



The Compost Bin

April 2017

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

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A Journey Through Fairyland

An Unexpected Oasis

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Cover: By Liath Appleton

Right: The garden of Shari Bauer.
By Lori Daul



Meeting - Mike Quinn

Monarch Butterflies

Master of Science, Entomology
 Coordinator of the Texas Monarch Watch
 Co-author of *Milkweed, Monarchs and More*
 Vice-President (ex-president) of the Austin Butterfly Forum

If you ask any of your local monarchs, they probably all know our speaker by name: Mike Quinn. He is highly active in the local butterfly community, and is coming to our monthly meeting to share his monarch passion and knowledge with us.

Garden-to-Garden Plant Exchange Spring 2017

AFTER the April Meeting

As you make room for all the goodies you bought at the Zilker Garden Fair, don't forget it's time for plant exchange! To get us fired up about this year's TCMGA garden tour, the garden exchange will also focus on native and well-adapted plants. Other plants are welcome, except for invasives.

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

We will need garden magazines, books and catalogs, in addition to labeled seed packages for East Austin Garden Fair. Look for the box labeled EAGF.

We do need help setting up and cleaning up, so plan to do your part. And please take home any of your extra plants.

Master Gardener Meeting information:
 Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 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

Every spring as I start digging in the soil and planting seeds, I reflect on warm, sunny days working alongside my octogenarian garden mentors George and Mary Stewart of Houston, who generously shared their vegetable bounty, their canned goods, their gardening wisdom and their down home humor with everyone they met. The following poem was written by Mary and it captures the absolute wonder that vegetable gardeners experience with each new spring season:

I love to see a garden
 A-growin' in the spring
With crisp new leaves of tender plants
 As green as anything.
See how they stand so bravely
 Bedecked with morning dew;
What had been old and lifeless
 Is now so bright and new!
Seeds locked within their prisons
 Broke their bonds at night,
Pushed upward through the blackness
 To life, and day, and light.
The dry dead seeds were buried
 In the darkness of the earth
But God has made them live again –
 The wonder of rebirth!
 - *Mary MacDonald Stewart*

Tiny vegetable seeds hold such amazing potential. And if we take the time and energy to nurture the seed, we will be rewarded with vegetables that will, in turn, nourish our health.

Here is the vegetable gardener's checklist for April:

- Side-dress tomato plants with a high nitrogen fertilizer when the fruits begin to form. To side-dress, pull the mulch back from the plants and scratch the fertilizer granules into the soil. Water well and replace the mulch. Use 1-2 tablespoons of fertilizer around the perimeter of each tomato.
- Every 2 weeks water vegetables with a liquid fertilizer to encourage vigorous growth.



What beneficial insect wouldn't be attracted to this charming spot next to the vegetable garden?

In the Vegetable Garden

- If you have room, make a second planting of bush beans and/or summer squash to extend the harvest.
- If pickle production is on your to-do list, be sure to plant pickling varieties such as 'Homemade Pickles,' 'Endeavor' or 'National Pickling.' If you'd like to try a non-bitter, pale yellow cucumber, try 'Poona Kheera,' a Middle Eastern heirloom that is crisp, crunchy and heat tolerant.
- Harden off pepper, eggplant and other transplants before setting in the garden.
- Plant heat-loving okra, melons and southern peas this month. All are easy to plant from seed.
- Hill potato plants with soil, straw or mulch as they grow so that developing potatoes will not be exposed to sunlight.
- Mulch all vegetable beds to deter weeds, hold moisture and moderate soil temperature. Use leaves, straw, alfalfa hay, finely shredded bark or grass clippings. As it decomposes it will add organic matter to the soil.
- Fertilize onions and garlic every 3-4 weeks with high nitrogen fertilizer. If you get tired of waiting go ahead and harvest immature bulbs and tops for use in the kitchen.
- Watch for aphids and spider mites, especially on tender, new growth. Dislodge with a strong spray of water or use an insecticidal soap or neem oil spray.
- Plant some annual flowers in the vegetable garden for color and to attract beneficial insects and pollinators. Try zinnias, sunflowers, cosmos, gomphrena, tithonias or marigolds.
- Be sure to irrigate if Mother Nature passes us by. Vegetables under moisture stress are more susceptible to pest and disease.



Left: Short day onions usually start to bulb this month when day length reaches 10-12 hours.

Right: Pale yellow 'Poona Kheera' cucumbers are tasty, productive and heat tolerant.

Continued...

Squash Bugs

by Wizzie Brown



Squash bugs are shield-shaped insects that reach about 5/8 of an inch in length. These insects are grey to brown in color. Adults have fully developed wings, while nymphs (immatures) have wing pads. Eggs are elliptical, reddish-brown, and laid singly but in clusters (usually on the underside of the leaves or along the stems).

Squash bugs overwinter as adults in protected areas. They emerge in spring to search out cucurbit plants where they mate and lay eggs. Eggs hatch in about 10 days, and nymphs take about a month to reach adulthood.

There can be 1-2 generations per year, and life stages overlap. Squash bugs like to hang out near the crown of the plant, under leaves, or other protected areas. The insects hide and scurry for cover when disturbed. Late in the growing season, when vines are dying, adults and nymphs often congregate on the fruit. Nymphs die with freezing temperatures while adults find protected locations.

Squash bugs feed on squash, pumpkin, melon and other plants in the cucurbit family. They have piercing-sucking mouthparts that are inserted into plant tissue to suck out juices. Damage appears as yellowing of foliage that eventually turns brown. Younger plants have more problems with heavy infestations of squash bugs, and feeding can lead to wilting and possibly death. Squash bugs may also feed on developing fruit causing it to become scarred.

To help manage squash bugs, inspect plants for eggs on a regular basis and squish eggs before they hatch. Create traps using wood boards or newspapers; check traps each morning and kill any bugs found. For vining squash, trellising can provide fewer harborage areas for insects to hide. Use row cover to protect plants from squash bugs and remove the cover during bloom to allow for pollination. Remove old plants after harvest is complete, and clean up debris to reduce overwintering sites.

Insects can be handpicked or vacuumed from the plant. If a pesticide is needed, look for less-toxic active ingredients such as insecticidal soap, azadirachtin (Neem) or use horticultural oils for smaller nymphs.

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



Inside Austin Gardens Tour: A Journey Through Fairyland

by Carolyn Williams

On May 6, 2017, the TCMGA will host our 9th Inside Austin Gardens Tour. We will be opening five personal gardens plus Extension's Demonstration Garden for the public to tour. Our theme will be, once again, "For Gardeners – By Gardeners" in order to show the public what each gardener achieved by using native and adapted plants in their landscapes allowing for less water use, less fertilization, and less chemicals even in our areas of deer population and poor soil. We hope you will follow the stories in this and upcoming issues of the Compost Bin on each of our gardeners and get involved in whatever area best suits you. Also, we have some wonderful sponsors. Please check them out! IAGT Committee, Wendy Buck – Chair; Lori Daul, Martha King, Marian Stasney, Kirk Walden, Richard Wendrock and Carolyn Williams

The garden of Shari Bauer



Perched high above the Pedernales River, there resides a gardener who gardens through an artist's eye. Come step through a magical purple door where fairies live and butterflies flutter while the world seems far away and everyday troubles dissolve.

Shari started on her gardening journey in 2009 by enhancing her caliche soil with tons of organic matter. "Good soil is the foundation of any beautiful garden," she says. From there Shari took the time to get acquainted with the land and natural beauty that was already in place. Slowly she started creating beds filled with host and nectar plants for butterflies that fill our Texas Hill Country. She then studied and learned from the lavender farms in Blanco and decided she, too, could grow the beautiful lavender plants.

Shari next created hillside terracing filled with native plants, fruit trees, lavender, vegetables, and a piano.....yes, a piano that all happily reside together. Chandeliers dangle overhead while you sit and contemplate it all in an upright vintage boat.

Odd-shaped driftwood finds itself home to all kinds of succulents that lead you into Shari's greenhouse and collected craft area. Indeed, this is no ordinary garden, but one filled with

fairy dust, rocking chairs lined up to survey the setting sun across the Pedernales River and await the whimsical magic that this gardener will next dream up.

Join us as we share this garden of creature delights, hopping toads and butterfly wings that await you in this beautiful Texas Hill Country garden!



Photos by Lori Daul

Inside Austin Gardens Tour: Sponsor Spotlight

by Martha King

These companies have given a \$500 donation to the tour. Sponsor monies are used to subsidize other activities in which the TCMGA is involved throughout the year. The funds also go to buying plants and upkeep on the greenhouse.

The Austin Area Garden Center



Returning as an Inside Austin Gardens Tour sponsor, The Austin Area Garden Center is a non-profit organization established in 1955 to support Zilker Botanical Garden and its mission to promote the education and love of gardening among people of all ages. Its projects support beautification of the gardens visited yearly by half a million people from around the world. Its education programs reach thousands of school children and adults every year.

The Austin Area Garden Council (AAGC) marks its beginnings many years ago with a desire and a need for a building to serve as a focal point for the several organizations in the Austin area. In 1924, Clara Driscoll started the Violet Crown Garden Club. Some may remember her as the woman who saved the Alamo and built Laguna Gloria. There were many garden clubs in Austin at the time, meeting in member's homes and holding flower shows where they could, such as bank lobbies and the City Coliseum. In 1946, Violet Crown members started saving money from fundraisers to build a garden center, setting aside \$50 to initiate a building project. In 1955, six garden clubs joined Violet Crown to organize the Austin Area Garden Council to build such a garden center. These clubs were the Men's Garden Club, Wilshire Garden Club, Austin Women's Federation Garden Group, Heart of the Hills Gardeners, Western Hills Garden Club, and West Lake Hills Garden Club. They sent out invitations, wrote a mission statement and bylaws, and put together a governing board. Their goals emphasized conservation and inclusion. By their mandate, this was not to be a country club! Their request for a small plot of land was met with enthusiastic approval from the Parks and Recreation Department as well as the City Council. In 1962, the City of Austin allocated land in Zilker Park, and the building was completed in 1964. The Austin Area Garden Council paid off the mortgage in 1965.

The present Garden Council is comprised of 31 clubs representing approximately 1,500 members. AAGC President Marion Alsup, who is also a Travis County Master Gardener, said when asked why the AAGC chose to sponsor the Inside Austin Gardens Tour, "Sponsoring the IAGT is a great opportunity for the Austin Area Garden Center, a coalition of 32 garden clubs, to reach out to the larger community. Our mission is to share the joy of gardening, and we are delighted to support IAGT and the work that TCMGA does every day."

Sponsor Spotlight

Continued...

Thrash Law Firm



A garden and its gardener have many connections to the earth and its inhabitants, some not as obvious as others. Such is the case with Inside Austin Gardens Tour sponsor Thrash Law Firm. When asked if she would consider being a sponsor, founder Erin Thrash jumped at the opportunity. She whole-heartedly agreed to sponsor the tour as a way to express her appreciation for our longtime association as estate attorney and client. "When they ask why I am sponsoring the tour, be sure to tell them it's because I love YOU so much!" It is also recognition and appreciation for the work that goes into well-loved gardens, as will be exemplified by the five personal gardens and one public demonstration garden that are being highlighted on this year's tour.

Erin is the eldest of five children of the late T. J. Moran, a well known and highly regarded Louisiana restaurateur and philanthropist who was the first and at one time largest franchisee of Ruth's Chris Steak House. Erin earned her B.S. and J.D. at Louisiana State University. She is Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and a member of the College of the State Bar. Coming from a large and complex family, she has focused her practice in estate planning where she can assist clients with difficult issues or situations with unique, custom "solution planning" using wills, trusts, business entities, or family limited partnerships. The firm also does probate and estate administrations, elder law, asset protection for high net worth individuals, LG planning, business formation, and business succession planning. Erin is a teacher and frequent lecturer in these areas. Besides the state and district courts in which she appears, in 2007 she was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

In addition to her paid work, Erin frequently donates her time and legal experience to charities and foundations that benefit women and children in need. She provided the legal work for With Nici's Heart Foundation, a charity founded for children with catastrophic illnesses including transplant recipients, DSF-Dream a Dream Therapeutic Horsemanship, a foundation for teaching children with special needs to ride horses, and LTLOV, a foundation for women and children in need. In February, Erin spoke at the Lake Travis Rotary Luncheon about a water well project of Africa's Promise Village. According to its founder, Dr. Donna Gunn, Africa's Promise Village is a group of schoolteachers and other kind-hearted folks who want to improve the lives of African children and their communities through education, clean water, nutrition, and healthcare. Erin also volunteers with Volunteer Legal Services, SafePlace, and other volunteer service organizations.

Erin and her husband Rob have three children, four horses, and a variety of dogs, cats, chickens, and exotic birds on their ranch near the Pedernales River. When she is not reading, gardening, riding, or with her family, Erin loves to travel, including a recent attempt to summit Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak at 19,341 feet.



Sponsor Spotlight

Continued...



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Austin, TX 78746
(512) 477-8672

<http://www.zilkegarden.org/aagc/>



3 Lakeway Centre Court
Suite 200
Austin, TX 78734
(512) 263-5400

<http://www.thrashlawfirm.com>

Tour Sponsors for 2017 Inside Austin Gardens Tour:

Real Green Pest Control and Lawn Care

Vivero Growers Nursery

East Austin Succulents

Thrash Law Firm

Wild Birds Unlimited

Austin Area Garden Council

Please patronize our sponsor's businesses!

An Unexpected Oasis

by Lisa Wahlgren

Reprinted with permission from Edible Austin magazine.



Photo by Andy Sams

Tucked among far South Austin's well-manicured lawns, an oasis of fruit trees, vegetables, herbs and ornamentals flourishes in a 40-by-60 foot backyard that serves as both an outdoor laboratory and labor of love for Venkappa Gani and his wife, Ratna. In 1997, following Venkappa's 30-year engineering career, the couple retired to a neighborhood undergoing construction of hundreds of new homes. At the time, the yard was slated as a flat canvas for St. Augustine, but the Ganis had other ideas.

They managed to opt out of sod in favor of soil, and got started planting a border of fruit trees. "I grew up in the garden," says Venkappa, explaining that growing food was at the core of the school curriculum in the farming village where he was born in the southwestern Indian state of Karnataka. To help the village thrive, all students were given a plot of land to cultivate, which required hauling buckets of water to tend their plants. Every year, as they moved up a grade, they were given a bigger plot.

Formal education was customarily expected to end at the eighth grade, but as the top student in his class, Venkappa advanced to the local high school — walking three miles to and from school, every day. Graduating at the head of his high school class, he went on to the B.V.B. College of Engineering and Technology, where he again rose to the top his class and graduated with a B.E. in electrical engineering. The next stop for Venkappa was Boulder, Colorado, in 1966, where he earned a M.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Colorado.

He left Boulder for Poughkeepsie, New York, where he was offered a position with IBM. Then, while on a trip back to India, he married Ratna. Eventually, IBM led the couple to Austin where the seeds that were planted during elementary school took root in a retirement that's redefining what's possible on a modest plot of land, and turned Venkappa into an award-winning and sought-after local gardening expert.

Entry to the Ganis' backyard is via a dense canopy of crimson-flowered Rangoon creeper vine, then suddenly, a wildly prolific, Eden-like setting is revealed. Venkappa appears to have defied any number of well-accepted notions of what can thrive amid Central Texas' scorching heat, occasional freezes and often subpar soil. Fruit trees, primarily along the edges, include pomegranate, persimmon, papaya, peach, fig, jujube, Texas red grapefruit, Meyer lemon, kumquat, Dorset apple, olive, pineapple guava, Orient pear and banana. In the center of the fertile plot, divided by limestone blocks and brick pathways, are edibles, ornamentals and leafy herbs that are indigenous to just about every corner of the globe and include lamb's quarters, papyrus, bay laurel, thryallis, Swiss chard, coriander, dandelion, curry plant, tarragon, bitter melon, hibiscus (for tea), butterfly weed, pequín chili pepper, okra, rosemary, oregano, tomatoes, broccoli, peas and garlic.

An Unexpected Oasis

Continued...

Growing up without running water or electricity, Venkappa takes neither for granted. He was among the first to benefit from the City of Austin's rebate program for solar energy in 2004, and put his electrical engineering degrees to work to install solar panels on his roof. City rebates also came into play the following year with the installation of two 1,500-gallon tanks for rainwater harvesting.

As is his tradition, Venkappa never uses chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. A hearty compost heap is the source of an occasional nutrient boost to the soil, and if there's a secret ingredient, it might be his all-natural Gani Coco Coir product. It's made by extracting coconut husk fibers from coconut shells and compressing them into lightweight blocks that serve as an extremely water-retentive planting medium. Venkappa sells the blocks at various gardening centers around town.

The backyard garden is a significant source of sustenance to Venkappa and Ratna, who are both lifetime vegetarians. When a crop exceeds what they can consume—which is often—it's sold through co-op yard-to-market booths at the Sunset Valley SFC Farmers' Market on Saturday and the HOPE Farmers Market on Sunday, where the couple can often be seen chatting with customers and sharing gardening tips.

Over the years, Venkappa has become a solid fixture in the local-growers circle. He's a life member of the Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a member of The Garden Club of Austin and a past president of the Austin Organic Gardeners club. He is also the founder of the Organic Farm & Learning Center at Green Haven Ranch in Hutto, Texas, a community-wide education initiative that offers hands-on training and workshops on organic gardening, rainwater collection and solar energy. In 2005, the Texas Master Gardeners Association named him Gardener of the Year.

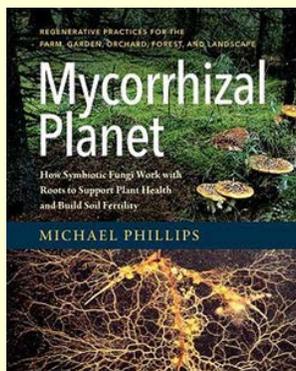
Accolades and other projects aside, Venkappa's home garden continues to be a beloved and comforting personal haven. When asked whether Ratna's love of the garden is at the same level as that of her husband's, she says unequivocally "I love it more!" And then she offers one of her favorite ways to cook their bounty: "Add whole mustard seeds and whole cumin seeds to hot oil," she says. "When the seeds start to pop, add onions and vegetables and sauté. Finish with curry powder, salt, lemon and tamarind, to taste." Yum.

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.

April 2017

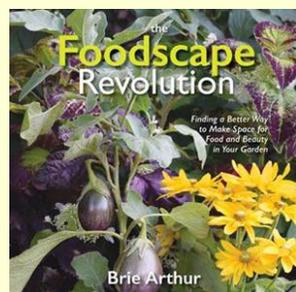
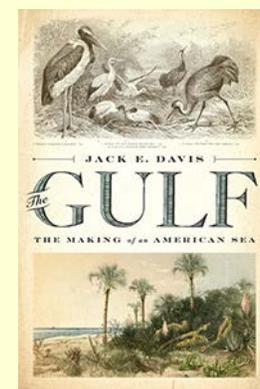


Mycorrhizal Planet: How Symbiotic Fungi Work with Roots to Support Plant Health and Build Soil Fertility - February 28, 2017
by Michael Phillips

Mycorrhizal fungi have been waiting a long time for people to recognize just how important they are to the making of dynamic soils. These microscopic organisms partner with the root systems of approximately 95 percent of the plants on Earth, and they sequester carbon in much more meaningful ways than human "carbon offsets" will ever achieve. [\[more\]](#)

The Gulf: The Making of An American Sea - March 14, 2017
by Jack E. Davis

When painter Winslow Homer first sailed into the Gulf of Mexico, he was struck by its "special kind of providence." Indeed, the Gulf presented itself as America's sea—bound by geography, culture, and tradition to the national experience—and yet, there has never been a comprehensive history of the Gulf until now. [\[more\]](#)

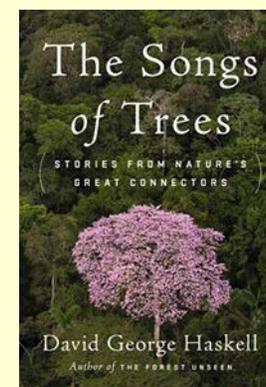


The Foodscape Revolution: Reinvent Your Landscape by Combining Edible Plants with Foliage & Flowers for Year-Round Beauty and Bounty - March 15, 2017
by Brie Arthur

Foodscapeing visionary Brie Arthur looks at under-utilized garden spaces around homes or in the landscaped common spaces of planned communities and she sees places where food can be grown lots and lots of it. And not in isolated patches, but inter-planted with non-food ornamental plants for year-round beauty. [\[more\]](#)

The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature's Great Connectors - April 4, 2017
by David George Haskell

David Haskell's award-winning *The Forest Unseen* won acclaim for eloquent writing and deep engagement with the natural world. Now, Haskell brings his powers of observation to the biological networks that surround all species, including humans. [\[more\]](#)



Announcements

In February, Clyde Adley and Liz Caskey presented a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Customer Service to **Republic Print & Mail** on behalf of the TCMGA Board. The Board wanted to recognize Republic Print, which prints the TCMGA publications *Garden Guide for Austin and Vicinity* and *Creating a Drought-Resistant Garden in Central Texas*, for all their work on the books.

Republic Print not only stores the TCMGA books until they are needed for distribution, but last year they worked tirelessly on the Garden Guide update. They provided countless hours of consultation and setup. They make it easy for the publication distribution committee to pick up books, and even help to load them.

The owner, Sam Painovich, was very pleased with the honor, and he spoke about the long relationship his company has had with the TCMGA. He said that he lives in South Austin and used to deliver the publications to one of our master gardeners who lived near him just so she wouldn't have to drive all the way north to pick them up. Now that's service! Thank you, Republic Print. We look forward to being your partner for many more years.



Austin Area Events

Austin Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale

April 1-2, 2017
10 am - 5 pm

Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Rd
Austin, TX

The show offers visitors a chance to see rare and beautiful cacti and succulent species from around the world. Vendors from Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico will sell native and exotic cacti and succulents, and hand-made pottery at reasonable prices. There will be a daily silent auction and hourly plant raffle of rare and collectible cacti and succulents. Educational information, literature, and expert advice will be available. Come and bring a friend. [Austin Cactus & Succulent Society](#)

This event is free and open to the public with paid admission to Zilker Botanical Garden (\$2 adults, \$1 children and seniors).

Spring Native Plant Sale: Public Day

April 8, 2017
9 am - 5 pm

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
4801 La Crosse Ave
Austin, TX

The Spring Plant Sale will feature hundreds of species of Texas natives, including seeds, annual wildflowers, grasses, perennials, wetland plants, shrubs and trees. Not only are they beautiful, but native plants help conserve water, reduce mowing costs, provide habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife, protect the soil, and save money on fertilizer and pesticides.

Admission: Adults – \$10, Youth – \$4
Members – FREE

Details at <http://www.wildflower.org/event/spring-sale-public>

Austin Area Events

A Passion for Plants: An East Austin Garden Fair

Saturday, April 8, 2017

9 am - 2 pm

Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center
2608 Gonzales Street
Austin, TX

**Rain or Shine – come enjoy this great event.
Ask the experts and get garden ideas.
Kid-friendly activities!**

Free Admission

Free Plants

Free Garden books, magazines, seed catalogs and plastic garden buckets

Free Soil Screening for food gardeners – Bring a 2-cup soil sample in a quart zip lock bag.

--Easy instructions for soil sampling at <http://austintexas.gov/soilkitchen>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Travis County Master Gardeners, and Austin Parks & Recreation present the 11th annual East Austin Garden Fair.

Free and open to the public, this fun, hands-on fair involves community members in creative, low-cost ways to grow vegetables, herbs and fruit to improve the family diet as well as information about Earth-Kind landscaping. Travis County Master Gardeners offer University-based information to fairgoers on a diverse variety of horticulture topics, while Community Partner Organizations provide information on closely-related services, programs and projects.

The fair features an assortment of DIY and demonstration activities, including building a rain barrel, raised bed or compost bin, and information about waterwise irrigation methods and gardening in containers and straw bales. Learn how to care for house plants as well as your garden tools! Booths on backyard chickens and beekeeping are a big hit with all ages and there will be plenty of

activities for kids.

Long-standing community partners and new participants include the Sustainable Food Center, Green Corn Project, Home Depot Kid's Workshop, Austin Public Library, Austin Resource Recovery, City of Austin-Urban Forestry, Austin Herb Society, 4-H CAPITAL AmeriCorps, Travis County 4-H, Travis Co Master Wellness Volunteers, Travis County Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and Travis County Cooperative Extension Program-Prairie View A&M University.

For more information, please call 512-854-9600.

Flyer: [English](#) [Spanish](#)

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners' Court of Texas cooperating.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend a meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are required to contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Travis County at 512-854-9600 ten working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

TRAVIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
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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

"Just sitting quietly, doing nothing,
Spring comes, and the grass grows by itself." - Zenrin poem