

**DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING  
March 9, 2010  
Extension Office Conference Room  
12:15 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Connie Gregory called the DCMGA Board of Directors meeting to order at 12:25 P.M. at the Texas Agrilife Extension office in Denton, TX. Connie handed out an organization chart, listing board and other positions. Board members were introduced to the intern class. Connie asked for a moment of silence for Lyle Williams, who recently passed away.

In attendance were Joe Bendzick, Zoe Broxson, Annell Burns, Janie Farler, Wally Gehrke, Connie Gregory, Sue Hudiburgh, Shirley Manfredi, Evelyn McMillen, Mary Morrow, Martin Richards, Carolyn Tinner, and Donna Wolfe. The intern class of 2010 was also in attendance.

II. MINUTES

Minutes for the February 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 approved as presented.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of year-to-date annual budget were provided. Carolyn asked about the \$24 income listed for the garden tour. Connie said the \$235 for state meetings was the registration fee for Jenny Estes.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Project Administration – Martin Richards Projects this year have started out well. Martin thanked the Project Managers. Several PMs presented projects:
- a. Zoe Broxson: Demonstration Garden. A written status report was provided. Cindy Reese is leading this project, with Anita Maynor assisting. Monthly reports are planned.
    - i. A fundraising brainstorming meeting was held. A solicitation letter has been developed. Sunbelt Rentals will donate tractor rental. A kickoff 'garden party' is scheduled at Sweetwater Grill on April 10. The party will include a buffet, cocktails, ask an MG. The party is for anyone--not just MGs. Donations were requested from Lowe's, however our request was rejected this month. They said to come back in April.
    - ii. Electricity and water will be available from the Family Resource Center next door to get us started. They will also encourage their clients to garden.
    - iii. It looks like no city permits are required, though we are verifying that.
    - iv. An application for a grant from Fiskars (\$1000 in tools and \$1000 in cash) has been submitted. A list of possible grants is being developed. Jimmy Meredith will help with grant writing. We need an event planner to plan more fundraising events, and a coordinator for fundraising. Fundraising plans are being reviewed with Agrilife.
    - v. On 3/30, the project will be presented to the interns.
    - vi. First event scheduled: 3/24 10-2 greenhouse raising. Workdays will be determined as soon as we get water.
    - vii. Seven entries have been received for the focal garden design. Voting will take place at the general meeting tomorrow. The three designs with the most votes will be given to a landscape designer for a final decision.
  - b. Evelyn McMillen: Redbud days festival (April 10, 10-4 at the Civic Center in Denton). We will have 2 tables this year: Ask an MG and Garden Shoppe. Evelyn is looking for volunteers and will check with those who indicated interest on the Area of Interest form.
  - c. Children's Garden: Jacqueline Carney is the new lead. A work session is scheduled for Thursday morning. Last week potatoes were planted.

A tour of four project sites was held on March 6. Sites visited were Fair Oaks, the Children's Garden, Bayless-Selby, and the Demo Garden. At each site, the PM did a presentation. Maurine and the mentors did a great job; the tour was well received by the interns. Maurine would like to incorporate the project tour as part of the class. Another idea: a map with the location of each project.

Donna said some of the interns have the impression that they can only work on one project. Not true, of course, so we need to clear that up.

Janie said that one intern told her that she had heard that interns can't initiate projects. (This isn't true, though interns are not eligible for an award.) We do usually try to get a veteran to assist with administrative work. It was suggested that we need to review the project initiation form. Martin said he will rework it; Donna will send Martin the old form. Susan Cosio would like to do articles on the projects for publicity, and information from the form could be used for an article.

B. Communications – Janie Farler

- a. Janie has taken over the Communications lead from Lucille Del Vecchio. Pat Pape will take over publicity. Susan Cosio will do publicity for the Children's Garden and Demonstration Garden. We've had several articles in the paper already. Carolyn will be meeting with Pat about Garden Tour.
- b. The Brockets (Brochure + Ticket) are complete for garden tour, as well as the flyers and posters. We need another volunteer for publicity.
- c. Pat Pape asked that we keep track of where Garden Tour posters are put up, and suggested that we provide our own tape and tacks.
- d. Website: Janet contacted the Extension on our behalf and found us a new contact, Travis Ward, who answered our questions about Grovesite and a new tool called Wordpress that the extension is now supporting. Janie, Mary and Sue decided to go ahead as an early adopter of Wordpress and are waiting for instructions from Travis. The web hosting fee is due April 2 and we will probably pay that. Frontpage server extensions support is going away soon, so we need to move away from that quickly. We will be increasing the garden information on the site, so anyone who likes to do research, speak up.

C. Education – Wally Gehrke

Spring Garden Series has started at the Flower Mound Library. 35 people came to the last presentation. Mary Karish did a good job of organizing the event. Next presentation: Wednesday, Wally will speak on Square Foot Gardening.

D. Delegate at Large – Annell Burns

- a. We received 8 dues checks today, so a total of 160 people have paid, including the new class. We only need 19-20 more at this point. A new roster will probably be available tomorrow. Shirley handed out the Area of Interest spreadsheet compiled from the renewal forms received as of 3/10. Some items need to be added (photography, fundraising, e.g.). The form will continue to be fine-tuned.
- b. Annell has Interest Sheets from the Interns, as well. We could add their data to that collected from the renewals. Next year we should make the interest form and interview forms match. There was discussion about the difference between "Redbud Days" and "Ask an MG", since our presence at Redbud Days is primarily "Ask an MG" and Garden Shoppe, and we don't really have a Redbud Days booth per se. We should change the Redbud Days booth entry to "Children's Arbor Day Redbud tree distribution". Connie said that the budget for Redbud Days should be split between "Ask an MG" and Garden Shoppe next year.

E. County Coordinator – Janet Laminack No update today.

F. Volunteer Coordinator – Donna Wolfe

- a. A new roster should be available tomorrow
- b. The MG logo merchandise catalog will be sent out online to members this year. Orders will still go to Donna, and she will compile them and mail them in. Links will be included to the provider's site to see colors, etc.

G. Rainwater Harvesting Specialist Training Report – Peggy Durrett

- a. Peggy was unable to attend, but her report was emailed to the board. The class is scheduled for the end of June. Dotty will be here March 22 and will go out to the site where rainwater retrieval will be built. Fair Oaks, the African-American museum, or the Demo Garden are options. The Family Resource Center, next to the Demo Garden, is open to letting us retrieve off their roof. The Copeland Center is scheduled for the class.
- b. It was suggested that we do a potluck dinner.
- c. Issues mentioned by those who have attended specialist training in the past:

- i. Value. Since the specialist classes aren't cheap, we need to be sure participants feel they receive good value for their tuition.
- ii. Food
- iii. Presentations. Since specialist trainees are required to train others in the year following the class, it is helpful to provide softcopy presentations and materials to help with the training.
- iv. Interaction with host MGs. Meeting other MGs is part of the training experience, so we should try to get our membership involved in volunteering to help with the class.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Propagation team: Carolyn Tinner Some issues: is work on the team considered AT or volunteer time? Should the propagation class be a prerequisite for the team? Carolyn will see how it goes. There are more than thirty people involved
- B. Insurance – Carolyn Tinner Carolyn has done quite a bit of investigation and talked with Dallas and Tarrant MGs. She presented a policy from an agent out of California.
  - a. Liability coverage: \$1 million coverage per occurrence/\$1 million aggregate costs \$265 annually.
  - b. Directors and officers: \$87.50 for \$100,000 coverage, or \$175 for \$500,000. Spouses are also covered.
  - c. Accident medical: prevents small costs that could turn into a lawsuit. Costs \$138 annually.
  - d. Property: \$30,000 coverage costs \$279.
  - e. Total for all, including \$175 D&O, is \$857. There are exclusions outlined in the information that Carolyn provided. It was moved, seconded and approved that Carolyn follow up and buy the insurance.
  - f. Also discussed: Any forms that we are asked to sign--by the city or Trinity UMC, for example--need to be reviewed first by the board. If they are asking us to hold them harmless for risk that we bring, that's okay. If they are asking us to be responsible for existing unsafe conditions, we need to know that and handle those conditions.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS/GROUP DISCUSSION

- A. Alternate Delegate to State Convention: Jenny Estes will attend as our delegate. Connie recommended several sessions (grants, fundraising, e.g.) that would be good for Jenny to attend. Connie will also go to the director's meeting.
- B. Scholarship Chairperson: Adele Petty will handle the Tom Harpool scholarship this year. Publicity has gone out and deadline is March 31 for applications.
- C. Garden Tour/Plant Sale: Jenny Estes is our ticket person. The county will pay for printing the next batch of brockets, but planning for next year should include printing costs, since they are cutting back. Concern: Demo Garden may consume workers needed for the tour/plant sale. At the general meeting, the plant sale team will talk about pre-sales and pass-alongs. Nursery visits are continuing, and worms are being grown. A Plant Sale meeting will be held on March 31<sup>st</sup> at the church (also April 28).
- D. Other Announcements: None

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

- A. Anell: Carolyn Gold would like to have demonstrations at Bayless Selby and asked that Wally contact her. She is interested in Saturday programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 P.M.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 7 at 10:00