



Environmental Services Volunteer of the Year

A Texas Treasure

The members of Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) and Keep Plano Beautiful (KPB) wish to thank Jinx Smith for all he has done and continues to do to keep Texas beautiful.

Jinx was honored as **Volunteer of the Month** for his involvement with the Household Chemical Reuse Center and the Live Green in Plano initiative. Volunteering isn't new with Jinx, "I've been an active volunteer since high school starting with Easter Seal Day Camp, the Scouts and band boosters," explained Jinx. Since 2007, he has provided customer service at the Plano's Reuse Center, helped train new volunteers and maintained vital records on materials moving through the center. Asking how he got started, he replied, "I'm a woodworker and when I needed supplies, I would get them from the Reuse Center. Then one day a friend suggested I volunteer there. I did and the next day I told Deb Bliss, Sustainability Volunteer Coordinator, to sign me up for every Monday night. Now that I'm retired it's a good place to meet and connect with people while building relationships."

Jinx finds that volunteering also adds a great deal of variety to his life. He supports the Plano Community Garden, serves on the Live Green in Plano Advisory Board; shares his expertise with the Live Green Expo, supports adult education and training programs, assists with composting classes, builds demonstration compost piles (which have been helpful for the organic gardens), repairs gardening tools and keeps mowers tuned. His woodworking comes in handy as well. Jinx salvaged a garden bench, refurbished old metal shelving, as well as gathered and bagged pounds of leaves from his property to be utilized as mulch and carbon materials for the Plano Community Garden.

"Jinx has initiated a number of building projects, teaching props, a greenhouse and created the Adirondack table and chairs currently used on the center's grounds. He heard the city had plans to build an Environment Education Center so he offered to make tables and chairs for that garden area too!" explained Deb Bliss. In keeping with the center's eco-friendly focus, Jinx created these items using discarded wooden pallets, and used re-blended and recycled latex paints to make these items bright and colorful. This furniture serves as a great example of reusing and repurposing our resources.

For the past three years and some 600 volunteer hours later, Jinx has supported programs relating to gardening, energy education, green living skills and customer service. He serves in support, advisory and skilled carpentry. He even developed a pedal powered exhibit using a bicycle to demonstrate how much energy is required to light three types of light bulbs. "I've always been green and I enjoy helping others, so why not help them learn to be green?" said Jinx. Jinx is a vital part of the Live Green in Plano team by turning other people's trash into treasures and he is truly a treasure himself.