



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

**Attendees –**

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

*Board Members Absent:* Sallie Bourgeois and Carolyn McDaniel.

*AgriLife Extension Staff Present:*

Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

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.

**Executive Committee Appointment of Board Directors** – The executive committee of Nat Gruesen, Barbara McCormick, Marilyn Almon, Mike Greenwood, and Mary Beth McCaughey approved the appointment of the 2008 director positions as follows:

- Awards – Carolyn McDaniel
- Communications – Robert Goehring
- Community Relations – Brenda Dresner
- Fund Raising – Barbara Brannon
- Greenhouse – James Buckley and Glenn Dresner
- Landscape – position open
- Member Relations – Sallie Bourgeois
- Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

**Approval of the Minutes** – After a motion by Brenda and a second by Mary Beth, the minutes of the November 14, 2007 Board meeting were approved by all.

**Officer and Committee Reports:**

President – Nat Gruesen

- No report.

Vice President – Barbara McCormick

- No report.

Secretary – Marilyn Almon

- No report.

Treasurer – Mike Greenwood

- Mike's report is attached to the minutes.

Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth commented that she will update and route the 2008 Board contact information to Board members.

Awards – Carolyn McDaniel

- Carolyn was not present.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Robert announced that the calendar function on the website is accessible by all who view the website.
- Barbara McCormick questioned whether the password had been changed and Mary Beth answered that it will be changed after the 2008 membership renewal campaign.
- Ginny commented that the website should contain a warning to viewers using the FBCMG website links that they are leaving the website and FBCMG has no control over link content. This pertains to the Children's Privacy Protection Act.
- Mary Beth stated that she was withholding distribution of The Grapevine until after the January Board meeting in order to include information about the 2008 officers and directors.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Brenda's report is attached to the minutes.
- Brenda announced that the honorarium for January's monthly program speaker would be \$200.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Barbara commented that she needed 80 to 85 people to volunteer for the Fruit Tree Sale to be held on February 9th.
- Glenn stated that Cliff Bergman was repairing plant signs and asked if there were any other repairs that were needed prior to the sale.
- Barbara stated a need for additional signage.
- Mary Beth suggested buying banners instead of more signs. She reported that additional tables would be borrowed from the Sugar Land Garden Club.
- Tarps will be used to improve temperature conditions in the area designated for the cashiers.

Greenhouse – Glenn Dresner and James Buckley, co-chairs

- Glenn and James' report is attached to the minutes.
- Glenn announced that a new greenhouse orientation program would begin on January 9th.

Landscape – Open position

- The Japanese Garden and the Rose Garden still need garden chairs.
- Laurie Whittle has assumed the chair position of the Front Yard Garden.
- A hospitality crew is still needed for workdays. Margo will make phone calls to recruit volunteers.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Ginny's report is attached to the minutes.

Member Relations – Sallie Bourgeois

- Sallie was not present.
- Sallie's report of the business of the TMGA Quarterly Meeting held in December is attached to the minutes.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Governance Committee

- No activity.

**AgriLife Extension Advisor Reports:**

TAE Agent – Horticulture – Mark Countryman

- Mark announced that any new forms of communication need to use the new Texas AgriLife Extension logo.
- Robert has updated the website to incorporate the name change from Texas Cooperative Extension Service.

Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

- Margo detailed plans for FBCMG's participation in the Katy Home and Garden Show to be held January 25th and 26th.
- Volunteers have been obtained for Saturday's session, but more are needed for Sunday. Volunteers will not have to pay an admission fee.
- Booth rental is priced at \$900 and up, but FBCMG is getting a 60 square foot booth at no charge.
- Mark will make a presentation during the Saturday session.
- Margo requested that the Board approve spending for four certificates of \$25 each to be used toward payment of 2008 master gardener class tuition (one per person).
- James made a motion, seconded by Brenda and approved by all, to (1) approve the expenditure for 4 certificates of \$25 each, (2) to provide a link to this year's Katy Home and Garden Show on [www.fbmq.com](http://www.fbmq.com), and (3) that any future links on the website would be at the discretion of the Board on a case by case basis.
- Glenn recommended that the Board should establish guidelines for future cases of endorsement.

**Old Business:**

Educational Assistance Task Force

- Mary Beth's report and four part motion is attached to the minutes. The motion was seconded by Glenn and approved unanimously.

**New Business:**

Approval of 2008 Budget

- Mike reviewed the highlighted budget items.
- Nat made a motion, seconded by Brenda and unanimously approved, to accept the 2008 budget.

Capital Budget – Gazebo

- Nat made the motion, seconded by Ginny and approved by all, to accept the capital budget allowing for an expenditure of \$21,720 for the gazebo structure, hardscape, and landscape around the main entrance.

Corporate Resolution for Bank Account Signature Card Update

- Mary Beth made a motion to create a corporate resolution identifying the four executive officers for 2008. James seconded the motion and it was approved by all.
- The corporate resolution is attached to the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Almon  
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
2/10/2008  
*Amended 2/12/2008*

## Community Relations Report- January 7, 2008

### 1. Monthly Programs for 2008

January 17, 2008- Herman Auer,  
Master Gardener, Class of 1983,  
Galveston County  
***"Care and Selection of Citrus"***. Two hour program, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

February 21, 2008- Gaye Hammond, Houston Rose Society,  
"Roses- Preparing for the Spring Blossoms"

March 20, 2008- Paul Nester,  
Program Specialist-IPM,  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service (Bear Creek)  
Fire Ant Programs  
***" Fire Ants- Living with the Fiery Creatures"***

Other program information to follow.

2. I would like to request that we pay a \$200 honorarium to Herman Auer for his 2-hour program in January 2008. We paid Dr. Randall \$200 last year for his 2 hour program.

3. Attached is the Entomology group budget request for approximately \$600 for 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Dresner  
Director, Community Relations

## **Greenhouse Board Report for January 2008**

- Shelving was purchased for the greenhouse in order to better organize the supplies and materials. Barbara and James made quick work of assembling these shelves and then placing the materials for easy access by those working in the greenhouse.
- A “white board” was installed as better means of communication between the Greenhouse Gang (G2) of Cliff, James and Glenn and those working in the greenhouse. The board offers a tool for not only the G2 to communicate but also for Master Gardeners to communicate their ideas back as well. We offer a big thanks to Ginny Grant for her donation of this board.
- The G2 group continues to monitor the watering system on the various tables. We will be adding additional watering “picks” so that the plant soil will be watered better than it is at this time. We will be continuing to educate the Master Gardeners to ensure their plants get adequate water when they place plants on the various tables. We need to communicate better that just putting a plant on a table does not ensure good watering.
- Cliff has found problems with rats and/or mice eating up the pecan seedlings and oak tree saplings on the tables. Bait was placed on several of the tables on January 2 to address the damage these rodents have caused.
- There continues to be lots of interest from the Master Gardeners coming to work in the Greenhouse. It really makes it more fun and enjoyable to have so many coming in and contributing their time and knowledge to those working in this area.

Submitted by James Buckley and Glenn Dresner, Greenhouse Co-Chairs  
January 4, 2008

## **TMGA Directors Meeting Report**

December 1, 2007 - College Station, TX

Congratulations to our Newly Elected 2008 TMGA Executive Officers.

President

Garey Wiley, Johnson, County

First Vice-President

Doug Quicksall, McLennan County

Second Vice-President

Lynn McKillop, Fort Bend County

Secretary

Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County

Treasurer

Homer Babbitt, Parker County

Special Congratulation to our very own Lynn McKillop!

- The Minutes and Treasurer's Report from the August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting were read voted on and accepted.

Virginia Krebs, State Treasurer reported the TMGA's Bank Balance ending 11/30/2007 as \$28,444.47

- TMGA By-Laws

The new TMGA By-Laws were voted on and approved and are posted on the TMGA website: <http://www.texasmastergardeners.org/index.html>

- TMGA State Awards

Ginger Bason, Awards Committee Chairman, [gbason@hotmail.com](mailto:gbason@hotmail.com), presented a very nice pep talk, trying to get more Counties to submit entries for the Awards Program.

The Awards Handbook and all instructions can be found at: <http://www.tmgaawards.com>.

Ginger went on to say that since the revision to the "User Friendly" instructions, that she has already received a few submissions and hope each county will submit their entries early so that they can be looked over for errors and be completed before the deadline date.

All submissions must be returned to the TMGA Award Committee Chairperson electronically to the designated email or by USPS, Fed-Ex, UPS etc. (obtain a tracking number), received no later than midnight January 22, 2008.

The Paid Certified Members size of Counties has been updated to the following:

Small Size Counties	1 – 50	Certified Members
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Medium Size Counties	51 – 100	Certified Members
Medium/Large Counties	101 – 199	Certified Members
Large Counties	200 Plus	Certified Members

There is a change in the Award Handbook for Exhibits and Posters, so be careful in noting the instructions.

The submitted Awards will be sent to Judges in the 6 flowing States:  
Arkansas, North Carolina, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico & Tennessee.

Montgomery County Master Gardeners invite you to join fellow Texas Master Gardeners for the 2008 Texas Master Gardener Conference April 24-26, 2008 in Conroe, Texas.  
<http://www.montgomerycountymastergardeners.org/>

- Website

Karen Bitner, Past-President, reported that Doug Richards is doing pretty good after his 5 by-pass operation but is still having a time of it. In turn, Doug is giving up his position on the Awards Committee and also his many, many hats he wears in doing so many County Websites, included the TMGA Website.

Before the Directors' meeting, Doug sent me the following email:  
..... I regret that I am unable to attend the meeting Saturday. I had a quintuple (5) heart by pass surgery a couple months ago so I'm still in recovery. I feel fine and doing very good, just not up to a 12 hour day to attend the meeting. I will miss seeing everyone. Tell all of old (last year) awards committee hello for me. This is my last year on the Awards committee; someone else can take over the web duties next year. I'm also hoping someone else will take over my duties as TMGA webmaster. Let me know if you know someone that might be interested. Garey Wylie (TMGA President elect) is also on the look for someone to fill my duties. I'm ready to retire and be a gardener.....

- Doug Welsh

First, Doug thanked everyone for the interest in buying his new book:

"Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac"

His book Publisher, Gayla Christiansen, was present and since she had to leave early, gave a presentation on how Counties could order Doug's books at discount prices and resale them at \$24.95 at County MG Fund-raisers.

Resale Purchase Opportunities:

Set up resale account, Texas A&M University Press  
40% discount, when purchasing the one book and for sales at a maximum of two events annually.

Set up original account, working with Gayla Christiansen  
[gec@tampress.tamu.edu](mailto:gec@tampress.tamu.edu)  
979-845-148 FAX: 888-617-2421  
[www.tamu.edu/upress](http://www.tamu.edu/upress)

**NOTE:** Organizations with sales tax permit # and commitment to sell books, in addition to *Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac*: 50% discount.

Doug introduced our NEW Name:  
Texas AgriLife Extension

The new logo will be sent to County Agents in January 2008. Counties will have a year to gradually change everything over to the new name.

Doug then introduced, Andrew King, Extension Graduate Assistant. Andrew will assist Doug with all County issues.

Andrew talked about the TMGA Handbook that is now being revised and should be completed by January 2009. It looks like the handbooks will continue to be in a 3-ring binder but may be in book form also. The handbook, when completed will also be available to all Master Gardeners for purchase.

Andrew brought up Education and wanted to remind everyone about the website: [www.DavesGarden.com](http://www.DavesGarden.com) Everything on the website can be copied and used in promotions of Education.

- 501 c3

Wayne Rhoden announced that the IRS has finally approved the TMGA 501c3. There are 33 Counties under the TMGA Group List. If other counties want to join, contact:

Homer Babbitt, TMGA Treasurer  
817-444-0372  
[hlbabbit@swbell.net](mailto:hlbabbit@swbell.net)

- TMGA 5 Year Plan

Garey Wiley, TMGA President, discussed his 5 year plan. You can view it at:

[http://www.texasmastergardeners.org/members/5yrplan/2007\\_5year\\_plan.pdf](http://www.texasmastergardeners.org/members/5yrplan/2007_5year_plan.pdf)

Garey said that there will only be one "Texas JMG Specialist Training Education Class" in the State and it will be: June 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Georgetown, Williamson County. Contact for Reservations: [gareywylie@charter.net](mailto:gareywylie@charter.net)

Also mentioned were International Master Gardeners Seminars. The International MG Seminar is held every 2 years. The 2007 Convention it was held in May in Arkansas. In between years there is also a Region Convention and in 2008 it will be the Southern Region 2008 Master Gardeners Convention in Oklahoma City.

We were told, at the Directors Meeting, that the 2008 Southern Region Convention would be May 08, 2008 in Oklahoma City, OK. However, this morning I called the Oklahoma City OSU Extension Office and talked to Ray Ridlen and he told me the dates are June 18 thru June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

For some reason, the website is down and Ray is going to call or email me as soon as they straighten everything out, which of course I'll pass on to Doug Welsh and Dough Richards so that all Texas Master Gardeners will be notified.

The 2009 International MG Convention will be held in Las Vegas, NV.

- 2008 TMGA Director's Meetings

Garey Wylie, President, announced that since the 2008 TMGA Seminar is being held in April, there's no reason to have 4 Director's Meeting in 2008 - the dates are:

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the State Conference in Conroe, TX

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 in College Station, TX

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in College Station, TX

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sallie Bourgeois,  
Fort Bend County - TMGA Director  
Fort Bend County - MG Member Relations Director  
281-463-6753  
[CozyReader@comcast.net](mailto:CozyReader@comcast.net)

**JMG ACTIVITIES – January 6, 2008**  
**Ginny Grant**

JMG Activity – First Baptist Church in Katy – January 18, 2008

Introduce JMG program and Gardening with Children presentation for Mothers of Pre-School Children and School Mentors. Approximately 65 will attend.

Plants in the Classroom – February 15, 2008

FBISD Teacher In-service training. Topics will be the Nutrient Cycles-- carbon, nitrogen and water. Using composting and vermiculture to demonstrate the cycles will be the hands-on classroom activities. Preparing for 20-25 teachers.

JMG Activity – Fort Bend Museum Children's Day – March 29, 2008

Activity will be creating pots from newspaper and planting seeds.

## **Recommendations for Education Grant and Local Support for JMG**

Following up from the November Board meeting on the idea of FBMG instituting some sort of educational assistance program, the task force (Peg d'Hemecourt, Nat Gruesen, Mary Beth McCaughey) met recently to assess ideas and to finalize a recommendation. The task force was initially formed to consider whether or not to recommend that FBMG establish a scholarship program. After much discussion and consideration of ways in which to best impact the community through support of education, the task force recommends that FBMG use Education Grants instead of individual scholarships. We believe this approach is more in keeping with the Master Gardener mission to provide horticulture information and education to the public. Our specific recommendations for 2008:

1. We recommend that FBMG provide a \$1,000 Education Grant to the National Junior Master Gardener® Program in 2008 for use in the development of a new, two-and a half-day, Teacher-In-Service seminar focusing on the more science-based concepts that are part of the JMG curriculum. This seminar is currently in development. We believe the value of this grant will increase exponentially as each teacher trained will share their new knowledge, materials and techniques with students as well as fellow teachers – enabling our support to help in educating current and future generations across the country.
2. We recommend that FBMG budget up to \$600 in 2008 to provide a copy of the JMG Teacher/Leader Guide to each new JMG program initiated in Fort Bend County in 2008. At the current cost of \$38 per Guide this will allow FBMG to provide materials to at least 15 new JMG programs. Our Youth Activities Director/JMG Specialist Ginny Grant, working with the Urban Youth Development Agent Shelley Pappas will be aware of new JMG activity in Fort Bend County and can help ensure that FBMG fulfills this commitment to new groups that are pursuing a JMG program.
3. We recommend that FBMG seek to publicize our efforts involving the JMG program, on the FBMG website and through publicity channels, to enable the community to better understand both our mission and our service to the community.
4. We recommend that FBMG develop verbiage to be included in the FBMG Operations Manual that outlines a strategy for providing future Education Grants.

Regards,  
Mary Beth McCaughey



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
Corporate Resolution**

**2008 Officers and Directors**

President	Nathaniel Gruesen
Vice President	Barbara McCormick
Secretary	Marilyn Almon
Treasurer	Mike Greenwood
Past President	Mary Beth McCaughey
Awards Director	Carolyn McDaniel
Communications Director	Robert Goehring
Community Relations Director	Brenda Dresner
Fundraising Director	Barbara Brannon
Greenhouse Co-Directors	James Buckley Glenn Dresner
Landscape Director	Open position
Member Relations Director	Sallie Bourgeois
Youth Activities Director	Ginny Grant
<i>Texas AgriLife Extension Advisors: Horticulture Agent</i>	<i>Mark Countryman</i>
<i>Master Volunteer Coordinator</i>	<i>Margo McDowell</i>

Check signing authority has been assigned to:

Nathaniel Gruesen, President  
 Barbara McCormick, Vice President  
 Marilyn Almon, Secretary  
 Mike Greenwood, Treasurer

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Marilyn Almon  
 Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.