



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
May 11, 2010**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Brenda Dresner, Glenn Dresner, Jodie Douglass, Jane Gray, Peg Turrentine, Marilyn Almon, Kathy Hulfish, Gwen Heck

Board Members Absent: Robert Goehring, Ginny Grant, Nat Gruesen, Barbara Brannon

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 6:40 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Jodie Douglass and a second by Peg Turrentine, the corrected minutes of the April 13, 2010 Board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Jane Gray

- No written report

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

- Will go over Action Item Tracking Record under old business

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- No written report
- Questioned board regarding keeping a paper record of the board minutes.
- Was decided that another digital copy of the records would be good to have besides the posted minutes on the website. We also need a paper copy of the previous twelve months' board minutes for reference during the meetings.

Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Written report attached.
- Income tax form has been filed.
- The \$100 banking error has been corrected.
- Brenda asked if she could use the debit card to pay for the hotel room for our May speaker. Was told she can't use the debit card because the guidelines have not been approved as of yet.

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- No written report, absent

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- Written report attached.
- The survey has been rewritten and is ready to be sent to the general membership.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Written report attached. Absent

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- May speaker will be Mark Klym. He will donate one copy of his book *Hummingbirds of Texas* for a door prize. He has also given suggestions of appropriate plants for door prizes.
- June speaker will be Billy Cox speaking on growing grapes.
- September speaker will be Pete Smith on Famous Trees of Texas.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- No written report, absent

Landscape – Kathy Hulfish

- Written report attached.
- Expressed concern that many garden chairs have not used their budgeted money, as of yet.
- Freeze Protection Plan discussed. Corrections made. Will be placed on website.
- Having concerns regarding hospitality on workdays. Not getting much help. People want to focus on working in the gardens on Saturdays.
- Marilyn-Gardens could rotate with hospitality duties on workdays.
- Margo-We don't have to have food on Saturdays.
- Jane-Landscape co-chairs should not have hospitality duties. Members do need to know if there will be food or just drinks.
- Marilyn-could just set up drinks in the shade in front of the side door. Members could help themselves.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Written report attached

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Written report attached. Absent

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- All board members were e-mailed a copy of the proposed changes to the Operations Manual for their review. Should be prepared to discuss tonight.
- After much discussion, we were not able to complete the review of proposed changes at this board meeting. The governance committee will go back and review some of the items that were discussed tonight and make additional suggestions.
- Members of the board should send any proposed suggestions to Gwen.

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Koch. Ph.D.

- Thanked everyone for their help with the AgExpo. Had 300 4th graders participating.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- Peg-Are we ready for fire ant control? Margo says yes that she has the material.

Other:

Old Business:

Vegetable garden rain-water harvesting update-Margo says that the drawing has been submitted for the raised platform and gutter. Waiting for approval.

Action Item spreadsheet-

- Fence-Kathy Hulfish, Cindy Fairbanks and Marlene Shobe have consulted on this. Will get bids for both cyclone and black wrought iron fencing.
- Historian guidelines-Ginny working on it
- Strategic planning committee-Ginny in charge
- Garden Store-Marilyn needs more time
- Replacement signs-Do not need as many signs. Want metal signs, not wooden signs. Margo thinks the landscape chair should be in charge of this. \$800 had been budgeted for this.

- Master Gardener of the Year Plaque-Brenda is waiting for Margo to give her the names.
- Enclosure for compost and mulch-on hold. Glenn says that we need a width of 20 feet for a truck to drop the products.
- Bare root area-Marilyn says that the shade room may not be big enough. May have 825 bare root trees.
Peg-need space to "heel" in.
Shari-Must utilize what we have. There will be no corral.
Kathy-suggest area behind Japanese garden since it has access to water
Marilyn-Area has to be safe and locked up. Lots of money involved.

New Business:

Co-landscape chair:

- A motion was made from Peg and seconded by Glenn to reinstate Marlene Shobe as landscape co-chair. Motion carried.

Citrus Area:

- Chairperson needs to replace bendboard in area.
- Motion was made by Jodie to increase the total budget for the Citrus area to \$400. Seconded by Brenda and motion passed.

June Celebration:

- Scheduled for June 5th. There will be no heavy work done on this workday since we will be receiving guests.
- Cake and cookies will be served. Estimate is 100 guests.
- Brenda-needs budget for food. Reminded that she has \$200 budgeted. Paper goods in closet can also be used.

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8th at 6:30 p.m., Extension Annex Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen Heck

Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.

Corrected and submitted June 10, 2010

FT. BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
AWARDS PROGRAM

Last year the Awards Dinner Committee tried to make our awards dinner more meaningful to the membership. Because our membership is more diverse than ever before with so many priorities and obligations in our lives (family & professional responsibilities, church, community, etc.) it has become evident that there are difficulties with spreading our volunteer time where we want or need to. Prioritizing our free time is a constant in our lives.

In an effort to make our Master Gardener Awards Program more meaningful for you, we would greatly appreciate your completing the following questionnaire and returning it to us at your earliest convenience. You may sign it if you wish – or you need not – your preference.

The questionnaire is in Word & may be saved on your computer making it easier to complete & send in. You may e-mail it to me (almajo1@comcast.net) as an attachment or snail mail to me (w/o a return address for those who would like to remain completely anonymous) Jodie Douglass; 5918 Mettler Ln.; Richmond, TX 77469

Thank you for your time.

Jodie Douglass
FBMG Awards Chairman

Communications Report
May 2010
Submitted by Robert Goehring, Communications Director

The following information is humbly provided.

The Grapevine

Nothing to report

Website

Will be expanding the Texas Natives page to include new plant pictures and technical write-ups. I encourage all garden chairs to provide me with a list of the plants in their garden along with pictures and I will research information pertinent and post on website. Please note that I will NOT remove plants from the website just because they no longer exist in your garden.

Blog

Current **Administrator**: Barbara

Added RSS feed for both RSS and Atom. This provides the capability for others to monitor changes on the blog and to be notified when changes (new posts, comments) are made.

Mailing Lists

Our Electronic Newsletter is now active with Mary Ellen as the administrator. This newsletter is OPEN to the public.

No activity recorded on the Entomology Mailing List.

Publicity

Mary Ellen Twiss is now our Electronic Newsletter administrator and our Facebook person. Both positions will provide additional methods of providing information about upcoming FBMG events in addition to our current methods (newspapers, periodicals, press releases, radio, etc.).

Forum

Our Forum (<http://fbmgforum.niceboards.net>) is currently active. The public can access the forum but can only see administrative items (such as FAQ, Forum Rules, etc.) without being able to see any real forum information. I am currently the Administrator for the Forum.

Should you have any questions, comments, or recommendations concerning the content, look, or usefulness of our Website, Blog, Mailing Lists, Facebook, or Forum, please do not hesitate to email me.

As of 7 May:

Facebook - 38 members

Electronic Newsletter - 9 members

Forum - 4 members

Website visitors since 1 January: 53,889

Blog visitors since 1 January: 20,219

Since 1 January, the most visited pages have been:

2007 Perennials

2008 Perennials

Calendar

2009 Perennials

2008 Fruit Tree Sale photos

2008 Tropical Fruit Tree Sale photos

Green Thumb page

Monthly Program page

MG Training Page

Gardens page

Grapevine page

About Us page

Map to the Annex page

The Stink Bug insect page

The Vegetables page

The TX Native Malpighia glabra dwarf page

Board Notes

Trees for Fort Bend page

The TX Salvias article
The Dec09/Jan10 Grapevine

Each page has been visited at least 276 times since 1 January. The calendar page has been visited 2,179 times.

Robert Goehring

Landscape Chair Report

Fort Bend Master Gardens
Rosenberg, Texas
Monthly Report - May 11, 2010

Berry Patch – The strawberry enclosure is in place and the enclosure has a door on one end, all the better to keep the varmints and winged creatures away from the bright, red fruit! More for Master Gardeners!

Butterfly Habitat – The gold and yellow lantana is blooming. One of our favs is purple phlox behind the cassia tree; it is a nectar plant for the butterflies. The new zinnias are looking great!

Cosmos (dark pink centers w/pale pink edges), purple and white verbena, cosmos (double), angelonia, phlox ground cover are all blooming, as is the parsley. An unusual plant, cardoon (vegetable) is a nectar source for butterflies. The ageratium is called “Hawaii Blue”.

Circle Garden – The East Circle will soon be covered in red and pink flowers while the West Circle will have a white, maroon and silver theme; there is a graceful fringe tree which needs pruning, so if there are volunteers reading this report, please contact Ariana Beck. Volunteers are also needed to pressure wash the white archway connecting the circles.

Citrus Orchard – At last report, the rest of the materials to complete the new bark path going round the orchard will be purchased soon. Take a stroll and imagine yourself picking fruit from your own backyard for that is how this garden is set up.

Cottage Garden – If you’re looking to be inspired by new rose picks, check out the following at The Cottage: Granny Grimmetts (dk. red), Apricot Drift (apricot), Beaute Incontante (med. pink), Beauty of Rosemawr (pink blend), Papa Hemeray (pinkish purple with a white center), Bailey’s Red (red), and Enchantress (med. pink).

Note: volunteers are needed to pressure wash the front porch of the Cottage. Thank you!

EarthKind/R/ Trial Garden - The roses have put on a grand show this month and Tricia Bradbury, Garden Chair has it in the works to mulch very soon before summer is upon us. Volunteers are needed to help mulch.

Everyone’s Garden (the E-Garden) – Emphasis on the E-Garden is intensive planting of fruit trees, something that can be duplicated back home. Dorsett apple, King Pear, Acres Pear and Anna apple are planted 18-24” apart here. There is tricolor sage, daylilies (pods are edible) and also two peach trees. Planted among this veritable Eden are herbs put there as an example of how the homeowner can interplant edibles, along with traditional foundation plants.

Fairy Garden – the space is cleared, ready for planting.

Front Yard – On First Saturday Workday, a group of volunteers raked in a delivery of mixed soil in two of the front beds. Two days later it was tilled in and is awaiting the next phase of development.

Greenhouse - Greenhouse vegetables are being kept alive and will soon go to a community garden. As always, keeping the greenhouse clean is a priority.

Herbal Knot Garden – The Tomball Garden Club was amazed at the show of golden yellow coreopsis blooming in one of the “knots”.

Japanese Garden – The two loquats in the meditation “room” are loaded with fruit. There is a golden juniper rounding the bend as one comes up to the bridge which is looking particularly fine this spring.

Outdoor Classroom – Mark your calendars for Workday Saturday, June 5th. This will be the site for the second anniversary celebration of this structure. We’ll have a grand time!

Check out the lovely flowers on the pathway winding up to the Gazebo. Cheerful, yellow strawflowers are mixed with blue ageratum. Further up the path are echinacea and colorful coreopsis.

Rainwater Harvesting Garden: Check out the bog plants behind where the rain barrel will be.

Rose Garden – The report is that the roses are looking great! If you are looking for a manageable sized rose, the Caldwell Pink does not get too big. A word about the ‘pass along’ plants in the Rose Garden: generations have been exchanging and giving away these gorgeous plants – examples are salvia, daylilies, coneflowers, skull cap and crinum. The story goes that the recipient should say “I appreciate it” not “thank you” to ensure the plants’ longevity.

Texas Natives – Many of the Tomball Garden Club members stopped and admired this garden on Tuesday, April 20, as did the Lazy Daisies on First Saturday Workday. Ready for planting on First Saturday is moss verbena, strawberry bush, coreopsis, Blackfoot daisy and Indian pinks.

Trees Across the Grounds – The trees have a new layer of leaves spread around their bases.

Vegetable Garden – It’s hard to pass by and not smile at Big Bertha, the rain barrel tank, all dressed up in her grass skirt. Our Hula Girl is standing watch over the following newly planted veggies: Big Bertha bell peppers, hot chilis and NeMex (Plot 8).

The tomatoes are up too, about 2’ high now. They were treated to worm compost tea! The tomato heirloom plants, Red Alert, are determinate, that is they produce all their fruit at once vs. an indeterminate, which is kind of vine and produces all season.

Nine melon – cantaloupe plants are up now as are the cucumbers. Beets: This is the third time they’ve been planted so the third time’s a charm! Type is Early Wonder.

And the fava beans! Just stand back and admire them! They look like a large, bushy perennial in Plot 2, near the sugar snap beans. The young, immature pods are quite tasty, while the mid-size beans can be used in soup. The larger pods are left on the vine till they dry; then the beans are shelled and stored.

Vineyard – The vines are sprayed every two weeks to keep mildew, fungus and blackspot at bay. Grapes are on the vine. If you don’t want to walk to the Vineyard, there are grapevines on the fence behind the Vegetable and EarthKind rosebeds.

Water Garden – The cannas are sprouting new leaves signaling that summer is almost here and flowers will soon cover the hill behind the waterfall.

Way Garden – The Sambac Jasmine (tea jasmine) is coming up at the base of the obelisk. We’re told that the flowers are the only jasmine that is edible and the leaves can be used to make tea. The San Antonio Peach (CEMAP) which has high chill hours bloomed earlier and has a couple peaches on it. If you’ll look down, you’ll see that the thyme is blooming now with pale purple flowers. Word is that now that the

hibiscus have been cleaned up, new growth is coming up! And better news: the baubinia galpinii that everyone admired last summer is about 2' tall now, and growing every day!

Yardwise/Compost – Another bin has been added and a nice layer of soil is on top of each of the bins.

Member Relations Report

May 2010

Submitted by Marilyn Almon

Field trip to Hope Farms Gardens and Montgomery County Master Gardeners

April 27, 2010

Thirty FBCMG members and three guests attended.

Upcoming field trip to Loris Garrett's Daylily Garden and tour of The Arbor Gate

May 17, 2010

Sixteen members have signed up so far in advance of the Tuesday, May 11th deadline.

FBCMG Reunion

June 5, 2010

Contact list has been completed.

April and May birthday celebrations

Potluck lunch will be held on Wednesday, May 12th.

FBCMG Store Setup

In progress

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.

Youth Activities

May 08, 2010

Ginny Grant

Briargate Elementary, FBISD – Extended Day Program
Ongoing JMG activities with Extended Day students.

Jane Long Elementary, LCISD, Richmond – April 13th
JMG Activity during Garden Fair for 100+ first graders

MOMSL-North, Sugar Land – April 21st
Program on Gardening with Children and JMG; about 10 mothers and 8 children, ages 3-6, participated in activity.

AgriLife Expo – May 4-5

Extension Ag-Literacy program for 4th graders from several Fort Bend County Schools; theme was how agriculture affects our lives. Master Gardeners assisted as tour leaders and program presenters. Master Gardener segment was about plants—how they became the ingredients in a hamburger.

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

Committee is planning activities and arranging speakers for Kamp.