



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
November 9, 2010**

Attendees –

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

Board Members Absent: Ginny Grant, Nat Gruesen, Barbara Brannon, Marlene Shobe

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 6:40 pm.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Barbara Buckley and a second by Jodie Douglass, the minutes of the October 12, 2010, Board Meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Jane Gray

- No written report.

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

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

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- Corrected September board minutes sent to Webmaster.

Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Written report, attached

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- Absent, no written report.

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- Written report, attached
- State Awards now has a new category-Mass Media and Websites.
- Have noticed that the Katy Times has an article each week regarding FBMG events.
- Margo-need something new to submit next year for Awards.

Communications – Barbara Buckley

- Written report, attached
- Trying to get more contributions to the blog.
- Glenn questioned whether we could compare past year's use of the website compared to present? Barbara says that we can see most popular pages in a one month period.
- Calendar entries on website still not settled. Wants all public events on the web calendar. Will start putting Master Gardener events on the calendar. Wants to put more detail regarding our monthly meeting programs.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- No written report.
- Needs to increase the speakers budget to reflect the increased time to 1 ½ hours. Will be discussed at budget meeting.
- Board discussed having a "high priced" speaker at times. No definite decision.
- Elections-Our Robert's Rules of Order is not the most updated version. Marilyn will check regarding election protocol. Election will be held after the speaker at the November monthly meeting.
- Announcements will start at 6:45.
- Hospitality-we will need a new group for next year, for the monthly meetings and the sales. Jane suggest we have a list to sign up for each month-but will need a co-ordinator. Margo suggest we separate the monthly meeting volunteers from the sales and workday volunteers.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Absent, no written report
- Jane says that the first sales planning meeting has been held.

Landscape –Marlene Shobe

- Absent, Written report attached
- Margo-brought the mailboxes previously used in the gardens.
- Barbara-self-guided garden maps need to be rewritten.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Written report, attached
- Luncheon for the new class will be held on November 10th.
- Met with Peg on Tuesday for QuickBooks set-up for the MG store. We have wearable items and garden supplies.
- Margo-the tour on Sunday was very nice.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Absent, written report attached

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- Goal is to have manual ready for the website for 1st of the year.

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Grahmann, Ph.D.

- No written report.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- No written report.
- The Spring evening class will start on January 17th.
- Gave a vermiculture class to teachers at Redding High School.

Other:

Old Business:

Term limits for Directors-tabled

Action Item Spreadsheet:

1. Equipment inventory-Mac-same
2. Mentor Program-delete
3. Historian-Ginny-proposal sent out.
4. Survey-Ginny-in progress
5. Signs-Jodie-think metal sign would last 10 years
6. Plaque-Brenda-Will have for Awards program
7. PA system-in progress
8. Fencing-Shari-needs to get with Marlene
9. Rainwater Harvesting-Shari-approved by specialist at A&M, need to talk to County next.
10. GardenChair meeting-Jane-had meeting, on-going
11. Equipment co-ordinator-guidelines are posted in Appendix A of the Operations Manuel.
No one has been assigned this position.

New Business:

- New Directors-Jane will be meeting with each director individually within a few weeks.
- Jane thanked Glenn Dresner for his two years of service to the Board.
- Budget workshop-December 14th at 6:30 PM, Extension Annex building
- Board Meeting-January 11th at 6:30 PM, Extension Annex building

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen Heck, Secretary

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.

Submitted January 7, 2011

Addendum to November Board Meeting

- Resignation-Jodie Douglass has sent a resignation letter to the board on November 12th, 2010. She will no longer be the Facilitator for the Green Thumbs Seminar effective July 15, 2011.
- On December 7, 2010 an e-mail vote was taken and passed regarding the approval of the appointment of new Directors for the 2011 year, at the request of Jane Gray, President.
- 2011 Directors are: Jodie Douglass (Awards), Barbara Buckley (Communications), Brenda Dresner (Community Relations), Ginny Grant and Jolene Maurer (Education), Barbara Brannon (Fundraising), Marlene Shobe and Becky Leugemors (Landscape), and Marilyn Almon (Member Relations)
- Budget Meeting-changed to January 4th.
- On November 18th at the monthly meeting elections were held. Executive Officers for 2011 are: Jane Gray, President, Peg Turrentine, Vice-President, Gwen Heck, Secretary, Arnold Knoche, Treasurer and Nat Gruesen, Past President.

AWARDS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 9, 2010 Board Meeting

Submitted by: Jodie Douglass

State Awards:

The Awards Program Handbook for 2010 is now on the internet (<http://txmg.org/formembers/awards>) along with all the forms for submission. I would appreciate all Board Members to review this handbook and the forms and let me know if you can see any of our programs that fit their criteria. Their primary interest is the educational value of our programs or events and the number of people we have educated. If you want to see our winning entrances from the past Mac or I can get you copies so that you can review them for content. The deadline for submission to state is Friday, January 28th, midnight. Mac &/or I need a draft in our hands by January 1st.

Awards Dinner, Thursday, December 9th

Member invitations will be e-mailed to you this next week. Invitations are also being sent to our friends, Enchanted Gardens & Caldwell's & the County Precinct Representatives.

The theme is "It's Showtime" honoring our gardens and our membership's creativity & hard work to create the beautiful environment we enjoy. Marlene Shobe is trying to gather pictures of the baren grounds & the individual gardens from their inception to their current appearance as well as the chairmen who have steered their growth. Her intentions are to have a posterboard size board for each of the gardens, events & programs which will contain, along w/ pictures, a story of this garden or event. The gathering of pictures is the most difficult chore, therefore, we are asking help from the membership from their collection of pictures.

There will be no "give-aways" this year, but door prizes – about 25 of them. It will be fun & fulfilling.

Communications Report November 2010 Board Meeting

Submitted by Barbara Buckley, Communications Director

This report provides information numbers for October 2010.

1 Website – Barbara Buckley

Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 Nov, 2010: 123,329

Visitors in Sept., 2010: 11, 073 Visitors in Oct., 2010: 10,685

Updates to the MG training pages have been made for the fall 2011 class information as well as the calendar.

2 FBMG Blog - Barbara Buckley

Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 Nov 2010: 46,924

Visitors in Sept., 2010: 4661 Visitors in Oct 2010: 3602

3 Facebook – Cindy Pack

Number of members as of 1 Nov. 2010: 66

Announcements were posted for the Green Thumb, Monthly Program and Saturday workday for November

4 Forum – Barbara Buckley

Number of registered members as of 1 Nov 2010: 12

5 Publicity – Mary Ellen Twiss

See Report below

Publicity Chairman Report November 2010

I notify newspapers, magazines, community newsletters and online calendars of the Fort Bend Master Gardeners' activities in the gardens on our workdays, the Green Thumb Seminars with their topics and the Master Gardeners' Meetings along with program announcements. I also send out press releases for our Fruit and Citrus Tree Sale and Perennial, Vegetable and Rose Sale. I work with Mac and the Fort Bend Herald to place advertisements in the paper for our February and March sales.

Press releases are sent to Sugar Land, Richmond, Rosenberg, Wallis, Katy, Pleak, Brazoria County, Fort Bend County, West Houston and the online calendar of *Texas Gardener*, "Seeds".

Submitted by
Mary Ellen Twiss
Fort Bend County Master Gardener Publicity Chair

Landscape Chair Report

November 4, 2010
Marlene Shobe

Since last meeting with the Board, Peggy D'Hemecourt has begun applications of Clarity Max and Algae Fix for the treatment of algae in the Water Garden, effective Wednesday, November 3, 2010. The chemicals will be stored in the barn and documentation regarding dates of applications will be noted in the Water Garden Binder.

Tuesday, November 2, 2010, Peggy noted concern regarding the GFI for the Water Garden. Glenn and Cliff will verify and take the immediate necessary actions. If a GFI is added, the expense of the materials will be charged to the Water Gardens. It was also noted that the electrical outlet near the pond would be covered.

For the benefit of the Board, Jodie will bring signs that are used in her subdivision as an example to consider for the Gardens.

Effective Monday, October 25, 2010, Tom Duncan resigned his position as Chair of the Front Yard, citing other responsibilities.

October 27, 2010, a quarterly meeting was held for the Garden Chairs. Covered during the meeting were the budgets for each garden for 2011, creating committees within the gardens and assigning duties other than pulling weeds and gardening. Of importance was the discussion of our responsibility to the public and what they gain from our gardens. Maintenance of the gardens and documentation of fertilizers used was also covered. Jane's Appendix Attach (discussion and review of the revised Appendix A) concluded the meeting and was presented to the Chairs.

Member Relations Report

November 8, 2010
Marilyn Almon

Cookbook Committee

The committee has completed the collection process and is currently categorizing and editing recipes in preparation for submittal to the publisher in January.

Field Trips

- October 16th—Austin. Garden Conservancy Open Days. Six very impressive gardens were toured by FBC Master Gardeners.

Fall 2010 Master Gardener Social

On Sunday, November 7th, Terri Hurley hosted approximately 40 FBCMG members and their family members in her beautiful garden. Pat Davis and Cheryl Swanson coordinated the social and provided a lovely assortment of refreshments.

FBCMG Store

The garden tools and supplies sector of the store, operated by James Buckley, officially opened for business on October 21st. Sales volume in that sector through November 8th was \$1,063, with the Fall 2010 Associates making up the primary customer base thus far.

Terry Douglass will continue to operate the Wearable Items sector of the store.

**Fort Bend Master Gardeners, Inc.
Youth Activities Report
November 6, 2010
Ginny Grant**

Schiff ES – Fort Bend ISD - JMG

Continuing school garden activities with the Go-Green Club. Students planted fall vegetables and herbs, using JMG Paper-towel Gardening Activity.

Reading MS – Lamar CISD – STEM

'Vermiculture in the Classroom' presentation to middle school science teachers. MG volunteer instructors demonstrated assembling and maintaining a vermiculture bin.

Mission Bend ES – Fort Bend ISD – JMG

Math and Science Night for Parents and Students. Display about JMG program and Butterflies and their habitats.

Earth-Kind® Kids Kamp – 2011 - JMG

Kamp has been scheduled for June 6-10 and August 8-12. June session will be JMG Level 1 and the August session tentatively planned to be Level 2 JMG activities (grades 6-8).