



## Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article      September 26, 2016

### Dedication of Rick Hirsch Memorial

by Yvonne Sparks

On October 8 at 10:00 the Henderson County Master Gardeners will dedicate a memorial to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent Rick Hirsch. The memorial will be located at the DREAM Garden on the grounds of the East Texas Arboretum at 1601 Patterson Rd., Athens, TX. Rick was an essential and valued member of the Master Gardener program. For fifteen years Rick taught the Master Gardener class and guided the Henderson County Master Gardener Association. Through his leadership he helped the Master Gardeners grow from just a few volunteers who enjoyed sharing their gardening expertise to a state award winning organization. Following Rick's unexpected death in April, the Master Gardeners discussed a way to honor him and keep his memory alive for future Master Gardeners. After many lively discussions it was decided to place a boulder with a plaque in the DREAM Garden to tell his story of how he led and guided the Master Gardener association to a viable organization of nearly 50 members and encouraged the members to share their love of horticultural with the residents of Henderson County.



A special thanks goes to the committee of Margaret Dansby, Cecilia Bowles and Janelle Cole. These Master Gardeners sought out the perfect stone and assisted in the text written on the plaque affixed to the stone. In addition, the Master Gardeners would like to thank Roy Clay, owner of Earth & Stone in Malakoff. Roy donated and installed the boulder at the DREAM Garden. All friends, family and community are cordially invited to the ceremony to honor Rick.

*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).*