

Unofficial Minutes of the December 5, 2009 Meeting

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.
College Station, Texas**

Brenda Cunningham, Secretary

The following officers were present:

President, Doug Quicksall; 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, Bexar, Brazos, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Harris, Hood, Jefferson, Johnson, Leon, McLennan, Montague, Parker, Potter/Randall, Rusk, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Travis, Wichita, and Williamson counties.

Guests from the following associations also attended:

Bell, Bexar, Galveston, Guadalupe, Harris, McLennan, Potter/Randall, and Victoria counties.

Call to Order:

President Quicksall called the meeting to order at 11:03 am by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. George J. Ammermann, Guadalupe County, then gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

President Quicksall introduced TMGA Secretary, Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County, who advised those in attendance that some copies of the minutes from the August 1, 2009 were available at the meeting for anyone who had not had an opportunity to review the minutes as posted on the TMGA website. Secretary Cunningham stated that the correction of the beginning of the meeting time from 11:05 pm to 11:05 am had been mentioned prior to today's meeting and the change would be made. President Quicksall asked if there were questions or changes to the minutes as presented. There being none, motion was made by Donna Hagar, Somervell County, that the minutes from the August 1, 2009 meeting be approved as submitted. Barbara Lutz, Bexar County, seconded the motion and all agreed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial Report: Treasurer Homer Babbitt, Parker County, reviewed the banking summary which shows the trend for 2007, 2008 and projected expenses for 2009. Treasurer Babbitt stated that outstanding expenses for 2009 include some specialist training reimbursement expenses that have not yet been requested and the cost of lunch for today's meeting that will be applied to this year's budget. Treasurer Babbitt then reviewed the current status of the 2009 Budget comparing actual income and expenses to the budgeted income and expenses and noted that based on current information expenses will be approximately \$1,200.00 over budget.

2010 Proposed Budget: Treasurer Babbitt reported that even though there will be some interest income in the coming year, overall income for TMGA will basically be flat as noted on the handout made available to those in attendance. New in 2010 is a budgeted amount of \$250.00 for

committee expenses. There is a slightly higher budgeted amount for specialist training reimbursements, and a higher budgeted amount for the Website expenses to be used for the TMGA website, the Awards website and the Newsletter website. All other budget categories will remain about the same as the previous year. Based on projected income and expenses, the proposed TMGA budget for 2010 should result in a profit of approximately \$2,000.00. After motion from Fran Amuny, Jefferson County, and second by Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County, the proposed budget for 2010 was approved by those in attendance.

Introduction of Standing Committee Chairpersons and Updates:

President Quicksall introduced the chairpersons for the following Standing Committees:

Audit: Doug Richards, Hood County, reported that he and other Audit Committee members Ginger Bason, Tarrant County, and Donna Hagar, Somervell County, met on November 16, 2009 to review the October 2008-October 2009 financial documents. Mr. Richards stated that the Committee's previous recommendation in 2008 to have two authorized names/signatures on the checking account had been accomplished. This did not change the requirement of only one signature on a check. Mr. Richards continued by stating that all checks that were written during the previously noted time period were documented making the accounts easy to audit, and that he and the other members of the Audit Committee were impressed with how good the records were maintained. President Quicksall thanked each of the members of the Audit Committee and Treasurer Babbitt for their work during the previous year.

Awards: Ginger Bason, Tarrant County, reported that the awards information has been on the TMGA website since November 1, 2009, and that the judges are in place and looking forward to receiving the submissions which are due earlier than they in previous years. Ms. Bason reminded everyone to follow the Awards Handbook when preparing submissions and to be especially aware of size requirements for posters. Everyone is encouraged to present their submissions early so that if there are problems the submissions can be returned for correction and re-submission. Telephone numbers are available on the last page if there are questions.

Ms. Bason then announced that Paul and Mary Meredith of Victoria County will replace her as co-chairs of the Awards Committee for awards submitted for the year of 2010 (i.e., at the 2011 Conference hosted by Hood & Somervell Counties. Ms. Bason then answered questions from the floor regarding the Awards process. President Quicksall thanked Ms. Bason for her hard work with the Awards Committee for the past years.

Newsletter/Website: Donna Hagar, Somervell County, Newsletter, reported that the future editions of the newsletter will include links to redirect a reader to the TMGA website for more details about a subject. Ms. Hagar also reported that there are currently 2,500 Vertical Response participants. President Quicksall offered his thanks to Ms. Hagar and to Dove Johnson for their efforts with the Newsletter and Website and reminded everyone that the information is out there but you have to read it in order to benefit from the information that is made available.

Special Tax Advisory: Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County, reported that he received a print out from the IRS showing the 38 counties who are currently carried under the TMGA umbrella for 501 (c) (3) status. Mr. Rhoden reminded everyone that this is an opportunity to get under the TMGA umbrella at minimal expense.

Introduction of Special Emphasis Program Committee Chairpersons and Updates:

President Quicksall introduced the following Special Committee chairpersons:

EarthKind™ Roses: In the absence of Chairwoman Joan Leach, Garey Wylie, Johnson County, reported that he and Dr. George had travelled to Ames, Iowa to visit Dr. Griffith Buck’s home and that Dr. Buck’s family allowed them to copy Dr. Buck’s research papers regarding EarthKind™ Roses. Mr. Wylie also reported that the “Go Texan” brochure has been updated to include all 21 EarthKind™ roses and that EarthKind™ is growing to include perennials and shrubs.

Painting Texas with Wildflowers: In the absence of Chairwoman, Maria Sobczak, Karen Bitnar, Hood County, reported that Texas Agriculture Commissioner Richard DeLosSantos’ office has advised that his office is currently out of seeds but they anticipate there will be an ample supply next year.

TMGA Coordinator Update – Jayla Fry: Ms. Fry reported that the Chartering forms and documents have been sent to all County Extension Agents and that they should be working with their local association to get the information completed. Ms. Fry stated that her office only needs the signed Agreement Form and that the other pages should be retained at the Extension Office. Ms. Fry then answered questions from the floor, and reminded everyone that completion of the chartering information is required in order for a local association to be recognized. President Quicksall commented that all of the required documentation is what local associations should be doing anyway and that it helps to have a guide to ensure that we are doing what we need to do.

2010 TMGA Conference:

Duddy Hargrove, 2010 Conference Chairman, Dallas County, reported that the rates for the 2010 Conference to be held April 8-10, 2010 have been set as follows:

Full Conference:	\$235.00 for reservations before March 1, 2010
Full Conference:	\$279.00 for reservations on and after March 1, 2010
Friday Only:	\$205.00 for reservations before March 1, 2010
Friday Only:	\$249.00 for reservations on or after March 1, 2010
Conference T-Shirts:	\$17.50
Denim Shirts:	\$39.50

Mr. Hargrove reviewed the itinerary for the Conference noting that tours will be available Thursday prior to the beginning of the Conference, and there will be an optional Thursday night meal event available while for \$25.00. Exhibitors will have their booths open for shopping during this meal event. Mr. Hargrove stated that in addition to the exhibitors there will be merchandise available through a silent auction and a raffle.

The Conference will officially begin Friday morning with a continental breakfast and Marianna Green, Dallas Morning News reporter, as the speaker. Dr. Doug Welsh will then speak in a General Session open to all registrants, followed by the morning breakout sessions, lunch and the JMG Awards, afternoon breakout sessions, and ending the evening with dinner, specialist recognition and guest speaker, RoseMary Rumley. Saturday morning will begin with a European style brunch during which the TMGA Awards will be presented. Mr. Hargrove then reviewed some of the optional afternoon tours that will be available for Saturday afternoon.

Old Business: Upon reconvening after lunch, President Quicksall advised those in attendance that a decision to determine how to fund the annual conference seed money as previously discussed has been postponed. President Quicksall stated that since a viable option has not been identified at this time, postponing this decision will give the future members of the Executive Committee, as well as new county representatives, an opportunity to review this situation with fresh eyes and opinions. President Quicksall assured the group that the issue will be continued to be studied and addressed.

New Business: President Quicksall reported that TMGA will be honored at an awards luncheon on January 12, 2010 in recognition of the many accomplishments that Master Gardeners have achieved this past year. This is the first time that Master Gardeners have received this award, and we are one of only four associations being honored this year.

Barbara Lutz, Bexar County, reported that they will be presenting a bid to host the 2012 Conference.

Outreach Committee Chairman George Ammermann, Guadalupe County, reported that a shorter survey had been sent to all counties in November. He asked that all counties complete and return the survey as soon as possible. Mr. Ammermann also stated that the survey should be discussed at the local level to get input from the local membership before completing the survey.

Nominating Committee Report: President Quicksall addressed the group stating that it is often difficult to find people who are willing to serve on the Executive Committee. He encouraged everyone to consider serving as an officer or on a committee in the future. President Quicksall asked if there were any nominations from the floor, with the reminder that only those who are qualified and who had agreed to serve as an officer could be nominated. President Quicksall stated that it had been requested to vote for each office individually. After motion by JoAnn Hahn, Tarrant County, second by George Ammermann, Guadalupe County, it was agreed by all present to vote for each office separately. The candidates were presented and voted on by President Quicksall with the following results:

Position:	Candidate/County Represented:	Status:
President	Lonnie Matthew, Aransas/San Patricio County	Approved
1 st Vice President	Homer Babbitt, Parker County	Approved
2 nd Vice President	Doris Rogers, Potter/Randall Counties	Approved
Secretary	Diane Bush, Angelina County	Approved
Treasurer	Chris Oefinger, Titus County	Approved

President Quicksall offered his thanks to Ms. Amuny and the other members of the Nominating Committee for their efforts in recruiting these candidates and to the individuals who agreed to serve as an officer of TMGA. At that time, President Quicksall passed the gavel to president-elect, Lonnie Matthew who thanked Mr. Quicksall for his service. Master Gardener Coordinator, Jayla Fry, presented Mr. Quicksall with his past president pin and a plaque commemorating his service. Mr. Quicksall addressed the group saying that he had began his role with the TMGA Executive Committee with some apprehension but was glad to have had this special opportunity to serve at this level. He encouraged everyone not to cheat themselves of this opportunity. He ended by offering special thanks to the current members of the Executive Committee and to Garey Wylie for his role as Past President.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Cunningham
Secretary, TMGA