



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
April 8, 2008**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: James Buckley, Brenda Dresner, Glenn Dresner, Robert Goehring, Ginny Grant, Mike Greenwood, Nat Gruesen, Mary Beth McCaughey, Barbara McCormick, and Marilyn Almon.

Board Members Absent: Sallie Bourgeois, Barbara Brannon, and Carolyn McDaniel.

AgriLife Extension Staff Present:

Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

AgriLife Extension Staff Absent:

CEA - Horticulture – Mark Countryman

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order – Nat Gruesen called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Mary Beth McCaughey and a second by Barbara McCormick, the minutes of the March 11, 2008, Board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Nat Gruesen

- No report.

Vice President – Barbara McCormick

- No report.

Secretary – Marilyn Almon

- Marilyn reported that a certificate of correction had been received from the Secretary of State's office correcting the spelling of FBCMG's name on the Certificate of Incorporation, which was originally issued on December 7, 1998.

Treasurer – Mike Greenwood

- Mike will work with Gail Blair to categorize expenditures for the gazebo.

Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth displayed one of 12 new signs to designate the demonstration gardens. She is working to procure a larger version of a metal sign to be used between the Extension buildings.

Awards – Carolyn McDaniel

- Carolyn was not present.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- No report.
- Mary Beth announced that the deadline for Grapevine articles would be April 23rd.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Brenda's report is attached to the minutes.
- Margaret Hall Spencer will present a program on urban forestry in July or August.
- Members of the Entomology Group have completed a two-year card-making program, producing 100 sets of an Insect Field Guide, which they hope to sell to recover their costs and finance more research. All photos contained in the guide are original and the research was verified by Dr. Carlos Bogran.
- Chris LaChance will present the monthly program in September and Anita Nelson will speak in November.
- Marilyn suggested that Don Johnson be asked to present a program on insects.
- Brenda reported that some master gardeners are requesting that monthly programs be extended to 1 ½ hours. Board members were in general agreement about starting meetings at 7 p.m. with the social time beginning at 6:30 p.m. Publicity with later times has already been submitted for the near future.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Barbara was not present.

Greenhouse – James Buckley and Glenn Dresner, co-chairs

- Glenn's report is attached to the minutes.

Landscape – Open position

- Nat announced that 35 to 40 master gardeners attended the April workday.
- Mary Beth stated that diagrams are needed to designate pathways around the gazebo and swing areas.
- Nat reported that drainage issues surrounding the Water Garden are being addressed by Terry Williams.

Member Relations – Sallie Bourgeois

- Sallie was not present.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Ginny's report is attached to the minutes.
- Ginny stated that it would be beneficial to have the Hotline in operation at next year's Fort Bend Museum Children's Day.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- No activity.

AgriLife Extension Advisor Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Mark Countryman

- Mark was not present.

Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

- Margo detailed plans for the upcoming AgriLife Expo which will provide insight to second to fifth grade students, teaching them about the journey of agricultural commodities from field to market. HEB will set up a market on site. Students will tour the FBCMG Vegetable Garden and Berry Patch.
- AgTivity Barn will be scaled to first grade and younger students this year.
- Margo circulated the new master gardener brochure for board members' preview.
- Waterside Estates Garden Club will be touring the demonstration gardens on April 16th.

Old Business:

Gazebo

- Mary Beth announced plans to hopefully install the gazebo the first or second weekend in May. Dave Kauffman of Golden Rule Gazebo will oversee the installation.
- Glenn suggested that guidelines are needed for gazebo usage. Mary Beth will compose the initial guidelines.
- Mary Beth suggested that a ribbon cutting ceremony be held this summer.
- The gazebo will contain four electrical outlets and two ceiling fans.

New Business:

Green Thumb Seminars

- Discussion was tabled until the next Board meeting.
- Beginning in August, Green Thumb seminars will be moved to Rosenberg.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nat, seconded by Robert, and approved unanimously at 8:24 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 13th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Almon
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
5/12/2008

Community Relations Report- April 8, 2008 Board Meeting
Brenda Dresner

April 17, 2008- Linda B. Gay- Mercer Arboretum. **"Cultivated Gingers for the Gulf Coast"** Linda is a noted authority on gingers and will share the kinds of gingers that grow well in the Gulf Coast area and enjoy our hot, humid summers and our mild winters.

May 15, 2008- Ginny Grant- FBMG S '03- Director of Youth Activities- **"Gardening with Children-" (What to do with children to keep them learning and busy during the summer!)** Ginny will be sharing many ideas for entertaining children during the summer. This will include several "make and take" projects

June 19, 2008- Lois Sutton- member of The Herb Society of America- **"There's always ROOM for Herbs- The Kitchen and The Garden!** Herbs have been used for hundreds of years and continue to intrigue people all over the world. Lois will enlighten us with her wit and knowledge of the many varieties of herbs that are found or used in the kitchen or the garden.

Report on Greenhouse for March-April, 08

- Master Gardeners and Associates continue to come to the Greenhouse to participate in the activities of greenhouse management.
- An orientation Power Point presentation for advanced training was developed and given to Master Gardeners at the March Saturday work day on the FBCMG Greenhouse history, facility to include equipment, and how the greenhouse operates. One of the Master Gardeners commented after the class that the presentation took away the “cloud of mystery” that kept her from actively working more in the greenhouse. The Master Gardener said that she would be coming to work more in the greenhouse after she participated in this advanced training session. A “BIG THANKS” goes to Barbara Buckley for making the Power Point presentation a reality. Barbara was able to take the scribbled notes and pictures and make a really first class training presentation that can be used any time there is an interest in greenhouse operation and management.
- Greenhouse water samples were sent to Texas A&M for analysis per the instructions that were received at the Greenhouse Specialist training. All results were found to be in the acceptable range for drinking water but the ph showed to be outside the range recommended at the Greenhouse Specialist training. The Specialist training recommended a ph range of 5.5-6.5 and the sample analysis showed the value to be 8.24. We will be doing some experimenting to see what we might do to get the ph lower. Reviewing analysis of ph findings is new to us so we will be checking how combining water with our existing potting soils might specifically affect the ph.

Submitted by Glenn Dresner
April 6, 2008

JMG ACTIVITIES – April 6, 2008
Ginny Grant

JMG Activity – Family Night at Chick-Fil-A, Missouri City – March 13, 2008
About 60 children participated making “seed starter terrariums” and egg carton flowers and listened to children’s gardening stories read by a Master Gardener.

JMG Activity – Fort Bend Museum Children’s Day, Richmond – March 29, 2008
More than two hundred children made newspaper seed starter pots and planted them with green beans.

H₂O Expo – City of Sugar Land, Town Center – April 18, 2008
Water shed demonstration.

JMG Activity – Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Richmond – April 29, 2008
Mother’s Day Out group will be making grow cards.

JMG Activity – Enchanted Garden Nursery, Richmond – May 3, 2008
Enchanted Garden is presenting a “Master Gardener” morning; part of the morning will include gardening with children and a JMG activity.

4-H Day Camp – Fairgrounds, Rosenberg – July 16, 2008
Monthly planning meetings begin April 28th.

Ag’Tivity Barn – Fairgrounds, Rosenberg – September 26 – October 4, 2008
School tours September 29th – October 2nd. First Fair Committee and Master Gardener Committee meetings May 19th.