

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.

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.

Fabulous Mixed Borders

A photographic tour of several favorite gardens in England and the Northeastern 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 January, February and March. (September and October is the right time for this presentation.)

Bulbs for the Mid-South

This presentation presents bulbs for blooms in all seasons of the year. It also discusses the difference between true bulbs, corms, tubers, tuberous roots, and rhizomes.

Catch Yellow Fever

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

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 AND SCHOOL GARDENS

Starting Community Gardens

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

Starting a School Garden

This talk describes what it takes to start a school garden and how it benefits children by raising their own food.

CONTAINER GARDENING

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.

Terrariums: Gardening Under Glass

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

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.

Container Plants

This 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".

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. (Includes a PowerPoint presentation with lots of photos.)

Birds Bees Flowers and Trees

"Let Me Tell You 'bout the Birds and the Bees and the Flowers and the Trees... " This presentation covers all aspects of pollination; how to encourage pollinators in your garden; plants for pollinators; a special look at native plants.

Attracting the Eastern Bluebird"

What you need from a bluebird house, specific size, baffle and mounting tips, the type of landscape they prefer, and Mealworms go a long way, actually they don't, they just eat them up, but I believe that is the best way to bring the bluebirds to your garden. There are also certain plants that provide berries they enjoy, although their primary food source are insects

Hummingbirds

Everything you need to know about attracting hummingbirds to your garden.

Pollinators and their Plants

From birds to bugs; the benefits of planting for pollinators.

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 simple 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.

Gone Batty

This talk explains all about the benefits of bats and building a bat house.

HERBS

ABCs of Herb Gardening

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

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.

Herbs

Selecting, growing, harvesting, preserving, and eating—as well as, discussing some sinister varieties.

Herb Basics

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

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Gardening Folklore

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

Some Plants of the Bible and the Holy Land

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

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.

KEEPING BEES

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.)

Queen Bees and Wannabees

Learn about life inside the hive, how to be sure you are buying authentic local honey, and what to plant to attract pollinators to your garden.

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.

Creating Interest in the Winter Garden

Garden the year round using bulbs, form, and flowers. This is a program for fall presentation.

Fifty Shades of Green

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

Garden UP!

Vertical gardening is fun, creative and provides many opportunities to create a calming atmosphere, hide 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.

DRIP IRRIGATION

Intro to Drip Irrigation

Learn how to set-up a timed watering system for pots, borders or anything that requires water in the hot summer heat. With a little knowledge you can have beautiful flowers and veggies 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 and how to give it special touches to make it your own creation.

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.)

Art in the Garden

The history of garden art and its use in enhancing the beauty of your garden.

GARDENS TO VISIT

English Gardens: Postcards from England

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

The Philadelphia Plant Show

A collection of pictures from the premiere flower show in the United States. This presentation shows the fantastic landscaping and floral designs by the best in North America.

GARDEN JOURNALS

A Garden Journal

The talk describes what is a garden journal, the benefits of keeping one, types of journals to consider, and the importance of finding an approach that works for every gardener's personal needs. I also include some references to on-line templates.

LAWNS

Simple Turf Grass Maintenance for Memphis

Frustrated in your attempt to achieve a beautiful lawn? Learn some simple steps you can follow to have a beautiful lawn as well as alternatives to grass for a low maintenance landscape.

MASTER GARDENERS

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.

PERENNIALS AND OTHER PLANTS

Azaleas, the Queen of the Spring Garden!

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

Is A Rose Really Just a Rose?

You, too, can grow beautiful roses if you are willing to give them a little TLC! Topics include selection, location, planting, feeding, pruning, disease and insect prevention, rooting, sharing, and enjoying'

'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 the speaker's garden and from garden tours.

Peony: The Grand Matriarch of the Garden

The peony is regal and stunning but unashamedly particular in how it wants to be treated. We will discuss the requirements and differences of the four types of peonies — woodland peonies, herbaceous peonies, itoh peonies, and tree peonies. Use this knowledge to grow some of the most beautiful, legacy plants that can be grown.

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.

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.)

Twelve Months of Blooms for the Memphis Garden

Gardens aren't just for summers in Memphis. We are blessed to be in a climate that allows us to be out in the garden year-round and we can enjoy blooming plants twelve months of

the year! Learn about plants that do well in Memphis in each of the seasons including those that bloom in the more challenging winter and fall months.

Night-Blooming Flowers

This presentation discusses the characteristics and advantages of night blooming flowers and their differences. It also includes the pollinators of night blooming flowers, including the differences and similarities between moths and butterflies. The presentation also offers a list of night bloomers suitable for the mid-South.

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. This presentation focuses on what to do about it. (Turtles can be most endearing.)

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. Be safe with simple body mechanic tips.

Weeds in my Garden

An overview to educate on the identification of common weeds you might find in your garden and how to deal with them.

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. The presentation can be adapted for time periods ranging from 30 to 40 minutes.

PROPAGATION & SEEDS

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.

Advantages to Saving your Own Seed

Discussion includes advantages and techniques for harvest, preparation, storage, and germination of your saved seed.

PRUNING

Introduction to Pruning

Reduce your fear of pruning by learning why, when and how proper pruning will keep your plants attractive and vigorous adding years to their usefulness.

Pruning Fruit Trees

Explore pruning techniques to improve yield and beauty of your home fruit trees including: Espalier, Pyramid, Dwarf Pyramid, Fan and Bush.

Pruning

Before you plant that new shrub that you just bought, prepare it for its new home. Learn to shape it, clean up the non-growing twigs, and give it the boost it needs to be a showy plant for its special spot in your garden. Also learn about tool maintenance and continual maintenance of that beautiful shrub. General time for this lesson is February, March and April or September, October or November.

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.

Rain Gardens

The science behind rain gardens, why are they necessary, even in our climate, and creative ways to incorporate them into your yard.

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 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 a booth at gatherings, green events, and recycle events to show what and how to do all these things in a time efficient, easy, and cost-effective way.

Creative Ways to Recycle Right

(This 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 your own children and grandchildren. There are so many ways to use what we have to create and give new life to things that would otherwise end up in the garbage.

SCARECROWS

Scarecrows can be useful in a garden. They can also be whimsical and fun. Learn how to make a scarecrow.

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 and Composting

This presentation covers the questions such as what is healthy soil, how do we obtain it and how does composting relate to soil building?

Composting Outdoors and Indoors

This presentation explains how to create an outdoor compost pile as well as the benefits for both the garden and the environment. Indoor composting or vermicomposting explains how to use worms to make compost.

TREES

Keeping Trees Healthy

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

Trees and Storms

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

Selecting and Planting Trees

This presentation offers things to consider and look for when buying trees and how to properly plant them. Includes some specific suggestions for the Mid-South.

Right Tree - Right Place

Trees are the most prominent feature in our landscape and they impact all the other plants in our garden which is why it is critical to pick the right tree and place it properly. This presentation covers what needs to be considered when choosing the site for a tree, recommendations of trees that do well in our area, as well as proper planting and care of trees.

The Art and Practice of Espalier

Espalier - Training plants to grow in a flat plane against a structure such as a wall, fence, or trellis has both practical and ornamental value. Learn the techniques to grow your own espalier and be inspired by examples of artful designs.

TOOLS

Master Gardeners let you know what tools to own and why they are essential for a well-equipped gardener.

VEGETABLE & FRUIT GARDENING

Growing Vegetables in the Home Garden

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

Vegetable Gardening

This is a presentation on vegetable gardening with a special emphasis on growing tomatoes.

Salad Table Gardening

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

Pickles

Which country was named after a pickle merchant? Learn this and much more about the fascinating history of pickles. This is a good summertime program with the possibility of making a jar of quick dill pickles.

Growing Berries

This is a discussion on how to start Berries such as Blackberries, Blueberries, and Raspberries in gardens.

YOUTH EDUCATION

An interactive presentation about kinetic learning that teaches our youth to get outside, observe and play outside more.