



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article April 23, 2018

Master Gardeners Earn State Awards by Lydia Holley

Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) received three awards at the Texas Master Gardener conference held in College Station on April 5. The Search for Excellence awards judged the activities of Master Gardener Associations during 2017. HCMGA won first place as an Outstanding Association in the Medium category. Yvonne Sparks was President of HCMGA in 2017.



Comments from the judges included this statement: “This association seems to be mature in the sense of organizational structure and function. This evidence by the amount of planning they conduct, their array of community partners, and their willingness to try new things and take appropriate advantage of their local volunteer’s skills.”

Master Gardener Jeanne Brown (not pictured) won second place for Outstanding Individual Master Gardener. Brown propagated a large portion of the plants offered for sale in 2017 at the annual HCMGA Plant Sale. The 2018 Plant Sale will be held Saturday, April 28, 9:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center, Athens. Brown has once again propagated a remarkable amount of plants for the sale. A portion of one judge’s comments stated that Brown was “immersed in the mission of extension by willingly sharing her knowledge and expertise with other[s].”

HCMGA’s “Learn at the Library” series, held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 5:30 p.m. at the Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library, earned first place in the Educational Program category. Lydia Holley coordinated the series in 2017.

HCMGA is very appreciative of the library hosting these events, which are free and open to the public. A special thanks also goes to Library Director Rachel Cox who issued a statement used in the award application. The judges felt this program was “very nicely implemented” and “an excellent project and local partnership with the library.”

Master Gardener Sharon Barrett was also recognized at the state level for her 15 years of service as a certified Texas Master Gardener. A past President of HCMGA, Barrett currently serves as HCMGA Director.

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