

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2006 MEETING  
OF THE  
**TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

GEORGE J. AMMERMANN, SECRETARY

The following officers were present:

Jan Shannon, Karen Bitnar, George J Ammermann, Virginia Krebs, Wayne Rhoden, Dr. Doug Welsh

The following associations were represented: Angelina, Aransas/San Patricio, Bluebonnet MG, Bell, Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Harris, Lake Granbury MG, Henderson, Jefferson, Lamar, McLennan, Permian Basin, Montgomery, Nueces, Orange, Tarrant, Big Country MG, Travis, and Wichita.

President Jan Shannon called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. with George Ammermann giving the invocation and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being no corrections or additions to the minutes they were approved as posted on the TMGA website.

Treasurer Virginia Krebs gave the treasurer's report.

Income:	Transfer from prior bank:	\$ 500.00
	Dues	\$ 4,572.00
	Current balance in American National Bank	\$ 5,072.00
	Cashiers check to close prior bank account	\$22,781.80
	Total Liabilities & Equity	\$27,853.70

The report is filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Deb Martin, Awards Chair, gave a report on how the award applications are being handled this year. It was noted several counties had submitted award applications, but had not paid their dues as yet. The dues must be received by the treasurer no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 for the applications to be judged.

Doug Richards, Web Master, explained new items listed on the web and asked all directors to be sure to keep e-mail addresses current.

Marva Beck, News Letter and Outreach Chair, was unable to attend, but asked that associations keep sending her information on local items of interest. There is a link of the web to reach her.

Wayne Rhoden gave a report on the status of the 501(c) 3 application. He has made several attempts to reach the CPA who is working on our application. The agreement with her was to file the application with IRS which she has done, but the procedural document she was to have developed was never accomplished. We have paid her for the IRS application, but will hold the payment for the procedural document until we receive it. Dr. Welsh added he has been in contact with the IRS and they told him that the application has passed through the first phase. He also provided the IRS with the additional information they requested. He will contact the IRS to receive an update on the status of our application.

Dr. Welsh reported on 3 new additions to the Master Management Guide.  
Dismissal of Volunteers; These guidelines give information should it become necessary to dismiss a volunteer. (Expel them from the Master Gardener Program)

Background check; there has been much confusion about how this is to be handled. These guideline answer many questions that have been raised concerning who needs to be checked and how much information will be collected and how it will be handled.

Emeritus, these guidelines cover the awarding of the emeritus title to master gardeners.

The upcoming master gardener specialist trainings were mentioned. See the web for more details.

Brazos County Master Gardeners are having a plant sale today.

An update on the upcoming Master Gardener Conference scheduled for May 2006 was presented. A follow-up e-mail will be sent out.

There was no old business.

New Business:

Melissa Clifton CEA, Taylor County, gave information on hosting the 2008 conference in Abilene. It was moved and seconded to have the 2008 conference in Abilene. The motion carried.

Doug Richards presented suggestions to reduce the cost of Master Gardener Specialist training. He suggested that the shirts be an optional item. This could lower the cost by \$20 to \$25. He also, suggested that TMGA refund \$25 to participants upon completion of the full requirements to become a Master Gardener Specialist.

It was moved and seconded to reimburse participants in the master gardener specialist training being held in 2006 the amount of \$25 upon completion of their certification requirements. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

George J. Ammermann  
Secretary