

May 20, 2019

Master Gardeners Receive Awards

By Lydia Holley, Master Gardener

The Texas Master Gardener state conference was held in Victoria, Texas, on April 27, 2019. During the conference, Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) received four state awards for the 2018 year. HCMGA competes in the Medium-Large category, with 50-99 members. HCMGA received awards in each *Search for Excellence* category submitted to the Texas Master Gardener Association.

For *Outstanding Association*, HCMGA won first place. This category “recognizes a Master Gardener Association that has completed at least one or more programs and/or projects of importance to the community”. HCMGA has an ornamental demonstration garden, a soon-to-be-completed fruit and vegetable demonstration garden, and offers numerous educational programs, including the popular “Learn at the Library Series” given free to the public every month.



Texas Master Gardener State Conference awards the Outstanding Association Award to HCMGA. Pictured is part of the 2018 leadership team.

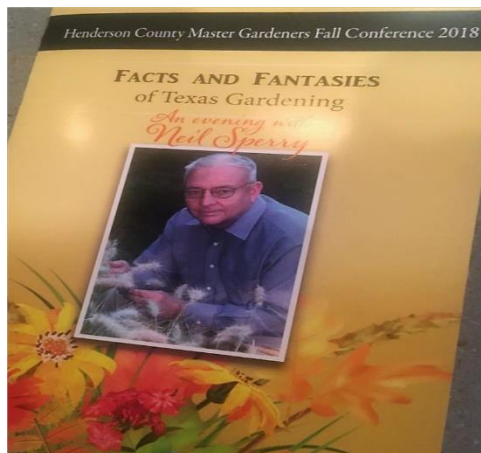


Texas Master Gardener State Conference awards the Written Education Award to HCMGA's 2018 Interns with for their HCMGA's Monthly Gardener Guide. Pictured are some of the Interns who developed the guide.

HCMGA's Monthly Gardener Guide was awarded second place

in the *Written Education* category. This monthly guide is available for purchase at the County Extension Office and Master Gardener booths at several locations throughout the year. The guide is written specifically for East Texas gardeners, with chores divided monthly. Additional tips are included each month, and includes pages of useful information as well as blank pages to individualize the guide. Guidebooks are offered for \$15.

Yvonne Sparks received second place as *Outstanding Individual*. The Outstanding Individual category recognizes a “Master Gardener whose involvement and contributions during the award year are of primary importance”. Sparks was certified in Henderson County in 2014 and served as President of HCMGA during 2018.



HCMGA's Educational Program, "*Facts and Fantasies of Texas Gardening: An Evening with Neil Sperry*" was given third place. This program was one of HCMGA's fundraisers for 2018.

For more information about HCMGA and our activities, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com, or visit txmq.org/hendersonmq.



Texas Master Gardener State Conference awards the Outstanding Individual Award to HCMGA's 2018 President Yvonne Sparks