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**Texas Master Gardener Association  
2008 ASSOCIATION AWARD**

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

Number of Members: 349

County: Tarrant

Address: 101 N Broadway

City: Azle, TX Zip 76020

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Association Title: Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

Tammy Edwards tammy.edwards@gmail.com

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

Steve Chaney

Name of County Extension Agent or County Program Coordinator

**THIS SUBMISSION SHALL NOT EXCEED FOUR (4) PAGES TOTAL.**

**I. DESCRIPTION OF THE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION (10 pts)**

**In 150 words or less please describe the association.**

The mission of our organization is to support AgriLife Extension Service and educate the community in good horticulture practices. Carrying through these ideas begins on the first day of the intern class.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association (TCMGA) contributed 49,031 hours to the county in 2008. A few examples of projects are:

- 14 TCMGA community projects
- teaching on 4 college campuses
- Community/Demonstration garden
- Little Hands on the Farm (State Fair of Texas)
- answering horticulture questions on the Texas AgriLife email and phones
- creating PowerPoint videos for community presentations
- featured in several educational newspaper articles
- 3 school gardens
- Speakers Bureau programs
- 5 home and garden shows

The Horticultural Agent presents a gold shovel lapel pin to members after working 100 hours. This achievement by 150 Master Gardeners in 2008 demonstrates how actively involved our association is in educating the community.

**Please answer the following questions as they relate to the 2008 entry year.  
10 points each**

**1. What is the leadership structure? How is it selected?**

President, Vice President Education, Vice President Ways and Means, Treasurer, Secretary; 25 member Advisory Board which includes agent, Past President, and 24 Project Leaders. Executive Board Officers are elected by the membership for 1 year. Other leaders are appointed/selected by Executive Board and/or agent. Any member may attend the Advisory meeting.

**2. How do leaders solicit input/ideas from members and Texas AgriLife?**

- Annual written survey of entire membership
- Advisory Board/Agent reports and input
- Quarterly project leaders report and make recommendations
- Committee and membership interaction
- Frequent email communication between extension and members

**3. How does the association inspire support and participation in projects and programs?**

- Member staffed Information tables about What's Happening in TCMGA at monthly meeting
- Bulletin board at each monthly meeting
- Project displays and recruitments at monthly meetings and Intern classes
- Newsletter and website
- Socialization time before programs and during snack lunch at monthly meetings

**4. How are volunteer hours reported and recorded?**

An agent approved timesheet is used to submit hours monthly to timekeepers. Timekeepers maintain lists of all Master Gardener hours and submit a monthly report to Agent.

**5. Describe the multi-year plan for goals and objectives.**

Our plans are to use the new greenhouse for education and propagation, expansion of Community/Demonstration Garden, use the newly created Enabling Garden, evaluation of all ongoing projects, addition of more educational elements for the public, and updating programs and purchase additional equipment for Speakers Bureau. The goal of the plan is to improve and increase opportunities and locations for educating the community. TCMGA coordinates all future plans with AgriLife agent to coincide with extension goals.

**6. How, when and by who are the plans made?**

All members are invited to attend and provide input on the multi-year plan which is reviewed and updated each January by the Executive Board, Advisory Board and Agent.

**7. How are specific portions of the community targeted?**

**(i.e. children, seniors, disabled, minorities etc.)**

All parts of our community are reached by various aspects of TCMGA. Children are educated through JMG, school gardens, Pizza Ranch, Waterama, and Little Hands on the Farm. Master Gardeners provide senior education on 4 local college campuses through the Continuing Education Department. Our newly completed Enabling Garden demonstrates new ideas for disabled gardeners. A garden at the Juvenile Detention Center educates youths in that population. Senior level nursing and nutrition students at Texas Christian University are educated in our Community/Demonstration Garden so that they can educate others in the community as part of the curriculum. Our Speakers Bureau provides education to all ages and groups in our county and other counties.

**8. Describe how the Association responds to seasonal or emerging educational needs of the community.**

Question and Answer booths at 5 garden shows are staffed by Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners answer telephone questions daily at AgriLife, frequently on seasonal problems. The Speakers' Bureau presents programs on current topics. Articles on these current topics are available to the public on our website. Feature newspaper articles highlighted Master Gardeners

and their gardens on how they cope with seasonal issues. Public concerns are forwarded to the agent for possible news releases, educational development, and programs.

**9. Describe how individual talents and resources of Master Gardeners are used.**

The initial application for prospective intern asks for talents and interests. The intern advisors are then consulted about talents of the interns to incorporate them into projects and committees. A yearly membership update is requested from all members; the results are used to recruit members for educational activities.

**10. List partnerships and how utilized.**

Partnerships have always been an important part of our organization. New partnerships are developed as needed.

Educational Collaborations – Texas Christian University (TCU), Tarrant County College, Ft Worth ISD, Resource Connection, Tarrant County Neighborhood Associations, Union Gospel Mission, Teen Challenge, Weston Gardens, Grapevine Botanic Garden, Arlington Parks Dept., Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT), Ft Worth Historical Society, Garden Conservancy, Southlake Parks Department, State Fair of Texas, Ft Worth city and county government, Tarrant County Juvenile Services

Financial and/or Supplies – Rainwater Foundation, Herrmann’s Nursery, Marshall Grain, Home Depot, Seville Farms, Proctors Herbs, Lowes, Resource Connection, Chesapeake Operating Inc.

**11. Describe how programs and projects are evaluated.**

Projects are evaluated annually by a project evaluation committee made up of Master Gardeners and the Extension Agent. This committee visits all projects and completes a written evaluation. The agent monitors all programs presented.

**12. List any awards or recognitions received from local and/or state organizations.**

TCMGA was recognized for volunteer service by Tarrant County Commissioner Court, Union Gospel Mission, TCU, Resource Connection, Teen Challenge, Ft Worth Botanic Gardens, Friends of the Ft Worth Nature Center and Refuge

Arlington ISD and Ft Worth ISD

Arlington and Ft Worth Parks and Recreation

Grapevine Botanic Garden

Ft Worth Historical Society

Tarrant County Extension

Many letters have been received by individual members recognizing their volunteer work.

**13. List on-going programs and projects.**

MASTER GARDENER/ AgriLife Extension PROJECTS EXTENSION OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Community/Demonstration Garden      Master Gardener Telephone

Botanical Research Institute of Texas      Extension Office Support

AT THE FT WORTH BOTANIC GARDEN OTHER PUBLIC/COMMUNITY GARDENS

Perennial Garden      Thistle Hill Garden

Botanic Gardens Children’s Garden      Union Gospel Mission

Trial Garden      Grapevine Botanical Garden Docents

Cottage Garden      Mansfield Main Street Project

Weston Garden Docents

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Teen Challenge      Southwest Sub courthouse

Ft Worth Nature Center      Composting Demo

Ft Worth Library at Hulen

SCHOOL PROJECTS

Southlake Liberty Garden      Alice Carlson Outdoor Learning Center

Veteran’s Park Wildscape      Branson Elementary

Fitzgerald Elementary

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Pizza Ranch      Waterama

Home and Garden Shows  
Speakers Bureau  
Weekend Radio

Little Hands on the Farm  
Junior Master Gardener Program

**14. List any programs or projects that are new this award year.**

Greenhouse education and propagation facility, gardening demonstration area for people with disabilities, herb garden demonstration, growing and using herb education for Women, Infant and Children program (WIC), Senior citizen community vegetable beds, working with youth community services at Community/Demonstration garden, perennial garden border demonstration, new programs added to Speakers Bureau, Thistle Hill Sensory Garden a part of Ft Worth Historical Society and the addition of a nature trail at the Teen Challenge Project.

**15. Describe any special training programs developed in 2008.**

Recycling plastic containers from around your house for plant propagation, making trellises from copper tubing, growing and using herbs education for WIC, Community Gardener Certification Program for Texas Christian University students, and propagation classes in the greenhouse.

**16. How many new members and interns integrated into programs and projects in 2008?**

There were 48 interns in the class of 2008.

**17. Describe the best educational program or project of 2008 (external).**

The focus of one of our 2008 projects is to educate the community about gardening possibilities for people with disabilities. The 2008 Intern class with guidance and assistance from certified Master Gardeners and the Hort Agent conducted research, raised funds, and constructed an Enabling Garden. A major portion of the research was done at the Enabling Garden at Texas A & M University with guidance from Dr. Novak. The location of the Enabling Garden is at the Resource Connection where clients of MHMR, Easter Seals, Senior Citizen Services, and New Lives School can visit and learn how to garden more comfortably in their home environment. A future goal is for clients to adopt an enabling space. To our knowledge, this is the only public enabling garden in North Texas.

**18. Describe the best program or project for Master Gardeners (internal).**

TCMGA monthly meetings consist of two one-hour continuing education programs presented on a variety of topics delivered by a wide range of experts. An additional hour is dedicated to displays, information tables and gardening products for use by our members. At the meeting the Hort Agent always gives an update on what is happening in the county and state and shares his compliments and expectations.