



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
April 14, 2009**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Mary Beth McCaughey, James Buckley, Peg Turrentine, Nat Gruesen, Marilyn Almon, Ginny Grant, Glenn Dresner, Brenda Dresner, Jane Gray, Jodie Douglass, and Susan Peacock

Board Members Absent: Barbara Brannon, Robert Goehring, Cindy Fairbanks

AgriLife Extension Advisor Present:

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

AgriLife Extension Advisor:

CEA - Horticulture – Absent

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order – Nat Gruesen called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Glenn Dresner and a second by Marilyn Almon, the minutes of the March 17, 2009 Board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Nat Gruesen

- Nat congratulated everyone on the good job being done and the smooth running of the gardens.

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

- No report

Secretary – Susan Peacock

- No report

Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Peg reported that the current total fund raising income stands at \$31,071.52
- Member Relations field-trip expenses were very equivalent to funds taken in with a negative balance of only \$3.27. Peg thanked Marilyn for her help and hard work.

- Under the current budget, \$300 was allotted for *Paper Goods* under *FBMG Board Operations*. Peg told the Board that \$216.04 has already been spent. There was a motion by Mary Beth, seconded by Marilyn, and approved by all to increase the budget for this line item to \$750.00.
- After discussion by the Board, Peg will add *Security* as a line item to *Fund Raising* on the budget.

Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- No report

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- No report submitted
- Jodie mentioned the upcoming State Conference in Marshall next weekend. FBMG is entering five award possibilities.
- Jodie reported that the graduation committee for the upcoming graduation had requested to borrow tablecloths.
- The first meeting for planning the Awards Ceremony will probably occur in July and the Ceremony scheduled for a Tuesday night in December.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- No report

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Report is attached to the minutes.
- Mary Beth requested content material for a newsletter.
- Regarding the Green Thumb seminars for 2009 – 2010 at Cinco Ranch, Jodie said that a ~~\$45/hour~~ \$15/hour (corrected by Jodie on 4/17/09) facility charge will be applied for the first two months. The fee will not apply after we learn to operate the facility and have the key. There is \$400.00 in the *Facility Rental* budget under the *Green Thumb Seminars*. Cinco Ranch will take care of the advertising. The speaker schedule is being completed. Jodie stated that a new Lawn Care speaker is needed for the seminars.
- April and May FBMG Monthly meeting speakers are set (see report). The speaker for June 18th is TBA.
- Brenda reported receiving a letter from the Food Pantry acknowledging receipt of the donation in lieu of Cathy Dominguez's honorarium.
- Brenda also reported receiving a call from the officer at the Sheriff's Department after receipt of her thank-you letters. Brenda needs additional stationery.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- No report

Greenhouse – James Buckley and Glenn Dresner, co-chairs

- Report is attached to the minutes.

- James reported that a couple of fans for the greenhouse are being considered.

Landscape –Cindy Fairbanks and Jane Gray, co-chairs

- Report is attached to the minutes.
- Jane reported that Mary Parkhouse and her volunteers have made much progress in the E-Garden. A licensed Rosenberg electrician is required for installation of an electrical line for the water feature. The cost of a battery-powered solar panel to run the pump has been priced at \$1000 from Nelson's Water Gardens. A design and plans with specs will be needed.
- Work is ongoing with the irrigation system. Jim Cowan will be contacted for repairs to the irrigation system. The Japanese Gardens and Rose Gardens will need repairs. Nelson's has given a quote for the Japanese Garden water feature. Redoing the identification of stations, boxes, labels and a watering schedule will improve the overall status.
- Marilyn and Patty will be working on designing a Square Foot Garden for the Vegetable Garden.
- Jane thanked Cliff and Glenn for all their work on the gazebo and Brenda for her work on the signs.
- A new plan drawing for the deck and the rain harvesting area in the Native Gardens needs to be updated.
- There was a correction to the Herb Knot Garden report. Carol Blanton's last name was incorrectly spelled as Brandon.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Report is attached to the minutes.
- Marilyn reported that nineteen master gardeners enjoyed a trip to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and Zilker Botanical Garden on March 28th.
- Marilyn is still waiting to hear from Tom LeRoy at Montgomery Co. Master Gardeners regarding the tour scheduled for May 16th.
- The plant swap will again take place at the upcoming monthly meeting.
- Five master gardeners in Needville will open their gardens for the Master Gardener Spring Garden Tour on May 3rd.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Report is attached to the minutes.
- Ginny reported that the Children's Day at the Fort Bend Museum was a good day with very high participation.
- The Gardening Club met today with children at Deaf Smith Elementary in Rosenberg. They discussed making a solar greenhouse.
- Mike Greenwood will meet with the Lamar CISD curriculum coordinator Suzanne Welch on April 22nd to discuss *Plants in the Classroom* and offering FBCMG assistance to teachers of horticulture-related science.

- Plans are moving forward for the Earth-Kind Kids Kamp the week of June 15th. There will be 30 kids accepted in the camp. A special t-shirt is being made for the participants.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- Work in progress

Extension Service Advisor Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – No report

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- Margo was excited to announce the hiring and arrival of the new County Horticultural Agent, Shari Koch. Margo has really been enjoying getting to know her and showing her around.
- Margo discussed the fire ant treatment that will take place this Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Dr. Nester is serving as advisor for this and MG Bill Young is helping. This will be done 2X a year and require eight new spreaders. The general area will be treated with Extinguish Plus and the vegetable and berry areas with Spinosad. The 25-lb. bag of the Extinguish Plus (\$154.27) should last until October. Two 1-lb. bags of the Spinosad will be needed. There is a budget amount of \$500 for this.

Old Business:

2008 Unfinished Business

- Nat will send out the Unfinished Business List this coming week with a new column added for “Target Date”. He requests that the responsible person(s) fill in the estimated date for the project and he will compile the responses on the list and re-distribute it.

New Business:

Master Gardener Specialist Training

- Marilyn presented a draft document (see attached) for the guidelines for eligibility and tuition reimbursement for attending Master Gardener Specialist Training.
- There was a general discussion and suggestions made for changes/clarification to the document, e.g., reimbursement will be limited to two participants per program and the twelve service hours must be completed in the 12-month period following the training.
- Marilyn will rework the document based on the discussion and send it out to Board members for approval.

Spraying

- There are two master gardeners (David and Don) along with Joe Mask who will be taking care of the spraying for the gardens. There was a discussion of

a Spray Request form and the need for drafting guidelines of policies for spraying.

JMG Educational Grant

- Nat proposed that the Board consider another financial grant to JMG, following the previous one given to the Summer Science Academy. After discussion by the Board, Nat made a motion that an educational grant of \$1500.00 be awarded to JMG. Mary Beth seconded the motion and it was approved by all. Ginny will draft the letter.
- The grant will come out of the Community Relations budget. Nat made a motion to increase the amount in this budget to \$3000.00. Mary Beth seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Appreciation gift for Heidi

- A date suitable for Heidi needs to be determined and the dinner scheduled.

Nat adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Peacock
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Amended and submitted 5/23/09

Community Relations Report
April 14, 2009
by Brenda Dresner

1. Green Thumb Seminars for 2009- 2010 will be held at Cinco Ranch. There will be a \$ 45.00 charge for the first 2 months. Once we learn how to put up equipment, lights, chairs, we will be given a key and no fee will be charged. Budget issues may need to be discussed at Board meeting.

2. Monthly Programs- April 18, 2009 -Chris LaChance presenting a program entitled, "Habitat Highways- Creating Landscapes for Wildlife in Urban Settings"

3. May 21, 2009- "Backyard Birding in Fort Bend County", presented by Elizabeth Barrow, FBMG

4. June 18, 2009- TBA

Report on the Greenhouse for March-April, 2009
Submitted by: James Buckley & Glenn Dresner

- All the vegetables that were not sold at the March 14 sale and subsequent selling to Master Gardeners were donated to the community gardens for them to plant. At least one plant of variety sold has been designated for planting in the Master Gardener vegetable garden for test purposes. This is a summary of the plants raised for the Vegetable Sale.
 - Sold approximately 1050 plants at the March 14 sale
 - Sold 259 plants at the greenhouse over a two day period
 - Donated 541 plants to the Calvary Community Gardens
 - Donated 50 plants to the Gillen Community Gardens
 - Gave 7 plants to JMG program
 - Gave 14 plants to Herbal Knot Garden
 - Gave 25 plants to FBMG Vegetable Garden
 - Gave 4 plants to new square foot garden
 - Gave 15 plants to Cottage Garden
- Not much other work has been done in the greenhouse because of the focus of Master Gardeners on the butterfly garden, drainage for the gazebo, and work in the cottage garden. All this effort is in preparation for the garden tours associated with the Texas Rose Rustlers and Felder Rushing presentation.
- Work still needs to be done on leveling and straightening the north wall of the greenhouse. After this work is complete, the new filter elements for the evaporative coolers will be installed.
- After all the work is completed on the north wall the new shade cloth will be installed in preparation for the warmer temperatures this summer.

**Ft. Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Landscaping Report – April, 2009
Report to the Board
Submitted by: Cindy Fairbanks/Jane Gray**

Berry Patch –

Netting has been put on the berry bushes. Dell and others worked during the Saturday workday.

Butterfly Garden –

The garden has had a major transformation and Walter (Viburnum) has been put to rest. He was finally taken out with help from Barbara and James Buckley and many others including the probationers. A new crushed granite walkway was put in with room for a teaching area and it is wheelchair accessible. Some plants were moved while new ones were added.

Circle Gardens –

At the Saturday workday, the plants were deadheaded and the existing flowers were maintained.

Cottage Garden –

The walkways were the focus of the Saturday workday. Becky, James and Faith worked on making the walkways and the bridge wider to accommodate wheelchairs. Weeding, mulching and deadheading were also done.

Earth Kind Rose Garden –

The roses are looking great. Jane and Cindy will talk to Mary Beth to see if she still wants to be chair or would she like to pass it on to someone else.

Everyone's Garden (the E-Garden) –

Mary Parkhouse rallied the troops for several Wednesdays and the Saturday workday and they have made great headway on weeding and pruning. Don Brady has come up with a stipulation on the electrical line to the water feature. We have to hire a Rosenberg electrician to install the line. Jane checked into a solar panel to run the pump. At Nelson's Water Gardens it costs \$1,000.00. This would be a great way to display the use of solar panels in our gardens. We will approach the board about this cost.

Front Yard -

Laurie Whittle has worked very hard on the front garden. Take a look at it when you get the chance. The red salvia and the dusty miller look great together.

Herb Knot Garden –

Carol ~~Branden~~ (corrected: Blanton) worked in the gardens this Saturday workday.

Japanese Garden –

Adam from Nelson's Water Gardens came out and met with Cindy, Jane, Maria, and Margo to discuss installing a water pond. Have received the quote, but will be working with Adam to do it in phases to bring the cost down. Adam told us that the owner of Nelsons should not be opposed to having volunteers help build the pond. Primer and one coat of paint have been applied to the bridge.

Native Garden/Rain Harvesting –

Cement border tiles were laid and a variety of bog plants were placed along the Range wall. The boards and rocks were all cleaned up and put out of site. The flowers and plants are looking so beautiful.

Rose Garden –

Placed some "pass along" plants in among the roses.

Vegetable Garden –

Many committee members came out this Saturday to help Patty in the gardens. The garden was weeded and mulched. Will wait to transplant the greenhouse plants because of pending cold weather. Potatoes are sprouting through the hay mulch and the peas have flowers and are at least 5' tall. Patty will be working with Marilyn Almon on the designing the Square Foot Garden.

Vineyard –

See below item to discuss.

Water Garden –

Have received a quote from Nelson's Water Garden to install a bog filter. The cost to put in a bog filter is \$2,000.00. Cindy will contact Terry Williams to discuss.

Yardwise/Compost –

Working on making a cement pad for the compost bin.

Miscellaneous/Discussion–

- ❖ Saturday workday – There were many people that came and thanks to Cliff and Glenn for presenting "Taking care of tools and equipment, 101."
- ❖ Another thank you to Glenn and Cliff for installing a drain around the Outdoor Classroom/Gazebo and placing cement in hole for the flagpole. The landscaping around the gazebo is coming along. Next step will be to contact Jim Cowan about sprinkler system. Some soil has been placed by the walkway and beds are still being installed. Will work on having a Wednesday workday to put in soil. Plants will be ordered soon.
- ❖ Thank you Brenda for making the signs that were placed in each of the gardens.
- ❖ Still working on hurricane list. Some chairs have responded to Cindy's email. Will be sending out another email reminder soon.

- ❖ Discuss the Vineyard.
- ❖ Thank you to Valerie and Diana from Yardwise for putting in some of the leaves and mulch around the trees in the back. Discuss what we need to do with the grass around the trees. Does Bill Young want to roundup the grass before putting on the leaves? What about the ant problem?
- ❖ Rose Garden: Do we continue to call it the Rose Garden or should we call it the Pass Along Garden?
- ❖ Everyone's Garden: Discussion on solar panel for the water feature. Great way to feature the use of solar panels.
- ❖ Jane has been in contact with Mary Dargan to discuss having a Landscape Design class possibly in the Fall.

FBCMG Member Relations Report

April 14, 2009

Submitted by: Marilyn Almon

- Currently, there are 168 certified members, which is an increase of four members since last month. One former FBCMG member moved back and resumed her membership and three others renewed their membership. Rosters and committee lists are continually updated, posted, and disseminated as necessary.
- On Saturday, March 28th, 19 master gardeners traveled to Austin for a guided tour of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. After eating lunch at the Center's café, the group attended the Zilker Garden Festival at the Zilker Botanical Garden.
- A 10 a.m. tour of Nature's Way Resources in Conroe is planned for Saturday, May 16th. Other stops on the itinerary are TBD.
- The plant swap will be held at the April monthly meeting on the 16th. Guidelines for participation are posted on the Members Only page of the website. Hester Hackstedt and her committee members will facilitate the swap.
- The informal Master Gardener Spring Garden Tour will be held on Sunday, May 3rd, during the hours of 1 pm to 6 pm. The Spring Tour will be held on one Sunday only for master gardeners and their families and will feature five gardens in Needville. As before, driving directions will be posted on the Members Only page of the website. Hester Hackstedt, Joy Pumphrey, Steve Spears, Carolyn McDaniel, and Becky Leugemors have graciously invited FBCMG members and their families to visit their gardens.

Submitted by Marilyn Almon

April 13, 2009

Master Gardener Specialist Training DRAFT

Written by: Marilyn Almon

FBCMG members in good standing may apply to the Horticulture Agent or the Master Volunteer Coordinator for a recommendation to attend Master Gardener Specialist Training. Such recommendation is required to register for Master Gardener Specialist Training offered by Texas A&M University.

The Board will authorize reimbursement of the registration fee for authorized attendance of Master Gardener Specialist Training once an FBCMG member submits documentation that he or she has completed the training and required service hours to become fully authorized as a Master Gardener Specialist.

To become eligible for registration fee reimbursement, members must complete at least twelve (12) service hours within a twelve (12) month period which directly benefit FBCMG, as determined by the Master Volunteer Coordinator. A member will not be reimbursed for attending more than two (2) specialist trainings *per calendar year*.

OR

To become eligible for registration fee reimbursement, members must complete at least twelve (12) service hours within a twelve (12) month period which directly benefit FBCMG, as determined by the Master Volunteer Coordinator. A member will not be reimbursed for attending more than two (2) specialist trainings *in a twelve (12) month period*.

Youth Activities Report

April 11, 2009

Submitted by: Ginny Grant

March 28, 2009 - Fort Bend Museum, Children's Day, Richmond
JMG activity—paper pots; about 140 children and 120 adults participated.

April 4, 2009 - FBCMG Garden Work Day

Three children took part in the JMG activities; one Master Gardener's child and two whose mother heard about the activity at the Fort Bend Museum project. The children made Toad abodes, Milk jug bird feeders, Paper pots, and Potato vases. Master Gardener volunteers Donna Alberts, Marian Kozlovsky, Jolene Maurer, and Sheryl Gee Wong were great; they helped with the activities and the set-up and clean-up, too.

April 14, 2009 – JMG Activity, Deaf Smith Elementary, Rosenberg
Meeting with Gardening Club. Children are going to make a Weather Station for their garden.

April 22, 2009 - Plants in the Classroom – Lamar CISD, Rosenberg

Mike Greenwood has arranged a meeting with LCISD Science Curriculum Coordinator, Suzanne Welch. Offering FBCMG assistance to teachers in horticulture-related science will be discussed.

June 15-19, 2009 - JMG Day Camp – Earth-kind Kids Kamp, Rosenberg

The flyer has been completed. The Registration form and the Parent's Consent and Release forms are being reviewed by A&M Contracts Department. After approval, the flyer and the forms will be released about April 27th and registration should close May 29th.