



**Texas Master Gardener Association
2010 PROJECT AWARD**

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

Number of Members: 67

County: Hood

Address: 1410 W. Pearl St.

City: Granbury, TX Zip 76048

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

Project Title: Children's Garden

Dianne Allen dibob_allen@windstream.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 PROJECT (10 pts)
In 150 words or less please describe the project.

Because of their highly successful Children's Garden School, Lake Granbury Master Gardeners expanded their Demonstration Garden in 2010 to include an area dedicated to children and their learning experiences. The Children's Garden is an 80' x 40' cultivated space complete with specialized planting areas and intriguing art, signs and statuary. Included is: 1) A salad bowl garden with bowl-shaped pots planted with salad veggies, 2) A peanut butter & jelly garden planted with grapevine and peanuts, 3) A zoo garden filled with plants that have animal names, 4) The flower bed, which is a bed frame filled with flowers, 5) An arbor covered in gourd vines; gourds are used to make bird houses in the children's classes, 6) A painted concrete map of Texas that illustrates hardiness zones, 7) A farmer's garden planted with crops such as wheat and soybeans, 8) A fairy garden and much more.

**Please answer the questions as they relate to the 2010 entry year.
VALUE 10 POINTS EACH**

1. Who is the target audience?

The audience is families with young children or grandchildren. Teaching is directed to children of elementary school age or younger. The Children's Garden is adjacent to flower and vegetable gardens, which hopefully interest parents in gardening alongside their children/grandchildren.

2. What is/are the objective(s) of the project?

The objectives of the project are: 1) to plant the "seeds" of gardening/nature in children's minds, 2) to encourage interest in horticulture at an early age, 3) to utilize the garden to provide children with "hands-on" learning experiences, 4) to make learning fun, 5) to teach children basic facts about gardening/nature, and 6) to expand the number/types of educational classes offered.

3. How many Master Gardeners were involved and how many volunteer hours were reported?

The entire membership was involved in some way such as planning, funding, providing creative ideas or digging, planting, etc. Eleven MGs performed the majority of the weekly labor and classes. The project chair reports monthly to the entire membership. 656 Hours were reported.

4. What was the role of Master Gardeners and Texas AgriLife Extension in the project?

The AgriLife Extension agent communicated with the County Commissioners before expanding the project since the Garden is on County property. The MGs researched concepts, developed the entire design, performed all the labor and funded the project through plant sales and brick paver sales. The Extension staff fields calls, registers children for classes and provides educational support and literature. The agent promotes the Garden and encourages its use.

The Demo Garden greatly complements the MG/Extension education efforts, allowing hands-on workshops such as rainwater harvesting. MGs and Extension staff believe that adding a Children's Garden is a natural continuation and expansion of the group's existing educational endeavors — one that will increase community participation and enlarge the audience.

5. How was accuracy of information assured?

Educational literature and program content is taken from Texas A&M, AgriLife Extension and Master Gardener training materials. MGs researched the design and features of other children's gardens for inspiration and accuracy. The Extension agent oversees the workshops and classes.

6. Were any other organizations involved? Explain.

The Hood County Maintenance Department provided irrigation supplies and materials for construction of a wooden bridge. Community groups have begun to tour the new garden.

7. How many people were educated? Approximately 100 children and adults.

8. How was the project promoted?

The project & classes are promoted in the local newspaper (articles & photos), LGMG website, local cable TV, the LGMG Continuing Education classes and the Children's Garden School. Area teachers are also being made aware of this new educational "outdoor" classroom.

9. Describe how the project met the intended objective(s).

Three children's classes utilized the Garden in 2010: 1) Making Stepping Stones — children made handprints in concrete to form garden stepping stones, 2) Children's Garden School — children spent time in the garden for fun & education, such as gathering leaves and flowers for crafts and learning about pollination, 3) Water Camp for Kids — the garden was the setting for children to learn about natural resources and gardening, such as rainwater harvesting and its use/value in growing plants. Children came to classes from Hood and other counties. Hopefully, the Garden will turn "fun" into a lifelong passion for gardening/nature.









