

**Texas Master Gardener Association
2006 INDIVIDUAL MASTER GARDENER AWARD**

Association Membership/Size: Medium (Small, Medium, or Large)
Number of Members: 53



County: Hood

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City: Granbury, TX

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Name of Individual Master Gardener: Polly Parmer

Phyllis Webster

Signature of person submitting the nomination

Marty Vahlenkamp

Signature of County Extension Agent or County Program Coordinator

THIS SUBMISSION SHALL NOT EXCEED THREE (3) PAGES TOTAL.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL MASTER GARDENER ENTRY (50 pts)

In 150 words or less please describe the Individual Master Gardener.

Polly Parmer uses her talent for teaching to expand and promote the Master Gardener (MG) program. She demonstrates her passion for education by her willingness to share the knowledge that she gained during 31 years of teaching botany, zoology and horticulture. She is a superior instructor, comfortable with all audiences including fellow MGs and members of the community, such as children and mature individuals. She easily adjusts her presentations to appeal to people with all levels of gardening expertise. Polly is generous with her time and talent, always gracious and willing to help with all types of MG programs as a project leader or as a team member. As Vice President of Programs, Polly arranged for professional speakers to present at MG monthly meetings. She helped conduct numerous horticultural workshops and was instrumental in developing a community education series.

II. QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer the following questions as they relate to the nominee.

A photo of the nominee must be submitted with this submission.

Organization and Leadership Qualities (225 Points)

1. List and describe any programs or projects in which the nominee participates.

- Cooperative Extension Educational Workshops: Provide relevant horticultural information to the community, frequently using a "hands on" format.
- Education Committee: Plans and/or presents educational programs at monthly county MG meetings.
- Educational TV: Offers the public educational shows on horticultural topics via local cable television.
- Speakers Bureau: Provides free educational programs to community organizations.
- Educational Gardening Seminars: Present an inexpensive, convenient method of sharing up-to-date horticulture news/techniques with the public.
- Spring Plant Sale: Raises funds for educational programs by selling plants, which are accompanied by free educational handouts.
- Plant Resource Books: Supply much-needed plant information to area residents. MGs researched, wrote, edited and produced an original plant book in 2006 that focused on gardening techniques and plants for North Central Texas. This book was preceded by two smaller booklets, which contained seasonal information garnered from an initial draft of the book. A photo CD was included.
- Master Gardener Library: Provides a current body of horticultural knowledge by maintaining an up-to-date collection of horticultural resource books in the Extension office.
- Demonstration Garden: Offers living exhibition and trial gardens, which includes natives, perennials, annuals, roses, herbs, vegetables and varieties of compost.
- Office Administration: Process incoming calls in the Extension office.
- Community Service: Assists in solving plant/landscaping problems by making site visits.
- TMG Awards Submission Committee: Writes nominations for state competition.
- Mentor Program: Assists and supports interns during their probation period.
- Scholarship Committee: Organizes, writes and administers scholarships for high school seniors and college students who are majoring in horticulture, agriculture or a related field.

2. Explain how the nominee participates in leadership and/or operation of the county Master Gardener organization.

Polly has participated in the following ways:

President: 2007

Vice President: 2006

Co-chair: Scholarship Committee

Co-chair: Plant sale

Co-author: Plant book, educational handouts, state awards

Co-chair: 2006 Educational seminar

Educator: Presented lectures/workshops on the following topics:

- Plant Taxonomy
- Pruning
- Plant Propagation (PowerPoint presentation on biology of plant propagation followed with a hands-on workshop)
- WaterWise Landscaping
- Vegetative Plant Propagation
- Oak Wilt Cause, Identification and Treatment
- Selecting Suitable Plants for Hood County
- Plant Propagation (Program for educational television.)
- Children's Plant Workshop — a daylong, hands-on garden school that used fun activities to teach plant biology and help children learn more about the role plants play in daily living.

Chair: Education Committee 2005, 2006

- Organized and conducted field trips to public gardens as well as area nurseries and farms to observe and learn.

Other tasks in which Polly participated in the operation of the organization included:

Answering phone calls and fielding requests in the Extension office, mentoring an intern, organizing and ordering educational material for the Master Gardener library, visiting homes to assist with horticultural questions and problems and helping to plant, maintain and raise funds for the demonstration garden.

3. How does the nominee solicit input/ideas from the membership and Extension personnel?

Polly, a good listener, serves on many committees where she encourages member feedback. She helps incorporate member ideas and suggestions into constructive plans. She is articulate in her oral reports to the membership and always asks for their input. Polly efficiently makes use of the organization's website and electronic mail to communicate. She has developed a rapport and mutual respect with the Extension agent, which facilitates the sharing of ideas.

4. Describe the leadership style, philosophy, and social abilities related to working individually and in groups with fellow Master Gardeners and Extension personnel.

Polly is a courteous and caring individual who works well with others. Her positive attitude is contagious and results in programs/projects being well received. She carefully researches tasks before putting a plan in motion. She is an articulate leader, yet is receptive to suggestions from others.

5. Describe the nominee's participation in any activities that help to promote the county Master Gardener program and Texas Cooperative Extension.

Polly is an exceptional leader and has filled key roles in implementing:

- Community educational workshops,
- Gardening seminars,
- Printed materials, including books and handouts,
- Plant sales,
- Scholarship program, and more (see #1 & #2).

6. Describe nominee's participation in any activities that help to secure or maintain organizational support and partnership for the county Master Gardener program and Texas Cooperative Extension (note: support includes financial, cooperative efforts, in-kind service). Polly has helped in the following ways:

- Demonstration garden: participates as member of the fund-raising committee, which solicits corporate support,
- Plant sales: arranges for donations/discounted plants to raise funds in support of educational endeavors,
- Speakers: works with organizations and individuals to secure speakers and facilities for meetings and seminars,
- Teaching: gives educational presentations to clubs, organizations, professional groups and others, and
- Promotion: promotes the activities of other Texas MG organizations to Lake Granbury Master Gardeners.

Individual Qualities (225 Points)

7. Describe why the nominee should be considered for the State Master Gardener of the Year award.

Polly Parmer personifies what is meant by the title Master Gardener. She is an eager volunteer, a well-trained and qualified educator, a positive role model, a good communicator and a caring, patient individual. She encourages a cooperative spirit among members. Her gracious personality and her ability to share her expertise typify a model MG.

8. Describe any activities in which the nominee contributed to the education or knowledge base of Master Gardeners at the county, area or state levels.

Polly's passion and focus has been education, demonstrated by her work on the community education series, the numerous plant/gardening workshops, the horticultural seminar, Speakers Bureau and the plant books. She also conducted educational field tours, ordered material for the MG Library and co-chaired the 2006 educational committee. Polly was instrumental in developing educational programs for local cable television, a first for this MG organization.

9. Describe any activities in which the nominee contributed to the education of the residents of the county.

- Co-chaired 2006 Educational Seminar, attended by 111 area residents,
- Co-produced plant book,
- Organized or presented numerous educational workshops, presentations, and
- Assisted in answering questions fielded by the Extension office staff.

10. Describe any expertise the nominee contributed to the county Master Gardener organization, Texas Cooperative Extension, other organizations, or county residents.

Polly is a former professional educator, schooled in botany, zoology and horticulture. She has good organizational and teaching skills and serves as a goodwill ambassador. She is a certified Plant Propagation and Oak Wilt Specialist.

11. Hours Contributed for this award year: 570 Hours

Individual Master Gardener
Polly Parmer

