



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
May 14, 2008**

**Attendees –**

*Board Members Present:* Sallie Bourgeois, Brenda Dresner, Glenn Dresner, Cindy Fairbanks, Ginny Grant via phone, Jane Gray, Mike Greenwood, Nat Gruesen, and Marilyn Almon.

*Board Members Absent:* Barbara Brannon, James Buckley, Robert Goehring, Mary Beth McCaughey, Barbara McCormick, 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 6:45 p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes** – After a motion by Sallie Bourgeois and a second by Glenn Dresner, the minutes of the April 8, 2008, Board meeting were approved by all.

**Officer and Committee Reports:**

President – Nat Gruesen

- Nat announced that he, Brenda Dresner, and Jodie Douglass would meet on May 16<sup>th</sup> to revamp topics for the next Green Thumb series beginning in August 2008.
- Nat thanked Glenn for coordinating the May 3<sup>rd</sup> garden workday.
- Jane Gray and Cindy Fairbanks, approved by an earlier e-vote, were welcomed to the Board as the new Landscape Committee Co-chairs.

Vice President – Barbara McCormick

- Barbara was not present.

Secretary – Marilyn Almon

- No report.

Treasurer – Mike Greenwood

- Mike thanked Gail Blair for her QuickBooks assistance.
- There was discussion about implementing an assets capitalization policy and the fact that there is no current inventory of equipment belonging to FBCMG. Glenn volunteered to work with Margo, Cliff Bergman, Doug Staff, Cindy, and Jane to inventory the existing FBCMG equipment. Margo commented that an equipment manager needed to be present to check out equipment on workdays.

Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth was not present.

Awards – Carolyn McDaniel

- Carolyn was not present.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Robert was not present.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Brenda proposed changing the July workday from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> because of the holiday weekend. Board members agreed with the suggestion.
- There is a possible need to change the January monthly meeting date to the fourth Thursday in order to obtain a speaker to tie into the fruit tree sale.
- With the exception of October, Brenda has scheduled speakers for the monthly programs through November.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Barbara was not present.

Greenhouse – James Buckley and Glenn Dresner, co-chairs

- Glenn's report is attached to the minutes.
- The gazebo is scheduled to be delivered from Lott, Texas on May 30<sup>th</sup> and construction is anticipated to be completed in two days. There was discussion again about inviting public officials to a ribbon cutting/ice cream social.

Landscape – Cindy Fairbanks and Jane Gray, co-chairs

- No report.

Member Relations – Sallie Bourgeois

- Sallie stated that she would send out the membership list and committee list after the meeting.
- Sallie made a motion, seconded by Mike and approved by all, that Lynn McKillop would replace Peg d'Hemecourt as TMGA delegate and that Nat would become first alternate delegate and Brenda would become the second alternate delegate for FBCMG. Sallie will advise TMGA of the change in delegates.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant, via phone

- Ginny's report is attached to the minutes.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Governance Committee

- No activity.

### **AgriLife Extension Advisor Reports:**

#### CEA – Horticulture – Mark Countryman

- Mark was not present.
- On Mark's behalf, Nat stated that Mark has been talking to the Fort Bend Pecan Committee regarding implementing a citrus orchard, but there are no immediate plans or any agreement at this time. Two unhealthy citrus trees near the Earthkind™ garden will be removed.
- Mark also requested that the Green Thumb committee meet to discuss future presentation topics.

#### Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

- Margo announced that Mark has arranged a tour of a hydroponics greenhouse on June 11<sup>th</sup> for interested master gardeners.
- Approximately 1500 to 1600 kids attended Ag Expo.
- Fall 2007 graduation will be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Margo is receiving calls regarding the Fall 2008 session which begins on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Glenn inquired whether the mentoring program will be in place at the beginning of the new session and Margo responded that she hoped it would be.

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

#### Fence

- Due to recent vandalism in the gardens and the concern about future occurrences of vandalism, Nat emphasized the need for a fence surrounding the gardens.
- Margo noted that county approval would probably be needed for a fence and perhaps the county would consider matching FBCMG funds.
- Nat asked Cindy and Jane to investigate fencing options and preliminary costs involved.
- Nat made a motion, seconded by Brenda and approved by all, to increase the budget for Other Landscape Expense to \$500 (an increase of \$300) to pay for security in the gardens on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. during the Day in the Country Concert to be held at the Fairgrounds.

#### Tree Screening Project

- Nat made a motion, seconded by Marilyn and approved by all, to increase the budget for Trees Across the Grounds to \$1250 (an increase of \$750) to purchase adaptive, naturalized, and native deciduous and evergreen trees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Almon

Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.

6/08/2008

*Amended 6/10/2008*

## Report on Greenhouse Activities for April, 2008

- Additional irrigation was added to the shade room table for the plants that have been moved from the greenhouse.
- Irrigation was added to the East Side (right side) of the greenhouse on the outside along the brick sidewalk. This irrigation can be used on plants moved out of the greenhouse or shade room so they can have more sun prior to being planted. This irrigation is put on automatically by the time located inside the greenhouse.
- General cleanup of dead plants inside the greenhouse and shade room. These plants came mainly from cuttings that did not take or plants that did not obtain adequate watering in the shade room. Hopefully the additional irrigation installed will reduce the loss of plants in the shade room.
- Cleanup and arranging of various size pots was done in the shade room. Hopefully this organization of the pots by sizes will make it easier to find the correct size container as well as make the area look more professional.

Submitted by Glenn Dresner  
May 12, 2008

## Youth Activities – May 12, 2008

**Ginny Grant**

H<sub>2</sub>O Expo – City of Sugar Land, Town Center – April 18, 2008  
Water shed demonstration at Town Center in Sugar Land.

JMG Group - Son Shine Sprouts - Fort Bend Baptist Academy – April 22, 2008  
Garden dedication; an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student from FBBA helped construct a raised bed vegetable garden as an Eagle Scout project. The JMG group has planted vegetables and is also restoring an existing butterfly garden.

JMG Activity – Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Richmond – April 29, 2008  
Mother's Day Out children made grow cards – 38 children, ages 3-4.

JMG Activity – Enchanted Garden Nursery, Richmond – May 3, 2008  
Enchanted Garden presented "Master Gardener" morning. Four children made grow cards. Several visitors asked for plant and Master Gardener information.

4-H Day Camp – Fairgrounds, Rosenberg – July 16, 2008  
Monthly planning meetings began April 28<sup>th</sup>, continue monthly until July.  
Estimating 150 children (5-13 years) will attend this year.

Plants in the Classroom – Drabek Elem, Sugar Land – August 15, 2008  
FBISD teacher in-service training. Nitrogen and the Nitrogen cycle were requested by the elementary science coordinator. Approximately 25 elementary teachers are scheduled to attend.

Ag'Tivity Barn – Fairgrounds, Rosenberg – September 26 – October 4, 2008  
School tours September 29<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Attended the first Fair Committee meeting April 28<sup>th</sup>. Master Gardener committee meetings will begin May 19<sup>th</sup>. Monthly committee meetings have been scheduled.