

**DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
April 7, 2010
Extension Office Conference Room
10:00 a.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Connie Gregory called the DCMGA Board of Directors meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. at the Texas Agrilife Extension office in Denton, TX.

In attendance were Joe Bendzick, Zoe Broxson, Annell Burns, Peggy Durrett, Janie Farler, Connie Gregory, Sue Hudiburgh, Janet Laminack, Shirley Manfredi, Anita Maynor, Mary Morrow, Cindy Reese, Martin Richards, Carolyn Tinner, Linda Williams, and Donna Wolfe.

II. MINUTES

Minutes for the March Board meeting were forwarded to the Board via e-mail by the secretary, posted to the website, and available at the meeting. The minutes were accepted as presented.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of year-to-date annual budget were provided. Joe said we may need to transfer money from our Edward Jones account to our checking account to cover current expenses. We have sold enough roses (pre-sale and stock for the plant sale) to qualify for free delivery. Mary asked what the "member trainee expenses" are, and Connie said those are dues sent to the state. "Intern expense" includes instructors' expenses (lodging, gas, etc.). The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Shirley said that the CPA is working on our taxes, due 5/15. Shirley may come to us with questions. She needs the average number of hours that each board member worked per week last year. Donna said there is a standard volunteer hourly rate; she will give that to Shirley.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Project Administration – Martin Richards

- a. Flower Mound gardens: We are trying to get a handle on these projects. Andi Milton has been involved in the community garden and Wayne Farley is also involved. Currently these aren't official MG projects. Connie said that the biggest issue is access to the land.
- b. Jenny Estes sent a report on the McNair Elementary project.
- c. The Children's Garden is going great.

B. Communications – Janie Farler

- a. Janie said that we are on Facebook now. We have 40 fans so far. All current events are now there, with links to our website. She would like to use Facebook to educate as well.
- b. Website status (move to Wordpress): Janet talked with Travis Ward who said they have moved everything from our site to the Wordpress system except for minutes. They are waiting on Jayla Fry to approve it. We'll have to do the URL reroute when we are ready. Because FrontPage Extensions are no longer working, we can't update the current website. Travis suggested using Google calendar. The new style state page can be seen at txmg.org.
- c. We are on track for demo garden publicity. Jimmy and Karen Meredith purchased an ad in the Record Chronicle. Mary found us in examiner.com—an article about the Redbud Festival--and online Cross Timbers Gazette. Wally had 69 people at his Spring Series talk and was also in "Neighbor's Go".

C. Education – Wally Gehrke: Wally was unable to attend, but the report was presented by Connie.

- a. The Flower Mound library series has been a great success.
- b. We have had a request from the Cooke County agent for speakers for a "lawn chair" series in Gainesville. Wally has volunteered to speak.
- c. SWAT is scheduled for June.
- d. We haven't been able to accommodate all requests for speakers. There is a session on speakers at the convention that Shirley will attend.

D. Delegate at Large – Annell Burns

- a. Annell and Joe have collected dues from all except 12 members. Annell will contact them. We have paid state dues for all members.
- b. Annell gave Shirley the interns' interest sheets.
- c. Annell has been verifying the information in the roster (from the renewal sheets) as she goes and will send differences to Donna. However, Annell doesn't have renewal sheets for everyone, so Carolyn suggested that we ask everyone at next week's general meeting to verify their info on the current roster and contact Donna with any updates.

E. County Coordinator – Janet Laminack

- a. Swat is winning an award at the state conference—outstanding county program.
- b. Janet was approached by Robyn Lee at Bayless-Selby to do a booth there occasionally. There is also a new Denton Community Market—artists, musicians, food—with the farmer's market once a month (2nd Saturday, not sure of the hours yet) in the area near Bayless-Selby. So we could work the booth there. Other agents will also be participating: Maggie will do canning in May, Nicole in June, Janet may do July. Eddie Baggs may do August, and September may be 4H (Jennifer McAlister). Janet will ask the Master Naturalists if they would like to participate.

F. Volunteer Coordinator – Donna Wolfe

- a. Brocket printing has been a problem, due to printer problems at the county, but Donna said that the county expected to have them printed by this afternoon or tomorrow by 9:00. Connie is taking brockets, flyers and posters to Calloway's on Friday, so she needs brockets by then. Mary said she has some brockets printed already and will print additional brockets for Connie. We need some for the Redbud Festival and the garden party. We also need flyers for those events. Carolyn will bring them to Connie at the library series or at home.
- b. Denton Soil and Water Conservation sent a thank you note for our tree distribution efforts.

G. Garden Tour/Plant Sale

- a. There is a garden tour meeting on Friday (10:00). Carolyn spoke with the interns yesterday to get them more involved in workdays. Connie suggested that we ask why people haven't signed up. Janie said some interns feel somewhat overwhelmed with the number of projects. Do we have too many brown bags? Donna suggested that interns might feel that we are asking them to do things that veterans don't do. Maurine has contacted the mentors to encourage interns.
- b. Carolyn said we also need to convince people to sell tickets.
- c. Janet suggested that leaders contact people who have signed up to confirm/remind them. Also, at next meeting (and at class on Tuesday) we should have a list of those already signed up and have people fill in the blanks. The plant sale schedule is being finalized, and they have the coverage they need.
- d. Shirley said 60 oak trees were donated from Bruce Harris. The plant sale is on track. The team has been shopping and visiting nurseries. The pre-sale perennial program has been slow, but pre-sale roses have been a hit.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Insurance – Carolyn Tinner: Copies of the insurance policy information were provided. We are getting more coverage for less than we budgeted.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS/GROUP DISCUSSION

A. Demonstration Garden report – Zoe

- a. The garden party at Sweetwater Grill is this Saturday. Tickets are \$10, which all goes to the demo garden. Drinks are extra. Shopping will be available. We now have volunteers for grant writing and publicity. We were turned down for the Fiskars grant.
- b. It was learned that the city requires a permit for any structure > 120 sq. ft., so we need one for the greenhouse. Cindy negotiated \$95, down from \$1300, for the permit. A plan to scale is required for the permit. The greenhouse will require 3 inspections; the first is a plan inspection.
- c. Cindy is working with the plumber on water lines. The commissioners will fund the water bill. Jimmy Meredith found us a plumber who will donate services.
- d. We've received a bunch of mulch and Dyno dirt.
- e. The Family Resource Center has agreed to let us capture water from their roof. We will install the system

- at the Rainwater Harvesting Specialist class. We will install 2 barrels.
- f. The timeline has been adjusted due to the changes above.
 - g. We will have no electricity. The Family Resource Center has said we can use their power occasionally.
 - h. Anita said we have to do a site inspection. An inspector will be on site to sign off when the greenhouse class is there. The county architect will be available to be sure we are getting all the signoffs we need. The permit manager will handle getting paperwork through.
 - i. We need cash and garden tour tickets for the fundraiser. We might consider making April 10 as a tax-free day (including Redbud).
 - j. Cindy has the T-shirt logo.
 - k. Cindy interviewed with the Denton Record Chronicle, and they will do an article and talk about the garden party.
- B. Rainwater Harvesting Specialist Training -- Peggy
- a. The training will be held June 28-30—2.5 days—at the extension office. We have an agenda now. The class is limited to 30 people, but we might be allowed 5 from Denton County. A rainwater harvesting system will be built at the demo garden site. Dotty's office handles all administrative work. We are responsible for arranging two lunches and snacks for all three days. Peggy is exploring options. We could do a pot luck dinner, perhaps on Tuesday? Dotty says the tuition will be \$200, which includes lunches—not sure about dinner. Would Clarice be interested in organizing hospitality or a pot luck? We need to suggest hotels.
 - b. Dotty will publicize the class at the convention.
- C. Fall InfoFest
- a. A committee met, and Carol Rowley submitted a report. They discussed the site and the date. Shirley has written a generic flyer about InfoFest to hand out at the Plant Sale to generate buzz, with no date or place mentioned, just the types of things we do at InfoFest.
 - b. We need a leader...soon. We should ask at the next meeting if anyone is interested. Linda was asked this week if we were going to do it at Upper Trinity again. We need to set up a kickoff meeting and recruit a leader and team leaders--after the garden tour. In the meantime we can ask around to see who's interested.
- D. Copeland Center Site for Member meetings – discussion postponed to next month
- E. Other Announcements: None

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 P.M.
Next meeting: Wednesday, May 5 at 10:00