



**Texas Master Gardener Association
2009 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AWARD**

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

Number of Members: 55

County: Hood

Address: 1410 W. Pearl

City: Granbury, TX Zip 76048

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

Educational Program Title: 2009 Lake Granbury Master Gardeners 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.

The last four years the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners have offered this educational series to our community. Our goal is to provide horticultural lectures that will improve their gardening skills. This year we included expert speakers outside of our Master Gardener knowledge base. They were Billy Kniffen, Minard County agent, Rosa Finsley, native landscape expert, Cullen Crisp, farmer and Marty Valhncamp, Hood County agent.

The 2009 series offered 10 lectures. The subjects presented were:

- Pruning Ornamentals, Shrubs, Trees and Fruit Trees
- Gardening the Green Way and Organic Gardening
- Rainwater Harvesting For In-Home Use
- Landscaping With Native Plants
- Growing Green The EarthKind™ Way
- A Morning Walk With The Gardeners (featuring harvesting rainwater, drip irrigation, Earthkind™ roses, composting and tough perennials)
- How To Be Your Own Plant Doctor
- A Children's Workshop
- Container Gardening/ Drip Irrigation
- Home and Garden Decorating For The Holidays

**Please answer the questions as they relate to the 2009 entry year.
VALUE 10 POINTS EACH**

1. What was/is the community need for this educational program and how was that determined?

This educational series was selected by the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners as a way to reach as many in the community as possible. This is the fourth year that this series has been presented. We offer a wide range of subjects in hopes of meeting the gardening needs of our community. The majority of our speakers are certified in their subjects which helps to assure the credibility and accuracy of the information being taught.

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

The objective was to offer lectures and classes was to provide the public with up-to-date gardening techniques. We strive to offer gardening methods that are environmentally friendly. Drought-resistant and water-wise and chemical free gardening information are in the forefront of all that we taught.

3. How many Master Gardeners were involved? There were 29 Master Gardeners involved.
How many volunteer hours? 309 hours were recorded.

4. How was Texas AgriLife Extension involved? Marty Vahlenkamp, Hood County's AgriLife Extension agent, was directly involved in teaching three classes in our series. He also developed a form to track participants comments and critiques for the programs. These critiques were sent to the head office. Billy Kniffen, Minard County's AgriLife agent is a rainwater harvesting expert.

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 studying additional reference books and publications.

5. Were any other organizations involved? Describe.

TAMU Rainwater Harvesting specialists provided instruction/educational materials. Rosa Finsley, from the Kings Creek Gardens in Cedar Hills, Texas, was a speaker.

6. How many people attended? There were 233 total participants.

How many times presented? There were 10 programs/lectures.

7. How was the program promoted? The LGMG program was advertised monthly in our local newspaper. It also was promoted with our LGMG "Garden Patch" gardening articles that appears weekly in the local newspaper. It was promoted by our local TV. Each series appeared on our Lake Granbury Master Gardener web site, the Somervell Master Gardener web site and as well as the Texas State Master Gardener web site. Word-of mouth was also used.

8. How was the program and the impact evaluated?

Each participant was asked to fill out a "Customer Satisfaction" form with their feed-back and suggestions about each lecture. Our county agent evaluated the input. 97.3% were mostly or completely satisfied with the courses offered. 89.5% plan to take action or make changes based on the information they received from the courses. 98.2% would recommend this activity to others. This data was provided to us to help us plan for next years series.