

Stuart and Mary Bartholomaus Establish Cleaner, Greener Yard



Participation: Graduates of the 11-15-08 Knox County TYN Six-Hour Homeowner Workshop

Motivation: Stuart, a Master Gardener, and his wife, Mary, are committed to applying conservation practices to their home landscape.

Examples of TYN Actions Taken:

- Tested soil and fertilized according to results
- Created rain garden (see during and after photos)
- Diverted storm water runoff to rain garden
- Recycled drain water by installing rain barrels
- Kept street gutters clear of debris
- Used porous surface on patio to allow rain water to soak into ground
- Mulched plant beds and composted yard waste
- Assessed yard's site conditions for plants best suited
- Removed invasive exotic plants
- Mulched at 2- to 3- in. layer, not touching plant and using organic mulches
- Mowed lawn at highest level and left grass clippings on the lawn
- Spot treated for yard pests
- Placed rain gauge in yard and tracked rainfall via spreadsheet
- Watered according to needs (1 in. per week during growing season)
- Followed fertilizer application recommendations
 - Fertilized only as needed to maintain health of lawns and plants,
 - Fertilized during correct season using soil test results,
 - Kept fertilizer off pavement onto grass,
 - Checked plants daily for problem signs, used non chemical approach

- Directed downspouts to drain on lawn
- Swept grass clippings back into lawn
- Picked up after pets
- Provided water source with rain water in three bird baths
- Put up bird house and hummingbird feeder
- Mulched leaves onto lawn



Greatest Observed Outcomes:

- Used 20 percent less water in June and July
- Needed to fertilize only once in the fall and spring because grass clippings were left on lawn
- Improved landscape by removing old, overgrown plants
- Observed more butterflies, cardinals and bluebirds in yard
- Enjoyed rain garden, which was visible from our deck and bloomed all summer
- Improved condition of container plants by using rain water
- Created and presented a PowerPoint program for master gardeners at five different Tennessee sites in 2009, featured in the Knoxville News Sentinel

Future Actions Planned:

- Remove a few more plants
- Keep up with our rain water management, pest and weed control
- Mow our 1-acre lot at high level

How TYN Helped:

TYN provided a road map for creating a water-sensitive environment with resources that are readily available and some time and labor. It has been and will continue to be a joyful and productive life-giving experience.