



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
October 13, 2009**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Glenn Dresner, Brenda Dresner, Peg Turrentine, Marilyn Almon, Robert Goehring, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Jodie Douglass, and Nat Gruesen.

Board Members Absent: Cindy Fairbanks, Mary Beth McCaughey, Barbara Brannon, and Susan Peacock.

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 6:44 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Robert and a second by Ginny, the minutes of the September 9, 2009, Board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Nat Gruesen

- Nat thanked Jane for her work organizing the Dargan Landscape Design Workshop in August.
- He also thanked Board members for their contributions to FBCMG in 2009.
- Nat reminded everyone that it was time to consider budget items for 2010.

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

- No report.

Secretary – Susan Peacock

- Susan was not present.

Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Peg's report is attached to the minutes.
- She commented that the MG Herb Sale at GAPS netted \$80.

Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth was not present.

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- Jodie's report is attached.
- Jodie announced that the date for the annual dinner and program was changed to Wednesday, December 9th and will start at 6 pm. The theme will be Fruits of our Labor and the event will focus on accomplishments of FBCMG as a whole rather than on individual award recognitions.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Robert's report is attached to the minutes.
- Jodie complimented Robert on his exceptional work on the website.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Brenda announced that the dedication of the Outdoor Classroom has been postponed until Spring.
- Brenda stated that Kronberg's estimate to replace the wind-damaged Master Gardener flag with another 3x5 flag would be \$130. The question arose as to whether a simplified logo could be used versus the proper logo containing AgriLife. Brenda will research further options. Margo asked if the organization wanted to spend money every quarter on a new Master Gardener flag. The discussion was tabled and Margo will send logo information to Brenda.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Barbara was not present.

Greenhouse – Open position

- No report.

Landscape – Cindy Fairbanks and Jane Gray, Co-directors

- Cindy and Jane's report is attached to the minutes, along with the Irrigation Report from Jim Cowan, Irrigation Chair.
- Peg is recruiting volunteers to work in the Veggie Garden.
- Ant treatment is pending a date that Dr. Paul Nester can be present for observation. Bill Young has been authorized to purchase Extinguish Plus for broadcast treatment.
- Jane would like to add a samurai statue to the Japanese Garden. An e-vote may be necessary for approval.
- Justin from Pond Pros has suggested the regular addition of chemicals to the Water Garden.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Marilyn's report is attached to the minutes.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Ginny's report is attached to the minutes.
- Ginny reported that as part of the Convoy of Hope program, a bag of groceries would be given to those attending nutritional training the week before Thanksgiving.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- No report.

Extension Service Advisor Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Koch

- Shari reported on several program suggestions for FBCMG.
- Information Fair – sponsored by the County. A trade show will be held in February 2010 and all Extension-related committees are requested to have informational booths that would be open to County agencies for two hours and to the public for one hour. Located at the Fairgrounds, this would be a way to showcase what Master Gardeners do.
- Partnership with the City of Sugar Land at Gillingham Gardens – Gardening expertise is needed to advise truant kids who are working off hours requirements in the gardens. The City will formalize the agreement and all volunteers must be registered with the City of Sugar Land. All food from the gardens goes to Fort Bend ministries.
- The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo wants a Master Gardener booth staffed for three weeks. The Harris County Master Gardener Association is requesting help from Master Gardener groups in surrounding counties to volunteer for full day shifts.
- City of Rosenberg project at Seabourne Creek Park – A request has been made for FBCMG participation in garden planning for the park. The 300 acre park area would be designated as ½ for an athletic complex and ½ for demonstration of local eco systems. Concern was raised about the level of continued commitment that would be expected and Shari will obtain more information.
- Research study on home irrigation to determine the minimum amount of water needed. Subdivisions are being sought for the study, though protocol has not yet been determined.
- Shari suggested that a token of appreciation be given to Caldwell's Nursery since they have accommodated FBCMG recently, providing the location for the Dargan Landscape Design Workshop lunch and the Vegetable Specialist Training dinner. Brenda made a motion, seconded by Jodie, for a \$100 gift card to Nick's Restaurant and all approved. Robert will obtain the card.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- Margo asked about the status of the wood chipper for YardWise and whether one could be rented on a quarterly basis since the large compost articles aren't decomposing well. There was a discussion relating to the merits of purchasing versus renting a wood chipper, suggestions for safety training for

using a chipper, and storage and maintenance issues accompanying owning a chipper.

- Glenn suggested renting a chipper for a trial run in the gardens. Brenda will contact McCoy's and Margo will contact United Rentals.

Old Business:

Liability Insurance

- Ginny's report containing 2 quotes is attached. An officer will have to arrange coverage and Peg will initiate the action, assisted by Ginny.
- Ginny recommended coverage as outlined in the first column of her report. Fireman's Fund Insurance seems to provide more coverage for a lower annual premium of approximately \$912.

New Business:

Sugar Land Garden Club Check to FBCMG

- It was agreed that the check from Sugar Land Garden Club for the use of wagons and tables borrowed for GAPS would be returned with a gracious thank you letter.

FBCMG Store

- Modeled after the store operated by the Montgomery County Master Gardeners, FBCMG would replicate the store on a smaller scale since storage is not available. Sample wares would be available for order at monthly meetings and there would be a mandatory pick up of items by the next workday.
- A business plan will be required and Marilyn will meet with James Buckley and Terry Douglass to devise a plan.

Windmill

- No activity on the sale of the windmill.
- Margo suggested sending an APBeee to announce the sale to any Master Gardener for \$3,000 as is. One piece is missing but can be purchased by the buyer from Aeromotor.
- Jane proposed that Nat create the verbiage for the sale and obtain feedback on the verbiage from Catherine Pennington and Ron Rogers before it is made public.

Nat adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the Extension Annex.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Almon, Member Relations Director
Substituting for Susan Peacock
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
11/9/2009

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT
October 13th, 2009

- 1) We have changed the date of the Awards Dinner to Wednesday, December 9, social hour @ 6:00 and dinner starting @ 6:30.
- 2) The theme: **Fruits of Our Labor**
- 3) The evening is totally dedicated to the programs we have accomplished as a group throughout the year. There will be no individual awards, no volunteer hours awards announced. The purpose is to show how each member (no matter how few or how many hours they have put in) has helped our organization to accomplish the heights it has. Envelopes containing their awards will be given to them when they sign in.
- 4) Bar-b-qued chicken will be purchased again from the Swinging Door with the sides, salads & desert from the membership.

Jodie Douglass
Awards Chairman

Communications Report
October 2009
Submitted by Robert Goehring, Communications Director

The following information is humbly provided.

The Grapevine

Deadline for November edition is 26 October.

Website

Visitor count for September: 12,094.

Visitor count for August: 10,850.

Visitor count for 2009: 91,286.

Re-design completed. About 10 pages still need conversion

Blog

Current **Administrator**: Barbara

Visitor count for September: 3,527.

Visitor count for August: 2,358.

Visitor count for 2009: 9,968.

Mailing List

Entomology. Leslie Niemand has volunteered to be our Administrator for this list. As of October 8, 2009, there are five (5) members subscribed to this mailing list.

Gardens. No administrator yet.

Happenings. No administrator yet.

Public List. No administrator yet.

Publicity

FBCMG schedule is now included on the Texas Master Gardeners website.

Ft. Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.

Landscaping Report – October, 2009

Report to the Board

Submitted by: Cindy Fairbanks/Jane Gray

Berry Patch –

David and Steve started removing most of the wedelia to make room for the valentine roses.

Butterfly Garden –

The butterflies are very happy.

Circle Gardens –

Elisabeth and Don Jones weeded and trimmed and are getting the beds ready for the fall plantings.

Cottage Garden –

The Cottage Garden continues to look great. Weeding and trimming was done at the Saturday workday.

Earth Kind Rose Garden –

The roses are full of blooms. They just love the cooler weather.

Everyone's Garden (the E-Garden) –

No report.

Front Yard –

Tom Duncan is the new chair. Tom will be submitting a new plan for a few changes.

Herb Knot Garden –

Carol came out and worked on Saturday. The herbs look great considering the drought that we encountered throughout the summer.

Japanese Garden –

Maria and Marlene have gone over a plan with Jane and they are working on the revisions. A finalized plan will be presented soon.

Native Garden/Rain Harvesting –

A large group of Master Gardeners came out to help Catherine & Gloria during Saturday workday. Fall plants were planted. A budget increase of \$350.00 was requested and approved by the board for 2 acrylic flyer holder boxes; each one holds 75 sheets for information on rainwater harvesting and native plants. Additional native plants, seeds and a wall mounted hose holder were also requested.

Rose Garden –

Looking beautiful right now. The vines are starting to fill in on the trellis and the roses are blooming.

Vegetable Garden –

Peg Turrentine & Jolene Maurer are the new co-chairs of the vegetable garden. On Saturday and Wednesday compost was tilled into the beds that needed it and 2 x 10's boards were placed between the plots to divide them and provide a place to walkway (no more stepping on the soil!)

Placed small bricks (which could be upsized) in the beds to provide a stepping spot to reach the middle of each garden. Transplanted the cabbage, broccoli, and Chinese cabbage to their proper plots. Planted carrot seeds in Plot 1, kohlrabi and turnip seeds in Plot 4, beet seeds in Plots 7 & 8.

We had wonderfully overcast skies to reduce the stress of the workers and the transplants. Peg and Jolene plan to plant some Swiss chard in Plots 7 & 8 on Wednesday (the seeds are soaking with worm castings), and possibly some lettuce. After this weekend the temps are cooling off for awhile, so the seeds have a shot at survival. I am working on plant markers for the seeded areas.

Vineyard –

No report.

Water Garden –

Still looking great after the cleanup.

Yardwise/Compost –

Diana and Valerie have been out to cut up branches for mulching.

Outdoor Classroom/Gazebo –

On Wednesday and Friday of this week, Jane, Cindy, David, Steve and Elizabeth laid down bender board for the flowerbeds, made a list of needed fall plants, cleaned out weeds, and will be installing the granite walkway very soon.

Miscellaneous/Discussion–

- Please check out Jim Cowan's Irrigation Report (attached).
- The Dargan Landscape Design Class was a huge success. Thank you to Jane Gray for arranging the class, Margo McDowell and Shari Koch for being there for all of us and picking up lunches. There were ten (10) FBMG and one (1) Harris County MG in attendance.
- The two day Sept. 14 & 15th Landscape Design Study Course III presented by Dr. Bill Welch in College Station was attended by as many as 10 FBMG. It was a wealth of information.
- The ants are starting to come back to the gardens. We will be working with Margo and Bill Young to apply the next two-step application.

To: **Cindy Fairbanks/Jane Gray**
FBMG – Landscape Co-Directors

From: **Jimmy Jay McDowell – Cowan**
FBMG – Irrigation Chair

Ref: **Irrigation Report/Update**

Progress Summary: FBMG Irrigation Rehab/Repairs

For some time now we have had enough rain that water controllers have been completely shut off. If water is needed just let me know. A continued thank you to all of you for your patience and cooperation this summer as to water and no water, or wet, or too wet. Thank you very much. A special “thank you” to Cliff, Glenn and all of those who have helped this summer with the irrigation.

In Summary:

Continue working and rehabbing all irrigation as needed. Or do we? Let me give my opinion of the gardens and the irrigation as I reviewed it over the summer and most importantly just recently as the rains have come upon us. Rehabilitation has its merits but can be very slow and sometimes unproductive as to “are we there yet”. After watching the beds as to being under watered, over watered and with drainage problems, the next issue I see is drainage. Drainage throughout the garden walks and green spaces is very poor. These conditions have and are causing great issues with health of the plants/beds watering, etc.

What would be my recommendation:

- A. Create a Master Plan for Fort Bend MG Site.
 1. Redo all existing beds (soil) and walkways.
 2. Choose plants, trees and shrubs that work for us.
 3. Add or redo drainage for each bed and green space, hard pipe to appropriate drain inlets on site, as well incorporate drain system to proposed new rain water harvesting.
 4. Design new irrigation system for the entire Extension/MG site gardens etc., including the greenhouse.

I personally think this could be exciting, taking the entire site and “doing it over.” Are we actually able to do this type of “Extreme MG Makeover”? Could be fun.

Thanks to the FBMG Board and Chairs for your support and hard work.

Jc

Member Relations Report

October 2009

Submitted by Marilyn Almon

Fall Field Trips Update

- Victoria County Master Gardeners Demonstration Gardens – After the September 22nd cancellation due to wet weather, eleven Master Gardeners and one guest enjoyed a guided tour of the impressive Victoria Educational Gardens (VEG) on October 5th. Lunch at the Rosebud Fountain and Grill in downtown Victoria and visits to two nurseries rounded out the day.
- Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, Orange, Texas – Eleven Master Gardeners participated in this event, beginning the morning with an orchid lecture as part of the Orchid Festival that was hosted by Shangri La. The Outpost Tour included a guided pontoon boat ride along Armand Bayou. After lunch at the cafe, the group enjoyed a leisurely self-paced tour of the botanical garden and greenhouses.
- A&M Gardens and Antique Rose Emporium – Signups are ongoing for certified Master Gardeners and spouses for the trip on Saturday, November 14th, with a firm signup deadline of November 5th. Lunch will be at Café Bloomers in Navasota. Additional information is available on the website.

MG Fall Garden Tours

Gardens have been secured for the tour dates of October 25th and November 1st. Five gardens in Sugar Land will be participating on the first Sunday and then four gardens – two in Richmond and two in Fulshear – are scheduled for the second Sunday. Tour hours are 1 pm to 5 pm. Garden descriptions (new this time) and driving directions will be posted on the Members Only page this week.

Paint Texas with Wildflowers Project

Seeds and supplies have been obtained for making seed balls and verbal permission has been granted, but there still isn't a final ruling on the necessity of a permit from TXDOT. The tentative location to be seeded is a quadrant at the intersection of US 59 and Spur 10 in Rosenberg. The tentative date for making the seed balls is Monday, October 26th, and the tentative dispersal date is Monday, November 2nd. FBCMG will be responsible for contracting the grass cutting prior to seed ball dispersal.

Wednesday Workday Potluck Lunch

A monthly tradition of celebrating the birthdays of Master Gardeners who work in the gardens and elsewhere on Wednesdays has been established. October 14th will be the catch-up date for August and September birthdays since attendance fluctuated significantly in those two months. The occasion will be marked by a potluck lunch and all Master Gardeners are welcome to participate.

Potluck Welcoming Lunch for Fall 2009 Class

On Wednesday, November 18th, at the conclusion of the final day of classes, FBCMG will host a potluck welcoming lunch for the 2009 Associates. It is hoped that many Master Gardeners will participate in this activity.

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Youth Activities
October 12, 2009
Ginny Grant

JMG Meeting – Briargate Elementary, FBISD – ongoing meetings

Met with the Garden coordinator and Extended Day Administrator to discuss implementing JMG program.

September 9th – JMG Orientation for science and math teachers; second teacher training session will be scheduled for later this fall.

September 14th - JMG Activity-making paper pots with Extended Day students.

School Garden Meeting – M. R. Wood School, FBISD – October 14th

Meeting with teachers to discuss installation of habitat garden.

Convoy of Hope Program – November 21st, Rosenberg

JMG activity for children attending event.

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| Insurance Agent - R V Nuncio | | Insurance Agent - Texas Insurance & Financial Services | |
| Insurance Carrier - Fireman's Fund Insurance | | Insurance Carrier - Mount Vernon Fire Insurance | |
| | Estimated Annual Cost | | Estimated Annual Cost |
| Commercial General Liability Protection - \$1 million per occurrence/\$2 million annual aggregate | 265.00 | Commercial General Liability Protection - \$1 million per occurrence/\$2 million annual aggregate | 529.00 |
| Bonding - Volunteer dishonesty; Forgery or alteration; Theft, disappearance of money - \$50K with \$500 deductible (each category insured separately-\$83 each) | 249.00 | Employment (volunteer) Practices Liability - \$1 million limit | 156.00 |
| Directors & Officers Liability - \$1 million per occurrence/\$2 million annual aggregate | 175.00 | Directors & Officers Liability - \$1 million limit | 800.00 |
| Accident Medical - \$50K/\$25 deductible | 123.00 | included with Gen Liability premium, \$5K for any one person; \$0 deductible | 0.00 |
| Property - \$50K protection | 100.00 | included with Gen Liability premium, \$100K for damages to premises rented by MG; \$0 deductible | 0.00 |
| Addl costs & fees | none stated | Broker fee, Texas stamping fee, Texas surplus lines tax | 177.82 |
| TOTAL | 912.00 | | 1,662.82 |