



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
September 13, 2011**

Attendees –

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

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 Barbara Buckley and a second by Nat Gruesen, the minutes of the August 9, 2011, Board meeting were approved with corrections by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Jane Gray

- No written report. We have lots of activities coming up which will require help-many volunteer hours to be had by all.

Vice President – Peg Turrentine

- Action Item Spreadsheet submitted-no changes

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- No written report

Treasurer – Arnold Knoche

- Written report attached.
- No audit has been done this year. Arnold ask if there is a committee for this. Peg-put together 2-3 members with some accounting knowledge and have them to this.

- Marilyn-Questions an expense of \$19.70 under the Edible Backyard expenses. On clarification, this was for Quickrete for the treated wood.
- The irrigation expense for \$320.00 was paid to a laborer, not a master gardener.
- Marilyn-the citrus area is called the Edible Backyard.
- Expense for nametag-this was a replacement and should go under Member Relations.

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- No written report

Awards – Vacant

- Jane-we do have a committee working on the awards banquet.

Communications – Barbara Buckley

- Written report attached
- The use of a second calendar for members only has been investigated and found to be too hard to do and would take double the work. We should only have one calendar and when appropriate, designate “for members only”.
- Barbara is now responsible for the events calendar for the State Master Gardeners Newsletter.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- No written report
- The booth at the August 20th event in Rosenberg was visited by 12 people. The event overall, was poorly attended.
- Jane-We will have a booth at the October 1st SugarLand Farmer’s Market.

Education-Ginny Grant

- Written report attached
- The advanced training “Color in the Garden” was well received by the master gardeners at the Saturday work day.
- Jane-working on a program covering edible landscaping with the HOA’s in mind. She is requesting pictures to go with this topic.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- No written report, absent
- October 17th meeting scheduled

Landscape –Becky Leugemors

- Written report attached
- Marilyn-has concern that the garden sign boxes may not be kept up. Discussion-maybe we should start with a small number at first and see how it goes.

- Shari-suggestion that we post “quick codes” that could be used with phones of guest to look up information.(inside sign boxes)

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- No written report
- We have 5-6 possibilities for the fall garden tour on October 30th.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- Working on wording for term limits for Directors

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Grahmann. Ph.D.

- We have 22 applicants for the new class. They are being brought in to explain the program and for interviews.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- 23 groups have picked up containers for the Container Garden Contest. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. All winning members of the team will get a prize.
- Shari-the tent for the fair should be up on the 18th. We have lots of things to move over there. Sign-up notices will go out tomorrow. The kid activities are self-directed and will require less volunteers this year.
- Ginny-barrels have been picked up for the Sustainable Landscaping event on October 8th. We will need master gardeners to help, but they are not encouraged to sign-up for the program, as it is intended for the public.

Other:

Old Business:

1. Action Item Spreadsheet-no additions
2. Term Limits for Directors-Wording is drafted. Will e-mail to board tomorrow.
3. Greenhouse repairs-Because of leak, there is no water to the greenhouse.

New Business:

1. Upcoming calendar of events-dispersed throughout report

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11th at 6:30 p.m. at the Annex building.

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

Communications Report September 2011 Board Meeting

Submitted by Barbara Buckley, Communications Director

This report provides information and numbers for August 2011.

- 1 Website – Barbara Buckley**
Visitors from 1 August 2010 to 31 August, 2011: **153,370**
Visitors in July 2011: **10,589** Visitors in August 2011: **11,338**

- 2 FBMG Blog - Barbara Buckley**
Visitors from 1 August 2010 to 31 August, 2011: **48,782**
Visitors in July 2011: **3722** Visitors in August 2011: **4,185**

- 3 Facebook – Cindy Pack**
Number of members as of 31 August 2011: **87**
August and September announcements were posted for Green Thumb, Monthly Program and Saturday workday.

- 4 Publicity – Mary Ellen Twiss**
Notices were sent to local newspapers, magazines, and websites with information about events for August and September.

Education Committee Report

Entomology Group

Working on butterfly cards

Green Thumb Program

Program being revised/on hiatus until 2012

Monthly Educational Program

2011

August: Community Supported Agriculture & Organic Farming by Stacey Roussel
September: Alternatives to Toxic Plants & Zoo's Horticulture Programs by Joe Williams, Horticulture Manager for Houston Zoo
October: Fall Bulbs, Chris Wiesinger, the Bulb Hunter
November: Native American Gifts to the World, Dr. Bob Pierce

2012

January: Fruit & Citrus, John Panzarella
February: Lessons from a Rose Rustler, Mike Shoup, Antique Rose Emporium
April: Bamboo, Mike Frismanis, FBMG

Speakers Bureau

Sep 14: Senior Fun Day at Mamie George Community Center: Herbs in Containers (50 attendees)
No other speaking engagements scheduled for September

Youth Activities

JMG: Jane Long JMG group, Garden Gurus, LCISD, 23 members participating; school garden
Sep 14: Schiff ES - Go Green Garden Club, FBISD; 130 members, "The Three Sisters"
Sep-Oct: Fort Bend County Fair

Oct 21-22: Texian Market Days, George Ranch

Miscellaneous:

Sep 3: Garden Work Day, Advanced Training, Color in the Garden (18 MG)

Oct 8: Sustainable Landscape Seminar

Partner with Sugar Land Storm Water Management Dept; Sugar Land Community Center. Agenda includes: Backyard Composting by Karen Overgaard, Water Conservation including Rain Barrel Assembly Demo by FBMG Rainwater Specialists, Efficient Irrigation by Doug Wilson, & Plant Selection by Shari Grahmann

**Landscape report
Sept 13th, 2011 Becky Leugemors**

- Educational/info signs,
- gator/walking path,
- berry/grape saving effort,
- 3-person Landscape committee idea

-Pricing outdoor info signs – using Barbara Buckley’s source. We had wanted to put some up around the gardens for our public educational efforts. We would expect them to show a small “you are here” map of the gardens, plus a little room for each garden in that area to promote their benefits, ideas, plants that work, seasonal changes, what to do in ‘feb’, etc, or info on beneficial insects, pests to watch for, low maintenance tips, etc.

The type of sign obtained for the Butterfly Garden (48”x36”-2 door, legs) runs to \$1,030 each. I want to check out the way the legs are attached on hers, as they charge an unbelievable \$450 for the legs. Without their legs, cost is only \$580 each. As a person who has built several houses from the ground up with her husband, (who also designed and fabricated his own front-end loader this year)...I just find it difficult to believe we cannot attach our own legs...perhaps when I look at it, all will become clear, or not.

<http://www.displays4sale.com/StoreModules/SearchResults.aspx?c=Outdoor-Displays&s=Outdoor-Enclosed-Poster-Cases>

But, if we order these with legs, we are looking at a cool thousand a piece. How many do we want? Ideally, 4-5 would cover the areas very well, unless you also want one in the front of the buildings somewhere. We had thought originally to only have 2, one on each side of the Range bldg. But that would not give room to each garden area adequately.

Areas to cover:

- entrance to veggie-grape-herb area
- entrance to front by Mac & Shari’s bldg, or further along, as it opens up to the circles area...
- one by pond-grn hse-bulkbins-edible bkyd
- one at range side for Japa-Native (intro to all on that side, also)
- one at other range side for circles-E-garden-butterfly

I am thinking, 3 signs minimum – that would allow very little room for each garden to have seasonal info plus their plant lists or maps – educational value is much less.

I do favor the 5 sign option if we want it to be very educational and changeable in season.

-Gator / Walking Path:

There have been problems with the gator moving about everywhere. Seems to be a bit of controversy over it, yet we all love the gator and utilize it regularly. So, if we had a path that would bring it to each area easily, yet keep it out of sensitive areas...all would be well.

Also, there is a desire to have a walking path (with mileage markers) for the public to utilize – seniors, office-lunch-walkers, etc. I believe we can incorporate the two desires into one excellent path for all. This would also fix our long-standing problem over hardscape paths to several of our areas. We have a lovely arching bridge over the occasional bog monster area, yet no path to it, or to the pond, or to the back of the gazebo, or to the covered swing by the Japa-garden. We can make smaller paths to these areas from the larger gator path for walkers to use.

I have run over the area with the gator and think we can do it all with one wide path – this would also fix our problem of no visitors going past the greenhouse to our areas back there. The path in the edible backyard needs work anyway, and this would let the gator pick up bulk items and deliver them to any area easily.

Materials: We are right near a concrete-recycling facility over off Blume rd. I use that material often in my driveway / garden patio work, and the 1 ½” is grand. It has everything from 1 ½” down to dust – and contains some red brick also. Packs well, and is cheap. Stay away from anything that has smooth edges, and is very round. It will never pack down and be a problem. I find that a little crushed granite on the top as a dressing makes it very tight very quickly. But we must look at many materials.

-Berries/Grapes saving – one of our master gardeners has been watering and caring for the old berry vines, blueberry bushes, raspberries, and elder-berry bush. She would like to save a couple blackberry vines, but needs a spot to do so. Can we help?

-3-person landscape committee Idea: I will not be able to continue as landscape director next year – health reasons. But I would like to let us have the option to make it a 3-person committee position, as this would allow the people who actually take care of the gardens more say in which way they will go. Also, I think it will help us keep our chairpersons around longer if they are also in charge in some capacity. It should reduce the board-chair interface difficulties, as well as any intra-garden problems that may arise. They would have one vote – one of them would be better at meetings perhaps, while another is better at gardener-interfacing. Several of the chairs have said they may be interested in being part of a committee. It should probably not be limited to chairs, but they are most likely to do it and have more experience usually than the non-chairs. Think about it.