



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
April 11, 2007**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Glenn Dresner, Mary Beth McCaughey, James Buckley, Marilyn Almon, Brenda Dresner, Mike Greenwood, Sallie Bourgeois, and Ginny Grant

Board Members Absent: Barbara Brannon, Carolyn McDaniel, Peg d'Hemecourt, Lynn McKillop, and Nat Gruesen

Cooperative Extension Staff Present:

Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

Cooperative Extension Staff Absent:

CEA-Horticulture – Mark Countryman

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order – Mary Beth McCaughey called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Approval of Minutes – After a motion by Sallie Bourgeois and a second by Ginny Grant, the amended minutes of the March 14, 2007, Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer – Mike Greenwood

- Mike's financial report to the Board is attached to the minutes.
- The bank register balance as of March 31, 2007, was \$77,874.13.
- There are still a few outstanding expenses to be paid from the Perennial Sale, namely printing and copying charges.
- A report of financial standing for 2006 and the approved 2007 budget will be presented to the membership at the April 19th monthly meeting. Glenn Dresner requested that the report be emailed to Board members for their review prior to the monthly meeting.
- Mary Beth announced that citrus food, books, aprons, and Osmocote would be available for purchase at the monthly meeting.
- Mary Beth reminded those present that the Board would conduct a midyear analysis of the budget in July.

President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth asked which Board members would be attending the TMGA conference April 12th – 14th. Ginny Grant, Sallie Bourgeois, Lynn McKillop, Barbara Brannon, and Margo McDowell will be representing the Board.

- Mary Beth announced that Lynn McKillop has tendered her resignation as Communications Director and Publicity Chair, citing family responsibilities. Lynn will still be available to help with the Awards Banquet in December. After a motion by Sallie Bourgeois and a second by Brenda Dresner, the Board unanimously accepted Lynn's resignation with much regret. Mary Beth asked Board members for recommendations for Lynn's replacement.
- Brenda will monitor that status of press releases for the monthly meetings until Lynn's replacement is found.
- Sallie suggested recruiting via the APBeees. Mary Beth will highlight the current openings for Communications Director and garden chairs at the April monthly meeting.
- The deadline for articles for the May-June issue of The Grapevine is April 24th. Educational articles can be written for volunteer hours. Margo voiced a need to have simple brochures, created by master gardeners, available for distribution to the public as opposed to using only the A&M brochures. Master gardeners can earn volunteer hours designing and writing educational brochures.

Vice President - Peg d'Hemecourt

- Peg was not present.

Secretary – Marilyn Almon

- No report.

Awards – Carolyn McDaniel

- Carolyn was not present.

Communications – Open position

- No report.
- Mary Beth commented on the need to discuss with Robert Goehring, FBCMG webmaster, which items belonged in the Members Only section versus the public section of the website.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Brenda's report of scheduled speakers for the monthly programs is attached to the minutes.
- Brenda has begun researching the purchase of a new speaker sound system. Margo has website information. It was indicated that most of the systems Brenda has researched were in the \$500 to \$700 price range.
- Mary Beth announced that it was time to begin planning for the In the Garden Seminar on October 13.
- Mary Beth suggested again tying in the January monthly program speaker to the fruit tree sale in February, 2008.
- Green Thumb seminars may have a Missouri City venue when the new session begins this fall. Response from Sienna Plantation regarding facility usage there is being awaited.
- Brenda commented that Jodie Douglass suggested convening the Green Thumb speakers to thank them for their participation and to generate feedback as well as discussion about ways to increase attendance. Some thought is being given to holding an occasional Saturday Green Thumb seminar.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Barbara was not present.
- Mary Beth reiterated that the fundraising committee still needs to meet to wrap up the plant sales.

Greenhouse – Glenn Dresner and James Buckley, co-chairs

- Glenn's report is attached to the minutes.
- Margo complimented Glenn and James on the orderly appearance of the greenhouse.
- Miscellaneous plants are being grown in the greenhouse. Mary Beth recommended sending Nat Gruesen, landscape chair, a list of plants that are not specifically earmarked for other purposes that could potentially be utilized in the gardens.
- The possibility of purchasing pine straw bales for use in the gardens, as well as possibly selling pine straw bales to master gardeners, was discussed. Further research is needed and an adequate storage area would have to be designated.

Landscape – Nat Gruesen

- Nat was not present.
- Brenda reported that attendance was good at the April 7th workday and that Nat's presentation on rainwater harvesting was enthusiastically received, generating numerous questions from master gardener participants.
- Glenn asked if there might be a way to encourage homeowner association board members, property management companies, and city public works directors to attend a future rainwater harvesting program.

Member Relations – Sallie Bourgeois

- Sallie will change the Members Only password on the website and distribute the updated membership list after the TMGA conference.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Ginny's report is attached to the minutes.
- Ginny related that the focus of the Plants in the Classroom committee has now become teacher in-service days rather than the two day seminars last held in 2005. There is a need to branch out beyond Fort Bend ISD. The next PIC meeting will be April 23rd. More volunteers are needed to ensure the continuation of the program.
- Mary Beth noted that there have been requests for activities for seniors.
- Two master gardeners will be attending the JMG specialist training. Ginny questioned the necessity for quantifying FBCMG's minimum requirements to be met before reimbursing master gardeners for tuition in the future. Some specialist training programs have specified hours requirements before certification is obtained and some do not.

Cooperative Extension Advisor Reports:

CEA-Horticulture – Mark Countryman

- Mark was not present.

FBCMG Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

- Fall '06 graduation will be delayed until May 31st to allow associates more time to complete their required hours. Nine or ten associates are expected to graduate.
- Marilyn questioned the possibility of altering the application process in the future to include personal interviews as a tool to ensure higher graduation rates. Insufficient publicity was cited as the reason for low response to the Fall '06 class.
- Margo voiced high praise for the enthusiasm of the Spring '07 class.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- The committee did not meet in March.
- Brenda distributed the first draft of Appendix A – Speakers Bureau Guidelines. She will continue to edit it and obtain additional input from Jodie Douglass, Green Thumb facilitator.
- Mary Beth stated that she would contact Nat to request that he review and update the Extension Grounds Procedures (Appendix B) and Pest Control Recommendations Policy (Appendix E).

Old Business:

FBCMG Scholarship –

- Mary Beth and Peg have begun researching the feasibility of creating an FBCMG scholarship.
- Sallie suggested holding a separate meeting to discuss ideas.
- Margo will obtain feedback from other county agents at the TMGA conference.
- Ginny proposed that the Board consider establishing a scholarship for master gardener class tuition.

Open Garden Days –

- To promote the demonstration gardens, June 2nd will be designated as “Saturday Morning with the Master Gardeners.” The Hotline will be staffed.

Survey of Non-renewing Members –

- Sallie commented that membership renewal rates are lower this year than in the past. She will follow up with the Non-renewing Members Survey Form that was created for this purpose. FBCMG paid state dues of \$262, based on 131 certified members as of February 2007.

Gazebo –

- The committee, comprised of Margo, Glenn, Ginny, and Mary Beth, will attempt to better define the needs and wants of the project before proceeding any further.

New Business:

- Bob Roenigk from the Vintage Rosery has invited the Hotline booth to set up at the weekly (Thursday - 4pm to 7 pm) Farmers Market in Needville.
- A motion was made by Mary Beth, seconded by Brenda, and unanimously approved, to contribute \$100 in memory of Diane Welch to Dr. Bill Welch's scholarship fund.
- It was agreed that the Board needs to establish guidelines for future memorial contributions and procedures for acknowledgement protocol.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, May 9, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.
The June 13th Board meeting will return to the regular 9 a.m. schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Almon
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
4/25/2007

Community Relations Report April 11, 2007

April 19, 2007- Leon Macha, from Greenleaf Nursery in El Campo, TX. Speaking on "**Common Sense Gardening**" 7:15-8:15 p.m.

May 17, 2007- John Ferguson, owner of Nature's Way in Conroe, TX. Nature's Way is a composting company which has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Houston Chronicle*. This monthly program will be **2 hours long (7:15-9:15 p.m.)** and John will be speaking on "**The Soil Web.**"

June 21, 2007- Tricia Bradbury, FBMG Class F'05. speaking on "**Salvias is the Garden**". 7:15-8:15 p.m.

July 19, 2007- Dennis Jones, Assistant Superintendent Park Manager at Brazos Bend State Park, "**Historical Perspective on the Plants of the Gulf Coast Texas Prairie.**" 7:15- 8:15 p.m.

August 16, 2007- Betty Lenderman, owner, Enchanted Forest/Enchanted Garden. "**Preparing for Fall Blooms/Gardening**" 7:15-8:15 p.m.

September 20, 2007- Michael Rea, Professor of Biology and Biochemistry, University of Houston, FBMG Associate Spring 07, "**The Clock is Ticking, Biological Clocks of Plants and Animals.**"

Submitted by Brenda Dresner

Report of March 2007 Greenhouse Events

- With the tremendous help of Cliff Bergman, Doug Staff plus some volunteers that came in and out, the two new sheets of plastic were installed on the greenhouse. We started the task on a Tuesday instead of Wednesday when it had been scheduled because the day looked to be great with minimal wind. Had we waited till the next day, more volunteers showed up. The clamping devices that held the roof plastic in place came off much easier than we expected and the wind was not bad so we decided to install the roof ahead of schedule. After we were already committed to the job, the wind came up rather briskly and gave a lot of opportunities to be creative in trying to complete the job. We completed the job at 4:00pm after many bouts with the wind. It really gave us a feeling of accomplishment to get this major project completed.
- The blower to inflate the greenhouse roof was installed and doing a great job of keeping the area between the two layers of roof plastic inflated.
- The original shade cloth was installed back on top of the greenhouse with the help of two members of the Adult Probation group. The inflation of the greenhouse roof was working so well that we had to cut the blower off in order to install the shade cloth. For reasons that we are not completely sure of the original shade cloth installed has torn along the stitched seams and will have to be replaced. Doug Staff is assisting us with the procuring of another shade cloth. (FYI: we are installing a cloth that will have 80% shade factor-allows only 20% sunlight into the greenhouse. We consulted with Mark Countryman to get his experience in this area.)
- The three large Queen Palms that were stored in the greenhouse for the winter were planted around the water garden to create a cooler and friendlier atmosphere to enjoy the sounds and beauty of the area.
- The two large ficus trees that had taken up residence in the greenhouse were removed, potted, trimmed and donated to the entrance of the Bud O'Shields building.
- We have had a lot of volunteers working in the greenhouse assisting with planting new seeds and repotting new plants. It is really nice to see all the people coming into work in the greenhouse. We hope many more of the FBMG take the opportunity to come and experience the opportunities the greenhouse now has to offer.

Submitted by Glenn Dresner
4/06/2007

JMG ACTIVITIES – April 9, 2007

Ginny Grant

JMG School Garden – March 22, 2007

Deaf Smith Elementary, Richmond

Gloria Garcia

Met with teachers and parent volunteers to discuss garden and spring activities. Work day scheduled for April 21, 2007.

JMG Children Activity – March 24, 2007

Fort Bend Museum, Richmond

Claire Rogers

Children's Day at the Museum taught children to make paper flower pots and plant seeds to take home.

361 children

JMG – National Youth Service Day – March 31, 2007

Cornerstones for Life, Richmond

Cynthia Brown

Volunteer Kick-off meeting held at George Library. Another session is scheduled for April 10, 2007 and the actual service day is April 21, 2007.

Eight homes and one cemetery have been selected and Margo sending APEE to request MG volunteers.

JMG School Garden – April 6, 2007

Seguin Elementary, Richmond

Becky Reeh

Initial garden work started with "at-risk" students. Meeting weekly on Friday afternoons to work on garden and JMG activities.

20 children

Plants in the Classroom/JMG School Presentation – April 9, 2007

Colony Meadows Elementary, Sugar Land

Eileen Graves

Presented the nitrogen, carbon and water cycles to the entire 5th grade and 7 teachers. 135 children.

Ag'Tivity Barn Meeting (Fair Group) – April 9, 2007

Initial meeting to start planning 2007 displays.

Plants in the Classroom/JMG School Presentation – April 11, 2007

Eileen Graves

Colony Meadows Elementary, Sugar Land

Don Johnson will present "Beneficial Insects" to the entire 5th grade. Estimating 135 children.

JMG Presentation at Brazos Bend-Earth Day Celebration – April 14, 2007

JMG Activity will be presented by MG group.

JMG School Garden Train the Trainer Session - April 17, 2007

Cambridge Montessori School, Sugar Land
Director, Asst. Director and twelve teachers will participate in session to learn about school gardening and tool safety.

JMG School Activity – April 18, 2007
Southwest Church of the Nazarene, Sugar Land
Marie Praus, Education Director
Creating paper plant pots with Mothers' Day Out children
25 children

JMG School Garden Meeting – April 18, 2007
Debbie Crawford, GT Facilitator, Hutchison & Pink Elementaries, LCISD
Meeting at Hutchison Elementary, Richmond, to discuss JMG groups and planning school gardens.

Plants in the Classroom Meeting – April 23, 2007
Meeting to discuss changes in format and to establish teams to create and present train-the-trainer sessions for school districts.

4-H Day Camp Meeting – April 30, 2007
Mary Staff
Initial meeting to begin planning July 12th session.
JMG activity will be presented by MG group.

JMG Presentation – Keep Sugar Land Beautiful-Water Expo – May 9, 2007
Eldridge Park, Sugar Land
JMG activity-How Watery are You?

PLANTS IN THE CLASSROOM MEETING
March 30, 2007

Don Johnson and Terry Harris met with Kathy Treibs, Elementary Science Coordinator, FBISD, on February 17 and March 22, 2007. The meetings were follow-ups to the PIC In-service Training Day on February 12, 2007. FBISD provided in-service dates for next school year and also noted that we could provide training at their summer sessions, if we feel we are prepared.

At the March 30th meeting, the group discussed the needs of the school districts and how MG could help provide training to meet those needs. Pam Nash, Don Johnson, Ginny Grant and Margo McDowell were present. Terry Harris had discussed agenda with Don prior to meeting.

The following plan was developed:

Divide the PIC curriculum into 2 groups; PIC 1 for grades 3-5 and PIC 2 for grades K-2. Initially, the goal of PIC was to reach grades 3-5, but teachers from all grades have attended the sessions.

PIC 1

Carbon, Nitrogen and Water Cycles

Composting

Vermiculture and creating bins

Insects, possibly with termite model inquiry method (FBISD will pay for cost of termite activity).

TAKS review for insects would be helpful.

PIC 2

Soil, possibly with container gardening

Insects, butterflies, pollinators, etc. TAKS review for insects would be helpful.

Part of botany section

Weather or Climate for kindergarten

Each attendee will receive binder and presentation materials. Will have to work on securing "free" materials.

Meeting on April 23rd to develop teams or groups to develop, gather and present materials for each topic.