



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

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

Number of Members: 162

County: Victoria

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City: Victoria, TX Zip 77904

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Educational Program Title: Lunch & Learn With The Masters

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

Joe Janak, Victoria County Extension Agent – Ag/NR
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.

The "Lunch & Learn With The Masters" program became a reality as an outgrowth from our own monthly continuing education luncheon programs. Wanting to share our information with the public, we established this eight month informational program in a central area of Victoria, easily accessible, especially to daily workers. They could take a break from work, bring their own lunch and drink, and listen free of charge to horticultural topics presented by Master Gardeners. The programs were held from noon to 1:00 p.m. the second Monday of the month from January through August. All programs were presented by Victoria County Master Gardeners with the exception of our County Extension Agent and one guest speaker doing part of the programs. Topics presented: Pruning; Vegetable Gardening; Budding & Grafting; Crape Myrtles; Roses; Texas SuperStars™; What is a Master Gardener?; and Landscape Tips. Evaluation forms were filled out by attendees at all programs.

**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?

Information presented was determined by personal contacts community members and questions phoned in to the extension office. A committee met to discuss these ideas and select the top eight topics of interest.

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

The objective was to enlighten the public, particularly those who could not typically get time off from work, on various horticultural subjects.

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

Three were involved in chairing the program and formulating plans. Nine were presenters of the programs. 302 hours were volunteered preparing for the presentation and actually giving them.

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

Joe Janak, our County Extension Agent, assisted the committee with subject matter selection, reviewed the promotional flyers, information and all handouts to be presented.

5. Were any other organizations involved? Describe.

Personnel at the Victoria County Health Department, which is centrally located in Victoria, were asked and allowed us the use of their large classroom for the presentations.

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

428 people attended all the sessions which were held once monthly January through August. That is an average of 54 per session. Each presentation was given only once.

7. How was the program promoted?

Master Gardeners distributed program schedules to businesses and the library. Notices were placed on the TV station's community calendar and the local newspaper's bulletin board. The Master Gardener weekly gardening column, "The Gardener's Dirt", in the Victoria Advocate newspaper, had one feature article plus monthly announcements.

8. How was the program and the impact evaluated?

An evaluation form was handed to each person attending. Completed forms were collected and summarized quickly. Comments were noted, shared with the committee and presenter, and improvements made as necessary. A compiled result's form was given to the agent. Evaluations were utilized planning similar Lunch & Learn programs for 2009. For example; a request for presentations on collecting graftwood "and" grafting was addressed by scheduling two separate sessions in 2009.