

Free Basic Gardening Series Offers Answers to Area Gardeners

The Louisiana Master Gardeners' 3-week Basic Gardening Series will be held at the Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Thursday evenings beginning January 15, 2009. The free educational presentations provide research-based information targeted toward beginning and intermediate gardeners.

Week 1, January 15th, “*Tuff Turf & Blankety-Blank Weeds*” explains turf grass management and provides cost and labor-saving techniques for healthy turf grass and effective weed management. “*Tried and True Annuals and Perennials*” presents names and details on our best performing flowering plants and introduces some varieties new to the market for 2009.

Week 2, January 22, “*Ornamental Grasses*” focuses the spotlight on these increasingly popular landscape plants which can add texture, color, motion, and form to your yard. What are they? What are their pros and cons? Find out the opportunities! The “workhorses” of the plant world are ground covers. “*Bed Preparation*” explains fertilizer terminology and lists the necessary steps to soil improvement before planting any ornamentals. “*Jeepers Creepers*” explains what to expect from ground covers in general and details specific characteristics of a wide variety of ground cover choices.

Week 3, January 29, “*The Tall and Short of Trees & Shrubs*” centers on selecting and planting the right trees and shrubs for existing landscapes. Price is an immediate consideration but what are the real long range pluses and minuses of various types? “*Landscaping Made Easy*” presents photos which illustrate basic considerations in developing your personalized landscape plan – texture, form, structure, and more.

Louisiana Master Gardeners is an education program of the LSU Agricultural Center. This Basic Gardening Series has been presented by the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners since 2004. The series pinpoints horticultural problems unique to gardeners in this specific area of the state.