

Becoming a Master Gardener?

Recently, two Keep Brownwood Beautiful board members and volunteers attended the Master Gardener program in Brady. In the past, a number of KBB volunteers attended Master Gardener courses in Comanche. This has led KBB to wonder if there is enough interest in the Brown County area to develop and present its own Master Gardener program.

What is the Master Gardener Program? This program is an educational opportunity offered by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

What are the requirements of the Texas Master Gardener Program? As a trainee, you must attend at least 50 hours of instruction on horticultural topics and volunteer 50 hours of service. There is a fee for taking the course to cover learning material costs.

Why become a Master Gardener? The course offers home gardeners the opportunity to learn and expand their knowledge of horticulture. It also gives you an opportunity to become an active volunteer in your local community.

What is covered in a typical Master Gardener training? Topics including lawn care, ornamental trees and shrubs, insect, disease, and weed management; soils and plant nutrition, vegetable gardening; home fruit production; garden flowers; and water conservation.

What type of volunteer projects can I do? The sky is the limit. Some of the more common projects are the creation and maintaining of community green spaces and gardens, conducting school gardening programs, planning and completing community beautification projects, volunteering with the 4-H program, even assisting the local extension agent.

Where can I get more information? Online information can be found at <http://mastergardener.tamu.edu/>. Your local county extension office also has information available.

KBB needs to know if there is community interest in a Master Gardener Program before asking our local extension office to help us develop this program. If you are interested, please send me an email at kbwdb@verizon.net or leave me a message at 325-641-0533.