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For More Information, Contact Texas Cooperative Extension, 972-825-5175

The Ellis County Master Gardener Association has announced that applications are now available for the 2007 Master Gardener Training Program.

Texas Master Gardeners are trained members of the local community who take an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and to help others, and are able to communicate with diverse groups of people. The Master Gardener training equips participants with horticulture knowledge ranging from proper planting methods to disease and weed management, ornamental trees and shrubs to plant identification methods, fertilization to water conservation, soil and plant nutrition to pruning methods, and much much more!

“This is a great opportunity for community gardening enthusiasts to gain an increased knowledge in horticulture studies, improve their gardening skills, and develop a better understanding of the issues Ellis County faces,” said Jamey Guarascio-Cosper, co-organizer of this years’ training. “We strive to develop a pool of well trained, energized Master Gardeners prepared to serve Ellis County.”

The Master Gardener program offers members numerous methods for obtaining their volunteer hours while serving Ellis County. One such method is through the Junior Master Gardener program. “In my opinion, one of the greatest things about being a Master Gardener is participating in our Junior Master Gardener program and the ability to share our expertise and interest with the children in our community,” said Walt Friis, co-organizer of this years’ training.

The time commitment is every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the month of February. Additionally, trainees will be asked to complete 75 hours of volunteer service before graduating from the Master Gardener program.

Application forms are available on the Ellis County Master Gardener’s website at www.ECMGA.com, or by calling 972-825-5175. Tuition for the program is \$100.

Class size is limited, and attendance is required at all sessions to complete the program. Deadline for application is January 12, 2007, but classes fill quickly and applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.