Dr. William Johnson, a horticulturist with the Galveston County Office of Texas AgriLife Extension Service based at Carbide Park in La Marque, was named recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

One bit of good news shouldn’t pass without comment: Dr. William Johnson, Galveston County’s extension agent, recently received national recognition for his work with the master gardeners program.

Johnson, as his title suggests, holds academic credentials. He is legendary for being able to identify just about anything, plant or animal, that you might encounter in Galveston County. But his real strength is in identifying with people. People want to become involved in the county’s programs because of him.

Johnson, by example more than anything else, somehow offers people a heightened sense of integrity and of tenacity in his programs, in addition to a love of gardening.

People who take the training do become better gardeners, of course, but there’s a sense that taking a class with Dr. Johnson is also about becoming a better human being.