



Montgomery County
Department of Environmental Protection

RainScapes Gazette

Winter 2014-2015

RainScapes wishes you a happy holiday season!

- [The Year in Review](#)
- [Recycle your Christmas trees](#)
- [Book Gift Ideas](#)
- [Be Kind - Bag it and Throw it in the Trash](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

The Year in Review



As the calendar year winds down and allows a moment of reflection, it's time to [review](#) what we have achieved over the past year with the RainScapes program.

The RainScapes program offers Rewards Rebates, workshops, professional training and

speakers for groups and organizations as well as providing the most current information on how to improve the environmental function of your landscapes.

This past year:

- **RainScapes Rewards** processed 165 project applications, when, once fully installed, will reduce runoff from over 2 Impervious Acres.
- provided outreach and education to over 2,500 residents, business owners, and stakeholders at local and regional events. More than 300 people attended RainScapes workshops for homeowners on making and installing rain barrels, conservation landscapes and rain gardens for residential and commercial/institutional settings.
- **RainScapes Training** educated 40 local designers and contractors on RainScapes project requirements and installation and provided course content and instruction for new Montgomery College courses developed to provide training for LID/ RainScapes maintenance.
- The **RainScapes Neighborhood** program continued to grow in the RainScapes Neighborhoods of Breewood, Sligo Park Hills, Wheaton Woods and the Town of Chevy Chase where the stated goal is to have at least 30 percent of properties installing some form of stormwater control after a 5 year effort. Fifty individual RainScapes Site Assessments for The Town of Chevy Chase and Somerset were completed as well as workshops for the communities.
- The **RainScapes for Schools** program continued its native plant cultivation project based on the success of a school pilot RainScapes 'Growing Program' at MCPS high schools. Plants from the program were used in a variety of demonstration projects and as replacement plantings in Green Street Stormwater maintenance projects and provided local high school students with a project based green job experience.

Recycle your Christmas trees

The Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services readily recycles real trees, and it couldn't be easier for residents. If you live in a single-family home or townhouse and receive County-provided yard trim collections, all you need to do is put the tree out on the curb by 7 a.m. on your normal recycling day. Just remove the stand and decorations, and don't put it in one of those plastic bags. (The same guidelines apply for those living in the city limits of Gaithersburg and Rockville.)

If you live in an apartment, ask your property manager about the "treecycling" process. Usually, apartment and condominium complexes arrange for a special mass collection date.

Many of the trees collected by the County get turned into mulch, therefore January and February are great months to get free mulch from the County! Bonus: The Christmas tree mulch smells fantastic.



Book Gift Ideas

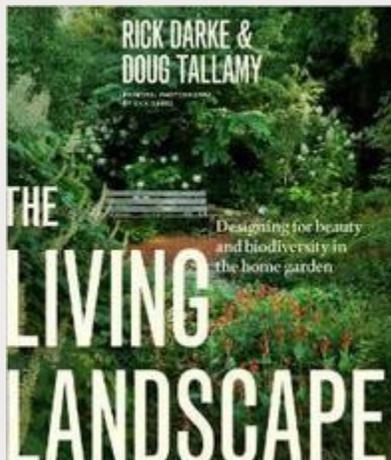


The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden

By Roy Diblik

Diblik is a designer and nurseryman best known for supplying the perennials—around 26,000 plants in all—for Dutch designer Piet Oudolf's extraordinary Lurie Garden at Millennium Park in downtown Chicago.

The book contains 62 garden plans shown in colored grids which represent planting matrixes or combinations. The gardens are made of plant communities inspired by impressionist paintings. This book will help you dream up your spring garden this winter.

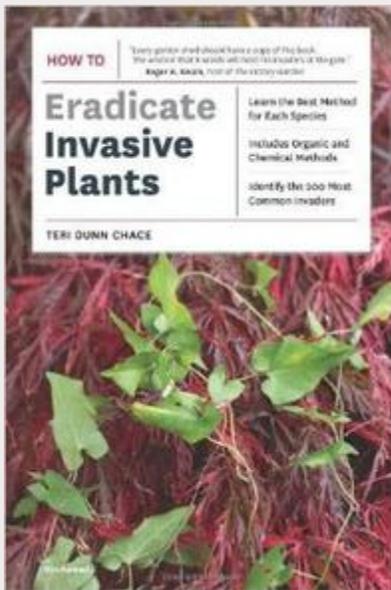


The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden

By Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy

Douglas W. Tallamy is the author of **Bringing Nature Home** which revealed the pressing need for a biodiverse home landscape. Rick Darke is another important voice in sustainability, native plants and horticulture.

The authors first explain what role the plants within the landscape play in the larger environment, from providing berries for birds, food for bugs, or a place for bees to pollinate. The authors then offer design strategies to implement into a home garden. Valuable charts offer suggested plants, including natives and nonnatives, for each region with keys that indicate the environmental 'ecosystem service' of each plant.



How to Eradicate Invasive Plants

By Teri Dunn Chace

This book addresses a huge problem in our landscapes - unwanted plants or weeds. It shows you how to recognize the invasive plant and gives eradication options — starting with simple, organic approaches to managing your property.

Be Kind - Bag it and Throw it in the Trash

Pick up your dog's waste, bag it, and throw it in the trash.

'Tis the season of giving, but this type of giving we want you to pick up and take with you!

Issues with dog poop are easily solved! Encourage everyone responsible for a dog to pick up after their dog. How simple is that?

What's the big deal?

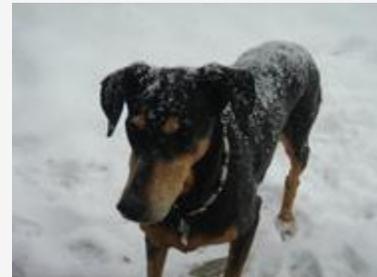
Not only is dog poop a nuisance because of the smell, but it can be an unwelcomed guest in your home. Dirty shoes can contain parasites and bacteria that can make your kids and pets sick.

Every time it rains, thousands of pounds of dog waste left on the ground is washed into storm drains that may lead directly into our streams, causing pollution in our rivers and streams!

So don't forget next time you and Fido take a walk: scoop it, bag it, and trash it! It's that simple

Did you know:

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an average size dog excretes 274 pounds of waste per year! This equals 3/4 of a pound per day and in Montgomery County alone totals 3 trash sized truckloads per day.



Upcoming Events



Montgomery County DEP RainScapes Workshops at Brookside Gardens:

Rain Garden Workshop

Learn to build your own rain garden! We'll learn about siting, choosing appropriate native plants and determining soil suitability. Your rain garden will improve our watershed's water quality and add beauty to your home.

Thursday, March 26th, 4:00-7:00 pm OR

Friday, May 27, 10:00 - 1:00 pm

Make & Take RainBarrels

Gather and store water from your rooftop and to help control the stormwater impact to your yard. Rain barrel with fittings and easy instructions provided. Remember you need a vehicle large enough to carry a 55-gallon barrel home!

Friday, April 17, 10:00 - 1:00 pm OR

Saturday, April 18, 10:00 - 1:00 pm

Fee: \$15 FOBG: \$13; registration required

Germantown Campus of Montgomery County College; directions sent upon registration

Conservation Landscaping Techniques

Learn how conservation-based landscaping techniques can beautify your yard and neighborhood, restore native habitats, help improve the environment, and save you time and money.

Thursday, May 14, 4:00-7:00 pm OR

Friday May 15, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Fee: \$15 FOBG: \$13; registration required;

Visitors Center Adult Classroom

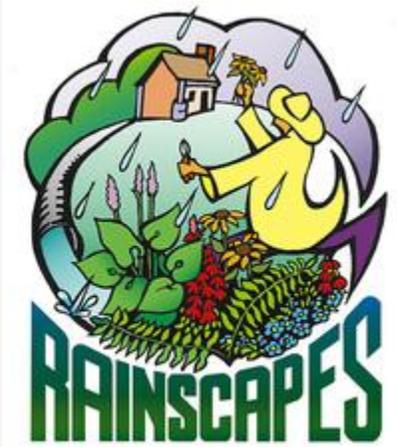
Double-check details in the Brookside Gardens [Spring Catalog](#) at the end of January

The Montgomery County GreenFest

Saturday, March 28th

On the campus of Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring

Hear from national and local speakers, explore the exhibits and talk to nonprofits, participate in “How to” workshops and more. Participants can also visit an electric vehicle display, listen to music or watch an environmental film as a part of the Environmental Film Festival films. The event will be held rain or shine but best of all its FREE! To learn more or to be an exhibitor, visit www.montgomerycountygreenfest.org



RainScapes is a program provided by the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection which promotes and implements projects which reduce stormwater runoff volume and improve water quality on properties within Montgomery County.

To find out more, go to rainscapes.org.