



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
February 8, 2011**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Brenda Dresner, Jodie Douglass, Barbara Buckley, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Peg Turrentine, Becky Leugemors, Arnold Knocke, Gwen Heck

Board Members Absent: Marilyn Almon, Barbara Brannon, Nat Gruesen, Jolene Maurer

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Present:
CEA - Horticulture – Shari Grahmann, Ph.D.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order –Jane Gray called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Barbara Buckley and a second by Jodie Douglass, the corrected minutes of the January 11, 2011, Board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Jane Gray

- No written report. Jane thanked everyone for all their hard work.

Vice President – Peg Turrentine

- Action item spreadsheet submitted.

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- No written report. Will add last e-vote to January board minutes.

Treasurer – Arnold Knocke

- Report attached

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- No written report. Absent

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- No written report. Membership dues are up for renewal at Sam's.

Communications – Barbara Buckley

- Written report attached.

- Questioned if anyone has seen the ad for the plant tree sale in the Herald. Brenda says she has seen it.
- Making a chart of popular pages, by month being looked at.
- Some of our articles need to be refreshed.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Written report attached.
- Has seen lots of interest in the Master Gardener Program.

Education-Ginny Grant, Jolene Maurer

- Written report attached.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- No written report, absent.
- Barbara Buckley reports that a pipe broke in the shade room and iced over some of the fruit trees.

Landscape –Becky Leugemors

- Written report attached.
- Working with Cliff and checking on different materials and pricing for the bulk bins.
- Suggested she check with the Habitat store for recycled materials.
- Diana Montiso will help with compost bins in multiple garden areas.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- No written report, absent.
- We have 142 members

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- No action

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Grahmann. Ph.D.

- Everyone needs to sign a release of creative educational works form.
- The State is in a budget shortfall which will impact us. The Extension offices will be asked to do cost recovery mechanisms.
- Be considerate of request of staff. May need more notice for some request to be fulfilled.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- Absent

Other:

Old Business:

1. Term Limits for Directors-tabled
 2. Action Item spreadsheet-tabled
 3. Follow-up report of State Master Gardener board meeting by Brenda Dresner
- Need to elect another delegate and two alternates.

- The State MG board wants to become more involved with the local organizations. They are inviting officers, webmasters and directors to a meeting on Saturday February 19th. RSVP Brenda by Friday.

New Business:

1. Purchase of screen for Bud O'Shields
 - The pull down screen cost will be shared by the Bee Keepers, Fort Bend Master Naturalist, and Fort Bend Master Gardeners. Each group will put in \$240.67.
 - The purchase of the screen was discussed. Shari reminds us that the screen will belong to the County.
 - Jane asked where in the budget would this expense go. Peg suggested in donations.
 - A motion was made by Barbara Buckley to donate \$240.67 to Bud O'Shields building to purchase the screen. Motion seconded by Jodie Douglass. Vote taken and motion passed.
2. Communicating with the membership: hours, financial state of the organization, and relationship between FBMG and Extension
 - Shari-need to send letter regarding sale schedule to membership.
 - Jayla Fry, State Master Gardener Co-ordinator, will speak to our membership at a "State of the Union: Celebration of the Sales" on April 7th.
 - Barbara-members have an issue with hours, uncertain how to obtain them. We need a written list of ways to get hours.

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the Annex building.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Heck, Secretary
Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Submitted March 12, 2011

Communications Report February 2011 Board Meeting

Submitted by Barbara Buckley, Communications Director

This report provides information and numbers for January 2011.

- 1 **Website** – Barbara Buckley
Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 Jan, 2011: **147,661**
Visitors in Dec. 2010: **9,781** Visitors in January 2011: **12,374**

- 2 **FBMG Blog** - Barbara Buckley
Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 Jan 2011: **54,912**
Visitors in Dec. 2010: **3,896** Visitors in January 2011: **3896**

- 3 **Facebook** – Cindy Pack
Number of members as of 1 Feb. 2011: **78**
February announcements were posted for the Fruit Tree Sale, Green Thumb, Monthly Program and Saturday workday. Several of the new class are posting to the site. We need to encourage our member to join Facebook and post to make the group active.

- 4 **Publicity** – Mary Ellen Twiss
Notices were sent to 26 local newspapers, magazines, and websites with information about events for February. Additionally a quarter page ad was to be sent to the Herald advertising the fruit tree sale.

Community Relations Report February 8, 2011

- January 15 & 16, 2011- First Sugarland Home and Garden Show held at the Stafford Centre. The Fort Bend Master Gardeners had a booth and had 9 Master Gardeners working over the 2 days. We had approximately 140 visitors on Saturday and 75 on Sunday.
- January 29 & 30, 2011- Fifth Katy Home and Garden Show held at the Merrell Center and Robinson Pavilion. The Fort Bend Master Gardeners had a booth in the Robinson Pavilion with 14 Master Gardeners volunteering at the booth. Five Master Gardeners volunteered as speakers for the Saturday afternoon gardening seminars. (*Peg Turrentine & Joe Vinson- “Spring Vegetables-Preparing for a Bountiful Harvest”, Tricia Bradbury-“Gardening with Pets”, Peg d’Hemecourt-“Native Plants-A Key to Texas Beauty”, Jane Gray- “EarthKind” Gardening”*.) Saturday’s booth visitation was approximately 180 and Sunday 108. The Saturday Garden Seminars attendance was about 40 people for all 4 seminars. Almost all people who were at the seminars came by the booth to find out more about the Master Gardeners. We had a lot of interest in the upcoming Fruit Tree Sale and the Spring Plant Sale.
- February 3, 2011- Fort Bend County Vegetable Conference- The Master Gardeners had a booth at the Vegetable Conference that was manned by Brenda Dresner.

Approximately 90 people came by the booth. The Master Gardeners donated a \$ 50.00 door prize, consisting of a Hori-Hori knife, cultivator, moisture meter, and one pair of gloves with glove clip all in a basket. There was much interest in the Master Gardener program and our demonstration gardens.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Dresner
Director, Community Relations
2/6/2011

Education Committee Report

February 4, 2011

Entomology Group

March 5: Missouri City Parks Dept., Dedication of Edible Arbor Trail, Insect Display and Information about Beneficial Insects

Green Thumb Program

January: Gardening to Attract Butterflies and Hummingbirds; 11 guests, 9 Master Gardeners attended

February: Year-Round Vegetable Gardening

Monthly MG Program

January: Fruit Trees -Tom LeRoy, Texas AgriLife Extension Hort. Agent-Montgomery County; 112 attended, 18 guests, 94 Master Gardeners

February: Spring Vegetable Gardening presented by Master Gardeners Peg Turrentine and Joe Vinson

March: Organic Gardening by Bob Randall, Ph.D.

Speakers Bureau

January: 3 programs presented to garden clubs located in Katy, Wharton, and Missouri City - combined total of 47 attendees learned about the Master Gardener program, Landscaping, and Backyard Composting

February: 2 programs scheduled for area garden clubs

Youth Activities

Alternative School, LCISD, 40 students are learning about seed germination and plant growth; they each planted spring vegetables in mini-greenhouses donated to FBCMG by local store

Jane Long JMG group, Garden Gurus, LCISD, 23 members participating; recently completed JMG soil activities.

February 3: AgriLife Extension's Gulf Coast Vegetable Conference
JMG Program Display; door prize donated

February 16: Schiff ES, Fort Bend ISD; Vermiculture program for Go Green Club

March 5: Missouri City Parks Dept., Dedication of Edible Arbor Trail, Display of JMG Information and Activity

Landscape Report-Becky

February 1, 2011

Got a few ideas/plans for consideration.....

Landscape ideas – February Board Meeting-Like to mention some of the things voiced by chairs and others:

Bulk-site ---We have wanted and needed a bulk - unloading spot for years - the area behind the greenhouse next to the compost area can be excellent for two large bins that can easily be accessed by dump trucks. I plan to discuss bin wall construction and gates with Cliff to be ready to present several alternatives to the board. Would like to get this started this spring when most of the help is available - cool work is more fun. If we do it, we must decide what look we want for the walls and the gates across them where they go out to the road. I have measured that part, and it looks like we will have plenty of parking space right there also, over the culvert.

Leaf bins ---for easy access, we can put them across a gator alleyway - already paved with paver stone - from the bulk bins, after some of the compost bins will be moving out to the gardens themselves.....I feel the leaf bins, shown as a slow, cool compost pile and as a mulch pile should be pushed as a very environmentally friendly option to the current way in which leaves are disposed. I have run leaf bins for several years and have been very satisfied with both products obtained - compost and mulch. And it is free, in bags, out in front of our neighbor's houses, twice a year. We shouldn't ignore the opportunity to educate our public about this option to landfill abuse.

Compost bins ---Talk has been to move several of the compost bins out to the garden areas where they can be more of an educational tool both for us and the public - to show how it is done, and also to show that a compost bin should be in every yard/garden and is neither unsightly or smelly when done right. Diana Montiso of the compost area has said this could be alright with her - and will help teach the MGs how to do it right, and try to make sure it is really done when it needs to be.

'Your backyard'---Deborah Birge has the little tree area past the compost bins and wants to make it a 'backyard-of-plenty' sort of place, where we teach how to have a productive (mostly trees), as well as ornamental backyard. She needs to put a fence of some sort along the triangular part that is open to the fairgrounds and the roadside - so it will actually look like a backyard and not just a neglected spot ripe for abuse. I agree with this view - in this area, at least. Not a grandiose fence, but reminiscent of a backyard...maybe even a shorter one like that next to a golf course? We will have to think about it and see what might be best for the area and the use to which it will be put. But she does not want a gator drive-through in her 'backyard area', which is understandable. She wants to block off that bin area with a fence or wall of some kind whereon she can show espalier techniques and their productivity and beauty. Her yard at home has fruit 12 months of the year, and so she knows her ideas can work.

Gator drive path----The existing walkway needs to be widened for the gator to make that turn - and Deborah says she doesn't need those bricks nearby in the piles - the walkway to the compost area is bricked now, and we can widen it easily so the gator can go in and find backing room to get out easily, without a drive-thru that takes out most of someone's garden space. I want to measure the area again, and make sure all ideas have space to happen, if that is what we decide, and will turn in a map, etc., at the meeting.

Overall, I believe that area can look much better than it does and be more of a draw to the public, as well as educational for us all, and very useful to our gardens. And, it shouldn't take a lot of work or expense.