

## AZALEAS

*"Azaleas, the Queen of the Spring Garden!"*

Sharing the selection and care of the colorful shrub! Yes, we will discuss the pruning 'guidelines'.

## BASIC GARDENING

*"Creating and Maintaining a Flowerbed"*

Healthy plants come from healthy soils. This presentation covers the basics of proper drainage, fertilization and weed control in a flower bed along with some design tips.

*"Nine Rules for a Mixed and Blended Garden"*

Check these nine rules for a mixed and blended garden and compare them against your garden to get some great ideas for improving the overall look, dressing up a particular area, using your own unique creative style and pulling it all together.

*"Floral Garden"*

This is a show and tell program on how to incorporate garden seasonal materials with flowers and/or succulents.

*"Getting Ready for Winter"*

Learn how a little time spent in autumn will make your gardening and landscaping efforts next spring much easier and more enjoyable. While the weather is still comfortable for outdoor activities, take the opportunity to move spring cleaning forward in your garden.

*"Spring Start-Up"*

In this area, planting should not be done until April 15th. Learn the many things you can do in warmer weather to get your garden ready for spring. Learn what plants need pruning or cutting back, and how to make your soil healthier.

*"Everything You Wanted to Know about Gardening but Were Afraid to Ask"*

A PowerPoint presentation that includes gardening from preparing the soil to trimming. It includes short bits of information on soil, bed preparation, composting, mulching, sodding, garden plans, all season planting and also watering and pruning.

*"Fabulous Mixed Borders"*

A photographic tour of several favorite gardens in England and the Northeast United States to include the key elements of a great mixed border (structure, rhythm, repetition, four-season interest, texture, and background).

## BULBS

*"The Minor Bulbs"*

Looking for some color in winter and early spring? Well, try some of the minor bulbs that bloom in Jan, Feb, and March. (September and October is the right time for this presentation.)

*"Catch Yellow Fever"*

Learn about Daffodils and how easy they are to grow in the Mid-South.

*"Daffodils --Knowing and Growing Them"*

Learn about the wide variety of colors, forms, and sizes of daffodils; how to have a long blooming season of daffodils in your garden; and how to grow these reliable perennials successfully.

## **CHICKENS**

*"Chickens---Are They Worth It?"*

Urban chickens have become quite the trendy thing to do. Are they a passing fad or friends? This presentation will discuss space requirements, food, water, care, benefits and predators.

## **COMMUNITY GARDENS**

*"Starting Community Gardens"*

This talk describes the three most common types of community gardens, and the advantages and problems associated with them.

## **CONTAINER GARDENING**

*"Gardening in Pots Year Round"*

This includes demonstrations and audience participation. There is discussion of the types of pots, soil recipes, and self-watering pots.

*"Terrariums"*

This presentation teaches you how to make a terrarium and will address: suitable containers, the foundation for the plants, light sources and location needs, plant types and fun additions to make your terrarium your own.

*"Container Gardens"*

This talk teaches the basics of using containers for flowers (not vegetables) and will address suitable containers, the foundation for the plants and plant types.

*"Terrariums: Gardening Under Glass"*

How to create the "perfect environment" for your houseplants. (If desired, this can be conducted as a hands-on workshop for limited number of participants.)

*"Container Plants"*

Talk includes selection, planting, potential problems and care of either Indoor or outdoor plants. (Indoor plants are a good topic for retirement home participants.)

*"Container Gardening Demonstration"*

This demonstration of container gardening includes vegetables, succulents, evergreens, annuals, perennials, and even a fairy garden. There are handouts listing shade and sun plants and instructions for using a "thriller, filler, and spiller

## **DRIP IRRIGATION**

### *“INTRO to Drip Irrigation”*

Getting water where you want it, when you want it. Learn how to set-up a timed watering system for containers, borders or anything that requires water. With a little know how, a water source and a few flexible pipes, you can have beautiful gardens all summer long without “toting” a watering can all hours of the day.

## **FLORAL DESIGN**

### *“Grab and Go, Chop and Drop, what to do with the Kroger Bouquet”*

Demonstration on how to change up the Kroger bouquet and make it look like it came from the florist or show how to give it special touches to make it your own creation.

## **FUN BOTANICAL FACTS**

### *“Pickles”*

Which country was named after a pickle merchant? Learn this and much more about the history of pickles and how to grow cucumbers. (Designed for 5-6-7 grades)

## **GARDEN ART**

### *“Hypertufa”*

How to create natural looking “Fake Rock” Planters (Optional hands-on workshop for limited number of participants; it needs to be done outside since it’s messy).

### *“Flower Preservation”*

Drying methods and some associated crafts. Talk includes flower pounding prints. (Optional hands-on flower pounding workshop; however, this can be very noisy).

## **GARDENING AROUND THE WORLD**

### *“Plantarum, a Brazilian Botanic Garden”*

Located in urban area of Nova Odessa, Sao Paulo/Brazil, the Garden is a reference center for research and conservation of flora. This power point presentation will show some of the 3500 species of plants grouped in theme gardens in this very special and beautiful place.

### *“English Gardens: Postcards from England”*

Talk highlights numerous gardens toured during several trips to England. Well known gardens and some less well known along with photos taken by speaker.

### *“Gardens of Singapore”*

Slide show explores the beautiful Botanic Garden along with the exotic Gardens by the Bay, a project transforming Singapore from a Garden City to a City in the Garden.

## HABITAT GARDENING

### *“Create a Backyard Habitat in the Suburbs”*

One of the joys of a thoughtful landscape is the wildlife, such as birds, butterflies, bats and frogs that an inviting habitat attracts. Learn how to enliven a sterile suburban yard by creating a healthy, thriving garden. (PowerPoint with lots of photos.)

### *“Attracting Birds to Your Yard”*

Want to know how to attract bright, colorful, insect eating birds to YOUR backyard? Come and discover many interesting tips.

### *“Let Me Tell You 'bout the Birds and the Bees and the Flowers and the Trees...”*

All things pollination: how to encourage pollinators in your garden, plants for pollinators, and a special look at native plants.

### *“Attracting Eastern Bluebirds”*

The Eastern Bluebird, which is native and its population has declined due to their nesting spots, cavity nesters as their trees have been removed due to new housing. But they will readily nest in a manmade Bluebird house, especially if mealworms are offered. The talk includes the different types of BB houses, how they should be mounted and monitored.

### *“Native Pollinators - It’s not just about the Honey Bee”*

Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of over 85% of the world’s flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world’s crop species. In many places, the essential service of pollination is at risk from habitat loss, pesticide, use, and introduced diseases.

### *“Beneficial Bug Hotel “*

Certain bugs help us to pollinate and protect our plants from destructive bugs. This demonstration shows how to build a small « beneficial bug hotel ». The talk includes what bugs are beneficial in the garden, directions for building a simply bug hotel (handout), and where to purchase them online. You will learn how to stuff the box with a variety of materials that attract the beneficial insects

## HERBS

### *“ABCs of Herb Gardening”*

Are you planting herbs in your garden? or planning an herb garden? Some thoughts about growing herbs, and some ways to use and preserve your harvest.

### *“Herb Basics”*

How to grow and use the 15 most common herbs, diseases, pests, soil preparation, and container growing, and a handout with details.

## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

### *"Some Plants of the Bible and the Holy Land"*

Discussion of plants with historical and religious significance and their botanical counterparts.

### *"Gardening Folklore"*

Better known as "Old Wives Tales—example—"If you want to know when to sow, take your trousers off and sit on the ground.

### *"Plant Legends and Myths"*

Plant stories from Greek and Roman Mythology, Native American Legends, Far Eastern culture and tales attributed to early Christianity.

### *"Flowers, Fantasies and Fools."*

How flowers got their names; the history of the language of flowers; myths and legends surrounding flowers.

## HYDRANGEAS

### *"What Hydrangea Where" also called "Hydrangeas for Sun and Shade"*

Presentation discusses which hydrangea species does best in what type of location, how to prune it and the varieties available. Talk includes many photos of hydrangeas in speaker's garden and from garden tours.

## INSECTS

### *"Beekeeping in Your Backyard"*

This talk is all about having an apiary in the most urban settings. (Observation hives are included at certain times of the year.)

## LANDSCAPING

### *"Creating a Landscape Plan"*

A "how to" for drawing a master landscape plan. Plus a very basic introduction to design using repetition and rhythm, simplicity, unity, scale and balance.

### *"Creating a Winter Garden"*

This presentation will show you how to create interest in your garden landscape using winter-flowering shrubs as well as other key ingredients. Learn to observe your garden from a year-round perspective and learn what could be included to create a more appealing and inviting landscape. Pre-planning for winter beauty is an important first step.

### *"Fifty Shades of Green"*

How to improve curb appeal of a home by focusing on landscape.

## **LAWNS**

*"The Grass is always greener in my neighbor's yard!"*  
Turf grass maintenance for Memphis.

## **MASTER GARDENING**

*"What is Master Gardening All About?"*  
What a Master Gardener does and why and how to become one.

*"What Does a Master Gardener Do?"*  
Do you want to expand your gardening skills? Do you want to share your gardening knowledge with others? Do you like being involved in your local community? Do you like having fun and growing meaningful friendships? Learn what it means to be a Master Gardener and you will hear firsthand the impact that Master Gardeners have in the greater Memphis community.

## **MEDICINES IN THE GARDEN**

*"Medicines in the Garden"*  
So many of our common garden plants are medicines, among them coneflower (echinacea,) garlic, thyme, yarrow, and sunflowers. Learn about the medical potential in these and other standard plants.

## **ORGANIC GARDENING**

*"Organic Vegetable Gardening"*  
Learn how to grow the healthiest and most delicious veggies possible.

## **PERENNIALS**

*"No Society Plants"*  
Looking for something out of the mainstream? This presentation offers six plants each for spring, summer, fall and winter. None of these plants are in the various plant societies in the Mid-South (no Roses, Hydrangeas, Daffodils, Hostas, etc.)

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

*"The Garden Tool Not to Forget: Your Camera"*  
The why and how to use the digital camera in the garden. Participants need to bring cameras.

## **PROBLEMS IN THE LANDSCAPE**

*"Backyard Critters"*  
There are critters we want and those we don't. The presentation focuses on what to do about it. (Turtles can be most endearing)

*"Pets Plants and people in One yard...It can happen"*

*"Gardening with Dogs"*

A presentation that gives tips and tricks for maintaining flower garden beds in harmony with active dogs. We love our pets and our gardens, but they are not always compatible.

*"Garden Safety"*

A general overview covering an awareness of the environment and the baggage we bring into the environment (including ourselves). The talk includes tools, equipment, fertilizers, pesticides and us.

*"Garden Safety"*

Safety in spite of Mother Nature's 'Gifts'. These include weather, insects, varmints, and toxic plants. Our goal is to have fun outdoors, but be safe with simply body mechanic tips.

*"Weeds in My Garden"*

An overview to identification of common weeds you might find in your garden.

*" Wicked Plants"*

This fun presentation covers plants that are deadly, illegal, intoxicating, dangerous, painful, and destructive/invasive. This presentation uses interesting historical anecdotes, photos to identify the plants and facts so gardeners can avoid these plants in their landscapes.

## **PROPAGATION**

*"Growing Plants from Seed"*

This talk presents the various ways of starting seeds, when to start them indoors, what type of planting medium works best and inexpensive equipment that would be useful in improving germination.

## **RAIN GARDENS**

*"Rain Gardens I"*

All day workshop including the installation of a rain garden

*"Rain Gardens II"*

One hour introduction of the principles of rain gardens.

## **RAISED BEDS AND VERTICAL GARDENING**

*"Raised Beds and Vertical Gardening"*

For raised beds, there is discussion of the material for constructing raised beds including the trade-off between costs and sustainability; raised bed preparation, soil and additives,

watering systems, winter covers. For vertical gardening, there is discussion of the types of vertical structures available, and which plants are appropriate for vertical structures.

*“Garden UP!”*

Vertical gardening is fun, creative and provides many opportunities to create a calming atmosphere, hid an ugly area, create a privacy screen, increase your yield, or make use of objects that may be stored in the attic or garage, or even found on the street. Also includes pertinent information on container gardening.

## **RECYCLING**

*“Recycle Right and Be Good Stewards of our Environment”*

We encourage all to become Good Stewards of Our Environment by learning and practicing Recycle Right. Our talk is not only informative but presented in a fun and very enjoyable way.

We encourage the community to learn about their particular neighborhood and become community activists by encouraging proper recycling and becoming a litter free environment.

The Recycle Right topics are created to fit the audience whether it is school children or senior citizens. We cover Recycling from Composting Kitchen Scraps, all the way through plastic, glass, aluminum, metal, paper, magazines, junk mail, chip board, and card board as well as household hazardous waste.

We also set up booth at gatherings, green events, and Recycle Events to show what and how to do all of these things in a time efficient, easy, and cost effective way.

*“Creative Ways to Recycle Right”*

(includes “Recycle Right Craft Projects with Recyclables” and “Recycle Right arrangements with nature's bounty”)

We show examples of using recyclables and upcycling them for projects for children's groups, civic groups, and other organizations or just fun for their own children and grandchildren. There are so many ways to use what we have to creative and give new life to things that would otherwise end up in the garbage.

## **ROSES**

*“Easy to Grow Roses (aka Tough Roses)”*

This presentation identifies the roses that take the least care and have beautiful blooms. It describes the minimal care necessary for these roses.

*“Is A Rose Really Just A Rose?”*

You, too, can grow beautiful roses if you are willing to give them a little TLC!

Topics: Selection, location, planting, feeding, pruning, disease and insect prevention, rooting, sharing and enjoying.

## **SHADE GARDENING**

### *"Made in the Shade"*

Shade plants for the Mid-South; dealing with root-rich soil; enriching your shade soil; picking shade plants that 'pop.'

### *"Shade Gardening"*

Shade gardening is not all about hostas and ferns. It can be as rich and lush as a full-sun garden. You can achieve breathtaking displays in spaces that have only partial sun or even deep shade. Plant selection is at the heart of an award-winning shade garden. Create an interesting oasis with a variety of shapes and colors. Find out what to stay away from and what works best. Discover hardscapes, water treatments, and yard art to contribute to your shady retreat.

## **SOIL PREPARATION AND COMPOSTING**

### *"Soil Basics for Dummies"*

This talk includes instruction on soil composition soil improvement and beneficial additives including lasagna techniques, organic approach, till versus no till, and how plants use soil.

### *"Soil and Composting"*

Covers the questions; what is healthy soil, how do we obtain it and how does composting relate to soil building.

### *"Composting Outdoors and Indoors"*

This presentation tells how to create an outdoor compost pile as well as the benefits for both the garden and the environment. Indoor composting or vermicomposting tells how to use worms to make compost. (Grades 5-6-7)

### *"Scraps + yard waste = compost"*

Learn some of the dos and don'ts about making the best compost and why compost is so vital to your garden. Also, some tips for creating some easy composting bins.

## **SUCCULENTS**

### *"Cactus and Succulents 101"*

Succulents are simple to grow! Learn the basics for keeping your succulents healthy and happy; from what type of soil to use, to propagating, planting, arranging, and much more.

## TREES

### *"Keeping Trees Healthy"*

A discussion on how trees work and therefore what should we do and not do to keep them healthy. Particular emphasis on pruning, mulching and watering.

### *"Trees and Storms"*

A discussion on how trees grow to *resist* storm damage and things we can do and not do to assist.

### *"Selecting and Planting Trees"*

Some things to consider and look for when buying trees and how to properly plant them.

### *"If a tree falls in the forest, my neighbor can't blame me!"*

Selection, care and nurturing of trees - the primary structure in your garden.

## VEGETABLE GARDENING

### *"Growing Vegetables in the Home Garden"*

This talk presents the advantages and disadvantages of growing your own vegetables, location, watering and a brief discussion of fertilizers.

### *"Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening"*

Enjoy a very productive vegetable garden with a minimal amount of hard labor.

### *"Salad Table Gardening"*

A presentation with photos on how easy and inexpensive it is to build a salad table or box and all things you can do with it (grow lettuces, spinach, bush beans, radishes, herbs, mini hostas, flowers, also propagate soft cuttings and start seeds.

### *"Starting your Vegetables from Seed"*

Learn to grow the most flavorful varieties of vegetables by starting them from seed.

### *"Straw Bale Gardening"*

Straw Bale Gardening is a method of gardening that is free of weeds, no soil borne diseases and less bending over. You have to try it!