

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATIONS, INC.**

Unofficial Minutes of the December 3, 2011 Meeting

The following officers were present:

President, Homer Babbitt; Executive Committee Member, Doug Richards; 2nd Vice President, Ginger Bason; Treasurer, Donna Hagar; Secretary, Diane Bush; Past President, Lonnie Matthew.

Directors/Alternates from the following associations were present:

Angelina, Aransas/San Patricio, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Cameron, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Harris, Henderson, Hood, Leon, McLennan, Milam, Montague, Montgomery, Nueces, Parker, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Taylor, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, Williamson, Wood counties.

Guest from the following associations also attended:

Galveston, Travis, Tarrant, McAllen, Wichita counties.

Call to Order:

President Homer Babbitt called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM after welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. President Homer Babbitt gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County spoke about one of our members Fran Amuny who passed away October 14th from pulmonary disease. Fran was liked by all and always had a smile on her face. She mentored many of our fellow gardeners and she was always helping us. Fran served on several committees and also on the Outreach Committee. It is a very sad day for all of us and a truly great loss. Please remember Fran and her family in your prayers. Fran will be missed.

Review and Approval of August 6, 2011 Meeting Minutes:

President Homer Babbitt asked if there were any corrections, questions or changes to the minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved. President Homer Babbitt informed the Secretary to change minutes from unofficial to official and provide a copy of the minutes to the webmaster for posting to the TMGA website.

Treasurer's Report:

- 2011 YTD Financial Report: Treasurer Donna Hagar presented her report from January until the end of November with the year to date actuals showing we have \$12.44 in interest. Since August we have \$38.91 income in dues. We have administration postage expense of \$8.80. Director's meeting lunches in August for \$233.21. Donations to the Sam Cotner Awards in August for \$500.00 and an

additional \$700.00 in specialist training expense. A total expenses from August until now is \$1,442.01 and that brings currently before today to a bank balance of \$28,102.36. This is actual budget versus actual. The financials may be viewed on the TMGA website.

- 2012 Proposed Budget: Income, we are anticipating roughly \$15.00 in interest, membership dues collected from last year, we have just over \$12,015.00. Expenses: \$205.00 for administrative, \$2,500 for association meeting lunches, \$3,050 in Recognition Awards, Committee Expenses; none at this time but anticipate they will need funds, \$75.00 for newsletter; and for the website and other committees; \$250.00 bringing the total to \$455.00, donations and contributions of \$300.00 for 4H Contest awards and other donations bringing a total to \$800.00. Specialist training \$2,500 and TMGA Training Conference for \$5,000.00. That brings us to a total expense of \$14,510.00 with a short fall of \$2,495.00.

Donna reminded everyone that the forms are ready on the website and dues need to be paid by March 1, 2012. Barbara Lutz, Bexar County made motion to approve the treasurer's report and Barbara Spaeden, Aransas County seconded the motion. Treasurer's report approved.

Standing Committee Reports:

Awards Committee – Homer Babbitt:

Paul and Mary Meredith have done an excellent job on preparing the 2011 handbook and the information is on the website. If there are any questions you may have, there is a Q&A section under Awards. If you cannot find your answer, contact Paul and Mary directly. If your association is in good standing your county will be eligible.

Conference Planning Committee – Duddly Hargrove:

Duddly said that they have formed a Google document on information that has ever been collected in past years conference and if anyone would who may be thinking of having a state conference in their county would be able to view this information. This is password protected so you would need to contact Dudley if your count is interested.

Newsletter – Donna Hagar:

Donna stated that she is reaching over 3100 different email address and possibly over half of the Master Gardeners. If you would like to sign up to receive the newsletter, go to the website and sign up so everyone will be informed. Also, Donna asked if anyone would be interested in taking over the newsletter and if you are interested to please contact Donna. Donna said the website has been updated for 2012, so please go to the website and put in your new officers and directors for 2012. You can contact Donna at TMGA.news@gmail.com. If you need to change your email to another email i.d. go in and unsubscribe and subscribe with your new email.

Outreach Committee – Ginger Bason:

Ginger stressed to the audience that we need to update our rosters with your new officers and directors. We do not need all of the names of your Master Gardeners, only officers

and directors. This is our contact as to what is going on. There are 12 districts in Texas so if you do not know what district you are in you can go to the website to see who your representative is. In 2012, an outreach representatives in the 12 districts will be contacting you if you do not turn your information in and to remind you to do so.. If the organization cannot communicate then we are not functioning as a group. If there is not a representative in your district please consider becoming an outreach representative for that district.

Special Tax Advisory – Wayne Rhoden:

Wayne updated us regarding the 501C3 group. Every year Wayne sends a report to the IRS in September. Right now we have 43 associations that are in our 501C3 and that consist of 52 counties. Wayne wanted to remind us that each county are responsible for our own 990N form and it is not the association's responsibility for the individual counties. With the 501C3 you get two free plant sales a year. If you have any questions email Wayne Rhoden, his email is on the website. Check with your officers to make sure they have the proper information. Also check with your treasurer to make sure they use their own EIN number.

Webmaster – Ron Williford:

Ron introduced Barbara Buxley who is helping Ron. This website now takes two people to keep the webpage updated. Barbara has been doing the events calendar. If you have any events, please contact Barbara at TMGAevents@gmail.com. This calendar is only for Master Gardener's events. Please limit your information due to the fact there is not a lot of space. Please send your event information several weeks in advance. Ron said that this site is limited to only 600 meg. Ron has set up a google.docs, so they can use their server and their space to be able to utilize google.docs. Ron set up a page for the awards section with the Q&A. You can submit your question and if it has not been answered before, Paul and Mary Meredith (Awards Committee) will be able to respond. It can be updated continuously and Ron makes sure this website is working. For the 2012 roster Ron has set up the forms for dues that you can type in and also much easier to read oppose to handwriting. The user password is sunset.

New Business:

2012 TMGA Conference –Lou Kellogg and Barbara Lutz:

Lou announced that they will be hosting three specialists training. March 27th and 28th, Irrigation Efficiency, May 24th, Rainfall Harvesting and June 13th and 14th, Composting.

Next year's conference is May 3rd, 4th, 5th. For every hour of class time there will be five different speakers on Friday and on Thursday there will be three speakers. There will be three workshops; 1) Bonsai, 2) Citrus grafting, 3) Flower Arranging and all three classes will be two hours long and limited spacing. Some of the speakers are Paul Cox, "Toxic Plants in the Landscape", "Ashton Ritchie, "Gardening Then, Now and into the Future", Dr. Kevin Ong, "Plant Disease", Dr. Jerry Parson, "The Colorization of the Texas Bluebonnet", Dr. Bruce Fraedrich, "What Trees do for our Lives", Karen Guz, "San Antonio Water Systems and Master Gardeners Making a Difference", plus many

more. Go to the TMGA website for a complete list. The website is BexarCountyMasterGardener.org. The website is easy to register. All the classes will be displayed on the website with a fifteen minute break between classes. Registration includes a t-shirt. Tour prices are \$50.00 and Conference price is \$210.00. Conference will be held at the Norris Convention Center located at I10 and Loop 410 on the North side. They have special rates at some of the hotels and you can book as low as \$59.00. There will be no classes on Saturday.

2013 TMGA Conference – Barbara Storz, Hidalgo and Jennifer Herrera, Cameron: Duddly Hargrove introduced Barbara Storz and Jennifer Herrera. The two counties have combined together to hold this conference. This conference will be held in October if approved. Barbara introduced Victor Castillo from the McAllen Convention Center. Victor said that there are 27 daily flights into McAllen and all events will be within a two mile radius and the conference will have free shuttles. There will be 400 hotel rooms guaranteed for this conference. Victor said they have a lot to offer us. McAllen is in Zone 9 and is a tropical paradise. They have a wildlife refuge, a butterfly center with over 500 U.S. butterfly species. Several of the speakers are Mike Novak, Radio host, and columnist, Forrest Smith, South Texas native, Texas A&M, Kingsville, “Preserving Species for Generations to Come. Conference would be held October 17th – October 19th, 2013. There being no other counties interested in holding convention for 2013, Barbara Porsch, Midland County made motion to approve and Kathy Murray, Hood County seconded motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

Unfinished Business – Jayla Fry:

In the August meeting Mary Snodgrass, Brazos County raised a concern over criminal background checks. Mary felt they are looking too deeply into personal backgrounds. Jayla checked into their contract and was told to mark through what we felt was uncomfortable answering. Next year contract they will compile.

Executive Committee Report/Recommendations:

President Homer Babbitt brought up the fact that in our by-laws that there are two paragraphs, one covering directors and one paragraph covering the officers and present and past officers and members of the association. The association shall indemnify its past and present Directors to the fullest extent permitted. Homer checked with several insurance companies and it would be basically financially impossible costing approximately \$1,000 per member. It would cost around \$5 million dollars to cover this so we need to have our By-laws changed. This needs to be revisited in 2012. Homer asked if there are any other By-laws that need to be changed to please let them know.

Nomination/Election of 2013 Officers:

The candidates for year 2012 are: Brenda Cunningham, President
Ginger Bason, 1st Vice President
Dick Coupe, 2nd Vice President
Karen Colwick, Secretary

Donna Hagar, Treasurer

The nominations were closed at the August meeting due to the fact there were no additional nominations from the floor. President Homer Babbitt asked if there is a motion for nomination by acclamation. Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County, made motion to approve and JoAnn Hahn, Tarrant County seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Passing of the Gavel – Homer Babbitt and Brenda Cunningham:

President Homer Babbitt introduced Brenda Cunningham as our 2012 President saying that we will be in good hands with Brenda as our new President. Outgoing President Homer Babbitt said he was glad to be our President this past year. Brenda thanked Doug Richards for stepping up to the plate to fill in. Brenda said that the next meeting will be held February 18, 2012 at 11:00 AM here at the Texas A&M Horticultural Building. Jayla Fry presented past President Homer Babbitt with his name engraved in the plaque of all past presidents and a plaque for Homer in recognition of all his service. Homer thanked all of us by saying we have a great group and he loved being a part of this association.

State MG Coordinator – Jayla Fry:

Jayla Fry said as a reminder there will be an International Master Gardening Conference cruise going to Alaska. The University of Arkansas will be hosting and they have a payment plan if you are interested. The cruise is scheduled for September 7 – 14, 2013 on Holland Cruise Line.

Specialist Training – Jayla asked if your county is hosting a Specialist Training class to please go through her first. She is seeing too many counties in one area doing the same class and they need to be spread throughout the state. She will help facilitate.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bush