



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

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

Number of Members: 60

County: Hood

Address: 1410 W Pearl

City: Granbury, TX Zip 76048-1879

Phone: 817-579-3280 Agents e-mail: m-vahlenkamp@tamu.edu

Educational Program Title: 2008 Community Educational Series _____

Wanda Riley stu@itexas.net
Name(s) of person(s) submitting the nomination e-mail

Marty Vahlenkamp
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

People in our community that are interested in knowing more about gardening or just taking care of their property, know that they can rely on the Master Gardeners to share their knowledge. As Master Gardeners, we feel an obligation to keep them informed. Presenting our "Educational Series" each year, we are reaching many in our community.

The 2008 series was presented in nine monthly lectures. The subjects presented were: February - Pruning, March - Earthkind™ Roses, April - Backyard Gardening for Wildlife, May - Build Your Own Water Feature, June - 101 Ways to Reduce Your Water Bill; July - Plant Probation and Gardening With Kids, August - Growing and Cooking With Herbs, September - Rainwater Harvesting.

Several of the talks used **PowerPoint** presentations to help the audiences to visualize their subject, as well as many "On-Hands" opportunities were used. Hand-out materials were made available to those who attended.

**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?

This series was chosen by the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners as a way to reach as many of our community as possible. We offered a wide variety of subjects, chosen in part from the inquiries that we receive during the year. We also included subjects that our Lake Granbury Master Gardener's had been certified in through specialized classes that they attended. This way we were confident that the subject matter had credibility and accuracy.

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

This was a continuation from last year's educational information program. Our goal is to continue to provide our community with updated horticultural information. The subjects chosen this year continued with our goal. Hood County and our surrounding counties have come to rely on the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners to supply them with updated and accurate knowledge.

3. How many Master Gardeners were involved? (16)

How many volunteer hours? 266 hours

4. How was Texas AgriLife Extension involved?

One program was presented by our Hood County Agricultural Agent, Marty Vahlenkamp. He was also present at several of the programs to help with questions and advice. He was very helpful with providing us with AgriLife Extension hand-outs and resource materials.

How was accuracy of information assured? Many of our speakers have taken specialized courses and are certified on their subject matter. Research was done on the internet, along with reading additional reference books and publications.

5. Were any other organizations involved? Describe.

TAMU Rainwater Harvesting specialists provided instruction/educational materials. Rio Brazos Master Naturalists assisted in one presentation.

6. How many people attended? 160

How many times presented? There were nine different classes in this series.

7. How was the program promoted?

They were promoted through the "Garden Patch" article that appears weekly in our local newspaper. Our county agent has weekly programs on our local radio station and our local TV station where he informed the public of up-coming programs. Interested parties can also view the list of programs at their convenience on our Lake Granbury Master Gardener web site through out the year.

8. How was the program and the impact evaluated?

"Customer Satisfaction" forms were distributed at some of the lectures and asked for feed back from the attendees. Our county agent evaluates these forms and provides this data to us to help decide on next years series.