**2019**

**HIGHLAND LAKES MASTER GARDENER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM--APPLICATION**

**Identification Information (Please Print Clearly):**

Name preferred on Name Badges, Class and Association Rosters, and Certificates – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Cell phone - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Master Gardener T-Shirt size (Circle one) S M L XL XXL

# Application Process

1. Complete the application and the background check (located on the website— www.burnetcountyhighlandlakesmastergardener.org); submit it with full payment to the HLMGA Certification Program Coordinator: Amy Parke, 6047 County Rd. 223, Kempner, TX 76539. (phone 254-833-2720 if you have any questions)
2. Cost of the program is $150.00 per person. Make checks payable to “Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association”. In the memo indicate “2019 Class”.
3. Class size is limited to 20 persons. Applications will be screened and applicant acceptance will be a decision made by the Master Gardener Association and Texas AgriLife. All applications must be received by Friday, January 11, 2019.
4. Classes begin on Thursday, February 14th and continue every Thursday through May 9th. Attendance is MANDATORY unless there is an emergency. We WILL meet during Spring break. Classes are held at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office, 607 North Vandeveer, Burnet Texas, 78611, 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., unless otherwise indicated. There are often field trips scheduled in which the meeting time and place is varied. Please note that flexibility on meeting time and location is required. We will often car pool so you won’t need to drive to each place. Bring a bag lunch each time for the half hour lunch break at 12:00 p.m.
5. All future correspondence, including class assignments and reference material will be sent via email, so you will need an email address.

# Requirements to Achieve Initial Certification as a Texas Master Gardener

1. Attend ALL classes scheduled: 40 hours of instruction
2. Complete 50 hours of Volunteer Service in an APPROVED Master Gardener activity. Approved Master Gardener activities are located in the Highland Lakes area only.
3. Complete an additional 10 hours of Advanced Training (beyond the scheduled classes)

# Requirements to Maintain Certification (subsequent years)

1. Complete 25 hours of Volunteer Service in an approved HLMGA activity each year.
2. Complete 6 hours of Advanced Training each year.
3. Pay Association dues.

**Please Answer the Following Questions About Becoming a Master Gardener**:

1. Why do you want to be certified as a Master Gardener? Discuss some of your experience in gardening.
2. This program requires a significant commitment to volunteer work and advanced education. On average, how many hours per month can you commit to volunteer activity?
3. Do you have any non-gardening skills that would contribute towards the organization?

4. In the next section, please do a self assessment of your knowledge and skills as it relates to a variety of topics that will be covered in the Master Gardener Certification Program. “None” is not a disqualifying answer, it provides a basis from which to learn. Rank your knowledge and/or skill on a 1-10 scale, with 1 being NONE and 10 being HIGH, indicate the appropriate number in front of the skill category.

Self Assessment

\_\_\_\_ Soil and Soil Fertility \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable Gardening

\_\_\_\_\_ Plant Propagation \_\_\_\_\_ Landscape design

\_\_\_\_\_Trees \_\_\_\_\_ Water requirements

\_\_\_\_\_ Fruit and Nut tree production \_\_\_\_\_ Composting

\_\_\_\_\_ Insects \_\_\_\_\_ Organic gardening

\_\_\_\_\_ Plant diseases \_\_\_\_\_ Keyhole or other types of raised gardens

\_\_\_\_\_ Turf Grass \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteering in the community

1. Accepting the Challenge:

I have reviewed all of the information and am ready to accept the Challenge: to apply my skills and abilities to developing a gardening ethic in order to promote a sustainable environment; to apply my time and energy to developing a volunteer ethic in order to promote sustainable natural beauty in my community; and to enjoy the direct benefits of these efforts and learning experiences in my home landscape. I understand that accepting this challenge leads to Certification as a Texas Master Gardener only when I have fulfilled all of the requirements of the Master Gardener program as previously outlined.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE $150.00 CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

 **“HIGHLAND LAKES MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION”**

Mail check, completed application, and background check to: Amy Parke, HLMGA Certification Program Coordinator, 6047 County Rd 223, Kempner, TX 76539

Unfortunately, at this time we are not set up to accept credit cards. If you do not have access to checks; please send a money order. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Any questions, contact Amy Parke, HLMGA Certification Program Coordinator at 254-833-2720 or

Stacy Barnett, Admin. Assistant, Burnet Co. Office, Texas A&M AgriLife Ext. Service at 512-756-5463

Individuals with disabilities who require auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in this program are encouraged to contact the Burnet County Office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 512-756-5463 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.