



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article August 01, 2016

Meet the Masters: Sara Drummond

by Lydia Holley

Sara Drummond decided to become a Master Gardener after reading an article about one. “The Master Gardener mentioned knew very little about gardening. She was doing it because she was new to the area and was interested in meeting people. I, too, was new to East Texas and new to growing flowers and vegetables”, she says.

Becoming a Master Gardener appealed to Sara because “I like helping others, and was looking for a way to serve the community. I also like the purpose - to pass on research-based horticultural information. I had attended two of the summer programs put on by Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA). Everyone was very generous with information, friendly, and encouraging about joining HCMGA.”

Still, Sara confesses, “I was nervous about signing up for the class, since I wasn't a gardening expert. Reading about the woman in the paper was the last bit of encouragement I needed. I took the class and I am very glad I did.”

Sara took the Master Gardener class in 2015, and is currently an HCMGA intern. She will become a certified Texas Master Gardener in December. Thinking back upon her intern year, Sara says, “Part of the preparation is to volunteer at a wide variety of projects and events. They all involve helping others, learning something new, and working with delightful people.”

Some HCMGA projects Sara enjoyed most are “the DREAM garden at the Arboretum, helping South Athens Elementary School students plant onions, and handing out information at our booth at the Farmers Market.”

When the opportunity arose to be co-chair of the HCMGA Spring Conference Committee (along with fellow HCMGA intern Paula Winter), Sara did not hesitate to say yes. She says excitedly, “The conference will be held March 30, 2017. We will host Amy Stewart, nationally known speaker and author of four gardening books that made the New York Times Best Sellers list. Just in preparing to have her here, I have learned so much.”

Sara gardens on “98 acres, in wide-open space and sunshine.” She enjoyed the design process, and states that, “arranging the spaces outside our home seemed as important as arranging the spaces inside our home.” Now, Sara enjoys maintaining her garden. She smiles as she talks about “nurturing” the plants, stating, “Time flies while I work and I feel blessed to be a part of God’s amazing natural process.”



In her garden, Sara grows “sun-loving flowers, like roses, coneflowers, and other perennials; a vegetable garden with tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins, watermelons, squash, potatoes, asparagus, beans, peas, corn; and herbs like basil, cilantro and rosemary.”

Although Sara says she would “definitely rather tend the garden than clean my house”, she has found a few secrets that makes garden maintenance easier. Sara reveals, “I have added flowers to my vegetable beds to attract pollinators. Working with raised beds is much kinder to my body, and adding crushed granite around the beds means weeding is not the horrendous chore it used to be.”

If you are interested in becoming a Henderson County Master Gardener, the application deadline is August 19. You may find an application online at <http://henderson-co-tx-mg.org/about-us/becoming-mg/2016-MG-Application.pdf> or by calling 903-675-6130.

For more information, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com.