



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
June 10, 2008**

Attendees –

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

Board Members Absent: Sallie Bourgeois and Barbara Brannon.

AgriLife Extension Staff Present:
CEA - Horticulture – Mark Countryman

AgriLife Extension Staff Absent:
Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order – Nat Gruesen called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Robert Goehring and a second by Brenda Dresner, the minutes of the May 14, 2008, Board meeting were approved by all as amended to change the date of the hydroponics greenhouse tour to June 11th.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Nat Gruesen

- Nat thanked the master gardeners who worked to erect the new gazebo.

Vice President – Barbara McCormick

- Barbara stated that she has asked the Sugar Creek Homeowners Association to advertise the Hotline in its periodic newsletter. Cindy then mentioned that Cinco Ranch has a newsletter and it was suggested that she contact Mary Ellen Twiss who is in charge of FBCMG publicity. Mary Beth mentioned that she passed out FBCMG green cards to visitors at the workday held on June 7th.

Secretary – Marilyn Almon

- No report.

Treasurer – Mike Greenwood

- Mike commented that the gazebo company was now paid in full, though there are a few additional reimbursements yet to be made.

Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth will write a thank you letter to Brenda's dad, Gene Myska, for his extraordinary help with the gazebo project.

- Terry Williams' son Evan, who was home on leave from the military, also helped with the project.
- When the walkways are completed and the weather is cooler, a dedication ceremony will be scheduled. Dave Kauffman and his wife, as well as local public officials, will be invited to attend.
- Glenn and Cliff Bergman are working on signs for the perimeter of the grounds.

Awards – Open position

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Robert stated that Grapevine articles are due by June 25th.
- He has contacted Elizabeth Gregory about the extent of the necessity of using the AgriLife logo on the website and will not make any further changes until he obtains her input.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Brenda's report is attached to the minutes.
- The Entomology group has completed 100 sets of insect cards and needs to determine a selling price. Board members agreed that the work should be posted on the website for the educational benefit of all who visit the website.
- Mary Beth made a motion, seconded by Mike, that 50 cards be reserved as giveaways and the other 50 cards would be sold for \$3 each including tax, and that before additional cards are designed, a business plan would be developed, and the group would work with the webmaster to post the information on the website. The motion passed, with nine Board members voting in favor of the motion and one (Robert Goehring) opposing the motion.
- Brenda will obtain a suitable container to be used as a time capsule to be placed under the gazebo.
- Brenda announced that the Texas Rose Rustlers would be willing to cover the fee for Felder Rushing to speak in Fort Bend County next spring if FBCMG would provide the building and refreshments for such a program.
- Mary Beth inquired whether Mary Ellen Twiss had been advised about the workday date change to July 12th.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Barbara was not present.

Greenhouse – James Buckley and Glenn Dresner, co-chairs

- Glenn's report is attached to the minutes.

Landscape –Cindy Fairbanks and Jane Gray, co-chairs

- Cindy's report is attached to the minutes.
- Cindy thanked those who have helped her adjust to the job of landscape co-chair.
- Fence contractors in Needville and Rosenberg have been contacted regarding the fencing of the grounds. Ginny suggested contacting Houston Fence Company in Stafford. The project is in the information gathering stage now and will probably have to be implemented in phases.

Member Relations – Sallie Bourgeois

- Sallie was not present.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Ginny's report is attached to the minutes.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- No activity.

AgriLife Extension Advisor Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Mark Countryman

- Mark passed around his list of contact numbers and a County Commissioners report for Board members to view. Copies of neither were given to Board members.
- Mark again stated the need for the AgriLife logo to appear on all master gardener publications. He passed around a photo copy of newspaper articles that did not contain the logo or any mention of AgriLife in the text. Board members responded that due to space limitations in the newspapers, logos are not printed in articles and the information actually printed is beyond the control of FBCMG once it is submitted to the newspapers.
- Mark also announced that a pre and post test, which he will devise, will be given to the Fall 2008 class to measure knowledge gained in the course. The same test will be given twice. He stated that a majority of counties are doing this now.
- Mark stated that master gardeners will be required to take the Earthkind™ Challenge tests online for statistical purposes and certification purposes in 2009.

Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

- Margo was not present.

Old Business:

Citrus Tree Removal

- Cindy will talk to Cliff Bergman about the removal of two diseased citrus trees on the grounds.

New Business:

Awards Director

- Nat announced that Carolyn McDaniel has resigned from the director's position and a replacement is needed. The open position will be mentioned in the next Grapevine.

After a motion by Nat, seconded by Robert and approved by all, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, July 8th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Almon

Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.

7/06/2008

Community Relations Report - June 10, 2008

June 19, 2008 – Monthly Program – **“There is Always Room for Herbs – The Kitchen and the Garden”** – presented by Lois Sutton.

July 10, 2008 – Green Thumb – **“Pests: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”** – Dan Lawlor.

July 17, 2008 – Monthly Program – **“Landscaping with Cactus and Succulents”** – presented by Bob Crabb.

August 12, 2008 – (Tuesday) **NEW Green Thumb Seminar starts at Rosenberg.**

August 21, 2008 – Monthly Program – **“Sap in the City – The Special Needs of Urban Trees”**, presented by Margaret Hall-Spencer.

September 18, 2008 – Monthly Program – **“Providing a Wildlife Habitat in Your Backyard”**, presented by Chris LaChance.

October 16, 2008 – TBA

November 20, 2008 – **“Aquatic Plants and Water Gardens”** – presented by Anita Nelson of Nelson’s Water Gardens.

Green Thumb schedule will be finalized within the next 2 weeks.

Submitted by:
Brenda Dresner, Director
Community Relations Committee

Greenhouse Report to FBMG Board for May & June 2008

- The evaporative cooling elements and lower trough were reinstalled to the back wall of the greenhouse after troughs became detached and fell to the floor. Upon examination for the screws that held the trough to the board, it appeared that the screws rusted and allowed the elements to fall from their weight. The trough was reattached to the board using brass screws and washers.
- The failure of the pump on the evaporative cooler system continues to be examined to determine why the pump keeps tripping on its electrical feed. The GFI plug was replaced to see if this was the problem but the pump still continues to trip after a few minutes of operation. We will be doing further examination of the pump itself to determine if there is some sort of electrical failure that causes the pump to trip. We need to get this problem resolved so that we can create a cooler atmosphere in the greenhouse as well as add more moisture to the entire environment of the greenhouse. It is felt that there is not enough moisture in the overall environment to sustain the health of the plants in the greenhouse.

Submitted by Glenn Dresner
June 8, 2008

Landscape Report for June 2008

Sweat and hard work was abundant at the Saturday, June 7th workday. Between 15 to 20 people showed up to work. We also had many people from the general public walking around meeting many of our Master Gardeners and asking them questions. I even met another "Laura" that isn't a MG but just comes out each month to help. She loves to garden but doesn't have the room in her own yard to do much. She also learns so much from all of us.

We are off and running with the fence project. Elizabeth Barrow has been a terrific source of information. She has given us drawings and will be meeting Jane and I out here Thursday, June 12th so that we walk the grounds, gather information and figure out the correct measurements and area for the fence. We have already contacted two local fence contractors that seem to be very reliable bid sources. We will also be in contact with Dell so that we can incorporate Bill Young's new tree design planned for the back perimeter.

The Fall 07 class that will be taking care of the garden on the South side of the shooting range building would like to start working on the piping and installation for the new water feature that they donated to our gardens. We will find out who we need to talk to about the installation and get that project started. Jane and I are still working on the design for that garden and will be working with Becky Leugemors to get her ideas and suggestions.

Prepared by Cindy Fairbanks

June 9, 2008

Youth Activities – June 8, 2008

Ginny Grant

4-H Day Camp – Fairgrounds, Rosenberg – July 16, 2008

Monthly planning meetings began April 28th, continue monthly until camp.
Estimating 150 children (5-13 years) will attend this year.

Plants in the Classroom – Drabek Elem, Sugar Land – August 14, 2008

FBISD In-service Training for elementary science teachers. “Learn about Nitrogen” will be the topic. Approximately 25 elementary teachers are scheduled to attend.

Ag’Tivity Barn – Fairgrounds, Rosenberg – September 26 – October 4, 2008

School tours September 29th – October 2nd. Fair meetings will continue monthly through mid-September, next meeting is June 23rd. Master Gardener volunteer committee planning meetings will begin soon.