

2009 Home Show includes lawn and landscape seminars

This year's Home Show, sponsored by the Building Industry Association of Okaloosa & Walton Counties, will include lawn and landscape seminars. The Home Show will be held April 4 and 5 at Northwest Florida State College in Niceville.

On Saturday, April 4 at 2:30 p.m., I will provide a seminar titled "How to Spend Less and Get More from Your Lawn." Many people not only spend more money than necessary to maintain a lawn but with time they kill their lawn with kindness. Many homeowners waste money by fertilizing their lawns too early and too late in the season. They waste money by not knowing the square footage of their lawn and as a result apply too much fertilizer. And many people waste money by purchasing the wrong type of fertilizer for a Florida lawn. Many people waste their money by playing guessing games with why their lawn is declining. As a result, pesticides are purchased and used to control pests that do not exist or that are not the true cause for the lawn's decline. It does cost to have a lawn. But I'm convinced most homeowners can significantly reduce dollars spent and achieve an improved and longer lasting lawn by learning how to correctly maintain a Florida lawn. This is what my seminar will teach, how to spend less and get more from your lawn.

On Sunday, April 5 at 1:00 p.m., Sheila Dunning, University of Florida Extension Commercial Horticulture Agent, will present a seminar titled "Make Every Drop Count – Water Conservation in the Landscape." You do not have to replace your lawn, landscape and garden with rocks, cacti and a cow skull to have a water efficient landscape. Dunning will share proven practices that will help you in developing a visually pleasing landscape while reducing water misuse. Even in the sandy soils of Florida, we can have a nice landscape and a lower water bill by paying attention to plant selection, placement and watering practices. Proper planning can result in a water efficient landscape.

Also, Okaloosa County Master Gardeners will have an educational booth to help answer gardening questions and provide lawn and landscape publications to attendees. Master Gardeners will staff the booth throughout the entire Home Show.

Tickets for the event are on sale now at all locations of Eglin Federal Credit Union Branch locations. Popular seminars by experts will be conducted throughout the show at no extra charge to attendees.

The Home Show features around 100 indoor and outdoor exhibits of products and services for the home and the homeowner.

Larry Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Okaloosa County, March 25, 2009