

Hill Country Master Gardeners

HILL COUNTRY MASTER GARDENERS SPEAKERS BUREAU

Kerr County Agrilife Extension Service
3655 Highway 27 Kerrville, Texas 78028
830.257.6568

Master Gardeners take an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and to help others, and able to communicate with diverse groups of people. In exchange for their training, persons who become Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through their AgriLife Extension Office to provide horticultural-related information to their communities.

We would be happy to design a horticultural presentation for your organization or group. The following are some examples of what we can provide.

TRUE LOVE AND HOMEGROWN TOMATOES!

That may be a great country song, but for now, let's just stick to homegrown tomatoes. We will learn a brief history of the origin of the tomato and how it came to be a cultivated plant. Starting your own seedlings enables you to have a greater variety of plants, and we will also look at a listing of some of the varieties that do well in the Texas Hill Country. Included is information on the most successful growing conditions for tomatoes, also some of the most common problems associated with growing tomatoes.

Length of Talk: one hour, including Q&A
Speaker: Connie Townsend
Contact: 830.238.3250
doncont@hctc.com

OAK WILT - FACTS AND MYTHS

Oak wilt is a fungal disease that attacks oaks, primarily live and red oaks. Learn how to identify the disease, prevention techniques, its life cycle, and the truth about firewood from diseased trees.

Length of talk: one hour
Speaker: Anne Brown, Oak Wilt Specialist
Contact: 830.257.4656

PLANTING AND USING A DYER'S GARDEN

Before chemical dyes were invented, people used native plants and plants from their gardens to add color to their lives. I am a Living Historian and will be glad to come in period dress. This presentation is on planting dye plants in the Hill Country, along with what native plants can be used for dye. There will be samples of dyed fibers showing what colors come from the plants being talked about. A dyeing demonstration can be done when possible. I will also do school programs.

Length of talk: thirty minutes or one hour
(depending on the audience)
Speaker: Deborah Russell
Contact: russhill@kctc.com

ART IN THE GARDEN

Garden art is a necessity in today's gardens and can include just about anything that transforms your garden into a personal expression of who you are and what you like. In addition to adding personality, some elements can provide wildlife habitat or increase the functionality of your outdoor space and add value to your property's worth. We'll explore the principles of design and explore current trends in garden art from fine to folk to funky.

Length of talk: approx. 45 minutes
Speaker: Carol Seminara
Contact: 830.997.8396 (in Fredericksburg)

KITCHEN GARDEN AT HENRY CLAY ESTATE

There has not been any documentation of the kitchen garden used on the Lexington, Kentucky estate of Henry Clay although there certainly was one. This presentation focuses on the type of plants that may have been included in such a garden and looks at the attempts to re-establish such a garden. Contents of early American gardens are reviewed and some of the challenges faced by individuals with early American gardens are explored.

Length of talk: one hour
Speaker: Cheri Bolden
Contact: 830.634.2701

COMPANION GARDENING

Just as with human beings, plants have companions with which they prefer to be planted and others that they would prefer to avoid. Learn what seems to explain some of these preferences, why the companion is beneficial, and what combinations to avoid. Concentration will be on vegetable plants, although some brief mention will be made regarding flowers.

Length of talk: one hour, including Q&A
Speaker: Connie Townsend
Contact: 830.238.3250
doncont@hctc.com

COLOR FROM YOUR BACK YARD

Did you know that you could use some of the plants in your backyard to produce color for fabrics? Many, such as coreopsis and wandering Jew, can be used for dyeing your curtains. This program will give you the information you need.

Length of talk: one hour
Speaker: Fay Drozd
Contact: 830.367.2567
fdrozd@hctc.net

WATER CONSERVATION

What do all living things need to survive? Water! No plant, insect, animal, or human can live without it. Did you know that of all the water on earth, only 3% is potable, and we can only get 1% of that. We will discuss ways to conserve water so we will always have it.

Length of talk: approx. 45 minutes
Speaker: Sandy Martin, Rainwater Specialist
Contact: 830.238.4181
ca_sandy@yahoo.com

HERB GARDENING

Herbs are an attractive and useful addition to your garden and landscape. We will explore herb selection and cultivation with an emphasis on those plants best suited for our challenging Hill Country conditions. The talk will include preserving herbs and using them in the kitchen.

Length of talk: approx. 45 minutes
Speaker: Carol Seminara
Contact: 830.997.8396 (in Fredericksburg)

GARDENING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The EarthKind program, developed by Texas A&M University, uses research-proven techniques to provide gardening and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting our fragile environment. The object of this program is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscape principles to create a new horticultural system for the 21st century.

Length of talk: one hour
Speaker: Fay Drozd
Contact: 830.367.2567
fdrozd@hctc.net

PLANT PROPAGATION

This program will show you how to make one plant into many. You will know how to preserve and care for all the cuttings your neighbors give you. This can also be the way to take the plants you don't like to leave behind when you move.

Length of talk: one hour
Speaker: Fay Drozd
Contact: 830.367.2567

VEGETABLE GARDENING IN THE HILL COUNTRY

Information presented will be based primarily on personal experience and observation. Included will be soil, water, and nutritional requirements of various kitchen garden crops as well as timelines for best production of these veggies. Recommendations for planting dates for both fall and spring gardens will be addressed.

Length of talk: one hour, including Q&A
Speaker: Connie Townsend
Contact: 830.238.3250
doncont@hctc.com

PLANT PROPAGATION

Propagating your own plants is fun! Whether you propagate from seeds or from cuttings, cultivating your own creation is rewarding and inexpensive. Learn the current techniques about how to prepare your soil, how to make cuttings depending on the plant material, and how to collect and grow seeds.

Length of talk: one hour

Speaker: Anne Brown, Plant Propagation

Specialist Contact: 830.257.4656

NINETEENTH CENTURY FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES IN TEXAS

Are heirloom flowers or vegetables something you have always wanted to grow? Maybe having a Victorian garden has been a dream of yours. Here is an opportunity to learn about what 19th century gardeners planted, their sources and tools. I can concentrate on period vegetables, flowers or both. After this presentation you can have a 19 century garden of your own. I am a Living Historian and will be glad to come in period dress.

Length of talk: thirty minutes or one hr. (depending on the audience)

Speaker: Deborah Russell

Contact: russhill@kctc.com

BUTTERFLIES OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Over 150 species of butterflies can be found in the Texas Hill Country. Knowing what plants they prefer to nectar on and the plants they require for their caterpillar stage will help to get the most species to come to your gardens. The talk covers some simple scientific introductions to butterflies, discussion of the major species in each family, and information on books and butterfly organizations. A special part of the talk includes the mysterious Monarch migration. A handout with butterfly species and list of reference material covered in the talk will be provided. Speaker's program is in Power Point and he will provide his own Laptop, but will need a compatible projector and screen.

Length of talk: one hour

Speaker: Thomas Collins

Contact: 830. 634.3236

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Like any other design project, a pleasing landscape relies on understanding and applying the basic rules of composition, line, color, proportion and texture. We will discuss placement of the hardscape, creation of outdoor rooms and plant selection based on the three R's of gardening: right plant, right place, right time.

Length of talk: approx. 45 minutes

Speaker: Carol Seminara

Contact: 830.997.8396 (in Fredericksburg)

RAINWATER HARVESTING

Texas' water supply planning process had identified that surface and groundwater supplies will not be able to meet future water demand in the State. Water conservation and development of alternative water supplies are vitally important. Rainwater harvesting captures, diverts, and stores rainwater for later use. Learn all about harvesting this precious commodity.

Length of talk: one hour

Speaker: Anne Brown, Rainwater Harvesting Specialist

Contact: 830.257.4656

DROUGHT- PROOF YOUR GARDEN

In every five years in Texas, you will be coping with two years of drought. It is not a question of if a drought comes, but when. Plan for dry times before a drought hits. Learn how to select plants, the local resources available to advise you and survival techniques for your landscape.

Length of talk: one hour

Speaker: Christine Millar

Contact: 830.634.2371 jdmillar@hctc.net

GARDENING 101

After 20 years living in a gardeners' paradise, it was a shock when this native Texan moved from SoCal back to the Hill Country. I'd forgotten about hard freezes, long droughts, pernicious insects, broiling sun and, of course, literally tons of rocks. It's been a challenge, but after three years, I'm starting to see a modest success. You can learn from my mistakes. We'll discuss plant selection, bed preparation and the basics of keeping your plants alive and healthy. We'll talk about tools and techniques, plus some tips on when to call it quits.

Length of talk: approx. 45 minutes

Speaker: Carol Seminara

830.997.8396 (in Fredericksburg)