



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 10, 2009**

**Attendees –**

*Board Members Present:* Nat Gruesen, Glenn Dresner, Brenda Dresner, Peg Turrentine, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Jodie Douglass and Susan Peacock

*Board Members Absent:* Marilyn Almon, Robert Goehring, Cindy Fairbanks, Mary Beth McCaughey, and Barbara Brannon

*AgriLife Extension Advisor Present:*

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

*AgriLife Extension Advisor Present:*

CEA - Horticulture – Shari Koch

*Quorum Present? Yes*

**Call to Order** – Nat Gruesen called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes** – After a motion by Susan and a second by Jodie, the minutes of the October 13, 2009 Board meeting were approved by all.

**Officer and Committee Reports:**

President – Nat Gruesen

- Nat told the Board that Mary Beth and the Nominating Committee are still working on the nominees for the 2010 Board officers and will have the full slate ready later this week to present at the member monthly meeting on 11/19/09.
- He reminded the Board that an Election Committee is needed to conduct the election of officers at the meeting. Jodie volunteered to chair this committee which must include two members-at-large. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor and then a motion will be needed to cease the nominations.

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

- No report.

Secretary – Susan Peacock

- No report.

#### Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Peg's report is attached to the minutes.
- She has a \$15 Office Depot coupon available for use if needed.
- Peg noted that the second report she sent to Board members is the correct one; the first one should be disregarded.
- Peg proposed that the \$125 speaker honorarium be credited to the Entomology Group for the class they conducted for the F09 MG class. They also helped with the JMG Kids Kamp this year. After a motion by Peg and a second by Brenda, the motion was approved by all. Peg will also send an email note to Nancy Shafer thanking them for the great job they did.

#### Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- No report; Mary Beth was not present.

#### Awards – Jodie Douglass

- Jodie introduced a discussion on member volunteer hour patches and whether specific hours or ranges, e.g., "1000+" are better. She said that the patches are not being worn very often, possibly due to the discomfort of the award shirts. There was discussion on other options to acknowledge hours that might be more popular, such as standardized pins. (One vendor for this is Plano Pin Co.) It was suggested that this should be discussed by committee and Marilyn asked about how to canvass the membership. This will be tabled until March after awards are turned in in February.

#### Communications – Robert Goehring

- Robert's report is attached to the minutes.
- Robert was not present at the meeting but Margo presented a verbal report after talking with him:
  - Robert is getting a lot of emails about MG-only events. Some are from non-master gardeners interested in the public list which could be combined with publicity with Mary Ellen before the events.
  - The new FAQ page on the website is getting more hits than any other and hits are increasing.
  - Robert has enjoyed his two years as Communication Director. He will continue editing the Grapevine and as Webmaster and will write for the blog which Barbara administrates.
- Lynn McKillop may be getting a bill for the domain name and Margo will get with her on this.
- Robert obtained the Nick's Restaurant gift card for Caldwell's Nursery as approved by the Board at the last meeting and gave it to Brenda.

#### Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Brenda stated that the budget has been exceeded for the category of Door Prizes (although not the total budget). The Committee is shopping at the 99¢ Store and bringing plants to keep expenses down.

- This month's speaker, Ray Ponton, is coming in from North Houston and will be taken out for dinner that day at 5 pm at Shultze's.
- It was mentioned that in the future speakers could eat at the meeting instead of being taken out beforehand.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- No report; Barbara was not present.

Greenhouse – Open position

- No report.

Landscape –Cindy Fairbanks and Jane Gray, co-chairs

- Cindy and Jane's report is attached to the minutes.
- Jane went over the items in the report and added that decorations for the Holiday Garden Decorating Contest should be up by 12/8/09, judging will be held 12/9/09 and decorations must be removed by 1/2/10. She added that there should be no religious themes used.
- The Work Day in January will remain scheduled for 1/2/10.
- There are 80 kalanchoes that need to be gotten rid of.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Marilyn was not present but her report is attached to the minutes.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Ginny's report is attached to the minutes.
- Ginny reported that a meeting is being held 11/11/09 with the Home School group in Fort Bend to discuss possible JMG activities.
- She also mentioned the Convoy of Hope Program at the Fairgrounds on 11/21/09. Anyone will be able to get a bag of food and it will open at 9 am.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Governance Committee

- No report.

**Extension Service Advisor Reports:**

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Koch

- No report.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- Margo reported that the last class for F09 class is next week. A potluck buffet which is being chaired by Marilyn will be served at the last class.
- Margo said that the viability of a night class for master gardener training is being considered.

## **Old Business:**

### Landscape Expenses

- Nat brought up that the Samurai statue has already been purchased for the Japanese Garden. He recommended that the overage expenditure should be voted on by the Board without amending the budget which is set for the year. Possible changes to budget policies can be discussed later for 2010. Ginny made a motion to approve \$125 for the statue, Brenda seconded the motion, and it was approved by all.
- The line item "Other Landscape Expenses" will be used to purchase roses.

### Unfinished Business List

- Glenn mentioned that the Board needs to identify the Outstanding Items currently still pending on the 2009 Unfinished Business List and move forward on a new list for 2010. Nat will update the list.

## **New Business:**

### 2010 Budget

- The December meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> (Note: meeting date later changed to Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>) to prepare the 2010 Budget. The meeting will be held at 6:00 pm and everyone is to bring a potluck dish. Nat asked that everyone start working on their budget items and send them to him to compile.

### Master Gardeners to Landscape Rosenberg Welcome Signs

- There was a discussion of the Master Gardener project to help landscape some of the city of Rosenberg Welcome signs. There will be 3 – 4 of these signs. Rosenberg will pay expenses for the Knockout Roses and ground cover that they have selected for these areas and there is irrigation available. They would like FBMGs to install the plants in the spring and help with maintenance. This will be good PR for the MGs and an opportunity to get hours.

### Chartering

- Nat mentioned the new chartering requirement for county master gardener associations that he has been emailing the Board about in the previous week. He stated that FBMG is already in good shape for having this done and he is just making the Board aware of the requirement which is due 1/31/10. He will be signing off on this first one.

### Property Fence

- The subject of the property fence for the FBCMG grounds, which had tabled by the Board in March of this year to allow time for reporting of any vandalism or property loss, was reintroduced for discussion.
- The fence would run along the sides of the property adjacent to the vegetable garden and the Arena and would include gates. There are no plans as yet by the County to put in a road.

- Estimates for the fence have been previously obtained and the money budgeted. Jane will get an updated bid.
- The fence would better define the property and give an improved appearance. Margo showed slides to the Board of visits to the MG gardens of Galveston and Victoria counties which both have attractive fencing of a similar type to that being considered.
- There was discussion of the role of the fence as a deterrent. The fence could slow the traffic going to/from the Arena grounds but would not serve as a significant deterrent to the gardens.
- Nat made the motion that the construction of the fence be approved as a budget project subject to a final acceptable bid and final approval by the County. Brenda seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

#### Greenhouse Management

- Nat introduced the topic of restructuring the Greenhouse Director position to a Chair position reporting to the Landscaping Director. After a motion by Nat, and a second by Brenda, it was approved by all. This change will require an amendment to the Operations Manual which will be referred to the new Board in 2010. This position is currently open and will need to be recruited.

Nat adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be the annual budget meeting and will be held on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> (changed from the originally scheduled date of December 15th) at 6:00 p.m. in the annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Peacock  
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
Submitted 12/6/09

## **November 2009 Communications Report**

Submitted by: Robert Goehring

The following information is humbly provided.

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### ***The Grapevine***

**Deadline for December/January edition is 1 December!** Please note the date change due to Thanksgiving. Plan to publish 4 December.

The topic will be "Our Year in Summary" and I am asking Board members to write a 500 word or less article summing up the year. The good, the bad, and the gardening!

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### **Website**

Visitor count for October: 13,817 - September: 12,094 - August: 10,850.

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### **Blog**

Current **Administrator**: Barbara

Visitor count for October: 4,211 - September: 3,527 - August: 2,358.

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### **Mailing List**

**Entomology**. Leslie Niemand is our Administrator. So far, there have been three emails sent.

**Gardens**. No administrator yet.

**Happenings**. Removed. This will not be a list.

**Public List**. No administrator yet.

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### **Publicity**

Publicity Chair Report November 2009

I am now posting our Fort Bend Master Gardener events on the Texas Master Gardener website. I have sent out all our November publicity and some December. I have also started sending out Fruit Tree Sale and Perennial Sale information to the publications that need notification 6 to 8 weeks in advance.

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

## **November 2009 Landscaping Report**

Submitted by: Jane Gray & Cindy Fairbanks

\*All the gardens are looking great. The November work day was well attended.

\*Everyone will have to meet the Samurai in the Japanese garden. He is a handsome addition.

\*On November 18 at 9:00 a.m., Shari and Jane will meet with all garden chairs to direct them in goal setting, procedures, and to begin the budget process for 2010.

\*The 2-step ant control application for fall will occur tomorrow, Nov. 11.

\*Brenda Dresner relinquished her position as co-landscape chair of the Cottage Garden since her other work with FBMG continues to take more time and responsibility.

\*A holiday decorating contest among the gardens will be announced on Nov. 18 to garden chairs. Judging will occur on Nov. 9.

### November 2009 Member Relations Report

Submitted by Marilyn Almon

#### Fall Field Trip Update

- A&M Gardens and Antique Rose Emporium – November 14th  
Twenty-one Master Gardeners and one guest will be participating in the field trip to the Holistic Garden and the gardens on Hensel Drive. Lunch will be at Café Bloomers in Navasota.

#### MG Fall Garden Tours

The two Sundays of Fall Garden Tours were quite successful due to the extraordinary generosity of the garden hosts and perfect fall weather provided an extra bonus. Appreciation is expressed to the following Master Gardeners who opened their gardens:

Burt Reckles  
Jane Rudat  
Tricia Bradbury  
Arleen Harbin  
Terri Hurley  
Gloria Sheel  
Millie Knapp  
Jolene Mauer  
Peg d'Hemecourt

#### Paint Texas with Wildflowers Project

Using mixed wildflower seeds from the Dept. of Agriculture, seed balls were made on October 28th and then dispersed on November 4th in an area at the intersection of Spur 10 (Hartledge Road) and US 59, just outside the northbound lanes of US 59. Thank you to Glenn Dresner for cutting the grass in that area in preparation for the seed ball casting.

#### Potluck Welcoming Lunch for Fall 2009 Class

On Wednesday, November 18th, at the conclusion of the final day of classes (noon), FBCMG will host a potluck welcoming lunch for the 2009 Associates. It is hoped that many Master Gardeners will participate in this activity. *Participation of Board members is especially encouraged.*

November 2009 Youth Activities Report

Submitted by: Ginny Grant

JMG Meeting – Briargate Elementary, FBISD – ongoing meetings

School Garden Meeting – M. R. Wood School, FBISD – October 14<sup>th</sup>  
Meeting with teachers to discuss installation of habitat garden.

JMG Meeting – Schiff Elementary, FBISD – ongoing meetings  
Working with garden coordinator to install habitat garden

Convoy of Hope Program – November 21<sup>st</sup>, Rosenberg  
JMG activity for children attending event at the Fairgrounds.