



**Texas Master Gardener Association
2008 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AWARD**

Association Membership/Size Medium (Small, Medium, Med. Large or Large)

Number of Members: 76

County: Potter

Address: 3301 E. 10th

City: Amarillo, TX Zip 79104

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Educational Program Title: Gardening With The Masters Step by Step

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Name(s) of person(s) submitting the nomination e-mail

Scott Strawn, Potter County
Name of County Extension Agent or County Program Coordinator

THIS SUBMISSION SHALL NOT EXCEED TWO (2) PAGES TOTAL.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (10 pts)

In 150 words or less please describe the educational program.

This program was planned to give participants hands on, visual and written training. This unique offering provided complete details in the major areas of gardening. Our presenters were skilled and knowledgeable. The attendance was limited to allow individual instruction and the opportunity to actually be involved.

The workshops were 1) EarthKind Landscape Design covering complete EarthKind gardening techniques including soil, turf, irrigation, plants and design plus a one on one consultation with the participants with a horticultural specialist to design their landscape. Dr. Steve George, Horticultural Specialist for A&M was the presenter; 2) Container Gardening gave participants the opportunity to create their own container garden to take home; 3) Gardening Basics covered a year in the garden for soil, turf, annuals, perennials, vines, ground-covers, shrubs and tool maintenance; Vegetable Gardening covered what and when to plant, care and maintenance of growth and production plus a tour of a vegetable garden.

**Please answer the questions as they relate to the 2008 entry year.
VALUE 10 POINTS EACH**

1. What was/is the community need for this educational program and how was that determined?

“Hands on” types of educational opportunities have not been provided by our Association. Our intent was to give participants the experience of doing the work so they could go home and create or enhance their gardens. We wanted to alleviate fears of gardening.

2. What was/is the objective of this educational program?

We wanted to present the basics of gardening for participants to get enough information to take home and put to work in their gardens. We wanted this to be a mini-series covering all aspects of The gardening process with enough detail and information for the participant to feel confident. We felt that permitting participants to have a “hands on” experience plus well-done power point presentations and many handouts for participants to take home gave each attendee the benefit of all learning types. Each segment gave participants the opportunity to see the overall process.

**3. How many Master Gardeners were involved?
How many volunteer hours?**

Ten master gardeners were involved. 131.5 hours were volunteered.

**4. How was Texas AgriLife Extension involved ?
How was accuracy of information assured?**

The County Agent participated in the selection of topics to be covered, material available to use, gave the presentation on soils and plants; demonstrated the EarthKind soil amendment process, and gave a tour of a EarthKind/Texas Superstars Garden.

5. Were any other organizations involved? Describe.

Local greenhouses posted bulletins and handed out fliers.

6. How many people attended? How many times presented?

118 participants attended. All of the sessions were given to the 2008 Intern Class as part of their training except the session on EarthKind Landscape Design.

7. How was the program promoted?

Posters and bulletins were placed in all greenhouses and garden supply businesses; fliers were mailed to participants of other Master Gardener events; brochures were hand distributed by the committee; newspaper articles; magazine article and radio spots.

8. How was the program and the impact evaluated?

Participants were asked for feedback after each session. The attendees loved it. We had many who wanted similar programs offered. Anecdotal evaluation comments received by the committee members were, “This is what I have needed”; “I’ve learned more from this than any other event”. As a result of this program, we have given two workshops on Food Preservation which spun off the Vegetable Gardening segment.