

Texas Master Gardener Association
INDIVIDUAL MASTER GARDENER AWARD

Association Membership: Medium
(Small, Medium, or Large)

County: Hood
Address: 200 N Gordon, Rm 22
City: Granbury, Texas Zip Code: 76048
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Name of the Nominee: Jane McConal

Brief description of Individual Master Gardener entry: (150 words or less)

Jane is a founding member of the Hood County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA). She is held in the highest esteem by all of her fellow members. She has held every office except secretary, represented our organization at State meetings and is one of the go-to members when help or advice is needed. She was instrumental in our participation in the Junior Master Gardener Program. She has taken the initiative to find new ways of demonstrating the value of the Master Gardener Program and the Extension Service. She has participated in every project in either a hands-on or advisory capacity since the organization's inception. She is a major force behind projects — a soft-spoken, but potent force.

Karen Bitnar and Robbin Brodsky

Name of person submitting the nomination

Signature of County Master Gardener Program Coordinator

Please answer the following questions as they relate to the nominee. **Do not exceed three (3) pages of questionnaire and one (1) page of narrative in relationship to your entry!**

I. Organization and Leadership. (250 points)

1. What offices has the Nominee held? (Include past service)
President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary
2. What office or leadership role did the nominee hold during the Award Year?
Co-Chairman Garden Tour, Junior Master Gardener Program, State Award Nominating Committee, JMG at Juvenile Justice Center, Chairman of Cherokee Rose Manor program.
3. List and describe the programs or projects the nominee has supervised or chaired the committee? (Include past work)
Garden Tour was a 2-day event involving 6 HCMG gardens and the HCMGA Demonstration Garden. The tour was publicized throughout Texas and attended by more than 800 people from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. Tour proceeds of \$4,000 were earmarked for scholarships for local students. She determined **requirements for the scholarships** and composed the application forms. She organized the Association's participation in the **Fall Plant Show Fair** sponsored by Texas A&M – Tarleton at which plants and seeds were sold. Informational pamphlets were given as handouts describing the Master Gardener program and other horticulture topics. She led on-going weekly presentations of the **JMG program** in the Granbury High School Life Skills class for 2 years and helped modify the presentations of this program to suit the needs of these mentally challenged students. She wrote all of the State **award nominations** for 1999 and 2000, many of which received awards. She assisted writing entries for 2001 and 2002, which also garnered several awards. Jane chaired the **JMG teacher training** in 2000 and co-chaired in 2001, chaired an annual **Plant Panel** at Wal-Mart Super Center for 2 years, chaired the **Arbor Day Celebration** at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, chaired the landscaping project for the **County Public Medical Clinic**, initiated our newsletter **Backyard Banter** in 1998 and edited and published the newsletter for 3 years.
4. List and describe the programs or projects the nominee has supervised or chaired for the Award Year.
As described above, the programs or projects for the award year were the **2003 Garden Tour, Scholarship Committee, JMG Life Skills, Award Nominations Committee and Plant Panel at Wal-Mart Super Center.**

5. Explain how the nominee participates in discussions and the operation of the Association or Corporation.
Jane, as a founding member of the Hood County Association, has earned the respect and admiration of every member. There has never been a project in which she was not involved in some manner or another. Her reputation is such that new members feel confident in calling upon her for advice or instruction. She plays a pivotal role in the operation of the Association and always provides leadership, advice and insight during key organizational discussions.
6. Describe how the nominee participates in helping develop new programs or projects.
Jane has always played a role in either the development or implementation of new programs and projects. She researched and helped develop HCMGA's first garden tour, reporting to the Association first on the Tarrant County Master Gardener's garden tour and then attending a seminar on developing a garden tour. She co-chaired our own tour in 2003. She was also instrumental in initiating our participation in an award-winning project at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center where we renovated an underused greenhouse and surrounding gardens. She had a large role in projects for the JMG Life Skills class outside the high school environment in which students participated in the grand opening of the Granbury Nature Center, landscaping of the Granbury Care Center and one of the Habitat for Humanity homes.
7. What new programs or projects did the nominee develop or hold a major position in for the Award Year?
The Garden Tour 2003, Scholarship Committee, Juvenile Justice Center JMG Program, Cherokee Rose Manor educational presentations, JMG Life Skills class landscaping projects at Granbury Care Center and a Habitat for Humanity home.
8. How does the nominee solicit input/ideas from the membership?
As an officer, Jane often asked the membership for ways to let the community know about the value of the Master Gardener Program. She sought new ways to educate the community through public projects, fairs and Q&A panels and was always successful in recruiting members for participation in these events.
9. Is the nominee a catalyst for new ideas? (Give an example)
Jane was responsible for our participation in the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center Project as mentioned above. She brought a representative to our business meeting to discuss their needs and ideas and promoted the project as a way to bridge an adjoining county and multiply by many times the number of exposures the Master Gardener Program and County Extension Service would receive.
10. Is the nominee a loyal, dependable worker? (Give an example)
Absolutely! There has never been a project since the Association's inception that she has not actively participated in or given advice on. There is no one in the organization that has not called upon Jane at one time or another to help or lead on a specific project. Her loyalty and dedication to the Master Gardener and Junior Master Gardener programs is beyond reproach.

II. Planning. (150 points)

1. Does the nominee participate in the annual or monthly planning of the Association's or Corporation's business, activities, programs or projects?
As a past officer and with her excellent reputation, she is continually called upon for input in the planning process or selection of project chairmen.
2. Does the nominee recruit and utilize other Master Gardeners? (Give an example)
Jane always encouraged and solicited participation by other Master Gardeners in project planning and implementation. With her prior public relations experience, she brought the organization many new ideas for growing participation in the Master Gardener Program, getting our program recognized and developing new programs. As a prime example, it was her idea to participate in the **Fossil Rim Greenhouse Project**, which was a 2-year project that utilized the talents of most HCMGA members.

III. Individual Activity (600 points)

1. Describe why the nominee is worthy of being the State Master Gardener of the Year.
Jane was instrumental in forming a Master Gardener Association in Hood County. As one of the founders, she has given guidance to numerous trainees and helped our association grow from 16 members to 55 in less than 10 years. She reaches out to other county organizations to share new ideas and develop cross-county projects. She is the go-to member when others may let us down. She has held every office except secretary and is always there to help the new officers fill their positions effectively. She is modest, so she rarely talks about her accomplishments. However, she is the backbone of our organization and truly worthy of this recognition.
2. List any awards or special recognition the nominee has received within the past five years. (Include other organizations)
During the year Jane served as president, HCMGA won second place for Group Project in state competition, third place in Multimedia, third place in Outstanding Chapter Achievements, second place in Individual Master Gardener and honorable mention in Publications.
3. Describe the activities of the nominee that contributed to the education or knowledge base of the Master Gardener Association or Corporation.
Jane recruited speakers and educational programs for our monthly meetings. She included a Calendar section in the *Backyard Banter* that covered upcoming public events that could be utilized as continuing education hours for our membership. Her recruitment of members to work on projects has led to greater information sharing and in turn, to the education of others. She assisted in organizing and executing the 1995 State Advanced Training Seminar in Granbury. She documented biological names for more than 150 plants that were featured on our garden tour and provided this information to HCMGA members.
4. Describe the activities of the nominee that contributed to the education, knowledge base and any special contributions made to the residents of the county.
She helped design and write educational flyers for the public for the 2003 Garden Tour that included researching biological names for featured plants in members' gardens. She led projects with the JMG Life Skills class that included landscaping a nursing home and a Habitat for Humanity home. She chaired and participated in the annual Q&A Panel at Wal-Mart Super Center. Jane organized and participated in an educational program at Cherokee Rose Manor. She made a presentation to the Granbury Historical Merchant's Association promoting HCMGA and its garden tour. Wrote articles and took photographs of HCMGA and the 1995 TXMG conference that were published in the *Hood County News*.
5. Hours Contributed:

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|------|--------|
| 1999 | 117.25 |
| 2000 | 357.50 |
| 2001 | 261.50 |
| 2002 | 124.00 |
| 2003 | 478.50 |

Optional – One (1) page of narrative.

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Jane has diligently served the Hood County Master Gardener Association since its inception in 1994 with only 16 members. She has always supported the Master Gardener Program and advocated the goals of the Texas Cooperative Extension.

Jane worked “in the trenches” when projects required physical labor and took a leadership role in planning and organizational needs. She continually used writing and organizational skills to solicit new members and supporters as the HCMGA grew to 55 members. Her love of youth and gardening led her to be a strong supporter of the Junior Master Gardener Program. She organized and led our first JMG teacher-training seminar, which led to JMG being used in the GISD after-school program. She organized and helped lead a JMG presentation at a GISD teacher seminar. That presentation led to JMG use in the Life Skills class. She also helped with a JMG presentation to GISD Administration. She continually led or assisted with JMG activities in the Life Skills class. She spent many hours working with these classes as they landscaped two areas of the Granbury Care Center, as they prepared plants for the opening of the Granbury Nature Center and when they helped with landscaping at a Habitat for Humanity home.

Jane had an instrumental role in implementing the 1995 TXMGA conference in Granbury when HCMGA was only one year old and had fewer than 20 members to execute the project. Jane started and has been a major participant in our newsletter. She was the first HCMG to have contact with Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, which grew into one of the biggest project endeavors for HCMGA. She was involved with JMG, Wal-Mart Plant Panel, Cherokee Rose Manor educational programs, Hood County courthouse, Granbury Opera Garden, Annex I Garden, Appraisal District Garden and Health Clinic Garden projects. She worked on the Scholarship Committee, Fall Plant Fairs and co-chaired the 2003 Garden Tour. She has worked on almost every project in HCMGA’s 10-year existence. Jane is a staunch supporter of the MG program and is the backbone of HCMGA.