

**Texas Master Gardener Association
2007 INDIVIDUAL MASTER GARDENER AWARD**



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

Number of Members: 45

County: Hood

Address: 1410 W. Pearl St.

City: Granbury, TX Zip 76048

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

Name of Master Gardener: Arnold Blaylock

Polly Parmer jparmer2@charter.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 INDIVIDUAL MASTER GARDENER (10 pts) Points _____
In 150 words or less please describe the Individual Master Gardener.

Arnold Blaylock is an inspirational team player that joyfully shares his time and talents to help others. He has owned and operated various business enterprises: Lectric-Lites, a major supplier of highway safety barricades, a local foundry and a 15-acre grape vineyard, which sold grapes to the wine industry. His business experience and knowledge of agriculture/engineering afford him great expertise, which he freely shares with MGs and the community. His dedication to the MG program was demonstrated in 2007 through his indefatigable leadership in constructing and developing the new one-acre LGMG Demonstration, Education and Research Garden. He has relentless enthusiasm for creating educational tools for horticultural demonstrations as evidenced by his construction of a portable water feature and square foot garden, which were used during various presentations. With enthusiasm, leadership and commitment, Arnold contributed 515 hours of volunteer service in 2007.

Please answer the questions as they relate to the 2007 entry year.

VALUE 10 POINTS EACH

1. List and describe programs & projects in which the nominee participated. Points _____

- New LGMG Demonstration, Educational and Research Garden — Arnold engineered/directed construction of the one-acre Garden. Features include: soil amendment project, sixteen raised beds and eleven freeform beds, rainwater harvesting, square foot vegetable gardens, composting, mulching, dual drip irrigation system, a water conservation feature, EarthKind™ Rose trial garden and an open-air activity center. Arnold helped educate 200+ guests at the Garden's Open House.
- Educational demonstrations and presentations — Arnold created a water feature and demonstrated it at an educational seminar. He also built a portable Square Foot Garden to use as a demonstration at an educational seminar. In his portable garden, he incorporated both vegetables and annuals to illustrate square foot gardening concepts. Arnold also used the portable garden to present a square foot gardening program to seniors at an assisted living facility.
- Garden Tours — Arnold worked for months preparing his garden for visitors during two separate LGMG Educational Garden Tours. Plants were labeled, beds were mulched and drip irrigation was installed. More than 500 guests attended each event.
- Community Work Projects — Arnold helps to maintain the County Courthouse, Annex and Chamber of Commerce Landscapes.
- Fundraising — Arnold played a vital roll in raising more than \$30,000 and obtaining material donations to construct the new Demonstration Garden. Arnold also worked on the successful 2007 plant sale, which raised money for MG projects and scholarship funds. He helped to transport 1,000 plus plants, sorted the plants for display and assisted in all aspects of the day's event.

2. Describe abilities related to working individually & in groups with Master Gardeners and TCE. Points _____

Arnold has a unique ability to work well with individuals and groups. He demonstrated this outstanding quality during the construction of the LGMG Demonstration, Education and Research Garden, a project that truly would not have come into being without his guidance and physical labor. He always greeted volunteer workers with a smile & an upbeat attitude. He directed the project while working alongside MGs, always remembering to give praise and encouragement. His approach resulted in a sense of camaraderie while doing tasks. He also inspired workers to have a sense of ownership for projects. Arnold has been a wonderful mentor to MGs and an informative, hospitable guide to guests touring the Garden. Arnold works closely with the TCE and is highly respected.

3. Describe participation in activities that promote Master Gardeners & TCE. Points _____

Arnold provided the leadership, specialized skills and the physical labor necessary to:

1. Construct the Demonstration, Educational and Research Garden, which is used to illustrate water conservation methods, effective gardening practices and plants that grow successfully in North Central Texas landscapes
2. Conduct educational seminars and presentations, such as: *WaterWise Gardening*, *Saving Water for Tomorrow*, *Constructing Water Features for a Garden* and *Square Foot Gardening*
3. Mentor Master Gardener Interns: The interns whom Arnold mentored have become Master Gardeners who fully support the TCE and enthusiastically serve Hood County residents.

4. Hours contributed to Master Gardeners in 2007. Points _____

Arnold contributed more than 515 hours in 2007.

Judges comments: