



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
July 15, 2010**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Glenn Dresner, Robert Goehring, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Peg Turrentine, Marilyn Almon, Marlene Shobe, Gwen Heck

Board Members Absent: Brenda Dresner, Jodie Douglass, Barbara Brannon, Nat Gruesen

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Present:
CEA - Horticulture – Shari Koch, 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 Peg Turrentine and a second by Glenn Dresner, the minutes of the June 8, 2010, Board meeting were approved by all with corrections.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Jane Gray

- Reminded the Board that the Director positions are appointed by the President.
- As we work on the Operations Manual, keep in mind that we are talking about positions, not people, as changes are being suggested.

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

- No report

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- No report

Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Written report attached to the minutes
- Suggest that we inventory our supplies (tools). May want to set a table out at the monthly meetings for items to be sold.

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- Absent, no report

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- Absent, no report

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Written report attached
- Numbers are down for the Website for June
- Will be moving, Barbara Buckley to take his position starting August 1st.
- May have enough articles collected to generate another grapevine.
- The Board thanked him for all his service and he will be missed.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Absent

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Absent, no written report

Landscape –Marlene Shobe

- Written report attached
- Kathy Hulfish has resigned her position.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Written report attached
- We have 20 new Master Gardener Class graduates. From this, we have 17 that have renewed.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Written report attached
- A service day has been planned with the teachers of KISD.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- Met on July 6th including any Board members who wished to attend. Written submissions were received from some board members and discussed.
- Last draft to the Operations Manual sent to all board members on July 12th.
- Next meeting will be July 22nd at 6:30 in the Kitchen Annex. All board members are invited to attend.

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Koch. Ph.D.

- The Citrus Class had 33 participants registered
- The Fort Bend County Fair theme will be recycling. All members are invited to attend the planning sessions.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- Fall class has 15-16 registered
- The speaker for the September 25th class will be Jayla Fry, State Master Gardener Co-ordinator. Board members may want to attend.
- Suggest that the closet needs to be rearranged. We have gotten some major donations from Lowes.
- Keep the date-December 9th will be the awards dinner. Keep the date letters to commissioners and mayor will be sent out.

Other:

Old Business:

- No old business discussed

New Business:

Wildflower seed project

- The city of Stafford's wildflower seed project was discussed. The Board decided that this project would be too big for the Fort Bend Master Gardener volunteers to handle.
- It was suggested that we encourage the city to broadcast the wildflower seeds and let it naturalize.

Save the date-August 3rd.

- Board will meet at Fulshear Creek Crossing at 2:00 p.m. for a planning meeting. We will have dinner at Karl's at the Riverbend at 6:00 PM.
- Our goal is to help direct ourselves for the coming year.

August 11th-new class starts

- Jane would like the Board to try and be present the first day of the new Master Gardener class.

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10th at 6:30 p.m. at the Annex building.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen Heck
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Submitted August 3, 2010

**Communications Report
July 2010
Submitted by Robert Goehring, Communications Director**

The following information is humbly provided.

This will be my last Communications Report to the FBCMG Board. I am resigning the position effective after the normally scheduled Board meeting in July 2010.

It has been a considerable honor to have served in this position for the past two and a half years. I only wish that I was able to provide better and faster means of disseminating information to our members and the public.

The Grapevine

I have two articles for future articles. Shari and Margo also have these. I recommend that Marilyn become the editor if or when some one else would like the position.

Publicity

Nothing to report. Mary Ellen continues to perform admirably in this position.

Website

Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 July 2010: **77,911**

Visitors in June 2010: **12,388**

Barbara will be taking over the website operations effect 1 August 2010. She has been the back-up website administration for many, many months.

Blog

Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 July 2010: **29,316**

Visitors in June 2010: **4,440**

Mailing Lists

Electronic Newsletter (Public); Members as of 1 June 2010: **42**

Electronic Newsletter (Entomology); Members as of 1 June 2010: **15**

Facebook

Number of members as of 1 July 2010: **50**

Forum

Number of registered members as of 1 July 2010: **9**

Need to have someone identified to assume the Admin responsibilities for the forums. Some technical abilities are required but no programming.

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Youth Activities
July 9, 2010
Ginny Grant

Earth-Kind® Kids Kamp – June 14th-18th

This year's Kamp was very successful, 30 children attended. Thirteen MG volunteers, 2 high-school students, and Mac and Shari helped make Kamp a success. Programs about Wildlife and Habitat were presented by Brazos Bend State Park, Texas Parks & Wildlife biologists, the Houston Audubon Society, and FBCMG Entomology Group.

KidsrKids Day School, Missouri City – July 8th

JMG gardening activity for 30 children. The kids created newspaper pots and planted sunflower seeds.

Ag'Tivity Barn, Fort Bend County Fair – Sept 24th – Oct 2nd

Committee is planning displays and set-up arrangements to correspond with this year's theme, "Conserve Our Resources, Provide for Our Future".

4-H Day Camp – July 14th

Annual day camp's purpose is to introduce 4-H program to area children. Master Gardeners will provide gardening activity.

Member Relations Report
July 2010
Submitted by Marilyn Almon

Membership

Membership currently totals 183. Sixteen members of the Fall 2009 class have become members since graduation in May.

Paint Texas with Wildflowers Project

The City of Stafford has requested the help of FBCMG members for a possible seeding project this year. The approximate area to be covered—9 locations in the vicinity of Hwy. 90A—could total 1.03 acres, but it's also possible that the city could elect to implement the planting in phases over more than one year. A cost estimate is currently being prepared and the City of Stafford would reimburse FBCMG for all expenses of the project.

Landscape Committee Report

Prepared by Marlene Shobe

June 22, 2010

For the first time as landscape co-chair, I walked "The Gardens." So many times I have walked the area, but always on a mission of some sort, never stopping to smell the roses, as the cliché goes. I even decided to enter and walk The Gardens from a different direction. What a surprise!

Entering from the parking lot to the left of the Extension Annex, I looked back to view a magnificent crape myrtle and behind it, proudly dancing in the breeze was the American Flag. I smiled. How enticing and I was beckoned into the garden.

Have you seen the burgundy/pink lilies hiding on the left of the Extension Building? I followed my nose for this one. What a sweet fragrance. Nope, I don't know the name of the lilies, but I will find out.

I wandered over to the Alley Way, drawn in by the shade and the variety of plants that make their home in the Alley. The statue of the girl as she sits in her own little garden is tranquil in the shade.

Just beyond at the Pathway, a perplexed little fairy sits under a canopy of brilliant red crape myrtles contrasted by the asparagus ferns.

Perhaps, she may be pondering the Circle Garden which is a study in purple. I walked to the Duranta with the delicate purple blooms, a backdrop of Society Garlic and Dusty Miller. The lavender of the Garlic is spiked by the contrast of the Wandering Jew with the Persian Shield tucked away.

Looking up I see the deep green twines of the Evergreen Wisteria, with its dark purple blooms as it meanders across the Arbor.

Blue Salvia and Yellow Bells brighten the next Circle. Its rustic path offers a brief walk through the shade. First time I have ever walked through there. Neat!!!

Then SURPRISE!!! Two crape myrtles greet me. Yep, I knew they were there, but what I didn't know was that they are pink with some white blooms.

Fort Bend Master Gardens Monthly Report-Landscape Addendum June 2010

During Junior Master Gardeners' Kids Kamp the week of June 14-18, the participants and volunteers were able to incorporate some of the gardens into a game we played called The Great Migration. Each child chose a bird species they wished to be. The game consisted of rolling a die and advancing so many stations – 24 in total. Gardens included in the game were the Outdoor Classroom, Greenhouse, Water Garden, Cottage Garden, Butterfly Garden, Circle Garden, Vegetable Garden, Native Garden and Japanese Garden.

The children loved being “banded” with a special bracelet on the porch of the Cottage Garden or ringing the gong in the Japanese Garden if they were accidentally “killed” during their migration.