



## Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article      October 09, 2017

### How to Attract Butterflies to Your Garden

by Lydia Holley

Henderson County Master Gardener Association will offer a free presentation on attracting butterflies to your garden on Tuesday, October 17, 5:30 p.m., at the Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library, 121 S. Prairieville, Athens. Master Gardener Janelle Cole will present “Butterfly Gardens From the Ground Up: How to go from a grassy front yard to a butterfly haven”.



Picture shows a Gulf fritillary butterfly on milkweed blooms

After learning about the decline of the monarch butterfly population, Cole decided to help. She took the plunge and committed to an area dedicated to attracting butterflies. She has been extremely pleased with the outcome. Cole “started with a yard of grass and turned it into a butterfly haven. Now, we have chrysalises everywhere. We have more caterpillars on our Passion vine than we can count, the bronze fennel was covered in spring with black swallowtail caterpillars, and we have monarch chrysalises on our milkweed.”

Instead of hiding the butterfly garden behind her house, Cole made a butterfly garden right in her front yard. The results have been surprising. Her neighbors have become fascinated with the different types of butterflies that visit Cole’s garden. In fact, some of Cole’s neighbors have been so impressed with the number of butterflies that visit Cole’s garden that they have plans to install a butterfly garden of their own.

During the presentation, Cole will list the best plants to grow regionally in order to bring butterflies to your garden. She will discuss the difference between host plants and nectar plants, both of which you need in a butterfly garden. She will list which plants make good host plants for this area, and which plants are beneficial nectar plants. She will show you how both host and nectar plants can be attractively arranged in a garden, rewarding you with beautiful blooms and colorful foliage as well as numerous butterflies.

Come learn how you, too, can have a garden full of butterflies as well as blooms. This presentation is a part of Henderson County Master Gardener Association’s “Learn at the Library” series, held on the third Tuesday of each month.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email [hendersonCMGA@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonCMGA@gmail.com) or visit [www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org](http://www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org).