



## Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article      May 22, 2017

### HCMGA Wins State Award by Lydia Holley

Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) was honored to have received second place for Outstanding Association in the Medium-Large Association Category for the 2016 year from the Texas Master Gardener Association. The award was presented at the Texas Master Gardener Conference Award Luncheon held in Galveston on May 1, 2017.



This is the first time HCMGA competed in the Medium-Large Association Category, which is for associations with a membership of 50 to 99 certified members. The award is based upon the number and quality of ongoing programs offered to the community. HCMGA has several ongoing projects, including the Dream Garden at the East Texas Arboretum; the Children's Garden at South Athens Elementary School; a Spring Conference; a Fall Conference put on by the current year's Master Gardener interns; the Summer Series, a series of free educational events; the Library Series, monthly presentations offered free to the public; an annual Plant Sale; a bi-monthly e-mail newsletter offered free to the public; weekly articles printed in local newspapers; a website; and a Facebook page. The entire membership is to be congratulated on achieving this prestigious award in such a competitive category.

Master Gardener Wayne Stafford was also recognized during the same awards luncheon for his 15 years of volunteer service to the Master Gardener program. There are yearly attendance, volunteer, and continuing education requirements in order to become and remain certified as a Texas Master Gardener. Milestones of 15, 20, and 25 years are recognized at the state level. Stafford is the longest serving Master Gardener in HCMGA.

Since becoming certified in 2001, Stafford has continually been very involved in the organization, attending the majority of the programs offered by HCMGA throughout the years. He has volunteered in many capacities, and his service as HCMGA photographer has been invaluable to the organization.

Stafford is also popular as a speaker to requesting organizations. He won an award at the state level in 2012 in the Graphic Presentation category for his program "Why Study Butterflies?". Stafford's expertise of butterflies and other pollinators is a great asset to HCMGA. Additionally, his congenial personality and willingness to serve is appreciated by all in the organization.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email [hendersonCMGA@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonCMGA@gmail.com) or visit [www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org](http://www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org).