

Unofficial Minutes of the April 24, 2009 Meeting

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.
Scottsville Camp - Marshall, Texas**

Brenda Cunningham, Secretary

The following officers were present:

President, Doug Quicksall; 1st Vice President, Lynn McKillop; 2nd Vice President, Lonnie Matthew; Secretary, Brenda Cunningham; Treasurer, Homer Babbitt; Past President, Garey Wylie.

Directors/Alternates from the following associations were present:

Angelina, Aransas/San Patricio, Bell, Blanco, Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland, El Paso, Ellis, Fannin, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Hood, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Kerr, Lamar, Leon, McLennan, Montague, Parker, Potter/Randall, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, Williamson and Wood counties.

Guests from the following associations also attended:

Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazoria, Ector/Midland, Guadalupe, Harrison, Hood, Lamar, Leon, Parker, Smith, and Somervell counties.

Call to Order:

President Quicksall called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm by welcoming everyone and reminding all attendees to sign in and update any changes to their personal information. George J. Ammermann, Guadalupe County, then gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

President Quicksall introduced Secretary, Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County, who reminded those in attendance that the minutes from the December 6, 2008 meeting had been previously posted on the TMGA website, and that some copies were available at this meeting for anyone who needed to review them. President Quicksall asked if there were questions or changes to the minutes as presented. There being none, motion was made by Sallie Bourgeois, Fort Bend County, that the minutes from the December 6, 2008 meeting be approved as submitted. Dick Coupe, Dallas County, seconded the motion and all agreed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial Report: Treasurer Homer Babbitt, Parker County, reviewed the 2009 YTD expenses explaining that the amounts so far were small since the figures were only through April 21, but there were more expenses to come. Mr. Babbitt stated that the biggest portion of the TMGA budget expenses would be for Specialist Reimbursement requests. Mr. Babbitt also reported that the income for the year was complete with the exception of interest income.

Committee Updates:

President Quicksall welcomed any visitors to the meeting and asked that they be recognized. He then asked that any Directors or Alternates who were attending their first meeting be

recognized. President Quicksall encouraged everyone to visit the TMGA website and read about the number of wonderful opportunities available and to get involved. Mr. Quicksall then thanked and recognized the following Standing Committee chairpersons for their assistance:

Doug Richards, Hood County, Audit Committee
Ginger Bason, Tarrant County, Awards Committee
Donna Hagar, Somervell County, Newsletter
Dove Johnson, Somervell County, Website
Fran Amuny, Jefferson County, Nominating Committee
Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County, Special Advisory Tax Committee

President Quicksall then recognized the following Special Committee chairpersons:

Joan Leach, Johnson County, EarthKind™ Roses
Bunny Williams, Dallas County, Mentoring
Maria Sobczak, Victoria County, Painting Texas with Wildflowers
Pam Daniel, Ellis County, Rainwater Harvesting

Kay Dillingham, Victoria County, reported that the Painting Texas with Wildflowers program currently has 25 counties participating.

TMGA General Update:

Jayla Fry, Extension Assistant and Master Gardener Coordinator, advised that the newest edition of the Master Gardener handbook is now available and that anyone who wants to purchase a copy should have their local Extension Agent order it for them since the agent will have the faculty login necessary to order the handbook at a discount. Ms. Fry stated that the major changes in the new handbook are in plant health diagnostics and that an entire chapter has been devoted to EarthKind™.

Ms. Fry encouraged those in attendance who had not already done so to take the EarthKind™ evaluations that are available online. She reminded everyone that the evaluations are a tool used to provide feedback to Texas A & M University that the training is beneficial in the areas of knowledge gained, intent to adopt, and the economic impact if adopted.

Ms. Fry then informed everyone that a survey is being developed to identify training needs and desires for potential new specialist training programs.

New Business:

2010 TMGA Conference:

Bunny Williams, Dallas County Master Gardener Association President, introduced Nita Rausch, Chairperson for the 2010 Conference to be held April 8-10, 2010. Dallas County is gearing up for an exciting Conference at the beautiful Omni Hotel in Las Colinas. The current plans include a tour of private gardens on Wednesday, April 7, before the conference begins, additional tours and registration during the day on Thursday with a Welcome Reception that evening, education programs on Friday, and an Awards Brunch Saturday morning followed by an afternoon of available tours. Ms. Williams reported that many exciting speakers have been confirmed but that suggestions for topics or speakers are still being accepted.

2011 TMGA Conference Proposals:

With the interest of two separate groups to host the 2011 TMGA Conference, President Quicksall stated that each group would provide a presentation to the Directors and Alternates in attendance who would then cast their ballot to determine the selected site. Prior to moving forward to the presentations of the two proposals, President Quicksall reminded everyone that each County in attendance could have two votes. All votes would be collected and counted by Treasurer, Homer Babbitt and the vote count would be announced at the Awards dinner that evening.

President Quicksall then introduced Mr. Lou Kellogg, Education Director for Bexar County Master Gardeners, who then introduced Mr. David Rodriguez, CEA-Horticulture, Bexar County. Mr. Kellogg stated that Bexar County would be pursuing a “Green Industry” theme since it is the second largest industry in Texas if Bexar County was selected to host the 2011 TMGA Conference. Mr. Kellogg and Mr. Rodriguez cited a variety of possible tours and programs that should provide an interesting and educational experience for everyone.

President Quicksall invited Doug Richards, Hood County, and Donna Hagar, Somervell County, to present their joint proposal to co-host the 2011 Conference. Their presentation consisted of a handout of promotional literature for Glen Rose, their proposed site for the Conference, along with a slide show highlighting the many attractions and the diversity offered by each County.

President Quicksall thanked both groups for their informative proposals. The ballots were then voted and collected. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Cunningham
Secretary, TMGA