquisite photographs and reproductions of rare botanical art, the book celebrates this urban oasis's 125th year as a place of unparalleled beauty in New York City and as an internationally renowned leader in plant research and conservation. [\[more\]](#)



All the Presidents' Gardens: Madison's Cabbages to Kennedy's Roses, How the White House Grounds Have Grown with America - April 27, 2016

by Marta McDowell

The eighteen acres that surround the White House have been an unwitting witness to history—a backdrop for soldiers, suffragettes, protestors, and activists. Kings and queens have dined there; bills and treaties have been signed; and presidents have landed and retreated. The front and back yard for the first family, it is by extension the nation's first garden. All the Presidents' Gardens tells the untold history of the White House Grounds. [\[more\]](#)

Flashback Favs

by Daphne Richards

As a contributor to **Central Texas Gardener** (CTG), I love to answer your questions and share knowledge on new and tried and true plants for our area. Here are some Flashback Favs!



Daphne and Augie. Daphne Richards is the county extension agent for horticulture at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office for Travis County

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TggyLyX51RI> (CTG 2012)

What's happening to winecups? The plant is decaying from the center outwards, and the leaves turn yellow and have bumps on the undersides.

And right after we received this question, I noticed that the winecups in the garden in front of my office are doing the same thing. We have a huge patch of them, about 4' in diameter, and death is slowly radiating from the center, ever closer to the edges of the plant. The viewer suspects she has rust. And we thought she might be right. But rust or not, we knew that this was most likely caused by some sort of microbial pathogen, so we consulted my good friend Dr. Kevin Ong, Extension Plant Pathologist from the Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab. Dr. Ong confirmed what the viewer's initial research led them to believe: rust. And he says that he's seeing reports of lots of it this year. Now for the not-so-great news: Unfortunately, there really isn't much to be done for the plant at this point. Fungicides may be successfully used on rusts in many cases, but here, with the entire center of the plant already dead, you won't be able to reverse the damage, so you needn't bother with any treatment. This disease is likely a little more prevalent this year due to the fact that we had a relatively warm winter, with better than average rainfall, and our spring temperatures warmed up very early. Because of this, our wildflowers came on early and strong, and microbes took advantage of the warmer, wetter than normal, environment. I would suggest allowing the plant to flower until it becomes more unsightly than you can bear, then cutting the top-growth back. Winecups are perennials, so they should grow back from their underground tuber, if it hasn't been damaged by staying overly wet. Winecups prefer dry, rocky, very well-drained soil, so if you have organic mulch around them, be sure to remove it. After you've cut the plants back,

clean up any organic matter, including any mulch that you had around the plant. Rusts are very host-specific, meaning that each species of rust usually only attacks a couple of specific plants, so the rust on your winecups most likely won't damage the other plants in your garden. Dr. Ong also pointed out that the rust was most likely only the initial pathogen, after it did some initial damage, other pathogens most likely moved in to take advantage of the weakened plant. So be sure to remove all of the possible source of pathogenic spores that you can and toss it in the garbage.

***Celosia spicata* 'Flamingo Feather', sometimes called wheatstraw celosia**

We've long admired this warm weather annual in the East Side Patch garden of Philip Leveredge, where it readily sows itself in sunny decomposed granite paths. Philip notes that celosias prefer a well-drained, gritty soil. In fact, they are prone to root rot if kept too wet. At the same time, even though they love the heat, they do require supplemental water in drought. These are showy plants that get two to two and a half feet tall and about 14" wide. The vibrant pink flowers are great for dried arrangements, and you can collect the seed to

Flashback Favs

Continued...

plant again next year. Plant seeds after the last frost to enjoy until the first freeze. Philip harvests seeds from his plants when they mature in November or December. At that time, he plants them where he wants to see them next year. Or, you can save your seeds in a container to set out in spring.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYVxarKerIU> (CTG 2012)

Pruning Spring Plants. What can we prune now? And should we fertilize plants that just finished blooming?

Well, pruning can be a tricky subject, and the key to pruning is knowing your plants growth habit, and understanding how pruning affects each plant. Most trees should be pruned in the winter, but if your deciduous tree struggled in last summer's heat and you were waiting until they leafed-out to see which areas were truly dead, you can go ahead and prune out any obviously dead growth now. Be sure to use pruning paint on any oaks that you prune right now—with temperatures warming up, the possibility of oak wilt infection is increasing. Shrubs, especially those that require hedging, should be pruned now, before temperatures really heat up. Be sure to use nice, sharp shears when pruning hedges, so that you make a clean cut—you don't want the tops to have torn leaf edges that not only look unsightly, but also heal less quickly and serve as an open door for disease pathogens to move right in. If your spring flowering bulbs and perennials have finished flowering, you can go ahead and clean those up a bit to encourage them to put on a flush of new growth, and perhaps even flower again, depending on each plant. And if you have any plants that bloom all summer but have started to slow down a bit in the heat, a little dead-heading, to remove spent blooms, will encourage new blooms to form faster. It's also a great idea to give a light dose of fertilizer to plants that have just finished blooming. Flowering and forming seeds takes a lot of energy, and replenishing some of a plants nutrients, so that it can rebuild its own body after having given so much of its precious energy to the next generation, is a good idea. But just a light dose. We're coming in to the heat of summer now, and you don't want to encourage your plants to grow too much at such a stressful time of year.

Mexican honeysuckle (*Justicia spicigera*)

Although it shares a common name with our common honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, and looks somewhat similar, the two plants are not related. But Mexican honeysuckle IS related to another great plant for Central Texas gardens: shrimp plant. A viewer moved her plants from a former garden and last year they were a little slow to establish. They're now quite at home in the southwest corner of her garden where they get shade from a cedar elm. In harsh winters, Mexican honeysuckle is perennial, dying back to the ground. But in our mostly mild Central Texas winters, Mexican honeysuckle is evergreen, sometimes not even being frost-bit, but it will benefit from a bit of pruning in late winter, to invigorate new growth. It can get 2' to 3' tall and spreads much wider, so give it plenty of space to spread out. It isn't too picky about soil type, but it does need a little supplemental irrigation, especially if the summer is especially hot and dry. Mexican honeysuckle needs a little sun to put on a nice show of flowers, but it does like to be in a bit of shade and will struggle in too much sun. In mid to late summer, Mexican honeysuckle will put on a gorgeous display of bright orange flowers, which contrast nicely with the deep, velvety green of its leaves. And it normally stays covered with blooms all the way up until the first frost.

Flashback Favs

Continued...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6vy7s9idX8> (CTG 2012)

Why are fall-blooming plants flowering in spring?

Well, as is often the case with plants, weather is a key factor in their growth responses. Many temperate zone plants mark time with environmental cues. When the number of hours of sunlight begin to get shorter and temperatures begin to cool a bit, that means winter is on its way—a cue to plants that they should begin preparing for dormancy. And when the hours of daylight begin to increase and temperatures get warmer, plants begin preparing to wake up for spring. But when the weather patterns fall out of this norm, cold in winter and warm in spring, the internal time-keeping mechanisms of plants get confused. This past winter, we were abnormally warm and wet, with a lot of cloudy days. To many of our fall-blooming plants, this weather seemed more like Autumn than spring, and so they thought it was their normal flowering time. I noticed lots of fall asters blooming around town. If your fall-blooming plants bloomed this spring and you'd like to encourage them to bloom again in the fall, be sure to give them a good shearing to remove the spent blooms and encourage new buds to form. They'll likely stop blooming over the summer, but when our nights start to cool a bit and our days begin to get shorter, they should fall back into their normal autumn-blooming habit.

Texas star Hibiscus *Hibiscus coccineus*

This wonderful Texas native is also known as scarlet rose mallow. Although related to the tropical Hibiscus that are found in Hawaii and other warm, wet regions, Texas star hibiscus is quite happy in temperate Central Texas. It grows 3 to 6 feet tall and about 4 feet wide and dies back to the ground in winter. As with other perennial shrubby plants, wait until temperatures begin to warm up in spring and then prune off all of the top growth down to the ground and you'll begin to see the new growth emerge from the roots. Resist the urge to prune off all the stems in late fall or early winter as soon as all the leaves have dropped off. As the plant is preparing to hunker down for winter, many chemical processes are occurring in those "dead" stems. And, the leafless stems provide a little bit of protection from the cold. Unlike its tropical cousins, Texas star Hibiscus can withstand most of our winters, barring any truly harsh freezes. Be sure to mulch well around the base of the plant to protect the roots from any out of the ordinary cold spells. It can take full sun, but also does fine in part shade, although it may bloom a little less. Texas star Hibiscus can handle wet soils, but works in dry ones, too. Although it will acclimate to our soils and need very little supplemental irrigation in "normal" times, if summer is particularly hot and dry, you will need to water this plant. It spends the spring putting on green growth and then flowers all summer long, attracting a parade of hummingbirds and butterflies to your garden. The flowers are large, off-red, and more open than the showy tropical hibiscus, with 5 very distinct petals. Each flower is only open for a day, but new ones open all summer long. You may notice that the flowers look very similar to another of our great Texas natives, Turk's cap. That's because the two plants are in the same family, the Malvaceae. Quite a number of wonderful Texas natives are in the mallow family. In fact, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's native plant database lists 88 native species.

Flashback Favs

Continued...

THINGS TO DO IN MAY

FERTILIZE: Feed all spring-blooming shrubs after they have bloomed. Feed amaryllis after they bloom. Feed and mulch iris. Feed crape myrtle with 1/2 cup/sq. yd. of 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer beneath the branch spread.

WATER: Water annuals as needed. Mulch all bare soil to retain moisture.

TRANSPLANT: Container-grown plants can go into the ground now.

LAWN CARE: Mow every 5-7 days, leaving the clippings on the lawn. Keep St. Augustine grass at 2 1/2" to 3" height. Apply 1/2' to 1" of water as needed to wet soil thoroughly. Don't water more often than every five days.

DISEASES/PESTS TO LOOK FOR: Check for aphids and spider mites. Look for tobacco horn-worms, spider mites and stink bugs, especially in vegetable gardens. Spray peach and plum trees for curculio weevils. Spray blackspot-susceptible roses with fungicide every 7-10 days.

PRUNE: Prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they bloom. Prune climbing roses and other "once bloomers" as soon as they finish flowering. Divide chrysanthemums and pinch tips for bushier growth. Pinch back leggy annuals to encourage branching. Deadhead plants to encourage blooming. Prune frost-damaged trees and shrubs. Remove sucker shoots from tomato plants to get earlier, larger fruit.



Austin Area Events

How to Know and Grow Austin Butterflies Workshop

Saturday, May 7, 2016
10am - 4pm

Zilker Botanical Gardens
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX

Learning to identify common butterflies of our area is only one aspect of the Austin Butterfly Forum's Annual Butterfly Workshop. Topics will cover caterpillar food plants, how to raise caterpillars, watch metamorphosis at home, and strategies for caterpillar survival and identification, as well as books and resources about this rapidly growing hobby.

Fee for the workshop is \$35.00 with a light lunch provided. Free butterfly-friendly plants will be given to all participants. Details at austinbutterflies.org

To register, please contact Jeff Taylor at 512-255-0368 or kscjtaylor@prodigy.net

Dealing with Drought: Tree Care

Thursday, May 12, 2016
10am - 12pm

Travis Co AgriLife Extension Service Office
1600 Smith Road
Austin, TX

Many trees are stressed by prolonged periods of hot, dry weather. Selecting trees that use water efficiently is one way to make your landscape more resistant to drought. Learn about several tree maintenance procedures to increase a tree's chance during drought such as mulching, proper pruning, limiting fertilization and supplemental irrigation. Lara Schuman, an ISA Certified Arborist and acting Program Manager at City of Austin Urban Forestry will share her knowledge on caring for trees.

Part of the Dealing with Drought Series
Cost: \$10 through 5/02; \$15 starting 5/03 and on-site
NO cash accepted – checks and credit cards only.

Space is limited so register on-line early to reserve your seat!
Register: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty>
Register by Phone: 979-845-2604

Austin Area Events

Firewise Gardening

Saturday, May 14, 2016
10am - Noon

Zilker Botanical Gardens
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX

A fire action plan saves lives and property through advance planning. Learn how to take steps to protect yourself and help first responders help you! Master Gardener Cher Coleman will provide you with landscaping tips to create a defensible space, things you can do to make your home more fire resistant. Review checklists for family preparedness, disaster plans and evacuations provided by the Texas Forestry Service and the Austin Fire Department.

Seminar is free and open to the public. No RSVP is required. Zilker park entrance fee is \$2 per adult, \$1 per child (ages 3-12) or seniors (age 62 & over), \$3 for non-Austin Residents. Cash or check accepted.

For more information contact: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Travis County, 512-854-9600

Coevolution of Plants and the Pollinating Beetles of Texas

Monday, May 23, 2016
7pm - 4pm

Zilker Botanical Gardens
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX

Mike Quinn will discuss the evolution of plants and the association of flower shapes to insect pollination while focusing on beetles which represent the greatest diversity among all pollinators. Former Austin Butterfly Forum President Mike Quinn earned degrees in Entomology and Wildlife from Texas A&M University. He has worked on ornithological, botanical and entomological projects for local, state and federal agencies and was the first statewide invertebrate biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife. He is currently photographing the beetles of Texas. [See flyer here.](#)

All normal Austin Butterfly Forum events are free and open to the public, but you may want to become a member. Membership is \$20 annually per household, payable during meetings or by mail. Details at austinbutterflies.org

TRAVIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

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This issue of the Compost Bin has been published thanks to the contributions of the following Travis County Master Gardeners and Daphne Richards and Wizzie Brown — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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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



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www.tcmastergardeners.org
<http://travis-tx.tamu.edu>
512-854-9600

"Spring rain
leaking through the roof
dripping from the wasps' nest." - Matsuo Basho