



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article December 19, 2016

Master Gardener Volunteers Recognized by Lydia Holley

Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) held their annual awards dinner on Thursday, December 15, 2016. Nina Ellis was honored with the Texas Master Gardener Emerita award. This award is given to selected Master Gardeners for their distinguished service. Ellis is the first HCMGA member to receive such an award. Smith County Extension Agent and Horticulturalist Greg Grant presented this prestigious award to Ellis.

Ellis became a Master Gardener in 2004, served as HCMGA secretary in 2006 and 2007, as chairperson of the plant sale committee from 2006 to 2012, was awarded HCMGA Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year in 2011, and received a 3rd place individual Master Gardener award from the Texas Master Gardener Association (TXMGA) in 2011.



Shown in photo: Smith County Extension Agent Greg Grant presents Nina Ellis the Texas Master Gardener Emerita award.

Wayne Stafford was also recognized for devoting 15 years of service to HCMGA. Stafford is currently the longest-serving HCMGA volunteer. He received his 15 year service pin during the awards ceremony. Stafford will also be recognized at the TXMGA awards luncheon in May, 2017.

Master Gardeners receiving 10 year service pins were Elmer Belssner, Jack Busby, Lynn Stroud and Dodie Tucker. Three year service pins were given to Bob Erickson, Shannon Greene, ML Haldeman, LaTrecia Jeffcott, Linda Singleton and Cathy Vest.

David Seymour was awarded Intern Volunteer of the Year. Bill Hancock and Lydia Holley were named as Master Gardener Volunteers of the Year.

Newly certified as Texas Master Gardeners were Linda Belssner, Kathi Murphy-Boley, Jeanne Brown, Janelle Cole, Peter Cole, Sara Drummond, Lyndon Patrick, Martha Rainwater, David Seymour and Paula Winter. Also recognized were new interns David Bickerstaff, Jacob Cole, Claudia Durham, Shelly Fugitt, Loretta Humble, John Maloch, Peg Martinez, Elizabeth Murphy and Lora Tomlinson.

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