



**Texas Master Gardener Association
2009 INDIVIDUAL MASTER GARDENER 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@tamu.edu

Name of Master Gardener: Wanda Riley

Wanda Riley and Kathy Murray stu@itexas.net

Name(s) of person(s) submitting the nomination e-mail:

Marty Vahlenlamp

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)

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

Wanda Riley became a Hood County Master Gardeners in 1997 after retiring from her job as a computer trainer. She helped to bring our chapter into the computer age when she began tracking and recording our volunteer and educational hours. She is always eager to help to incorporate the computer into our lectures programs. Wanda has worked hard to improve her gardening skills by taking classes to improve her knowledge. She is a Master Composter and a Texas Master Naturalist. Wanda has been with our Speakers Bureau for several years, talking to local garden clubs, local organizations and MG organizations around our surrounding area. Wanda is always willing to share her knowledge in improving our soils with compost. She is an enthusiastic team player who works hard and diligently on all projects. She is a member that we know we can always count and rely on.

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

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

- Wanda is a member of the Demonstration Garden committee. She served as a member of the design committee that helped to build our Research and Demonstration garden. She pitches in wherever she is needed to help out in the garden. Wanda's main job in the garden is to work the compost piles and make sure that we have adequate compost when planting a new area. Since she is a "Master Composter" she is always ready to share her knowledge on maintaining a good compost pile.
- Wanda also participated in our "new intern" Mentor Program for several years helping to guide our new Master Gardeners in completing their hours.
- Wanda is a very active member of our Speaker's Bureau giving talks through out our area. This year alone she has spoken to several of our local garden clubs. She lectured at four out of the ten programs with our Lake Granbury Master Gardener's Educational Series. She often shares the podium with Marty Vahlenkamp, our Hood County AgriLife agent with their container gardening and drip irrigation program.
- Wanda gave a presentation/lecture to our new tri-county Master Gardener's class.
- This year she was again invited to speak to the Johnson County Master Gardeners, the Somervell Master Gardeners as well as our own Master Gardener organization.
- Wanda was one of our speakers at the "Spring Plant Sale" talking about Container Gardening and saving water by using drip irrigation.
- She participated in our Fall Garden Market by manning the Texas Master Naturalist booth and giving out information and answering questions about both organizations.
- Along with being chosen as our Master Gardener of the year for 2009, Wanda was also chosen as our June 2009 Master Gardener of the Month. Since Wanda creates our Master Gardener certificates it was difficult to keep this honor hidden from her.
- Using her computer skills, she often creates flyers and handouts for many of our projects and events.

2. Describe abilities related to working individually & in groups with Master Gardeners and Texas AgriLife Extension.

As an important member of our Speaker's Bureau, Wanda is anxious to spread the word about Master Gardeners and the Texas AgriLife extension service. She is proud to tell our community about the work that the Master Gardeners do in bringing horticultural information to our community. She often works at home to research her lecture topics and to develop PowerPoint presentations to accompany her speeches. Wanda has designed PowerPoint presentations for several of her Lake Granbury Master Gardeners, as well as a Johnson County Master Gardener. As a computer trainer, she is always willing to share her expertise with those who need guidance navigating the their way through their computer.

3. Describe participation in activities that promote Master Gardeners & Texas AgriLife Extension

Spreading the word about the Master Gardeners and the Hood County Extension office is something that Wanda does well. She promotes both the Master Gardeners and the extension office with her lectures. With each lecture she provides those in attendance with flyers that include information about the Master Gardeners and the Texas AgriLife extension service. Wanda is also a Rio Brazos Master Naturalist and works hard to narrow the gap between the two Texas AgriLife sponsored organizations. As a Master Naturalists she often lectures about the flora and the fauna.

4. Hours contributed to Master Gardeners in 2009. Wanda logged 251 hours in 2009.