

## Gerald and Donna Smolinski Stop Runoff with Shrubs and Rain Garden



**Participation:** Graduates of TYN Six-Hour Homeowner Workshop in Redbank in Hamilton County, Tennessee

**Motivation:** The Smolinskies were losing rain water to the street from a sloping lot next to their home.

### Examples of TYN Actions Taken:

- Aerated all the grass areas to allow water to penetrate the soil
- Added a long, narrow bed of bushes about 50' from and running parallel to the road
- Built a rain garden on the street side of the line of shrubs
- Tested the perk properties of the soil in the rain garden by digging an 8" x 8" x 8" hole and filled it with water. The water was gone in about 2 ½ hours.
- Filled the rain garden with a new soil/compost mix and planted vegetation suited for the area.



### Greatest Observed Outcomes:

- Bushes redirect rain water to rain garden, as well as offer privacy
- Plants, particularly, the blue salvia, attract butterflies and bees
- Enjoyable mixture of texture, height, and color in the rain garden
- Water bill was 25 percent less than neighbors'



#### **Future Actions Planned:**

- Establish another rain garden on the inside of the line of bushes
- Add more beds to divert and retain rain water

#### **How TYN Helped:**

The checklist on the Yard Stick helped identify areas in the yard which needed improvement. The workshop inspired the Smolinskies to create the rain garden to help keep more water out of the sewer system.

