



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 8, 2011**

**Attendees –**

*Board Members Present:* Brenda Dresner, Barbara Buckley, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Peg Turrentine, Marilyn Almon, Nat Gruesen, Becky Leugemors, Arnold Knoche, Robin Winfree, Gwen Heck

*Board Members Absent:* 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

Guest: Amy Jo Holdaway

**Call to Order** –Jane Gray called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes** – After a motion by Nat Gruesen and a second by Marilyn Almon, the minutes of the October 11, 2011, Board meeting were approved, with corrections, by all.

**Officer and Committee Reports:**

President – Jane Gray

- No written report.
- This will be our last board meeting for the year. We will have a budget meeting in December.

Vice President – Peg Turrentine

- No written report

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- No written report

Treasurer – Arnold Knoche

- Written report attached

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- Congratulates Jane Gray for a job well done.
- Nominating committee has a new slate of officers ready for the November monthly meeting.

Awards – Robin Winfree

- Written report attached.
- Questions the procedure for submitting for awards to the State Master Gardeners. Shari has the forms for submissions.
- Continuing to have members photographed with their “three words” for the awards banquet in December.

Communications – Barbara Buckley

- Written report attached
- Revisions to web coming along slowly.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- No written report.
- Has talked with the publisher of *Coffee News*, a sales and advertising pamphlet, which is placed in restaurants. They publish 6 K copies per week, which are free to the public.
- For \$150.00 to \$200.00 we could have 12 weeks of advertising in this pamphlet starting in January. We could use this to advertise our two plant sales.
- Ginny-asked if we could also post our future MG classes and monthly programs. Brenda will check on this.

Education-Ginny Grant

- Written report attached.
- Master Gardeners presented information on citrus at the Sugar Land Heritage Farmers Market last Saturday. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, we will be doing a butterfly presentation.
- “Save the date” cards will be ready for the farmers market this Saturday.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- No written report, absent.

Landscape –Becky Leugemors

- Written report attached.
- Presently working with garden chairs on 2012 budget. Jane says she is proud of everyone who are already working on the proposed budget.
- Nat explained how the December budget workshop works, for new members in attendance.
- 6 yards of compost are to be delivered this week.
- Becky asked about the gator path and the signage for the gardens. Jane explained this would be addressed with the new budget.
- Discussion regarding the storage and use of cottonseed meal. It was decided that it would be kept in the shade room and distributed by the garden chairs.
- Shari reminds everyone that the use in the gardens needs to be documented-need to know the square footage of garden, amount used in each specific garden. This form needs to stay with the cottonseed meal.
- Barbara suggest that we also get a bulk purchase of alfalfa pellets and store the same. Board agrees.
- Mac says that the cottonseed meal should be moved to bulk purchases.
- Range building proposal-Shari reminds us that the county needs to approve the proposal for the side of the Range building.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Written report attached
- Thanked Robin for being a gracious host during the garden tours. Pat Davis did a wonderful job organizing the garden tours.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Governance Committee

- Will be handled in old business.

## **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 Master Gardener class is over. It went well. The class almost had perfect attendance.
- If we do another accelerated fall class, we need to add garden orientation with guidelines.
- Had graduation for Spring class last week. We had 100% attendance. The skit was well received.

**Other:**

### **Old Business:**

Action Item Spreadsheet-no updates

Term Limits for Directors- *Proposed verbiage as it would relate to term limits for directors:*

*Directors will serve for a one year term and may be reappointed to the same position for not more than one successive term. A director who is appointed to the position will be considered to have served one year if the appointment is made and approved prior to July 1st. Appointments approved after July 1st will be considered to constitute less than a one year term.*

Board was approving of the verbiage proposed. Marilyn asked that this same verbiage be added to the officers. (*A ~~director~~ officer who is appointed to the position will be considered to have served one year if the appointment is made and approved prior to July 1st. Appointments approved after July 1st will be considered to constitute less than a one year term*)

- The board agrees that this verbiage will be sent out in an APB to members in preparation for a vote at the next monthly meeting.
- The Bylaws also need to be changed to reflect the new terminology regarding Texas Agr'Life.

Greenhouse repairs-still waiting. Sale committee meeting scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business:**

1. Educational Grant Recipients
  - Ginny recommends we give money to the Fort Bend Museum for their children's educational programs and to the Fort Bend 4-H with money going to one boy and one girl.
  - A motion was made by Nat to donate \$5,000.00 to the Fort Bend Museum for their children's educational programs and \$3,000.00 to the Fort Bend 4-H, to be equally divided between one boy and one girl. The motion was seconded by Brenda Dressner. The motion passed.
2. Upcoming calendar of events
  - The budget meeting will take place on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Annex building. Members of the board will bring food. Brenda will co-ordinate the food.
  - There will be no December board meeting.

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 7<sup>35</sup> p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held in January 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Annex building. The date has not been set.

**Addendum to minutes-**

November 9<sup>th</sup> e-mail from Mac and Shari

- We feel it in the best interest of the organization if we hold off on this vote until there has been a chance to review related documents from Texas A & M to make sure we are still in compliance with what Texas A & M has issued. There is no reason to rush into these changes when we know there could possibly be more. It is of vital importance that our by-laws are in line with what Texas A & M requires. Therefore, we are postponing the “directors verbiage” for a few weeks until such time that we are confident that we have a good document to file with the State of Texas.
- We realize that we can ask the membership to vote on the new director verbiage; however, we must take into consideration that we should not be making frequent changes to By-laws as that is a red flag.
- This is not an extended delay, but only just a few weeks’ extension.

November 17<sup>th</sup>-At the monthly meeting the following executive officers were voted in: President-Ginny Grant, Vice-President-Peg Turrentine, Secretary-Terry Harris, Treasurer-Arnold Knoche

November 29<sup>th</sup>.-An e-vote was taken by the board to donate \$500.00 to Dr. Bill Welch’s scholarship foundation. Passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gwen Heck, Secretary  
Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.

Awards Committee  
November 8, 2011  
Robin Winfree

The Awards committee met on Oct. 20. The awards banquet will be held Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00, with dinner served at 6:30. The theme for this year's banquet is "Masters Gardeners in 3 Words". This idea is from the Good Morning America news show.

Ben's Chuck Wagon is catering the dinner. Ben's is providing the meat and vegetables. FBMG is paying for the master gardeners and the associate's meal. Guest will pay a fee for dinner. The committee is bringing appetizers. We will ask for volunteers to bring desserts.

We have several ways we are involving the Master Gardeners and Associates. First, we are collecting photos of Master Gardeners and Associates holding signs with their 3 words. They will decide on 3 words that represent something about gardening. It can include people and/or things that relate to the 3 words. They can have 3 individual signs with one word per sign, or they can have 1 sign with all 3 words on it. They can either send in one of their own photos to Barbara Buckley, or I can take their photo for them. I will go to the gardens and take individuals photos with their signs on the Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday workday, and on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Wednesday workdays. These photos will be put into a slideshow by Barbara Buckley and will be shown during the program. Deadline to submit a photo is November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Another way for people to be involved with the Awards program is to decorate the centerpiece on the dining tables for the banquet. We will have 12 tables to be decorated in the theme "Master Gardeners in 3 Words". We are asking for small groups to decorate each table. The theme must be approved by Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. The size is maximum 2 feet wide by 1 foot tall. The 3-word theme must be incorporated into the design. The tables are to be decorated on Dec 8<sup>th</sup> between 2 and 5:30 pm. We now have 8 teams signed up.

Like last year, we will have several big door prizes and a variety of gift cards. Our next meeting is at 4:30 on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Communications Report  
November 2011 Board Meeting**

Submitted by Barbara Buckley, Communications Director

This report provides information and numbers for October 2011.

- 1 **Website** – Barbara Buckley  
Visitors from 1 October 2010 to 31 October, 2011: **151,108**  
Visitors in September 2011: **10,404** Visitors in October, 2011: 9,726
- 2 **FBMG Blog** - Barbara Buckley  
Visitors from 1 October 2010 to 31 October, 2011: **46,726**  
Visitors in September 2011: **3,757** Visitors in October, 2011: 3,577
- 3 **Facebook** – Cindy Pack  
Number of members as of 31 October 2011: **87**  
October and November announcements were posted for Monthly Program and Saturday workday.
- 4 **Publicity** – Mary Ellen Twiss  
Notices were sent to local newspapers, magazines, and websites with information about events for October and November.

## **Landscape Director Report**

November 8, 2011

Becky Leugemors

Hi board-folk, want to propose we buy the signs without the legs - we can get legs much cheaper if we buy locally and cut out several layers of middle-men - have located and spoken to several resources in Houston, and narrowed it down to 2 in square, galvanized, 14 or 11 gauge steel in 24ft lengths.

Also - have estimated the cubic yardage needed for the gator-walkway paths as drawn on the map presented last meeting. It comes to approx. 50 cubic yards. The biggest drawback I see is that we don't have a front-end loader (Bobcat would be ideal) to do this with. Does the county do these things for us?

Anyway, that is what I need to present and get your vote/ideas in these items. See ya, Beck L

## **Member Relations Report**

November 7, 2011

Marilyn Almon

### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual FBCMG Fall Garden Tour—Sunday, October 30th.**

A very special thank you to the garden hosts: Don and Elisabeth Jones, Kathy Hulfish, Gayle Scruggs, Robin Winfree, and Joe Vinson for opening their gardens and to Pat Davis for coordinating the tour. Some of the garden hosts estimated that approximately 50 guests toured their gardens. Hosts will have an opportunity to caravan to all of the tour gardens on Thursday, Nov. 10th.

### **Field Trips**

- October 28<sup>th</sup>—22 master gardeners and one guest enjoyed a lecture and tour of Bella Vista Ranch in Wimberley. Seventeen master gardeners toured the Industrial Country Market in Columbus.
- November 17<sup>th</sup>—Guided tour of Ellison's Greenhouses in Brenham. Sign up deadline is Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- December 1<sup>st</sup>—Tour of Brazos Citrus Nursery in West Columbia. Participants will see the facility where the citrus stock is grown that is sold at the Fruit Tree Sales, as well as a budding demonstration.
- December 10<sup>th</sup>—Citrus tasting in John Panzarella's backyard in Lake Jackson.
- Info about the field trips is posted on the Members Only page of the website.

### **Cookbook Project**

Editing continues.

### **FBCMG Store**

Sales were brisk at the October monthly program.

### **Member Rosters**

November updates have been submitted and posted to the website for the following:

- Who's Who in the MG Program
- Board of Directors
- Member Roster

### **Membership**

Registration forms and dues payments are coming in from the Spring 2011 grads. They have until November 30th to submit their registrations and dues for the 2012 year.

**Education Report**  
November 07, 2011  
Ginny Grant

**Entomology Group**

No report

**Green Thumb Program**

Program being revised/on hiatus until 2012

**Monthly Educational Program**

**2011**

November: Native American Gifts to the World, Dr. Bob Pierce

**2012**

January: Fruit & Citrus, John Panzarella, (1 ½ hours)

February: Lessons from a Rose Rustler, Mike Shoup, Antique Rose Emporium

March: Soil Food Web & Types of Compost & Mulch, John Ferguson, Nature's Way Resources  
(1 ½ hours)

April: Bamboo, Mike Frismanis, FBMG

June: Birds in the City, Mary Anne Weber, Houston Audubon Society

September: What's Growing in My Garden, Brenda Beust Smith, The Lazy Gardener

**Speakers Bureau**

Oct: 3 programs: garden club, church group, & George Library -total of 88 attendees

Nov-Dec: No programs scheduled

**Youth Activities**

Oct 21-22: Texian Market Days, George Ranch, (school groups on Friday, general public on Saturday)

Dec 9: Katy ISD, JMG Orientation for Elementary Science Curriculum Instructional Coaches