

**DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING**

**August 4, 2010, 10:00 A. M.
Extension Office Conference Room**

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting chairman Linda Williams called the DCMGA Board of Directors meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. at the Texas Agrilife Extension office in Denton, TX. In attendance from the board were Annell Burns, Wally Gehrke, Sue Hudiburgh, Janet Laminack, Shirley Manfredi, Mary Morrow (for Janie Farler), and Donna Wolfe.

Also in attendance were DCMGA members Janet Gershenfeld, Joe Bendzick, Julie Levine, Zoe Broxson, Judy Brough, Carolyn Gold, Evelyn McMillen, Kathi Randolph, Peggy Durrett, Jaye Morris, Joan Stanley, Dolores Payne, Monica Chaffin, Clarice Luce, Susan Cosio, Laurel Wallace, Carol Rowley, Cindy Reese, Kere Post and Sandy Read.

Linda suggested that we keep topic discussions to 10 minutes since we had quite a bit to cover. Joe Bendzick agreed to keep time.

- II. MINUTES: Minutes for the regular July Board meeting had previously been forwarded to the Board via email by the Secretary. Minutes for the special July 28, 2010 Board meeting were previously forwarded to all members via e-mail by Donna Wolfe. Printed copies of both were available at the meeting. Janet Gershenfeld asked who chaired the July 28 meeting. Linda Williams explained that Janet Laminack called the July 28 meeting and chaired it. The minutes were accepted with that addition.

- III. Statement of Service from AgriLife Management Guidelines and DCMGA Handbook: Janet Laminack

Janet read the official definition of the MG program and the Horticulture Agent's relationship to the program. She is an advisor on the board (a state charter requirement). We reviewed this today because there have been some questions about the relationship. Annell mentioned that if there is not an agent in a particular county, a chapter can exist without an agent if approved at the state level. Janet said that is no longer true because of MG association chartering. Jayla Frye is the state coordinator.

- IV. Discussion and Proposed Board organization for balance of 2010: Linda Williams

Linda introduced herself as immediate past President and chair of this meeting. Janet Gershenfeld said that we need a motion for Linda to chair, so Annell moved that Linda chair the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Linda explained that President Connie Gregory and Vice-President Martin Richards resigned their posts for personal reasons. The remaining board members held a meeting on the 28th to decide how we will proceed for the rest of the year. There it was suggested that we rotate chairmanship of the remaining 2010 monthly meetings as an interim solution: Linda in August, Annell in September, etc. Janet Gershenfeld said that we need to appoint a new president per the bylaws and that we cannot deviate due to rules of order. There was some discussion about the rotation proposal and the intent of the bylaws. Carol Rowley asked who will represent us to outside groups if we don't have a president. In December there is a commissioners meeting, but otherwise we don't anticipate a situation where we need such a representative.

The proposal to rotate meeting chairmanship was tabled.

- V. TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. Copies of the financial report were provided at the meeting. Shirley reviewed the July activity. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.
- B. Shirley explained the check signature issues caused by the resignation of the President: according to the bylaws, we require the signatures of both the President and Treasurer on all checks written on the Association's account. The CPA we hired to do our tax return last spring is a non-profit auditor, and she didn't think we needed double signatures because of our frequent and thorough financial reports. The CPA suggested a single signature with a cap on the check amount, as many other non-profits do. At the July 28 meeting, it was suggested that we change to single signature with a \$999.99 cap, and any disbursement over

the cap would require email concurrence by the President. Also, we need a backup in case the Treasurer isn't available. The board suggested that the Member-at-large be the alternate.

Brenda said that the bylaws state that one of the duties of both the President and Treasurer is to sign checks, so the bylaws would have to be changed if we were to implement a single-signature procedure. To change bylaws, the board must prepare the proposed changes and submit them to the general membership 48 hours before a vote. The signature issue was tabled. The board will need to decide whether to pursue a bylaw change.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Project Administration – Addressed Later in meeting

B. Ways and Means – Brenda Wellenreiter

1. Garden shoppe: We are low on some inventory items. The Garden Shoppe is over budget, but has been rotating profit back into inventory. Sandy would like another \$1000 to purchase items to sell at InfoFest. We need to take the proposal to the general membership, since it is over \$500. Brenda moved that we allocate the additional \$1000, and Mary seconded. Peggy asked why we don't just sell the inventory we have. It was explained that most of the residual items are things such as magnets and rain gauges that we often give away and we need more salable merchandise. The motion was approved with 3 in favor, 2 opposed and no abstentions.

C. Communications – Mary Morrow for Janie Farler

1. Publicity: Pat Pape and Wayne Farley will be working on the InfoFest publicity. Gene Gumfory from Denton Bible Church said they will put announcements on their website and newsletter and on their sign out front.
2. Website: we are waiting for TAMU to update the txmg.org site to point 'dcmga.com' to our new pages. Mary demoed the new site and explained why we moved to the new site.
3. Deadline for the newsletter is August 12.

D. Programs – Carol Fitch

Carol was unable to attend. Wally is scheduled to speak at the August meeting on Fall Vegetable Gardening.

E. Delegate at Large – Annell Burns

We only have one member who hasn't paid dues. Starting in September, Annell will request that all members submit all their hours for the year so that we can see who is currently certified.

F. Report by County Coordinator – Janet Laminack

Next week is SWAT level 2.

G. Volunteer Coordinator – Donna Wolfe

Nothing to report this week.

H. Education – Wally Gehrke:

1. Monica manned the Ask a Master Gardener booth on the third Thursday of July. Wally, Monica and Sue manned a booth at the Lewisville Farmer's Market on July 17th.
2. A speaker's bureau meeting was held yesterday. The next meeting is scheduled for August 16th at 10:30. Mary asked for a list of the speakers for the newsletter.
3. Carolyn Gold mentioned that Bayless-Selby hosts "Programs from the Porch" one Saturday a month, with tours of the houses and talks on different topics. In July, Janet L., Sue, Carolyn and Maggie Jover set up a booth to spread the word on rainwater harvesting and canning and preserving food.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/GROUP DISCUSSION

A. Projects to round out 2010: Donna is pulling together a spreadsheet of the projects. She passed out a preliminary list. The following projects need action soon:

1. Cool Shade for the 3rd Grade: Susan Loos will chair. Susan said we have no place to wrap the trees, but she will check with Lucille. Other possible locations: UTRWD or just a park pavilion.
2. InfoFest – Linda Williams: facilitator. This year the event will be at Denton Bible Church. Gene Gumfory is the DBC contact. The date is Oct 2. There is lots of parking and space. 4H and vendors are being lined up. We have speakers. Mary has created a flyer. The next planning meeting is Aug 9 at 11. Monica said that everyone was excited about InfoFest at the business meeting for DBC's community garden.
3. Retreat: no leader yet
4. Roundup / 2011 Class coordination – Zoe Broxson: There is a committee of interns, veterans and Janet Laminack. The committee is planning the class schedule and instructors, the agenda for first and last days of class, and brown bags. They are also planning roundup, publicity and intern

- recruitment. They will not be planning graduation. They are using recommendations from 2010 class. Class size will be 30. Price will be \$175 based on costs from this year. Next year we will add soil testing and will need kits. Also a free basic logo t-shirt will be included so that the interns will have logo shirts for events. Hours will be 9-4 based on feedback. Longer daily hours will make it easier to miss one class and still get the required 70 hours of instruction. The next meeting of the committee will be 8/13 at 2:00. Roundup is 10/19. Help will be needed for roundup. Contact Zoe to join the team. Anyone who is interested is welcome. Zoe said that they will need a flyer by next week for the general meeting.
5. Nomination Committee/Election of 2011 Officers. Anyone who wants to be an officer or on the nominating committee for next year, please contact Janet Laminack.
 6. Christmas Party: Brenda will chair the committee to plan the party. Last year it was at Ben E. Keith, which is free, but we can't reserve it until September. It was suggested that we bring gifts for charity again this year, so we need suggestions for a recipient. Peggy recommended CCA and will send that idea to Brenda. Anyone who would like to help should contact Brenda.
 7. Graduation: TBD. Usually the President plans this
 - a. Hosting:
 - b. Awards
 8. 2011 Garden Tour/Plant Sale: Anyone who would like to help plan should contact Janet Laminack.
 9. Children's Garden 2011: Plots need to be reserved by January for next year. There is discussion about the possibility of moving it to our demo garden.
 10. Demo Garden/The DiG – Cindy Reese: Zoe read her report.
 - a. The water line and plumbing are in. Materials and labor for both were donated. Cindy said we don't have a green tag yet; we need a backflow valve. We are required to have a permanently attached sign for non-potable water. The plumber can attach that for us.
 - b. Cindy and the committee attended vegetable gardening training in Kaufman. They would like to get a fall vegetable garden planted, however, we can't plant until we get water. No update on the greenhouse permit.
 - c. The budget looks good. There have been many donations and another fundraiser is planned.
 - d. We need to send thank you notes to donors. Cindy will send names and addresses to Linda. Cindy would like to send copy of the 501(c)(3) letter as well.
 - e. Plans for Children's Garden and rainwater harvesting need to be discussed.
 11. Proposed: Flower Mound Demo Garden – Wayne Farley. Connie was going to get in touch with city and report back. Andi Milton was designated PM on the project initiation form, but she has since changed her mind. Linda suggested that Wayne should continue to interface with the city and keep us posted. Donna said that Wayne was unable to attend this meeting, but he hopes to be here for the next meeting. The project application was tabled for now until Wayne can be present.
 12. Little Hands on the Farm. Clarice said that they are interested in having us work on it again this year. Plans are to work on sprucing it up on September 17th.
 13. Mary Karish is working on the Fall Library Series and will send info to Mary Morrow for the newsletter and website.

B. Other Announcements/Discussion

1. Linda asked if anyone is interested in going to the state meeting in College Station this Saturday. There is money for reimbursement for mileage, and the attendee must file a report. Contact Donna if interested.
2. Peggy suggested that we ask Connie and Martin for problems and areas that can be improved. Anell said we need to know why they resigned. As far as we know, their reasons were personal and there was no specific procedural problem. We do not have specific reasons, and it would be up to Connie and Martin to provide reasons to us. Janet has not met with them, and her boss would like to be present if she meets with Martin and Connie.
3. Wally will make a motion at the general meeting that Linda will serve as Chairman Pro Tem for the meeting. We will ask for volunteers for President for the remainder of the year; they must be approved by the board and Janet.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 10:00 A.M.