

**DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
July 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 10:03 A.M. at the Texas Agrilife Extension office in Denton, TX. In attendance were Janie Farler, Wayne Farley, Wally Gehrke, Connie Gregory, Sue Hudiburgh, Janet Laminack, Martin Richards and Donna Wolfe.
- II. MINUTES
Minutes for the June Board meeting were forwarded to the Board via e-mail by the Secretary and available at the meeting. There was a question about whether 'spider mites' was actually suggested as an AT presentation, but it was decided to accept the minutes as presented.
- III. TREASURER'S REPORT
 - a. Copies of the financial report were e-mailed prior to the meeting by the Treasurer and provided at the meeting. The Treasurer was unable to attend. A few items were noted:
 - a. Under Demo Garden, Anita received \$848.
 - b. Under Income/2010 Membership Dues, Lisa Van Horn paid double dues this year.
 - c. We are still working on resolving accounting for the perennial presale due to some lost checks and records.
 - b. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. Project Administration – Martin Richards
 - a. Rainwater Harvesting Training. Peggy Durrett sent a report. The class was outstanding. One issue that was raised during the class: the Family Resource Center building isn't in good condition for rainwater harvesting; the roof, gutters and fascia all need repair. We didn't install a RWH system at the DiG during the class because of low enrollment and limited contact with the Urban Solutions Center staff prior to the class due to vacations. We could look at alternatives to collecting from the Family Resource Center building—shed, greenhouse or freestanding roof.
 - b. DiG: There have been delays due to issues with the city about the greenhouse.
 - c. SWAT: Jenny Estes sent a report. SWAT was a great success. It has now been extended to 16 different schools. Great comments from the teachers.
 - d. The Veggie Show was successful. Anna is asking for feedback by the 9th. There were not so many entrants this year. Some items that were discussed:
 - i. Connie was concerned that many Master Gardeners won prizes. In the past, MGs didn't judge (but all entries were blind and no entrants judged). Also, many people drop off their entries and are not present to accept an award. Janet suggested considering a separate category for MGs. We might also consider having an MG showcase in addition to a contest, just as a demo. We could also have a "people's choice" award, and people could cast votes while they are waiting.
 - ii. Connie also mentioned that there didn't seem to be any publicity for the event in southern Denton County. In addition to "Neighbors Go", we should consider an entry in the Dallas Morning News Thursday gardening calendar. There might have been some competition from other events in the area that weekend. Janet suggested that we advertise at community gardens, since we have representation at several.
 - iii. Martin suggested that we plan a tour the Denton Bible Church community garden (where we are considering having InfoFest) for the membership.
 - e. Wayne Farley submitted a project initiation form for a Community Garden at Green Acres Farm in Flower Mound. The project has been approved by the city council. There is a 170'x270' area designated as a community garden (grass now). Eagle Scout projects have created a tool shed, raised beds, compost bins, and entrance gate. Wayne said that the plan is to start with a 65'x65' area near the barn. There will be a 501(c)(3) organization to monitor the project, in which Wayne will participate. The city will provide water, insurance, and a fence. Some wheelchair accessible beds are planned, and the city will provide mulch for walkways. (Janet suggested that wheelchair access might require a different path surface than mulch.) The city will also provide the services of a tractor.

Connie asked if Andi Milton is still interested in being project manager, and if the old or new city council approved (old). She expressed a concern that the new council might not support it, but Wayne said it is still part of the CIP (capital improvement program).

Water is there, but piping is needed. Wayne would like to harvest rainwater from the barn. Access is a consideration; there is only one road (Hideaway) to the garden area now, but Wayne is hoping another road will open up. Neighbors aren't very happy about increased traffic.

Janet asked about the planned MG role, and Wayne said that primarily our expertise is needed. Also, a demo garden is planned and we could use the area for teaching. Janet wanted to be sure that we work as a partner and stay within our mission of education. Wayne is involved with scouts and envisions that they will be heavily involved.

Connie wanted to delay a vote until we have assurances of support from the current city council and verification that Andi is still interested in being PM. Connie will contact Andi, and Wayne will check with the current council. The application was tabled for now.

B. Communications – Janie Farler

- a. Our new website has been set up. The member side is not ready, but the public side is. Janie will discuss a deadline with Mary; we are shooting for July 31 to go live. We need to get some information from Travis Ward: how we can get control of the home page to update it to better reflect our organization.
- b. Janie had a question about whether writing for the website is a project. It was decided that this could fall under communication and helpdesk.
- c. Janie said that we need a 2011 MG application to put out on the website. For that, we need to decide on the cost--last year we went up to \$150. Also, hours and dates need to be determined when Zoe gets back. Roundup is also not set yet (was Oct 20, but that may not work) and we need to decide on the site, too. Donna said that she typically updates the MG application; she will do that and get a copy to Janie as soon as the details are ironed out.

C. Education – Wally Gehrke:

- a. The Veggie Show in June (and the Ask an MG booth) went well.
- b. SWAT was successful.
- c. The third Saturday in July (July 17), the City of Lewisville Farmer's Market theme is water conservation. Monica has agreed to do drip irrigation and Sue will do rainwater harvesting. We will also have Ask an MG.

D. Delegate at Large – Annell Burns

Annell was unable to attend. Connie said that only one MG chose not to renew this year. Connie said we should probably cut back on number of members used to calculate our state dues.

E. County Coordinator – Janet Laminack

- a. Janet suggested that we invest in more canopies for events. Connie will look at where to put it in the budget. We also need sturdy but light tables. It was moved, seconded and approved that Janet be authorized to get 2 tents and a table. (Janie mentioned that there is the perception that we can't spend money on things like this.) Another suggested expenditure for the future: wagons for the plant sale and storage.
- b. Julie Levine would like to work with the speaker's bureau on creating presentations, power point, etc. Annie Bracken has also made suggestions for revamping the Speaker's Bureau. Shirley Manfredi was asked if she would be interested in heading up the Speaker's Bureau. We need more speakers, feedback, and better power point. We need to recruit skills in topics, photos, and power point. Janet will schedule a meeting to discuss.

F. Volunteer Coordinator – Donna Wolfe

Nothing to report this week.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS/GROUP DISCUSSION

A. Demonstration Garden report

- a. Zoe sent a report from June 30.

- b. There is discussion about relocating the Children's Garden to the DiG. Janet, Martin and Connie favor the idea. The Children's Garden will need to be dismantled the first part of November, and we will need a place to put some of the equipment and tools. We will also need to sign up by 1/1 for next year if we want to use the current site. It would be nice to have a place to do year-round gardening. Storage might be an issue at the DiG, since the size of the storage shed has been approved, and a larger structure will require an expensive permit, however if we had a permanent site, some things would stay in the garden and wouldn't need to be stored. Martin said a possible alternative would be to move to the Denton Bible Church community garden.
 - c. Janet expressed concern that we are getting behind on the DiG project, and the site is very visible to the public and county officials.
- B. Hospitality for July member meeting at Copeland Center
- a. We plan to award the Harpool Scholarship at the meeting, and Monica will do a talk on drip irrigation. Carol Munro will coordinate hospitality, but we need a cake for the scholarship presentation. Donna said we often use Candy Haven. Donna will order the cake and find someone to pick it up. Connie suggested ice water and lemonade as drinks.
 - b. "Meet and greet" starts at 6:00 P.M., and the meeting begins at 6:30. We will start with the scholarship award. We need to tell the county when we'll be finished so they can set their security system.
- C. Other Announcements
- a. Sue said that she would like to apply for the IBM grant again this year (\$500) and asked what she should specify as our purchase with the grant money. It was decided that we should ask for money for rain barrels. (Janet said that a 1500-gallon barrel is about \$500.)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 A.M.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 4 at 10:00 A.M.