

November 30, 2021

Dave Martin, Chair
Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746

Dear Dave,

AAGC is pleased to provide our Educational Programming Report, the last report of FY 2021.

Education is at the heart of what our 29 member clubs see as their mission. With the ongoing pandemic preventing clubs from meeting in-person at Zilker for the entirety of this fiscal year, AAGC clubs showed their resilience and creativity and went virtual to meet their commitment to educational programming.

AAGC clubs delivered 54 individual programs, workshops and presentations. Though programs were mostly on Zoom, they also included a few in-person sessions to other AAGC clubs and the community.

These sessions reached 1,412 people. This is probably a conservative number. Many clubs recorded their programs and made them available online afterwards. We also know a few clubs held shows and exhibits – forums that offer another way to educate the public about what makes an iris, an orchid or a rose an “award winner.”

One upside of virtual presentations is that the speaker did not need to travel to Austin. Several club presentations featured nationally recognized experts who shared their knowledge with the Austin community. As we move back into Zilker, AAGC is working closely with clubs to support hybrid educational programming that reaches both in-person and virtual audiences, and feature speakers from Austin and beyond as well.

This Educational Programming Report provides details on the number of programs and people reached, but not the volunteer effort required to accomplish this – another key part of what AAGC clubs do for Zilker Botanical Garden.

Based on the quarterly reports submitted over the past year – club members contributed 4,490 volunteer hours - 1,150 more than FY 2020. These hours were spent developing program content, arranging for speakers, and publicizing it through newsletters, websites and social media, with one of our main vehicles of promotion being the ZBG website. Our clubs’ commitment to education represents almost 34 percent of our overall volunteer hours.

On behalf of our Executive Committee, and officers and members of our 29 clubs, AAGC looks forward to our continued partnership with ZBGC to benefit Zilker Botanical Garden.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Ferrier
President

Karen Kalergis
VP Education and Volunteers

Sally Dickson
AAGC Rep to ZBGC