



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
September 14, 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 Ginny Grant and a second by Barbara Buckley, the minutes of the August 24, 2010 Board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Jane Gray

- No written report.
- We have lots of activities scheduled for September requiring many people to help. Don't forget human communication.
- Have had a good turnout of new members at the Green Thumbs lectures and the Enchanted lectures this past Saturday.
- Expressed a concern regarding the poor turnout in the gardens lately.
- Glenn shared that the garden chairs have had a hard time getting volunteers to work in the garden. Many members sign up for gardens but don't come to volunteer. It's an issue we need to address. How do we excite people to the gardens on a regular basis?
- Margo-With no big changes in the garden, people may be bored.
- Barbara-Need another way to approach what the gardens are for.
- Shari-the gardens need to be more educational.
- Marilyn-not all gardens are relevant to the homeowner.

- Margo-we may need a backyard/shade garden instead of a Japanese garden.
- Barbara-we may need to scale down the gardens and make them more manageable.
- Ginny-Need signs to direct visitors to our website to gain additional information.

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

- Written report. Will discuss under old business.

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- The approved July board minutes have been submitted for placement on the web.

Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Written report attached.
- There was a bank error on two checks, which have been corrected.

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- Absent, no written report

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- Absent, no written report

Communications – Barbara Buckley

- Written report attached.
- Barbara was welcomed to the board by Jane Gray and all members present.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- No written report.
- Famous Trees of Texas will be the topic for the September monthly meeting. Have found four used books to give as door prizes.
- Considering what type of information to pass out to visitors at the monthly meetings.
- Meeting for November not set.
- Margo-may extend speakers time to 1 ½ hours starting in January.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Absent, no written report.

Landscape –Marlene Shobe

- Written report attached. Did not send to everyone. Gwen says she will send to the board tonight.
- Kathy Hulfish is moving to Australia.

- Glenn-Terry Williams recommended that the water garden be cleaned out once/year. He would come out in the off season-which would be cheaper. It is already budgeted.
- Peg-the water garden needs an external filter and needs to be maintained monthly and not just spending 1K/year to have the water garden cleaned out.
- Shari-we need signs to say “Do Not Drink the Water” at the pond because of the chemicals introduced.
- Barbara-volunteers to make the signs.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Written report attached.
- Barbara—would like calendar under members only with all information on activities.
- Putting members only information (such as fieldtrips) on the public calendar may confuse people.
- Marilyn-need an order form for “store” on the website.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- No written report. Busy with fair preparations and school activities.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- The changes for the Operations Manuel are complete and ready for a vote tonight.
- Glenn-made motion to divide the manual into sections and vote on each section independently. No second motion.
- Barbara and Gwen-As per Robert’s Rule of Order, we need to vote on the entire manual-can’t break it up into separate votes.
- Vote was taken and the operation manual changes were approved by a majority vote.
- Barbara-Made a motion that changes in the operations manual related to positions, become active after the new board year in January. Second by Peg. Motion carried.

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Koch. Ph.D.

- No written report.
- Fair coming up.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- No written report.
- We need butterfly larvae for the fair exhibit.
- New class doing exceptionally well-attendance very good.
- JMG hours will be needed for the new class.

Other:

Old Business:

Action Item Spreadsheet

- Guidelines for Historian-Jane needs to submit
- Business plan for store-completed
- Signs for garden-October-Marlene will confer with Jane
- Master Gardener of the Year Plaque-after the fair in November
- Enclosure for compost/mulch-Marlene-October
- Construct compost bins-Marlene will check on this
- Construct rainwater barrels-Peg. Plan sent to A&M for approval.
- Ways to get master gardeners involved in the gardens-Jane and Marlene
- “Do Not Drink Water” signs-Barbara, November

New Business:

Term Limits for Directors

- Marilyn- We need new people with new ideas. Recommend that directors have 2 year limits with the same verbiage as the officers. This change would have to go to the members as a by-laws change.
- Ginny-thinks 2 years is too short. Directors are just getting comfortable with their job.
- Peg-thinks 3 years would be comfortable or a 4 year max.
- Jane-we need to groom new people to come on board.
- Shari-We may have turnovers with new positions starting in January.
- Marilyn- Will work on verbiage.

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12th at 6:30 p.m. at the Annex building.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Heck, Secretary
Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Corrected October 12, 2010

FBMG Landscape Report
September 13, 2010
Marlene Shobe

September 4, 2010 was the first Saturday of the month and our scheduled workday in the gardens. The slightly cooler temperatures and the recent rains brought new life to the Gardens and to our gardeners. If you have walked the gardens recently, the colorful blooms and lush growth are evidence of the much appreciated rain.

This past Saturday, while working in the Garden with some of our new associates of the current fall class, we had a visitor from Austin. She had her camera with her and asked to take some pictures of the Gardens. She also had questions about the names of some plants in our Gardens, one being the Beauty Berry, the other was the Star Hibiscus and the Evergreen Wisteria. She was very complimentary about the Gardens.

Aside from the necessity of labeling our plants, perhaps it might be beneficial to post a sign on the premises in a couple of places with the Hotline phone number and an email address for any questions arising from visitors to the Gardens.

We still have quite a bit of mulch to be used.

Kathy Hulfish will be going to Brisbane, Australia in November. She indicated to me that we should be in search of someone to take over the Way Gardens. Does anyone have any thoughts on this? Kathy has been an asset to the FBMG and she will definitely be missed.

The Rain Harvesting Tank is now mounted and in place. It looks very much at home in the Texas Native Garden and should promote much interest.

Communications Report
August 2010
Submitted by Barbara Buckley, Communications Director

As I assume the position of Communications Director to the FBCMG Board, I hope to be able to fill position to the standards set by our previous director Robert Goehring. The following information provides an update for some of the areas under Communications.

- **Website – Barbara Buckley**
Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 Sept, 2010: 101,571
Visitors in July 2010: 12,341; Visitors in August 2010: 11,319

A review of the FBMG Website will be conducted over the next several months.

- **FBMG Blog - Barbara Buckley**
Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 Sept 2010: 38,661
Visitors in July 2010: 4,616; August 2010: 4729

A plan to encourage more Master Gardeners to post to the blog is being developed.

- **Facebook – Cindy Pack**
Number of members as of 1 Sept. 2010: 63
- **Forum - Barbara Buckley**
Number of registered members as of 1 Sept 2010: 12

- **The Grapevine** – Barbara Buckley
A new issue of the Grapevine will be published later in the fall.
- **Publicity** – Mary Ellen Twiss
No current report.
- **Public Mailing Lists** - Mary Ellen Twiss
No current report.
- **Entomology Mailing Lists** – Leslie Neiman

Member Relations Report

September 14, 2010
Marilyn Almon

Cookbook Committee

The committee is in the process of collecting recipes from now until October 31st for *Master Samplings II*. The goal is to obtain at least 300 recipes from members with every Master Gardener being contacted by the committee to contribute at least one recipe. Projected date for completion of the project is early March 2011.

Field Trips

- October 8-9th—San Antonio Botanical Garden on the 8th and “Urban Farming—the Ultimate Backyard Experience” on the 9th. Deadline to sign up for the field trip is September 20th.
- October 12th—Guided horticultural tour of the Houston Zoo. Details TBD.
- October 16th—Austin. Garden Conservancy Open Days. Six gardens will be toured. Deadline to sign up is October 1st.

FBCMG Store

On August 20th, a meeting was held with Terry Douglass, James Buckley, and Marilyn Almon in attendance. The guidelines for operating the store were explained. In summary, Terry will be responsible for the sale of all apparel items and James will be responsible for the sale of all garden supply items. James is currently creating a list of suggested garden-related items to be sold to members through the store. The Member Relations director, or another member appointed by the Member Relations director, will be responsible for overseeing the operation, approving the payment of all invoices, and maintaining the inventory control records. Audits of the records will be conducted at least quarterly by the committee auditing the financial records of FBCMG.

Fall 2010 Master Gardener Garden Tour III

Sunday, November 7th, 1 to 5 pm. Pat Davis and Cheryl Swanson will co-chair the tour and are seeking volunteers who will open their gardens to the membership.

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

FBCMG will have a booth to sell garden-related items. Special merchandise has been ordered for the sale and the fee collected by the garden club will be 15% of Master Gardener sales.