

Texas Master Gardeners Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2012

Officers Present-Ginger Bason-Tarrant County, Karen Colwick-Bell County, Dick Coupe-Dallas County, Brenda Cunningham-Dallas County, Donna Hagar-Somervell County.

Directors and Alternates -were from Angelina, Austin/Colorado/Fayette (Bluebonnet), Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazos, Burnet, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Ector/Midland (Permian Basin), Fort Bend, Galveston, Gonzales, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hood, Jefferson, Leon, McLennan, Milam, Montague, Montgomery, Orange, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, Williamson, and Wood Counties.

Committee Members-were from Comal, Dallas, Ector/Midland, Grimes, McLennan, Victoria, and Williamson Counties.

Guests attending- were from Burnet, Ector, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Orange, Smith, and Victoria Counties.

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks by President Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County.
Reading of counties represented and counties with guests attending by Secretary Karen Colwick.
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County.
3. Review and Approval of May 3, 2012 Minutes-Brenda Cunningham.
The President stated the minutes were posted online. A motion was made to approve the Minutes by Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County, and a second was made by JoAnn Hahn, of Tarrant County.
4. Treasurer's Report-Donna Hagar, Somervell County.
Donna Hagar stated the Treasurers Report was online for viewing, showing expenditures and current balance. Expenses included Conference and Specialist reimbursements. She asked if there were any questions.
5. Standing Committee Reports
 - A. 2012 TMGA Conference- Lou Kellogg, Bexar County.
The Conference attendance for 2012 was 450 members, down from the previous 2011 Conference. Lou Kellogg stressed how important a good rapport with the County Agents or Agent and the Green Industry were for success in hosting a Conference.
 - B. Awards Committee-Mary & Paul Meredith, Victoria County.
The Awards Committee members were announced as Lisa Nixon, Bexar County, Nita Rausch, Dallas County, and Kathy Murray, Hood County.
 1. Forms are being revamped and made easier to read. Pictures will go into a separate online folder from other entries.

2. Members will be able to work on projects online, and make changes up until time the entries are due.
3. Awards entry folders will be sent to the Extension Agent and the local President of each local Master Gardener organization. Members must submit all work and projects only by way of these awards entry folders.
4. The Executive Committee is requesting that the Awards Handbook be ready in September, and would then be available to the membership by October.

C. Conference Planning-Duddly Hargrove, Dallas County.

Duddly discussed that McAllen is set for the Conference next fall.

D. Newsletter-Nicky Maddams, Grimes County.

The new newsletter editor was recognized for the good job she is doing. She explained there had been a problem opening the newsletter in 'Apple'. She also welcomes photos for use in future newsletters.

E. Outreach-Dick Coupe, Dallas County.

1. Dick Coupe, reporting for Eleanor Tuck, said they are trying to reach out to all Master Gardeners, not yet members, of the Texas Master Gardeners Association.
2. The Committee is asking for volunteers to write encouragement pieces on "why it is of benefit to all Master Gardener groups to be a member of the TMGA.
3. Outreach invites anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Outreach Committee to contact either Dick Coupe or Eleanor Tuck.

F. Special Tax Advisory-Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County.

Wayne stated he verifies chapters who are actually under the umbrella of 501(c)(3). He needs something from each county validating their eligibility, and a current list of officers as he uses that for making contacts. These lists need to be sent to Secretary Karen Colwick if there are changes.

G. TMGA Website-Ron Williford, Comal County.

Ron explained the website is the worlds' window to the world. We need to stay current with technology. Our website is imbedded with words and a QR stamp that can be scanned, taking browsers straight to the website or connect to another link. The Calendar of Events is up and running. Ron is looking for several Directors to pilot the new website in their local chapter.

6. Old Business

A. Off-site Meeting Research-Ginger Bason, Tarrant County.

Ginger stated the Executive Committee is still doing research into criteria for the use of distance viewing of meetings. Off-site use would be on a request basis only. Off-site is available at A&M but it needs to be set-up at distance sites. She stressed distance viewing is not to replace attending Directors meetings.

- B. Other: President reminded everyone that a block of rooms at Town-place Suites-Marriot is held for Master Gardeners at a special rate of \$93 a room or \$111 for a double suite.

7. New Business

A. Proposed Slate of Officers for 2013 TMGA, Executive Committee.

Nominating committee representative, Barbara Porsch, Ector/Midland County (Permian Basin).

1. Barbara Porsch announced the slate of officers for 2013 including: Ginger Bason Tarrant County, as President; Dick Coupe, as First Vice-President; Donna Hagar, Somervell County; as Second Vice-President, Doug Richards; Hood County, as Treasurer; and Karen Colwick, Bell County, as Secretary.
2. President Brenda Cunningham opened the floor for additional nominations, but none were made. She then closed nominations for Executive officers.

B. Future Meeting Date

Saturday, December 1, 2012, 11:00am-3:00pm at College Station. Election of officers will be held.

C. 2014 Conference Proposal-Ector/Midland County-Carol Siddall, 2012 President of Permian Basin Master Gardeners, and Conference Co-chair. Also present was Veta Reese, Conference Co-chair, Ray Greenlee, 2014 President, of the Permian Basin Master Gardeners, and Molly Thorn, Odessa Convention and Visitors Bureau.

1. The representatives from Ector/Midland Counties presented their plans for the 2014 State Master Gardener Conference. Dates would be Sept. 25-27, 2014. The Conference would be centered at the Grande Hotel, one of many nearby hotels in the area. They showed a short video on the amenities of the area.
2. A motion was made by JoAnn Hahn, Tarrant County. She moved to accept the bid made by the Permian Basin Master Gardeners, for the Master Gardeners Conference in 2014. A second was made by Kathy Murray, Hood County. The motion passed.

8. State Master Gardener Coordinator Update-Jayla Fry.

Jayla welcomed everyone and then announced there is a name change for the Extension part of A&M to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Also there have been some personnel changes. Dr. Doug Steel has been named as the new Director of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Dr. Dan Lineberger has assumed the position as Department Head of Horticulture Sciences at A&M. Also Jayla addressed those who haven't received their specialist certificate, she asked that they please be patient as they are coming.

The meeting concluded with the drawing of a door prize awarded to Peggy Rogers, Wood County and provided by Brenda Cunningham.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary Karen Colwick
August 30, 2012