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John Klein: Master Gardeners to host 'Lunch and Learn' series at Tulsa City County Library

By John Klein News columnist Sep 13, 2018 Updated 15 hrs ago





Series

'Lunch and Learn with the Tulsa Master Gardeners'

When: Noon to 12:50 p.m.
Tuesdays through fall

Where: Tulsa City County Library, 400 Civic Center

Cost: Free

Schedule

Sept. 18: "Landscaping 101"

Sept. 25: "Turf — Get a head start on a beautiful lawn"

Oct. 2: "Trees — How to plant, how to select for best fall color"

Oct. 9: "Bulbs for spring and fall accent colors"

The Tulsa County Master Gardeners are constantly looking for ways to meet their mission of getting gardening information to the public.

So when the Master Gardeners contacted the Tulsa City-County Library, another entity that is in the business of providing information to the public, it was the perfect fit.

"Match made in heaven," said Diane Hambric of the Tulsa Master Gardeners.



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"It was exactly the kind of program we embrace at the library," said Johanna Burton, adult services associate with the Tulsa City-County Library.

The Master Gardeners, in conjunction with the Tulsa City-County Library, offer "Lunch and Learn with the Tulsa Master Gardeners" on Tuesdays through the fall at the downtown library. It is free.

The first hourlong program is "Landscaping 101" at noon Tuesday.

Through a series of presentations, Master Gardeners will give tips on a series of topics this fall and winter to get home gardeners ready for spring.

“It has really proven to be very popular with downtown people,” Burton said. “We have a lot of people who will bring their lunch, come over to the library and listen to the presentation.

“It is a great way for people to spend an hour during lunch. You eat in a nice setting and you get to learn something, too.”

Hambric said the programs fit perfectly into the mission of the Tulsa Master Gardeners, the fifth-largest Master Gardener group in the country with about 410 active members this fall.

“This is what we do,” Hambric said. “We are always looking for ways to share what we’ve learned about gardening with the general public. We do that through speaking at schools and groups. We do it through articles in the Tulsa World and at home-and-garden shows.

“This is just another new way we’ve found to reach people. This is a great option for the home gardeners who work downtown to pick up a few tips this fall and winter to get ready for the spring.”

The series will continue with “Turf — Get a head start on a beautiful lawn” (Sept. 25), “Trees — How to plant, how to select for best fall color” (Oct. 2) and “Bulbs for spring and fall accent colors” (Oct. 9).

“This is a relatively new program for us,” Hambric said. “We didn’t know what to expect, but we’ve been very happy with the response. When we saw the initial response last year, we were ‘wow’ because there was an obvious need for this type of class.





“The programs are put on by our Master Gardeners. We have a lot of volunteers helping with the programs. So if you have questions about anything, we are available.”

Burton said the joint venture with the Master Gardeners is among a handful of offerings at the Central Library. There are upcoming seminars on “Healthcare Lunch and Learn,” “Grown-up Spelling Bee” and Central Library Book Discussion.

“Since we reopened downtown, our space is so much better for these type of gatherings,” Burton said. “So we have reached out to groups and are trying to have more of these events to bring more people to the library.”

The Master Gardener program was founded 45 years ago by Washington State University to help pass along information to the public about horticulture.

It has spread across the country through the extension service of land grant universities. The Tulsa Master Gardeners work with the Oklahoma State University extension offices.

And the original idea to have Master Gardeners answer questions phoned in to the county extension offices has spread to dozens of outreach programs.

“Originally, it was answering questions over the phone to take some of the work load off the extension agents,” Hambric said. “So, yes, we do so much more. We have so many more outreach programs. The program at the library is one of our many ways we try to reach the public.”

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News Columnist John Klein

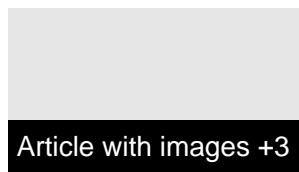
John has been with the Tulsa World for parts of five different decades. He started in 1978 as a sports writer and held a variety of jobs including sports editor, senior sports columnist, state writer and news columnist. Phone: 918-581-8368

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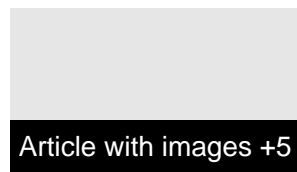
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