



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 13, 2010**

**Attendees –**

*Board Members Present:* Brenda Dresner, Glenn Dresner, Jodie Douglass, Robert Goehring, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Peg Turrentine, Marilyn Almon, Nat Gruesen, Kathy Hulfish, Gwen Heck

*Board Members Absent:* Barbara Brannon

*AgriLife Extension Advisor Present:*  
CEA - Horticulture – Shari Koch

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County Present:  
Margo McDowell

*Quorum Present? Yes*

**Call to Order** –Jane Gray called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes** – After a motion by Jodie Douglass and a second by Brenda Dresner, the minutes of the March 2, 2010 Board meeting were approved by all.

**Officer and Committee Reports:**

President – Jane Gray

- No written report
- Jane thanked the board for their support after her mother's death.
- She also welcomed Kathy Hulfish to the board as Landscape Co-chair.

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

- Will go over Action Item Tracking record under old business

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- No written report

Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Written report attached
- Printing invoices for cost of perennial sale have not been turned in.

### Past President – Nat Gruesen

- No written report

### Awards – Jodie Douglass

- No written report
- Back from Texas Master Gardener State Conference. Says that it was worth the money-very good.
- Fort Bend County Master Gardeners won two awards. **Mass Media Award-1<sup>st</sup> place**-Ft. Bend County MG Website & Blog. **Project Award-2<sup>nd</sup> place** -Ag.Tivity Barn at the FBC 2009 Fair.
- Jodie asked for comments on the awards questionnaire she e-mailed the board earlier. After discussion, it was agreed that the questionnaire needed reworking before submitting to our members.

### Communications – Robert Goehring

- See attached written report
- Robert informed the board that one of our master gardeners has established a Fort Bend Master Gardener site on Facebook.
- A discussion was started on how to approach this. Do we want to recognize this site? Do we want to take control as our own site or possibly take this site down?
- A motion was made by Robert to approach the facebook owner and bring the site into the organization under the communications umbrella, and appoint her as chair. This motion was seconded by Brenda. The motion carried.
- Motion made by Robert to continue looking at informal information with FBMG forums. Seconded by Peg. Motion carried.

### Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- No written report
- American flag has been purchased. The Master Gardener flag will be ready before the celebration.
- Brenda presented the first draft of the invitation to the “gazebo celebration” on June 5<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am. Theme is “It’s a Garden Party”.
- Marilyn reminds us that the gazebo should be addressed as the outdoor classroom.
- It was agreed that it will be a celebration, not a dedication since the gazebo has been up awhile now. It will be a family day for members, the public and officials.
- Shari expressed concern regarding how to plan for refreshments, not knowing how many people will show up.
- The April monthly meeting speaker will be Loris Garrett talking on daylilies. He will be bringing daylilies for door prizes.

- The May monthly meeting speaker will be Mark Klym-Hummers (the Bird, not the car).
- The June monthly meeting speaker will be Bill Cox Jr., Texas winemaker.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Absent, no written report.

Landscape –Kathy Hulfish

- Written report attached

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- No written report.
- Field trip on April 27<sup>th</sup> to Hope Farms and the demonstration gardens of Montgomery County Master Gardeners.
- Presently has 165 MG members.
- Planning informal garden tours of members in the Fall.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Written report attached

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Governance Committee

- Earlier e-mail of corrections to operating manual sent to board members. Additional corrections came up. Continuing to work on corrections, not ready to bring up at board meeting.

**Extension Service Advisor Reports:**

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Koch

- Submitted Irrigation Study Proposal for board to review, at their leisure.
- Fort Bend County will be experiencing big budget cuts. An 8% cut in the operating budget is expected.
- When making over 100 copies, you will have to send to the printing press.
- If we use the website more we will have less printing.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- Tomball Garden Club will be touring the garden on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting 35+ visitors. Kathy Hulfish will help with the tour.
- The Lazy Daisy's will also tour on Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>. No details yet.
- The Fall class has 8/9 people signed up.

**Other:**

**Old Business:**

1. Compost Pile
  - Peg reports that three truckloads of compost were sold.
2. Parliamentary Procedure Book-
  - Each board member received a copy
3. Action item spreadsheet
  - Fence-Shari says that we will need a proposal for the county
  - Debit Card Protocol-submitted to board by Peg and Jodie.
  - Ginny-Debit card needs to stay with the treasurer. A filled out debit-request form will be required, after approval of the board.
  - Peg says that a check is still the preferred method of payment. Some vendors may not want to pay the % transaction charge.

### **New Business:**

#### Hospitality Committee Report

- Kathy met with the committee. We had 2 plant sales in one month and 2 meetings.
- To make it easier next year, a brown bag lunch is planned the day of the sales. When a member signs in for the sale, they will receive a meal ticket.
- Margo wishes to express appreciation for the great job everyone on the committee did.

#### Rain Barrels

- Peg says she has black rain barrels out in the vegetable garden waiting for the placement of gutters.
- Questions whether she should buy more barrels?
- After discussion, it was agreed to set up the gardens as Stage I, then do a workshop for the public as Stage II.

#### Reimbursement for travel regarding plant sales

- Glenn thinks we need a policy. Lots of miles were traveled by members to pick up plants. Suggest just the actual gas used-not to make a profit.
- Marilyn-Will look at cost effectiveness of sales travel to pick up plants versus having them delivered.
- Governance committee to make guidelines.

#### Irrigation Policies

- Glenn questioned whether it may not be fair to Jim Cowan to always fix our irrigation for free.
- Margo explains to the board that Jim is a Master Gardener. He uses the time he works on the irrigation system as credit for hours. He is happy with this arrangement and does not want to be paid. His supplies are paid for.

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., Extension Annex Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen Heck

Secretary, Fort Bend county Master Gardeners, Inc.

Submitted May 5, 2010

Corrected May 13, 2010

**Youth Activities**  
**April 10, 2010**  
**Ginny Grant**

Briargate Elementary, FBISD – Extended Day Program  
Ongoing JMG activities with Extended Day students.

Schiff Elementary, FBISD, March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
“Go Green” Garden Club members transplanted seedlings that were started in science classes, more than 90 students, grades K-5, and their teachers participated.

Fort Bend Museum, Children’s Day Program, Richmond – March 27<sup>th</sup>  
About 150 children created paper pots and planted green bean seeds

Briargate Elementary, FBISD, Missouri City – April 10<sup>th</sup>  
Mini-JMG camp for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at the school.

Jane Long Elementary, LCISD, Richmond – April 13<sup>th</sup>  
JMG Activity during Garden Fair for the first grade students

MOMSL-North, Sugar Land – April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Program on Gardening with Children and JMG

AgriLife Expo – May 4-6  
Extension Ag-Literacy program for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Fort Bend county schools; theme is how agriculture affects our lives. Master Gardeners are participating and are preparing a presentation/display about vegetables.

Earth-Kind<sup>®</sup> Kids Kamp – June 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
Committee is planning activities and arranging speakers for Kamp.

#### Landscape Chair Report

The following report was written on Wednesday, April 7 and Saturday (First Saturday), April 10, 2010.

**Berry Patch:** Several members of the Fall '09 class were weeding and Dave was there. It looked like a cotton patch as all the berry bushes were in bloom, looking very pretty. It is hoped that the sprinkler system in the berry patch will be fixed soon.

**Butterfly Habitat:** Weeds be gone! That's the mantra for Barbara Buckley and all the people who turned out to rid the butterfly garden of winter debris and prepare for installation of new butterfly "munchies", as hopefully, our beautiful ,winged friends will be returning soon to dine and lay eggs.

**Circle Gardens:** More weeding here and there by Ariana Beck and others as the circles are being prepared for colorful spring annuals, as we say goodbye to the lovely pansies that filled the beds over winter.

**Citrus Orchard:** Observations on Wed. showed a good turnout of folks ridding the winding pathway of weeds, while others shoveled new bark onto the path. The group will be planting a satsuma tree, and also a persimmon in the beds. This garden will serve as an example of using part of a homeowner's backyard as an orchard.

**Cottage Garden:** Always a showstopper - this month be sure to stop by and admire the gorgeous dark pink poppies set against a field of blue iris, and also the Peggy Martin rose blooming on top of the cottage. Becky has some new rose bushes for us too. One's name is Ma Perkins. Check them out!

**EarthKind/R/ Trial Garden:** In full bloom and outstanding. Walk around and write down the names of the roses you've admired. Then try one or two at home in your own garden.

**Everyone's Garden (the E-Garden):** I've said it before to Mary Parkhouse, and now I'll say it to all the MGs, the addition of several rose bushes to the mid-size bed in front, makes the entire strip POP! Mary adds that the addition of herbs and vegetables is making this into something that can be duplicated at home. Years ago, *The Edible Landscape* was one of my fav garden reference books, no matter that the author lived in California; now it's happening right here in the Ft. Bend Master Gardens.

In another part of the E-Garden, the removal of the Mother-Of-All Blue Agaves was a mighty endeavor, leaving behind a "pup" and a bed which now shows to advantage colorful calendulas.

Fairy Garden: This eyebrow shaped garden, across from the Cottage Garden has been dug, and Annette Beasley says that plans are in the works for it to be the first of three fairy gardens to delight the young and the young-at-heart. The second and third gardens will be part of the bed under the giant crape myrtle tree on the edge of the Cottage Garden.

Front Yard: Tom Duncan, Chair, held a meeting last week to discuss new plans for the garden, and the relocating/addition of plants and hardscaping which will be senior and handicapped friendly. Several of the winter-damaged plants will be re-located in the new design. On Saturday, in spite of the rain, Tom's crew were out digging plants.

Gazebo: The beautiful purple porterweed is gone, but the good news is that the square top birdbath is more visible, and so is the darling birdhouse. There are plans for Cindy to add two more rosebushes at the far end (by the Japanese Garden) entrance.

Greenhouse: Something is definitely going right in the Greenhouse, judging by the bonanza crop of vegetables and herbs grown under the care of James and Barbara Buckley, and their MGs committee for the Perennial Sale last month. We enjoyed planting seeds, watching them sprout, then bumping them up to be 'show ready' for the sale.

Garden Chairs: If you would like to plant some quick-growing annuals for any of the gardens, please contact Cliff Bergman so he can set you up w/the correct equipment, space and watering needs in the greenhouse.

Herb Knot Garden: Do stop by to admire the blooming rose vines trained on the arbors and the roses blooming at the entrance beds. Inside the garden are several patches of bluebonnets - one the traditional blue, the other a lovely mauve.

Japanese Garden: There is room to describe only one aspect of the garden this month, and that is the view looking toward the perspective of the stone and wood water fountain near the entrance. It looks as though there are steps leading up to it, and that is the result of Marlen Shobe working with the rocks at hand to achieve the desired result. Maria was shopping for additional plants to replace those done in by

our harsh winter. Next month I'll describe another perspective as this is a meditation garden, not one to be taken in on just one visit.

Rose Garden: This garden was dutifully pruned back Valentine's Day under Faith's watchful eye so that MGs could duplicate their work at home. Many of these roses are blooming now, as well as spring bulbs.

Texas Natives Garden: Catherine and Gloria, I've admired the Indian Paintbrush and bluebonnet display this month. What a show! This Saturday, Don Parkhouse and Ed Plant were hard at work with the auger, digging holes for the placement of the wooden troughs which will be placed on either side of the foundation, then filled with cement to be the anchor for the cistern (rainwater harvesting).

Trees Across the Grounds: People continue to bring in composted leaves and Bill Young and crew readily rake the leaves in place under the trees. This area is taking shape and looks great.

Vegetable Garden: Peg installed the rainwater harvesting barrel on Wednesday and it looks right at home on the long, wooden deck running alongside the vegetable garden. This week the MGs harvested several kinds of lettuce, swiss chard, and carrots. Several people came up to me, asking how one cooks swiss chard so here goes: Wash well, cut out the center rib (it tastes like a celery stalk) and pat dry. Fold several leaves together and slice w/a knife. Chop a couple cloves of garlic. Heat 2 teaspoons of olive oil in a large saucepan or Dutch oven over medium heat and cook the garlic about a minute. Add greens to 1-1/2 cups of vegetable or mushroom stock in the pot. Simmer, uncovered for 15 minutes. Add a pinch of sea salt or regular salt and a pinch of ground nutmeg. Mmmm! Serve in small bowls with cornbread to sop up the "pot licker".

The gang sowed cucumber seeds on Saturday...look for them coming up along the back of the first plot, alongside the support fences.

Vineyard: James Buckley reports that there are grapes on the trimmed vines and the rosebushes planted in front are splendid looking!

Water Garden: Terry Williams and Glenn Dresner were working Saturday to clean the filter and compute the number of gallons in order to address the algae problem. The goldfish are thriving and the pond plants made it through our tough winter.

Way Garden: Starting on Mac's side of the building, Fran Steele and

Kathy Hulfish weeded down past the first a/c compressor, then added compost to freshen the daylilies and iris. Starting at the chicken coop, Elvira Wu and another MG weeded to meet them in the middle. The chicken coop will be used for storage now that it's nice and clean. F&K trimmed back the duranta and Old Blush to allow easy access to the storage entrance. Ellen's statue area has been refreshed, with some pots being removed. Now we are starting the weeding in Doris' bed. Good thing too! The Grandma's Yellow roses are covered with buds, and the dark red crepes are back, covered in new leaves.

Yardwise/Compost: Going great guns from the looks of the round bins full of plant clippings. All a good sign as it means that winter is finally over and we can get down to the serious business of removing the debris and restoring beds to their former summer glory.

Last but not least, I would like to send kudos to Joe Vinson, Class of Fall '08 for the splendid job he did restoring The Shed. You all know The Shed, don't you? Where we sign in and store the wagons? Once a trashy heap of discarded cans and debris, it is now tidy with newly built shelves of concrete for storage. Go Joe and the Fall '08 Class!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hulfish  
Fall '08

**Communications Report**  
**April 2010**  
**Submitted by Robert Goehring, Communications Director**

The following information is humbly provided.

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***The Grapevine***

As of 11 April, only one article has been received. There is NO deadline set. Once a sufficient number of articles have been submitted, the issue will be published.

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**Website**

No news.

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**Blog**

Current **Administrator**: Barbara

No news.

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**Mailing Lists**

No changes.

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**Publicity**

Nothing to report.

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New business: Many weeks ago, I received an email concerning an informal way for MGs to talk about their gardening without being stymied by basing their garden stories on research. One idea that was floated concerned having a website 'forum' (hosted at no cost on another website) where MGs could talk amongst each other and tell stories, etc.

I created a new forum at <http://fbmgforum.niceboards.net> which seems to meet the requirements given to me. Currently, this forum can be fully viewed ONLY by registered members. The 'public' section consists on only one section whereas the 'private' section consists of three 'forums': "I Need Help!", "What's on your mind today?", and "Current Events." These were created only to show the versatility of the forum format.

A FORUM is a website where all members are allowed to read or write information viewable by others.

If there is sufficient interest, we can start publicizing the location of our forum.