



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
October 12, 2010**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Brenda Dresner, Glenn Dresner, Barbara Buckley, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Peg Turrentine, Marilyn Almon, Marlene Shobe, Gwen Heck

Board Members Absent: Barbara Brannon, Jodie Douglass, Nat Gruesen

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 6:45 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Peg Turrentine and a second by Glenn Dresner , the corrected minutes of the September 14, 2010, Board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Jane Gray

- No written report.
- Jane reminds us that the Master Gardener program is a “volunteer organization” and we need to remember to have fun!

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

- Action item spread sheet submitted. To be discussed under old business
- Reports that the Zoo fieldtrip today was great-lots of wonderful information.

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- No written report
- Board minutes from August were submitted to the Web.

Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Written report, attached.
- Ginny questioned the placement in the budget of the 30K put aside for the future fence. No quick answer after discussion. Will check on this further.

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- Absent, no written report

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- Absent. Written report, attached.

Communications – Barbara Buckley

- Written report, attached.

- Hits to website going down over the summer months.
- Studying changes we need to make. Will change web look at a later date.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- No written report
- November Monthly Meeting-Michael Bettler on “Container Gardening with Herbs for the Holidays”

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Absent, no written report.

Landscape –Marlene Shobe

- Written report, attached
- Will continue to have meetings with the garden chairs to work on procedures.
- Three gardens are without chairs-Way Garden, Japanese Garden and Circle Garden
- Justin came out and cleaned out the pond. Looks Great! He says that the mechanics are adequate for the pond.
- We need something to create shade at the pond. A tree would only create new problems with the leaves falling.
- Beds surrounding the pond need to be enlarged to keep the pond cleaner.
- Need to check with Terry to see if he wants to continue as chairperson.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Written report, attached
- Barbara questioned whether we could publish pictures of Master Gardeners on the Website. After discussion, it was agreed that we could.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Written report, attached

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- The approved changes to the Operations Manual have been made and are in the process of being proofed before submission to the website.
- Marilyn has worked up proposed changes to the by-laws concerning term limits for directors. To be discussed under old business. Report attached.

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Koch. Ph.D.

- No written report.
- Thanks all Master Gardeners for their help during the fair. It was the “best ever”.
- Estimated visits to the Activity Barn-5,033
- Thanked Mac for a great job of organizing.
- The location for the Activity Barn is not the best. The County has an interest in building an Open Air Pavilion but they need sponsors to help with the cost.
- School tours were down this year due to transportation budget cost.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- No written report.
- Margo was questioned regarding the number of volunteer hours the Activity Barn takes in preparation for and during the fair and if it is hard to find volunteers. She says that the

Activity Barn is a popular event and the Master Gardeners look forward to volunteering each year.

Other:

Old Business:

1. Term Limits for directors

- Marilyn explained her proposed options. Any changes will have to go to the membership for a vote.
- Options were discussed on how to distribute the proposed changes to all members, before a vote could be taken.
- After discussion, it was decided to research "Robert's Rules of Order" regarding the proper procedure.

2. Action Item spreadsheet

- Mentors-Extended to January
- Historian-Ginny will look for the copy-November
- Signs-Marlene has contacted Sign Designs. Examples of different weights was brought to the meeting. Signs are to be water-proofed. After discussion, it was decided to get a bid on both weights presented.
- Mulch containers-Marlene needs more time to check what other gardens are using. Wants to take a look at Enchanted Gardens and Montgomery County.
- Water barrels-Peg says she is waiting for approval.
- Equipment Inventory-Barbara-November

New Business:

1. Butterfly Garden-request for funds

- Needs plant replacements
- Would like to put up an outside butterfly display case near the Vitex tree. It will be a water proof bronze color case.
- A motion was made by Brenda and seconded by Marlene to allow expenditure of \$189.57 for the butterfly garden. Motion carried.

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the Annex building.

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

AWARDS DINNER – October 12, 2010 Report
Submitted by Jodie Douglass

Dinner date: Thursday, December 9, 2010
Social Period: 5:30pm
Dinner Served: 6:00pm
Theme: "It's Showtime!"

This is following the old black & white movie period when billboards were on display showing upcoming features. Chairman of gardens, committees, events, etc. will be given black poster-board size boards to work out a collage displaying the history & story of their area of responsibility. These boards will be displayed along the side wall of the room on easels & tables. The Power Point program will be on-going through the social hour & dinner.

Bar-be-que chicken will be from Swinging Door again, with sides, salads & deserts provided by members as in the past.

Invitations will be going out November 11th. We are inviting our nursery friends and commissioners.

We have designed a special patch for the "Master Gardener of the Year" which will be awarded retroactive as well.

Everything else will be different than in the past. A surprise!

Set the date & come.

Communications Report September 2010

Submitted by Barbara Buckley, Communications Director

The following information provides an update for some of the areas under Communications.

- 1 Website** – Barbara Buckley
Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 Oct, 2010: 112,644
Visitors in Aug., 2010: 11, 319 Visitors in Sept., 2010: 11, 073
- 2 FBMG Blog** - Barbara Buckley
Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 Oct 2010: 43,322
Visitors in Aug., 2010: 4729 Visitors in Sept 2010: 4661
- 3 Facebook** – Cindy Pack
Number of members as of 1 Oct Sept. 2010: 66
- 4 Forum** - Barbara Buckley
Number of registered members as of 1 Oct Sept 2010: 12

Landscape Committee Report

October 8, 2010
Marlene Shobe

Wow – What a busy month! Now that the Fair is behind us, it is time to resume fall garden activities. Last Saturday was our workday in the Gardens. The Native Garden was especially alive with activity. Drainage and a "dry river" were added for the newly installed rain harvest barrel, plants were installed and pruned. It really looks nice. The rain barrel seems to go back in time...

Further down the path a petite peach tree was added to the Cottage Garden, located near the fence. Faith was busy getting new cuttings from the roses which are "green-housed" in glass jars.

I noted that the Driveway had been weeded and looks very respectable. It has been in need of attention.

As usual, the Vegetable Garden was being monitored and attended by its faithful gardeners. I would like to add that the Vegetable Garden and Butterfly Garden were of special interest to a teenage boy and his younger brother this past Tuesday evening. As they ate their McDonald's Hamburgers, they wandered through the two gardens, looking at the veggies and fascinated that these are experimental gardens. The signs really do help!! They started out on the swing and became curious with the Water Garden. The older of the two commented that "they didn't realize all this was back here." I wonder how many others don't know, but would be just as pleasantly surprised. How do we get the word out?? Okay that's another subject for another time. Back to my report.

The Water Garden has been drained and cleaned and all mechanics have been inspected. The pumps and filters are adequate. While the algae were an eye sore, Justin with Pond Pros pointed out that the water beneath the algae was clear. Intensifying the shade by adding water lilies and regular maintenance will help regulate and contain the overwhelming algae.

All concerns regarding the Water Garden that you have conveyed to me have been presented to Justin for his diagnosis. I am attaching his report so that you can review it first hand.

I asked about enlarging and adding beds as I feel that weed and grass growth were an issue in addition to the grass clippings from mowers and weed whackers. Dressing the beds with hardwood mulch would prevent wind blown soil and mulch into the pond.

Attached also are his forms and recommendations for maintenance. Peggy D'Hemmecort was also kind enough to submit her suggestions for a routine maintenance by the gardeners. She is willing to assist or do the maintenance.

Member Relations Report

October 11, 2010

Marilyn Almon

Cookbook Committee

The committee is in the process of contacting members to obtain recipes until October 31st for *Master Samplings II*. Projected completion date for the project is March 2011.

Field Trips

- October 8-9th—San Antonio Botanical Garden on the 8th and “Urban Farming—the Ultimate Backyard Experience” on the 9th. Eight Master Gardeners attended and enjoyed the trip and seminar.
- October 12th—Guided horticultural tour of the Houston Zoo. Twenty-one members are scheduled to attend.
- October 16th—Austin. Garden Conservancy Open Days. Six gardens will be toured. Deadline to sign up was October 1st.

Fall 2010 Master Gardener Garden Tour III

Sunday, November 7th, 1 to 5 pm. Pat Davis and Cheryl Swanson are working to obtain gardens for the tour.

Master Gardener Participation in the Sugar Land Garden Club Garden Art and Plant Sale—September 25th

The FBCMG booth had the highest vendor sales volume at GAPS, selling \$1,979 of garden-related merchandise. The garden club retained \$296.85, equivalent to the vendor fee of 15% of sales. Peg Turrentine headed up the booth sales and was assisted by Doris Brandenburg, Jane Schnell, Donna Alberts, Burt Reckles, and Arnold Knoche. They represented FBCMG wonderfully.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment—Term Limits for Directors

Current Bylaws verbiage as it pertains to officers:

Officers will serve for a one year term and may be reelected to the same office for not more than **one successive term**. Upon adoption of these Bylaws, this provision shall apply to the individuals holding office, **retroactive to the start** of the current term.

Proposed verbiage as it would relate to directors:

Option 1:

Directors will serve for a one year term and may be reappointed to the same position for not more than **one successive term**. Upon adoption of this amendment, this provision shall apply to the individuals holding directorships **at the end** of the current 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.

Option 2:

Directors will serve for a one year term and may be reappointed to the same position for not more than **two successive terms**. Upon adoption of this amendment, this provision shall apply to the individuals holding directorships **at the end** of the current 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.

Recommend changing *Article VII – Officers* to read *Article VII – Officers and Directors*

FYI: Article XV – Bylaws Amendments:

In accordance w/ the current Bylaws, if the membership votes on this in November, it would not go into effect until the Board meets in January, and therefore, directors whose terms would have expired at the end of 2010 had it been voted on and approved prior to November, would be allowed to complete their terms in 2011.

Submitted by Marilyn Almon
October 11, 2010

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Youth Activities
October 9, 2010
Ginny Grant

Ag'Tivity Barn, Fort Bend County Fair – Sept 24th – Oct 2nd

Very successful this year due in large part to dedicated Master Gardener volunteers. Master Gardeners created the educational displays, manned the stations throughout the Fair, and were the primary work force for set-up and tear down. Attendance on school days was less than prior years.

Schiff ES – Fort Bend ISD – 'Go Green Garden Club'

Ongoing gardening activities, 120+ children actively participate in the club. This week's activity is "Paper Towel Gardening" from the JMG curriculum.

A number of schools, public and private, have contacted FBMG recently. They are interested in the JMG program and have requested information about JMG and school gardens-both vegetable and butterfly.