

**DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
June 8, 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 Annell Burns, Wally Gehrke, Connie Gregory, Sue Hudiburgh, Janet Laminack, Shirley Manfredi, Cindy Reese, Martin Richards, Laurel Wallace and Donna Wolfe.

II. MINUTES

Minutes for the May 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

- a. Copies of the year-to-date annual budget were provided. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.
- b. Preliminary Garden Tour/Plant Sale income and expenses were outlined:
 1. Net income from Plant Sale was \$4178.78, not including some of presale.
 2. Net income from Garden Tour was \$4754.13, not including sales from Calloway's.
 3. YTD net from Garden Shoppe is \$2807.89, including inventory on hand.
 4. Not all expenses have come in yet.
- c. Connie said that the Garden Shoppe has exceeded its \$3000 budget due to a misunderstanding about ability to reinvest profits. Sandy will put together a plan, and Connie will call a meeting of a small group to resolve issues and work out how the organization can invest in the Garden Shoppe. Janet asked if we need to notify the members about the Garden Shoppe being over budget, since the bylaws require that additional funds for projects must be approved by the membership. It was decided to mention it at the general meeting, in the interest of transparency, and say that it will be discussed,.
- d. Shirley suggested moving some cash to the money market account and moving some money market funds to a federal bond fund to increase interest earned. It was suggested that next month we discuss how we want to spend our savings or invest them. We could ask membership to submit requests for funds for new or existing projects. The veggie show runs a little lean. Martin asked how we show that we are nonprofit. Shirley said that the CPA who did our taxes had no problem with our status; the nonprofit status is determined by how we spend our money—not any profit, per se.
- e. Shirley mentioned that we get two tax-free days per year. We usually use one day on the Garden Tour/Plant Sale and add in the pre-sales. Also, historically we have used InfoFest as the second day, but we don't make money on that day. Shirley will check with the CPA to see if we can use the Redbud/Demo Garden party day (4/10) instead as our second day this year. We should probably look at how to maximize this each year. Annell moved and Martin seconded that we change the second tax-free day to April 10. The motion was approved.
- f. Annell said that we should announce income results of Garden Tour/Plant Sale at a general meeting. Carolyn Tinner sent a written report to Connie. Some expenses continue to come in. Shirley suggested that we send out a final income report in July, and Connie suggested that we put deadlines in place for expense submissions. Laurel suggested that we give the preliminary net numbers at the general meeting on June 9, and Shirley agreed to put together that report.
- g. Connie mentioned that she is concerned that money collected on tour day should go to the bank on Monday, for security reasons. Shirley said that it isn't always possible to get the receipts counted and verified so soon.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Project Administration – Martin Richards

- a. Groundbreaking at the DiG was very successful. 45-50 people came, including city and county representatives. We received another \$1000 donation from Mark Atkinson's foundation. The Farm Bureau also donated \$300. Connie would like to write an official thank you note from the president, but Cindy said that Linda has been thanking donors on behalf of the whole organization.
- b. The children's garden is wrapping up. They are meeting on Tuesday.
- c. The veggie show is progressing.
- d. A meeting was held to discuss InfoFest this year. Linda sent a report. One issue is the venue. Linda told UTRWD that we won't be there this year. The Denton Civic Center isn't available and cost would be \$2485 + \$1500 for outside in the park. We would need to reserve 6-9 months ahead, but we could look at it for next year. So, the best option is the Denton Bible Church, or perhaps Trinity UMC.

B. Communications – Janie Farler Janie was unable to attend but sent a report.

- a. Publicity is up-to-date. The veggie show is covered. Project managers need to contact Pat Pape about publicity.
- b. Our new website has been set up, but it needs work before it can go live. Janie estimates that the work can be completed this month.
- c. We could use a volunteer with a marketing background to 'market' us.

C. Education – Wally Gehrke:

- a. Wally went to the Gainesville 'show and tell'.
- b. Also, Wally is looking at when we might participate at the Lewisville farmer's market; some of their themes don't lend themselves to our mission (e.g. Corvettes). The theme on July 17th will be water conservation. Sue said she could participate then. Monica will provide the Ask an MG booth.
- c. SWAT is coming up.

D. Delegate at Large – Annell Burns

- a. We are down to just 3 unpaid members. Annell has contacted them and given them a 6/15 deadline to be active for 2010. Janet will contact Lisa Van Horn, since Lisa may work on SWAT.

E. County Coordinator – Janet Laminack

- a. We are in good shape for SWAT level 1 (Jun 15-17). Janet would like to get lots of MGs involved.
- b. There are lots of specialist classes coming up. There is a new citriculture specialist class, and a small (not specialist) class on citrus greening disease.
- c. Janet said that we need to level the site for the rain tanks at the demo garden.
- d. Peggy hasn't heard from Dottie. We are assuming the class will make; currently only 10 are registered. Several MG'S have volunteered to help. Janet will make a pitch to membership to sign up for the class. Jimmie Meredith can make Sweetwater Grill open to all for dinner on Tuesday. There have been questions about rainwater harvesting classes from the public. Keep Denton Beautiful is planning one for the fall at Clearcreek.
- e. Cindy mentioned that she had been approached about our working at the Denton Farmer's Market. We already plan to work at the second Saturday marketplace there. Annell said the marketplace is somewhat disorganized.

F. Volunteer Coordinator – Donna Wolfe

- a. Donna asked if we have plans to do more Advanced Training classes this year. Tree diagnosis training was suggested. Joanne Fellows did propagation class a few years ago, and Annell suggested that we repeat that. Carolyn Tinner is also working on plant propagation with her team. Another suggested topic was spider mites. Connie will email Mary Karish.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS/GROUP DISCUSSION

A. Report on InfoFest Progress – Connie Gregory

- a. See discussion above (IV.A.d). We will need volunteers and to make a decision about the site. The next meeting is July 12 at 11 am.

B. Revision of Becoming a Denton County MG Brochure

- a. Connie has provided a suggested update to the brochure to change the focus to introducing us rather than recruiting. Janet has okayed the changes. Changes would be incorporated when we use up the stock of current copies of the brochure.

C. Demonstration Garden report

- a. It has been suggested that we relocate the children's garden to the DiG, and that is being studied. We could use some of the service area, but the children and parents could also work in the whole garden area and not just a separate area. We would need a larger shed to store children's tools, which might pose a problem. Phase 3 will provide a shrub/perennial border at the street. Moving the children's garden might also draw people from the family resource center. Martin said the children's garden will need to have a decision by 1/1 so they can reserve their current location if necessary, but Cindy thinks we could have a decision by the end of the summer. We could use volunteers from the children's garden to work on the DiG.
- b. Many kids at the juvenile detention center are eager to work. Also scout troops.

D. Rainwater Harvesting Specialist

- a. See above (IV.E.c-d).

E. Hospitality for June /July member meetings at Copeland Center

- a. Clarice is out of town, and Carole Munro will coordinate for the June meeting. Connie will pick up coffee from Starbucks for the morning meeting. We're not sure if tables are available. Laurel has 2 banquet tables that she can supply, and she will bring them unless Donna finds out that we don't need them. Laurel said there is a park nearby for future outdoor programs.

F. Other Announcements

Historically we haven't made the monthly budget available at the general meetings, but Shirley will provide a few copies of the monthly budget for the meeting, starting in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 7 at 10:00 A.M.