



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
April 12, 2011**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Brenda Dresner, Jodie Douglass, Barbara Buckley, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Peg Turrentine, Marilyn Almon, Becky Leugemors, Arnold Knoche, Gwen Heck

Board Members Absent: Barbara Brannon, Nat Gruesen

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Present:
CEA - Horticulture – Shari Grahmann, Ph.D.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order –Jane Gray called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Barbara Buckley and a second by Marilyn Almon, the minutes of the March 5, 2011, Board meeting were approved with corrections by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Jane Gray

- No written report. Thanked everyone for their support at the meeting April 7th.

Vice President – Peg Turrentine

- Explained how the action-item spreadsheet numbers work.

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- February board minutes submitted for placement on the MG website.

Treasurer – Arnold Knoche

- Written report attached.
- Ginny-JMG expense of \$31.95 should be under activities and supplies.
- Marilyn-questioned if we could write off the very old outstanding checks that have not been cashed.
- Peg-some of these checks were duplicates from lost checks. It was less costly than stopping payment.
- After discussion, it was decided that checks over one year old will be written off.
- Marilyn-Our sale in February is officially called the Fruit Tree Sale.

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- Absent, no written report

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- No written report.
- Jodie will be resigning from Awards committee on May 15th due to medical reasons.
- Jane-thanked Jodie for all of her service.

Communications – Barbara Buckley

- Written report attached.
- Facebook use is up. Publicity has been sent out to 59 publications.
- Handed out “Most Frequently Visited Websites for 2011” for board review.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Written report attached.

Education-Ginny Grant

- Written report attached.
- Earth-Kind Kids Camp will be June 6-10th.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Absent, no written report.

Landscape –Becky Leugemors

- Written report attached.
- Japanese Garden-new chair is asking for \$400.00 to finish up the first part of the approved design. A motion was made by Barbara Buckley to approve the expenditure of \$400.00 for the Japanese Garden. Seconded by Brenda Dresner. Motion passed. \$300.00 of the \$400 will come out of the front yard budget which is not needed.
- Arbor-Spraycleaning ok'd by Shari.
- Circle Garden-Norma Beustring and Ariana Beck are the new garden chairs. Marilyn request the names of any new garden chairs be sent to her for addition to the web.
- Compost Bins-Yard wise needs \$216.00 for 9 bins. They only have \$200.00 in the budget. A motion was made by Ginny Grant to allow expenditure over the \$200.00 budgeted for compost bins up to \$225.00. Motion seconded by Brenda Dresner. Motion passed. Ginny-we need a variety of styles for public information.
- Bulk bins-Becky questions whether we want them to be attractive or just functional. After discussion, a motion was made by Jodie Douglas to authorize \$800.00 for the purpose of building 2 wooden bulk bins and 1 wire leaf bin. Seconded by Barbara Buckley. Motion passed. Shari-must be able to open and get truck inside without hitting anything. Needs to look secure with some type of gate.
- Edible backyard fence-After discussion, it was decided the chair needs to finalize the design then come back to us with an accurate estimate.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- No written report.
- Membership cards are printed and ready to give out.
- Field trip scheduled for Saturday, April 16th

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- No action

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Grahmann. Ph.D.

- No written report.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- No written report.
- Graduation is scheduled for May 26th.

Other:

Old Business:

1. Term limits for directors-tabled
2. Action item spreadsheet-
 - #8- deleted
 - #14-inventory-completed 1/2011
 - Potable Water-change completion date to 7/2011

New Business:

1. Election of representatives to state master gardener meetings.
A motion was made by Jodie Douglas and seconded by Barbara Buckley to elect Mary Parkhouse and Brenda Dresner as Directors to State Master Gardener Association. Passed by majority vote. Alternates will be Robin Winfree and Georgia Moncrief.
2. Sugar Land Garden Club request for donation for Greg Grant program in October.
A motion was made by Brenda Dresner to donate \$150.00 to Sugar Land Garden Club for the Greg Grant program and seconded by Becky Leugemors. Motion passed. Money will come out of the \$500.00 in the budget for gifts/memorials.
3. Request from Garden Chairs
Peg-plan to utilize the cedar wood and some of the existing soil in the new vegetable garden. Will reuse the compost bins. Paths will be a minimum of 38 inches. Moving cost estimated at \$875.00. Now has \$1200.00 in budget. Shari has approved the new plan.
4. Book sales for Andrea Wulf event on May 19th
Jane-like to sell books and make a small profit.
Arnold will check and see if the credit card machine will be active.
Jane-questions how many books to order. She will check how they are packaged.
Margo-we need a newspaper article to highlight this event.
5. Non-competition with local businesses
Peg-need to know if what we are selling is available at local garden centers.
Barbara-members could pre-order and pick up at our monthly meeting.
Marilyn-could sell only on workdays
Gwen-we could sell only to MG's with their nametag on.
After much discussion, it was decided to sell only to Master Gardeners and not to the general public except for sale dates.
6. "Cost-recovery" information and discussion
Jane- e-mail was sent out today by Doug Welch with more clarification.

Marilyn-business meetings are exempt but monthly programs are not exempt.
Jane-we need to find a way to keep our volunteers and the public from having to pay for programs.

Shari-Green Thumbs program is exempt. Could have a seminar series with a one time registration fee of \$10.00 for the entire series. We need to get creative. No changes will be made until June.

Brenda-we should look at the attendance sheets over the last years at our monthly meetings and get some type of estimate of the possible cost.

7. Earth-Kind roses

Margo-The Earth-Kind roses will be coming out due to the new driveway. Will send notice next Wednesday to let MG's know, if they want to take cuttings. We will have a raffle to give away the rose bushes.

8. Web links

Barbara-question has come up regarding adding links from our web site. Discussion-decided that only links to applicable sites such as Texas A&M will be allowed. We will keep all links on one page and put a disclaimer on top of the page.

9. GAPS committee

Marilyn-ask if we want to sell merchandise at the Sugar Land Garden sale on September 24th. It takes 5-6 people to work that day.

Discussion-yes, we want to participate

10. Memorial to Bill Murray

Motion by Jodie Douglas to donate \$100.00 in memory of Bill Murray to the library. Seconded by Peg Turrentine. Motion passed. Will contact family for preferences.

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10th at 6:30 p.m. at the Annex building.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Heck, Secretary
Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.

Community Relations Report-April 12, 2011

Brenda Dresner

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners were represented at the **Second Cinco Ranch Nature Adventure** on Saturday, April 9, 2011. Approximately 175 adults and children visited the "Master Gardener is IN" booth.

Communications Report
April 2011 Board Meeting
Submitted by Barbara Buckley, Communications Director

This report provides information and numbers for March 2011.

- 1 Website – Barbara Buckley**
Visitors from 1 March 2010 to 31 Mar, 2011: **156,867**
Visitors in Feb. 2011: **12,266** Visitors in March 2011: **14,337**
- 2 FBMG Blog - Barbara Buckley**
Visitors from 1 March 2010 to 31 Mar, 2011: **54,989**
Visitors in February 2011: **3,147** Visitors in March 2011: **3,215**
- 3 Facebook – Cindy Pack**
Number of members as of 1 Mar. 2011: **85**
February announcements were posted for Green Thumb, Monthly Program and Saturday workday.
- 4 Publicity – Mary Ellen Twiss**
Notices were sent to local newspapers, magazines, and websites with information about events for April and May.

Education Report-Ginny Grant

Entomology Group

Mar: Butterfly Cards are nearing completion, almost ready to send to several butterfly experts for review; group will be reviewing FBMG website for changes. Several activities scheduled for July.

Green Thumb Program

March: Home Lawn Care; 10 attendees
April: Insecticides, Herbicides & Fungicides for Home Use
May: Herbs

Monthly MG Program

March: Organic Gardening by Bob Randall, Ph.D.; 90 attended, 20 guests
April: "Waste to Wow", by Loela Barry. Recycling materials and plants converted into floral arrangements and decorations
May: "Founding Gardeners". American founding fathers and how their attitudes toward gardening and agriculture helped shape America, presented by Andrea Wulf. Jointly hosted by FBCMG, Sugar Land Garden Club and Texas Rose Rustlers at Sugar Land Community Center

Speakers Bureau

March: 4 programs: 2 garden clubs, Jackson Cty Master Gardeners & HOA members; combined total of 73 attendees
April: 3 programs scheduled: TEEA & 2 garden clubs
May: Program on Oriental Gardening scheduled: George Library

Youth Activities

JMG: Jane Long JMG group, Garden Gurus, LCISD, 23 members participating; planted spring vegetables in school garden, visited Growing in Grace Community Garden
March 26: Fort Bend Museum Children's Day; 155 children made paper pots & planted green bean seeds

April 2: JMG Activity, Cub Scout troops; 12 children & 7 adults, toured MG demonstration gardens & created gallon greenhouses; planted green bean & sunflower seeds
 April 5: Sartartia MS, FBISD, 7th grade Girl Scout troop; 7 Scouts & 2 adult leaders learned about annual & perennial plants & planted annuals in garden around school sign
 April 9: Cinco Ranch Nature Adventure; 165 children received Nature Journals
 April 19: Creekside Day School, Needville; JMG activity
 April 25: JMG Activity, Jane Long ES, LCISD, first grade classes

Landscape Report-Becky Leugermors

Landscape items for board to consider:

Japanese – \$300 budget was given, as at the time no chair was avail. AmyJo Holdaway is now the chair – wants to go ahead with some of the approved plans – needs a bit more money to do so. Dry creek bed under bridge – probably bull rock to use as a base – later to add differently colored river stones to simulate flow pattern. Bullrock - \$255 Dry garden – for raking designs into – small rock, not sand - \$240

About \$365 or more needed to finish up first part of approved designs. AmyJo has found donations of the approved plant materials, and some mighty fine deals on others. And she is a good chairperson.

Arbor – spraycleaning needed before our new Arbor Bits Garden Chair can plant – painting or not can wait for another day? Spray suggested (sprayer and operator donated by arbor bits chair) is a mixture of water, powdered tide, and bleach. Said to clean, kill mold, rinse off with little damage to plants if rinsed quickly. (the everg wisteria is there, as well as a coral vine returning) ???

Compost Bulk Area –

Compost Bins - Three sets of compost bins to be set in demo garden areas – one on each side of range, and one in berry/ new veggie area to serve the associated gardens in each area, Diana will teach our Master Gardeners how she makes the good compost, and it will show visitors how it can fit into the yard and utilize green and brown yard wastes.

Cost – Bins really should be a little bigger to do a better job (3' is the min). Suggest using the 4" holed, 4'x20' sheets, cut to make 4' bins. Need 9 bins – three for each site.

2 sheets = 3 bins (amount needed to do composting properly) adjoined. Need 9 bins for all areas – 6 sheets = (9) 4'bins -- @ \$36/sheet x 6 = **\$216** (no tax)

Bulk Bins - So much depends on whether we want them to be beautiful as well as functional. The wooden ones will cost about two times or so more, but are lovely from the road. **Wooden - \$960 -1,000** for four bins - alot more work, will rot if compost in them

Wire sheets - \$450-500 for four bins - more messy-looking

I would like to suggest that the ones near the road be wooden, while the ones we intend to use as slow composting (leaves) be wire. They will be separated by a gatordrive, so the look may be good. **Cost – just over \$700**

Edible Backyard fence - Privacy fencing is indicative of a backyard area – yet we do not want to encourage a criminal element with a heavily-enclosed area. It has been suggested that we use the same sort of approach that the Japanese garden employs to create an enclosed, yet entreatingly visible backyard fence.

The figures below are for a solid fence, no open sections, so the figures should be lower if we do the open approach. Deb's son does fencing professionally, so she has access to good figures, and perhaps a discount of sorts...? However, I would hate to treat one of our own cheaply.

\$19/ft for 6.5 privacy fence – one dollar higher for a rot board under the pickets – solid, longitudinal.

The whole, solid fence would be \$4800 (no open sections) – so we do not know how much they would take off for the open look – don't think we would need many sections, really.

I have priced the same whole, solid fence if we did it ourselves by **using premade panels** which are rather thinly made (panels don't have 2x4 horizontal supports like a real fence has). But did not figure in an auger – hoped we would find one among our members. **Ourselves ~\$2,000 –w/o auger cost.**

I would suggest we take Deb's son's company up on the job – and decide how open we want it to be. Just enough to suggest a fence?

Texas AgriLife Extension's Partial Cost Recovery Initiative Guidelines for the Texas Master Gardener Program

The following guidelines are provided for better understanding of Texas AgriLife Extension Service's Partial Cost Recovery initiative in regard to the Texas Master Gardener program. Determination to charge a fee for an event will start locally with the County Extension Agent with input from Master Gardeners, District Extension Administrators, and Regional Program Directors. To determine the amount to charge for an event, when applicable, will be based on expenses of the event, value of the event to the clientele, and the cost recovery fee of \$10 or 10% whichever is greater.

Guidelines

- Speaker's Bureaus and CEA presentations (e.g. Garden Clubs, Civic Clubs, Schools) generally would not charge a fee.
- Master Gardener Volunteer-presented lectures and talks generally would not charge a fee.
- MG Association fund raising events (if the major purpose of an event is to raise funds) would not be subject to cost recovery.
- Initial Training for MG Certification will be charged cost recovery fee.
- Internal Training of MG Recertification is generally not subject to a fee. CEAs will conduct or identify recertification events to meet the 6 hours of required continuing education; these events would generally not have a fee for Master Gardeners.
- Major educational events (e.g. short courses, workshops, field days, conferences) where expenses are common (food, speakers, travel, etc.); Cost Recovery would be budgeted into the event fee.
- Membership dues for state and local associations will not be subject to cost recovery.

Jayla Fry, Texas MG Coordinator, 5/2/2011