



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
July 8, 2008**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: James Buckley, Brenda Dresner, Glenn Dresner, Robert Goehring, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Mike Greenwood, Nat Gruesen, Mary Beth McCaughey, Barbara McCormick, and Marilyn Almon.

Board Members Absent: Sallie Bourgeois, Barbara Brannon, and Cindy Fairbanks.

AgriLife Extension Staff Present:

CEA - Horticulture – Mark Countryman

Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order – Nat Gruesen called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Robert Goehring and a second by Glenn Dresner, the minutes of the June 10, 2008, Board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Nat Gruesen

- Nat thanked the master gardeners who worked on the walkway to the gazebo, with special recognition given to Cliff Bergman and Glenn Dresner.

Vice President – Barbara McCormick

- No report.

Secretary – Marilyn Almon

- No report.

Treasurer – Mike Greenwood

- Mike reviewed the June financial reports.
- Brenda Dresner made a motion, seconded by Barbara McCormick and approved by all, to increase the Speakers Bureau budget by \$100, resulting in a total budget of \$200.
- Brenda commented that she would like for FBCMG to purchase its own speaker system that could be used in the community center, the gazebo, sales areas, and wherever needed. She will contact Jamie Knight about the status of the system in the Bud O'Shieles Community Center.
- Mike will re-categorize certain garden work day expenses reported as gazebo supplies and revise the June financial statements accordingly.

Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth reported that she sent a thank you note to Brenda's dad, Gene Myska, for his extraordinary help with the gazebo project.

Awards – Open position

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Robert's report is attached to the minutes.
- Having received no response from Elizabeth Gregory, Robert will search for another contact at A&M to answer his question regarding the proper placement of the AgriLife logo on the website pages.
- There is a new front page on the website and there may eventually be the potential to display new pictures on a daily basis.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Brenda stated that someone from the Brazos River Authority may present a future monthly program.
- Nat suggested Don Wilkerson and Doug Welsh to speak on the EarthKind™ program and practices.
- Margo announced that Gene Powers will present a program on bromeliads to the Jackson County Master Gardeners in Edna, Texas.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Barbara was not present.

Greenhouse – James Buckley and Glenn Dresner, co-chairs

- James' report is attached to the minutes.
- A new breaker will be installed which will allow manual operation of the fans.

Landscape – Cindy Fairbanks and Jane Gray, co-chairs

- Cindy and Jane's report is attached to the minutes.
- Jane announced that Jodie Douglass will provide the advanced training component at the July workday, demonstrating gardening outside the pot.
- Registration is open for the fall session of the Landscape Design Course in College Station.
- Glenn commented on the importance of considering watering and drainage in the planting concepts in the gardens. Currently, there are swampy areas and many nozzles that need adjustment. The feasibility of irrigation and drainage should be discussed with Doug Staff prior to designing and planting.

Member Relations – Sallie Bourgeois

- Sallie was not present.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Ginny's report is attached to the minutes.
- Ginny reported that Kenny Fletcher and Aleta Patrick were ecstatic about the recent training they received at the workshop for science teachers in Brownwood. It was announced to the teachers attending that FBCMG had provided a grant of \$1000 toward workshop expenses.

Standing Committee Reports:Governance Committee

- No activity.

AgriLife Extension Advisor Reports:CEA – Horticulture – Mark Countryman

- Mark stated that he is always looking for new programs and is open to ideas for master gardener, extension, or other outreach programs.

Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

- Margo reported that, to date, five people have registered for the Fall 2008 class, though there have been numerous phone calls. Mark commented that twenty enrollees will be required to make the course feasible and to obtain instructors from A&M.
- Kenny Fletcher will facilitate twilight gardening in August.
- Enchanted Forest is hosting a master gardener social on July 13th to recognize FBCMG members who have been supportive of the nursery.

Old Business:Awards Director

- Nat requested that the position be advertised in The Grapevine and APBees.

Entomology Group Insect Card Sales

- Brenda reported that the members of the Entomology Group want to sell their insect cards for \$5 per set, rather than \$3 per set as approved by the Board in June. Robert and others pointed out that they were disregarding the motion and all agreed that the original motion to sell the sets for \$3 would stand. Brenda and Ginny will explain the Board's perspective at the group's next meeting.

New Business:Honorariums for master gardeners

- Nat inquired whether it was necessary to revisit this section in the Operations Manual, considering the high cost of gas. It was generally agreed by those present that the current verbiage addresses the matter sufficiently.

Memorial Contribution

- Mary Beth made a motion, seconded by Barbara McCormick and approved by all, to make a \$100 donation in memory of Bill Rohde to the charity of his family's choice.

After a motion by Nat, seconded by Robert and approved by all, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 12th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Almon
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
8/05/2008
Amended 8/12/2008

Communications Director Report – July 2008

1. In reference to the AgriLife logo position on the website, I have contacted Elizabeth Gregory on June 10th and again on June 25th. I have included the contents of the emails below. To date, I have received no response.
2. I have researched several different ways to display entomology information on the FBMG website. Once the information is made available to publish on the website, I will form a committee of volunteer board members to decide upon the display format.

<Email Quote>

Elizabeth,

I am currently the webmaster and Communications Director for the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners. I have a question about the requirements, if any, of displaying the AgriLife logo on our website.

Currently, our website (<http://www.fbm-g.com>) displays the AgriLife logo and address of our AgriLife Extension Office centered at the bottom of each page. A question has been raised that the logo should be displayed at the top of the Home page.

I have reviewed the AgriLifeExtension-BrandingGuide.pdf but do not know for sure how the logo should be displayed for partners like Master Gardeners.

My question really is “Is the AgriLife logo required to be displayed at the top of the Home page or can it be displayed centered at the bottom of the page for county Master Gardeners websites?”

Thanks for your time.

Robert Goehring
Fort Bend Master Gardener (S2006)
<Email Unquote>

July 7, 2008

Greenhouse report for June-July

The main item worked on this month is trying to control the temperature inside the greenhouse. The temperature is staying about the same as the outside temperature instead of being cooled. One of the reasons is that the water circulation pump kept shorting out; which shut off the water to the evaporative pads. The pump was replaced. Next the evaporative pads were washed to help with the air flow through the pads. You would not believe how dirty they were!!!! All the material washed out of the pads went directly into the sump tank which would be re-circulated directly back onto the evaporative pads. Therefore, the sump tank was cleaned out. We will see if we are helping or if other action is required.

Other greenhouse items were:

- Joanne Lannin planted several trays of snapdragon seeds.
- Three different types of Begonia cutting are being rooted. They are doing great so far. Will be bumped up to 1 gallon pots this week.
- Large plants were moved closer to the walls so that there is better air flow through the greenhouse.

Submitted by James Buckley

Ft. Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Landscaping Report – July 2008
Report to the Board
Submitted by: Cindy Fairbanks/Jane Gray

Berry Patch –

During the June Saturday workday berries were picked and weighed.

Butterfly Garden –

Mulch will be added at the next workday.

Circle Garden -

On June 19th Jane and I met with Becky Leugomores and planted some of the CEMAP plants and the Everyone's Garden. The CEMAP plants will be studied and checked by Dean & Linda Robison from the Fall 07 class.

Cottage Garden –

Some overgrown plants were thinned out at the June workday. Mulch will be added during the July workday.

EarthKind Rose Garden –

At the June workday weeds were pulled. New mulch will be added during the July 12th workday.

Everyone's Garden (the E-Garden) –

Lillian Tigard MG Fall 07 has volunteered to Chair this garden. The class of Fall 07 will be coming out every 2nd Wednesday of the month to work in the E-Garden. We are still working with Doug Staff to try and add a water and electrical line. The pump will be delivered to Doug tomorrow July 9th. A suggestion was made by Cathy Pennington Co-Chair of the Native Garden that we might want to incorporate rain harvesting as a means for getting water to the pump and fountain. That was just a suggestion. We will have to check into how much work that would entail. Mulch will be added at this Wednesday's workday.

Front Yard -

Laurie Whittle is planning on adding some new plants and mulch to the front. She also wants to add some new landscape timbers by the walkway where the roses are. Brenda Dresner is planning on cleaning up and mulching the area on the side of the front office.

Herb Knot Garden –

Carol Blanton put in her request for some mulch and it will be added at the July workday.

Japanese Garden -

Nothing to report.

Native Garden –

Jane and I met with Catherine Pennington so that she could give us her ideas for the Rain Harvesting Area. We walked the area and she explained the plant and showed us pictures. We will be discussing all of this with Jamie Knight from the County.

Vegetable Garden –

Patty Stemmer sent out email to come out and join her on June 28th to prepare soil beds for the late summer crop planting. Mulch will be added during the July workday.

Water Garden –

Mulch will be added.

Yardwise/Compost –

Nothing to report.

Miscellaneous –

- ❖ On account of the July 4th weekend Saturday workday has been moved to July 12th.
- ❖ Fence – Jane and I met with Elizabeth Barrow to discuss where the fence should go. We looked over drawings. We will be focusing on the area that runs along Stella Road and the back area that is shared with the fairgrounds. Jane and I will be meeting with Jamie Knight from the County on July 12th to fill him in and discuss any issues.
- ❖ Gazebo - The new walkway to the Gazebo will be finished soon and will be ADA usable. Preliminary plans are in the works for surrounding landscaping.

Youth Activities – July 7, 2008

Ginny Grant

4-H Day Camp – Fairgrounds, Rosenberg – July 16, 2008

JMG Activity will be provided for approximately 150 children (5-13 years); about 12-15 Master Gardener volunteers will help.

Plants in the Classroom – Austin HS, Sugar Land – August 14, 2008

FBISD In-service Training for elementary science teachers. PIC 2 session – carbon and nitrogen cycles, vermi-composting, and insects are on the program. Approximately 25 elementary teachers are scheduled to attend. This will be the last FBISD Staff Development session that Kathy Treibs, FBISD Elementary Science Curriculum Coordinator, will oversee. She has retired and her replacement hasn't been appointed.

Ag'Tivity Barn – Fairgrounds, Rosenberg – September 26 – October 4, 2008

School tours September 29th – October 2nd. Fair meetings continue monthly through mid-September, next meeting is in August.