



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 12, 2008**

**Attendees –**

*Board Members Present:* James Buckley, Brenda Dresner, Glenn Dresner, Robert Goehring, Ginny Grant, Nat Gruesen, Mike Greenwood, 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 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes** – After a motion by Mary Beth and a second by Robert, the amended minutes of the January 8, 2008, Board meeting were approved by all. The amendment included Mary Beth's name which had been omitted as a member of the executive committee that approved the appointment of the 2008 directors to the Board.

**Officer and Committee Reports:**

President – Nat Gruesen

- Nat thanked Glenn for overseeing the February garden workday in his absence.
- Nat thanked volunteers for working at the fruit tree sale on February 9th.

Vice President – Barbara McCormick

- Barbara stated that the Hotline Committee met on January 9th to discuss why so few calls are being received during the week. It was found that other master gardener organizations are experiencing a lower call volume, perhaps due to expanded access to and usage of the internet for answers to gardening questions.
- The Hotline could be publicized more and Barbara suggesting contacting homeowner associations about inclusion in their newsletters. The Hotline booth experienced an avalanche of activity at the fruit tree sale, with many shoppers commenting that they were unaware of the existence of the Hotline.
- The Hotline Committee has discussed creating a tri-fold pamphlet in addition to small cards which would describe Hotline services. Their follow-up meeting will be on April 1st.
- Mary Beth mentioned that a lot of advertising is available free of charge.
- Marilyn suggested designing a refrigerator magnet that contained Hotline contact information.

Secretary – Marilyn Almon

- Marilyn announced that the annual filing with the Secretary of State's office had been accomplished before the January deadline.
- Form 403 has also been filed to correct the spelling of FBCMG's name on the certificate of incorporation, which was originally issued on December 7, 1998, by the Secretary of State's office.

Treasurer – Mike Greenwood

- Mike has delivered the 2007 tax information to Phillip Hamman's office for filing the Form 990.
- Mike is attempting to update signature authority at the bank.

Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth made a motion, seconded by Brenda and approved by all, to increase the budget for Fundraising Equipment and Supplies to \$1,000.
- Mary Beth made another motion to increase the Bulk Compost budget from \$200 to \$2,000. Marilyn seconded the motion and it was approved by all.
- A motion was made by Mary Beth, seconded by Barbara McCormick and approved by all, to increase the budget for Bulk Granite to \$2,000.
- Mary Beth announced that she would reroute the Board member contact list.

Awards – Carolyn McDaniel

- Carolyn was not present.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Robert's report is attached.
- Robert made a motion to increase the website budget to \$350 to cover the cost of Publisher software. The motion was seconded by Brenda and approved unanimously.
- Robert has completed the Texas Natives pages on the website, using A&M information.
- Mary Beth commented that the website could use more photos of children, though permission must first be obtained before posting.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- No report.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Barbara was not present.
- Mary Beth reported that over 200 people attended the fruit tree sale talk. Over 100 volunteers worked the sale and feedback from workers was positive. Pre-wrapping the bare root stock worked very well. Cookbooks were distributed to those who used the pick up area.
- Margo commented on the need to direct traffic to alternate exits and that it would expedite identification if wagons had names on all four sides.

Greenhouse – Glenn Dresner and James Buckley, co-chairs

- Glenn and James' report is attached to the minutes.
- A greenhouse water sample has been sent to A&M for full analysis.

Landscape – Open position

- Dell Keene will chair the project to screen the gardens' view of the fairgrounds.
- Glenn and James will provide advanced training for the March workday.
- The Rose Garden is being revamped by several master gardeners and at meeting time, was still lacking a garden chair.
- Margo commented that she maintains a lost and found area.

Member Relations – Sallie Bourgeois

- Sallie was not present.
- Approximately 100 master gardeners have paid membership dues for 2008.
- Mary Beth announced that the next deadline for Grapevine articles would be at the end of February.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Ginny's report is attached to the minutes.
- The \$1,000 educational grant provided by FBCMG will be designated for JMG use toward development of the first Texas Science Teacher Academy (a JMG and AgriLife project). Master gardeners Kenny Fletcher and Aleta Patrick plan to attend.

**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 reported that Mark was working on an organics project to be presented at a future date.
- The Spring 2008 class has been cancelled due to low enrollment numbers. This will provide an opportunity to initiate the mentoring program, survey opinions about the master gardener program in general, and address options for master gardeners with physical limitations.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Memorial Donation – Ellen Frank

- Mary Beth made a motion, seconded by Robert and approved by all, to donate \$100 to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in memory of Ellen Frank.

Glenn suggested partnering with nearby master gardener organizations to learn how they conduct their operations.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nat, seconded by Brenda, and approved unanimously at 8:57 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Almon  
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
3/10/2008  
*Amended 3/12/2008*

## Board Meeting Notes for Communications

- Nearing finish on updating Texas Natives page to provide information on each named plant. Information includes common name, scientific name, comments, and various details. Next garden will be whichever one sends photos. This is part one of an effort to increase the usable content on the website. An example webpage with content is provided in PDF format.
- Developing “Greenhouse Exposed” page that will include photos of the greenhouse and various topics of interest to greenhouse operators such as cuttings, re-potting techniques, temperature and humidity, etc. Plan on working closely with Glenn and James for content. This is part two of an effort to increase the useable content on the website.
- Initial work to include past articles from Grapevine on the website has been completed. Reviewers can see page at <http://www.fbmj.com/GardeningPages/index1.htm>. Format may change. Board feedback welcomed and desired. This is part three of an effort to increase the useable content on the website.
- Have developed means to inform users that they are leaving the FBMG website. Need board approved text in order to implement solution IRT the Children’s Privacy Protection Act.

Submitted by Robert Goehring  
February 11, 2008

## Fundraising Report

Barbara Brannon  
February 11, 2008

What a beautiful ending to a beautiful day. Our Fruit Tree sale was a huge success thanks to each and every one of you. Never has the weather been so gorgeous. It really brought out the crowds. You are all to be commended for an absolutely GREAT SALE. You out did yourselves this year by selling \$45,485 worth of plants and merchandise which is \$1300 more than we sold last year. WOW is that fantastic? I am sure by now you have all realized having a sale like this is a huge undertaking and you all certainly stepped up to the plate. There are always things that can be done to make it better and as I told you all before, I am interested in your input. I would like to know your thoughts about what you saw and experienced. Let me know what you liked about the sale and what you thought we could improve on.

We had 75 customers use the HOLD area this time as compared to about 50 the last time. It worked so well we are having to re group and make a few changes to accommodate the increase. Our customer pick up, also worked great. The guys were really moving them through in a hurry. Must have been those free cookbooks!! I would like to give a special THANKS to Cliff Bergman and Glenn Dresner for their outstanding jobs as always above and beyond. These guys are so awesome. All you need to do is give them an idea and they are off and running. You can almost see the wheels turning when you mention needing something. They always have a great idea. Amazing what they can do with almost nothing. Glen even took the lights out of his barn and brought them for us to use in the barn over the cashiers. All that row cloth and all the plastic that was so neatly hung was all their doing, as was the lights over the cashiers stations just to mention a few. Next time you see them, give them a big hug and thank you. Also, our treasurer Mike Greenwood would like to thank Ginny Grant and Glenda Dresner for helping her count all that money. It takes a while to count that high. Thank you ladies and all the cashiers for doing an outstanding job keeping the checkout line moving.

The Wagon Masters did a really great job moving those wagons back to the barn. A lot of them actually made it back this year. All of those folks really got a work out. Our Invoice Writers got their exercise by doing squats for about 3 hours. I am sure their legs are all in great shape after Saturday. The check out line moved steadily along and no one seemed to be upset. Several people commented to me that they had never seen such a long line move so fast. Kudos to all of you. I think we could show Wal-Mart a thing or two. I know that at times it appeared the line would never end.

All of you in the sales area did a great job of smiling and answering the same questions for 3 ½ hours. Not to mention you were on your feet for all that time. I hope you all learned a lot and had a good time. Thank you for covering the areas that needed help when yours sold out and for working together as a team. It really showed and everyone was impressed by our helpfulness.

Our parking team headed by Mike Hall had a good system and things ran smoothly out there. At one time we had the two lots nearly full.

We sold out all of our Plant food and are down to 6 of Dr Randall's books. Good job Mary Ellen. So if you have not gotten yours see Mac. She would love to get them out of her closet.

I especially want to thank all of you that showed up on Friday to help with the set up. You did a great job of separating all the bare rooted plants and getting the barn in top shape. I am sure you all saw the benefits of doing that ahead of time. Thanks again James Buckley for a great suggestion last year. I was so impressed on Saturday morning when I saw how neat and orderly it looked. Set up and clean up are probably the two hardest and most time consuming part of the sales. A big thanks to all of you who stayed to help with the FINAL clean up. One big problem we have is always returning things to their normal state. You are wonderful. I think we got that done in record time.

I know I have spent much of this message thanking all of you for a JOB WELL DONE but you all certainly do deserve it. A sale this big cannot be a success without a lot of hardworking dedicated people like each of you. I have enjoyed so much working with all of you for this sale and I hope to see each of you again for the perennial sale.

## Board Meeting Report for Greenhouse-January & February, '08

- A discussion session was held with Margo, Barbara & James Buckley and Glenn on a program that would provide orientation, education, and training on the Master Gardener Greenhouse. This program would be incorporated into the new Master Gardener classes. Thanks to Barbara for her input on the items that would be important to instruct Associate Master Gardeners on.
- Robert Goehring is going to work with the website to include a pictorial exposition on the Greenhouse and Shade room.
- Continued progress has been made on the mist tent area especially with the watering. There has been successful Seed Propagation of tomatoes, marigolds, Mexican Sunflowers, onions, etc.
- Three new elements for the evaporative cooler were procured and installed.
- There have been several favorable comments by Garden Chairpersons and others on the real improvements made in the greenhouse facilities. The Chairpersons are expressing their pleasure with the seeds and plants that are being started and grown for future planting in the various gardens. We will continue to work toward more of the Chairpersons finding ways that they can add to their garden areas with plants grown in the Greenhouse.

Submitted by Glenn Dresner and James Buckley  
February 10, 2008

**JMG ACTIVITIES – February 10, 2008**  
**Ginny Grant**

JMG Activity – First Baptist Church in Katy – January 18, 2008  
Introduced the JMG program and Gardening with Children presentation for Mothers of Pre-School Children and School Mentors. Approximately 50 mothers and 13 mentors attended. Jerri Ostendorf assisted with the program.

Plants in the Classroom – February 15, 2008  
FBISD Teacher in-service training seminar at Dulles MS. Topics are the Carbon and Nitrogen Cycles. Participants will complete a composting activity and assemble a worm bin for their classrooms. 20-25 teachers are scheduled to attend.

JMG Activity – Family Night at Chick-Fil-A, Missouri City – March 13, 2008  
JMG activity for approximately 80 children and their parents. Chick-Fil-A Marketing Representative requested activity.

JMG Activity – Fort Bend Museum Children’s Day – March 29, 2008  
Activity will be creating pots from newspaper and planting seeds; Museum is estimating 300 children will attend.

H<sub>2</sub>O Expo – City of Sugar Land, Town Center – April 18, 2008  
Water related educational program is planned.

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.

JMG Group at Fort Bend Baptist Academy – “The Son Shine Sprouts”  
Registered as a JMG group in January (11 participants). The members are from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and meet weekly after school. A FBBA High School student is going to construct 4 rectangular, raised vegetable beds, enclosed by a fence, for the school as his Eagle Scout Project. The Sprouts are helping plan the garden area.