



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 11, 2011**

**Attendees –**

*Board Members Present:* Brenda Dresner, Jodie Douglass, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Peg Turrentine, Marilyn Almon, Nat Gruesen, Marlene Shobe, Becky Lougemors, Jolene Maurer, Arnold Knoche, Gwen Heck

*Board Members Absent:* Barbara Buckley Barbara Brannon

*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 7:15p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes** – After a motion by Peg Turrentine and a second by Jodie Douglass, minutes of the November 9, 2010, Board meeting were approved by all.

**Officer and Committee Reports:**

President – Jane Gray

- No written report
- On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Andrea Wulf, author from London will be speaking about her new book, “The Founding Gardeners”. The Texas Rose Rustlers and the Sugar Land Garden Club are co-sponsoring this event with us. It will take place at the Sugar Land Community Center.

Vice President – Peg Turrentine

- Action item spreadsheet submitted. Will address under old business.

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- No written report

Treasurer – Arnold Knoche

- Reports covering December and January submitted.

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- No written report.

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- Written report attached.
- We are not competing for any state awards this year.

Communications – Barbara Buckley

- Written report attached. Absent
- Will be closing down the forum due to little activity.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Written report attached.
- We will be at the Sugar Land Home and Garden Show. Volunteers have signed up.
- Will also be at the Katy Home and Garden Show. Our booth is free. We will have Master Gardeners doing four 30 minute presentations for the public.
- Will also have a booth at the Vegetable seminar on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Education-Ginny Grant, Jolene Maurer

- Written report, attached.
- Schiff Elementary has requested a vermiculture program for 110 kids on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- No written report. Absent.
- Marilyn-our bare root fruit trees did not show up today because of truck problems. Will have tomorrow delivery.

Landscape –Marlene Shobe, Becky Leugemors

- Written report attached.
- Marlene-has checked at Adams Signs and Graphics regarding garden signs. They have the same weight as the example brought in earlier. Their price goes by weight and size, not verbiage charge.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Written report attached.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Governance Committee

- The updated Operations Manual is posted on the Website.

**Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Reports:**

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Grahmann. Ph.D.

- End of the year volunteer hours will now be due on November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Margo-wants volunteers to use the Excel spreadsheet
- Discussion-we will need to constantly inform membership regarding hours and deadlines.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- New Master Gardener class starts Tuesday. Have 31 students.

**Other:**

**Old Business:**

Term Limits for Directors-tabled

Action Item Spreadsheet-tabled

**New Business:**

Budget:

- A motion was made by Jolene Maurer and seconded by Becky Leugemors to move \$30,000.00 from the budget earmarked for fencing to working capital. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Nat Gruesen and seconded by Jolene Maurer to approve the 2011 budget with revisions discussed tonight. Motion carried.

Report of State Master Gardener board meeting by Brenda: Report attached.

- Had a sample of the State Conference T-Shirt for us to see.
- Goal of the State Conference is 1000 participants.
- There have been changes to the by-laws of the State Master Gardener program. Jane asked that Brenda review them and let us know of any changes that might affect us.
- Will need to elect delegates. We need 2 delegates and 2 alternates.

Discussion of the "Store":

- Marilyn opens discussion on whether we want the store to be a fundraiser or a benefit of members.
- Peg-remember that the cost of goods includes shipping. On the two sale days no tax is charged.
- After discussion, it was decided that the "store" is a perk for members. Cost will be set to cover cost of materials, with a small cushion. At our sales, the cost will be raised. We will re-evaluate later.
- Peg is going to work with the store.

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Annex building.

Addendum to minutes:

- On January 19, 2011, an e-vote was taken and passed to allow Tricia Bradbury to be reimbursed up to \$200.00 for gas expenditures when picking up an order for the Fruit Tree sale.
- Marlene Schobe has resigned as landscape co-director due to family commitments, as of January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- On January 27, 2011, an e-vote was taken and passed regarding the purchase of propane for the Greenhouse with expenses to be around \$1000.00. (the County has used up their propane budget)
- On January 30, 2011, an e-vote was taken and passed to approve an increase of \$400.00 to the budget for refreshments, pertaining to the Fruit Tree sale pre-meetings, and workdays before and during the sale.
- On February 2, 2011, an e-vote was taken and passed to approve the purchase of a wireless credit-card reader.
- On February 7, 2011, two e-votes were taken and passed by a majority vote. They were:
  1. Approve mileage reimbursement for Peg Turrentine to go to Nature's Way in Conroe to pick up soil and compost to be sold at the FTS.
  2. Approve mileage reimbursement to Tricia Bradbury and Marilyn Almon for future buying trips pertaining to the Spring Plant Sale.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gwen Heck, Secretary  
Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
Submitted with corrections on February 8, 2011

## AWARDS COMMITTEE 2010

### Dinner 2010 Expenses:

\$365.48 Award Shirts for 2009

63.68 Paper Goods (dinner napkins, plastic forks/knives/spoons, plastic tablecloth roll, dessert plates)

90.00 Patches – 18 “Master Gardener of the Year”

125.00 Patches – 50 - 100-hour

258.00 Swinging Door – chicken for 120 people

64.78 Paper Goods (name tags, Magic Markers, Chinette plates)

705.00 Door Prizes (3 dump-wagons, 3 kneelers, gift certificates: 2 \$50 & 9-\$25 & 10 - \$25)

161.75 Programs, printing @ Office Depot

44.18 Decorations

50.00 Plaques Bill Muray (one for office & one for him)

220.80 Awards Shirts

\$ 189.00 Plaque for office – “Master Gardeners of the Year”

**\$2,337.67 Total**

**-\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$5/guest cost**

**\$2323.70 Treasurer’s Balance (91.13% of budget)**

### Attendance

61	MGs RSVP’d
3	Came = did not RSVP (1 brought husband)
26	Guests
7	Associates
97	Total in Attendance

“It’s Showtime!” was the theme depicting the Art Noveau period of show business and the theatres from that period. In celebration of our “Stars”, Billboards were with pictures & memories from each of the gardens and some of our programs. This is hoped to be the beginning of compiling the story & history of our organization, our programs & events, and the volunteers who’ve made us the great organization we are today.

Shari introduced our very special guests. Thank you, Shari! We have never had special guests attend in the past.

A new patch for the **Master Gardeners of the Year** was introduced and awarded to the past Master Gardeners of the Year and will be awarded to any future winners.

Mac introduced the State Master Gardeners Emeritus Award and our first recipient: Bill Muray. Bill was awarded a plaque (a second plaque was purchased to hang in the office).

Jane & Mac presented a “Spotlight Awards” program introducing MG members and their special abilities awarding them with silly gifts. Jane & Mac awarded members with their 3 year, 5 year & 10 year pins. Jane gave a “catalyst” chemistry demonstration exhibiting the “cohesiveness” of chemicals and its relationship to our membership from which our organization is bound. The program ended with the final drawing for door prizes.

The Centerpieces were the hit of the evening using gold fish in clear vases with flickering tiny lights.

Fun was had by all in attendance!

Mark your calendars -----

**The 2011 Annual Dinner** will be held Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011.

The cut-off date for turning in hours is November 30, 2011.

**Committee – Awards Dinner**

Marilyn Almon; Phyllis Colon; Penny & Don Johnson; Sherry Ledbetter; Diana Montiso; Delores Reeves; Dona Reynolds; Marlene Shobe; Fran Steele; Cheryl Swanson

**AWARDS SURVEY**

Nineteen members returned their surveys and after the Committee reviewed their submissions & recommendations it was decided to continue with the Khaki shirts as the award for earning 100+ volunteer hours the first time and the formal location on which to attach the patches earned.

Jodie Douglass, Director  
Awards

**Communications Report  
January 2011 Board Meeting**

Submitted by Barbara Buckley, Communications Director

This report provides information and numbers for November & December 2010.

- 1 Website – Barbara Buckley**  
Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 Jan, 2011: **147,661**  
Visitors in Oct., 2010: **10,685**; Visitors in Nov. 2010: **14,551**; Visitors in Dec. 2010: **9,781**
- 2 FBMG Blog - Barbara Buckley**  
Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 Jan 2011: **54,912**  
Visitors in Oct 2010: **3,602**; Visitors in Nov. 2010: **4,072**; Visitors in Dec. 2010: **3,896**
- 3 Facebook – Cindy Pack**  
Number of members as of 1 Jan. 2011: **73**  
Announcements were posted for the Green Thumb, Monthly Program and Saturday workday for January
- 4 Forum – Barbara Buckley**  
Number of registered members as of 1 Jan 2011: **13**  
Due to the lack of use of the forum I am recommending the removal of the forum as a communication tool for FBMG at this time, if in the future the need for this form of communication is seen as viable the forum will be reinstated.
- 5 Publicity – Mary Ellen Twiss**  
No Report

**Education Committee Report  
February 8, 2011**

**Entomology Group**

Butterfly Card preparation work should be completed soon and cards will be ready for the printer.

**Green Thumb Program**

No program in December; January topic: Gardening to Attract Butterflies and Hummingbirds

**Monthly MG Program**

No program in December; January topic: Fruit Trees, speaker is Tom LeRoy, Texas AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent-Montgomery County

### **Speakers Bureau**

2010 - MG speakers presented 12 programs in 2010 - primarily to garden clubs and residential groups – Topics included Composting, Landscaping, Square Foot and Vegetable Gardening

January 2011 - 2 programs scheduled for garden clubs – Landscaping and Backyard Composting

### **Youth Activities**

December 2010 - Jane Long ES, Lamar CISD, registered as JMG group; FBCMG providing Wildlife Gardener curriculum

January 3 - Sugar Land Montessori School – Pre-K–2nd grade

JMG Orientation and Basic Kids' Gardening for 32 Teachers and Directors; Overview of JMG, including activities and implementing school garden activities and installing garden

February 3 – AgriLife Extension's Vegetable Conference

Display of JMG Program and Activities; Door prize donation

## **FBCMG LANDSCAPE REPORT**

**January 11, 2011**

Saturday, January 8, was the first workday of the New Year. It was a beautiful day to work outdoors, but of special interest was the group who was involved in planting seeds under the direction of James Buckley. Several members of the current Fall 2010 class were assisting, taking advantage of the opportunity to gain greenhouse hours and learn from the expertise of James.

Budgets for eleven of the Gardens have been submitted to the Board for review. Gardens which do not have budgets posted at this time currently don't have a representative or a garden chair. Provisions for the general maintenance and necessities of those gardens have been taken into consideration.

Monday, January 10, Jane Gray, President headed a "walk" through the Gardens. In attendance were Shari Koch, Margo McDowell, Peg Turrentine, Becky Leugemors, and Marlene Shobe. Topics for discussion and in observance were inadequate drainage on some sidewalks, creating additional paths or general walk areas, and storage areas for bulk materials such as mulch and compost. Of special interest is the Front Yard and signage throughout the gardens.

It is with pleasure that I welcome Becky Leugemors aboard as the Landscape Co chair.

Becky has twelve years of experience with the FBCMG, serving as a Chair for most of her tenure. We will all benefit from her knowledge and experience as a Master Gardener as she assumes her new position on the Board as the Landscape Co chair.

### **Member Relations Report**

January 10, 2011

Marilyn Almon

#### **Membership**

As of this date, 122 certified Master Gardeners have renewed their memberships, representing 80% of the 153 members eligible for renewal. Membership at the end of 2010 was 187, including 34 members (18%) who either did not recertify or did not turn in hours.

#### **Cookbook Committee**

The committee continues to categorize and edit recipes in preparation for submission to the publisher. It is hoped that submittal will occur by the end of February.

#### **FBCMG Store**

James Buckley has resigned from his position with the store, effective January 3rd. Peg Turrentine will be his replacement and will be responsible for the garden tools and supplies sector of the store.

## **Texas Master Gardeners Association Directors Report/Highlights December 2010**

By State Director Brenda Dresner

**August 7, 2010 quarterly meeting-** \*Donna Hagar, representing Somervell County & co-chair for the 2011 Annual TMGA Conference, was introduced to discussed the conference. This is a joint conference with Hood and Somervell County and will be held in Glen Rose, Texas. The dates are Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Donna gave extensive information about the conference including registration fees, tours, sessions, and hotel accommodations. The website for further information is [www.2011tmgaconference.org](http://www.2011tmgaconference.org)  
\* Donna Hagar, Newsletter Editor, encouraged Directors to communicate with their local board member and have the TMGA newsletter information forwarded to their membership. Newsletter email is: [tmga.news@gmail.com](mailto:tmga.news@gmail.com) \* By-Law Changes- President Lonnie Matthew presented draft recommendations for By-Law changes. Changes were explained, discussed, and changes/updated made if necessary. The Directors will have 60 days to look over the changes and a vote on the proposed By-Law changes will be on December 4, 2010. \* Jayla Fry, Master Gardener Coordinator, read a written prepared statement to the group. Basically, Jayla said that there are a lot of budget cuts, and loss of staff statewide. Because of these changes, the need for support for volunteers is greater than ever. As always you are extremely important and it is important to understand what you do as a volunteer in your roles and responsibilities, shows in the role and respect show toward your county program coordinator. This is a critical time of transition, with a great need for patience, transparency, and open communication. We need to be focused on the Master Gardening Program and to be an advocate for the Extension. Jayla thanked ALL Master Gardeners for their hard work and continued support of the program.

**August 4, 2010 quarterly meeting-** \* Donna Hagar, co-chair of 2011 Annual Conference, encouraged all local associations to promote this year's conference. There are currently 265 people registered. Her committee's goal is to have 1000 people attend. \* Dr. Doug Welch commented about the Texas Master Gardener Program as well as some of the budgetary problems facing Texas AgriLife Extension. He shared a power point program, which has been given to all MG coordinators in the state. Dr. Welch stressed that we, as Master Gardeners must advocate for Extension. We Are Extension! \* By-Law changes were discussed and passed. \* Election of new state officers was held. Reminder: to local associations that they should be electing new directors and alternates. The new year begins with the February 19, 2011 TMGA meeting in College Station.

### **Reminders:**

\*Awards are due January 21, 2011;

\*Dues are due to the Treasurer by March 1, in order to be eligible to an award. Application can be found at [TMG..AWARDS@gmail.com](mailto:TMG..AWARDS@gmail.com)

\* Rosters are due by March 1