

Minutes of the April 24, 2008 Meeting

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.
Lone Star Convention Center – Bluebonnet Room
Conroe, Texas**

Brenda Cunningham, Secretary

The following officers were present:

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

Directors/Alternates from the following associations were present:

Angelina, Aransas/San Patricio, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazoria, Collin,, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland, Ellis, Fannin, Galveston, Grimes, Guadalupe, Harris, Harrison, Henderson, Hood, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Kaufman, Kerr, Leon, McLennan, Montague, Montgomery, Nueces, Parker, Potter/Randall, Somervell, Tarrant, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, and Williamson.

Guests from the following associations also attended:

Aransas, Bell, Bexar, Denton, Fannin, Galveston, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hood, Jackson, McLennan, Smith, Travis, Victoria, Walker, and Wood.

Call to Order:

President Wylie called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. George J. Ammermann, Guadalupe County, gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Wylie then extended a welcome to everyone in attendance and asked that all first time directors and/or alternates and any first time conference attendees stand. Mr. Wylie announced that the unofficial registration count for the 2008 conference was in excess of 700.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Carol Marsh, Dallas County, that the minutes from the December 1, 2007 meeting be approved as posted on the web site. JoAnn Hahn, Tarrant County, seconded the motion and all agreed.

The Treasurer's Report was moved to later on the agenda.

Committee Reports:

Awards Committee: Chair Ginger Bason, Tarrant County, announced that there were more entries this year than in any previous years. Ginger reported that we had seven judges this year, all of whom were from out-of-state, and that they were all extremely complimentary of the entries and of the projects.

Web Site: Web Master Doug Richards, Hood County, commented on the number of events being reported by member counties and noted that the “News and Tid-bits” section is new this year. Doug then announced that effective June 1, 2008, Dove Johnson, Somervell County, would assume the role of Web Master for TMGA. The web site will change to GroveSite in June but the previous site will continue to function simultaneously for a time. Doug also announced that TMGA will have a new editor for the on-line newsletter in June.

Outreach: The report from the Outreach Committee was included as part of the TMGA Five Year Plan.

Old Business - TMGA Five Year Plan:

President Wylie briefly summarized the overall goal of the Five Year Plan and advised that other projects could be submitted for possible inclusion. 1st Vice President, Doug Quicksall, McLennan County, stated that the projects in the Five Year Plan are intended to be additional resources for the counties, not additional work. Mr. Quicksall then noted that volunteers have assumed the responsibility as chairperson and sponsoring county for the following projects:

Outreach – Chair George Ammermann, Quadalupe County – Mr. Ammermann is making contact with each of the 12 districts. Currently districts 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 need representation.

EarthKind Rose Demonstration/Research Gardens – Chair Garey Wylie, Johnson County – the goal is to have a demonstration plot in every county in Texas.

Rain Water Harvesting – Chair Pam Daniel, Ellis County – the goal is to have a demonstration collection system in every county in Texas. Mr. Quicksall stated that our host county, Montgomery County, has two excellent collection systems in place.

Junior Master Gardeners – Chair Neil Cochran, Williamson County – JMG advanced training will be held June 11-12 in Georgetown, Texas. Lisa Whittlesey and Randy Seagraves are our JMG coordinators at the national level.

Mentoring – Chair Bunny Williams, Dallas County – surveys are being sent to all counties to gather information on different mentoring programs. This committee will probably meet in August.

Wildflowers Across Texas – Maria Sobczak - Victoria County has agreed to chair this project.

TMGA General Update:

Dr. Doug Welsh introduced Jayla Fry who has assumed the role of Extension Assistant and Master Gardener Coordinator. Dr. Welsh, who has assumed his new role as Associate Department Head, stated that Ms. Fry has a thorough knowledge of the Texas Master Gardener Handbook since she has used the handbook to train inmates in good horticulture practices. In addition to horticulture education, Ms. Fry is an experienced landscape contractor and horticulture technician.

New Business:

Treasurer’s Report and Budget: Treasurer Homer Babbitt, Parker County, presented the first quarter treasurer’s report:

Beginning balance:	\$27,509.74
Income:	\$10,644.37
Expenses:	<u>\$ 7,519.79</u>
Balance: (4-19-08)	\$30,634.32

Motion to accept the treasurer’s report was made by Jim Meadows, Blanco County, and seconded by Debbie Bates, Harrison County. All approved.

Mr. Babbitt then presented the proposed 2008 budget which was made available to everyone at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Babbitt explained the larger expense items related to association meetings, awards, advanced training and specialist training. Based on anticipated expenses, Mr. Babbitt projected that the outlook for TMGA funds at the end of the year would be approximately \$24,000.00. Motion to approve the 2008 budget was made by Donna Hagar, Somervell County and seconded by Fran Amuny, Jefferson County. Questions as to why the budget was not modified to reflect actual anticipated needs, how the surplus became so large, the liquidity of the funds, the current rate for specialty training reimbursement and whether or not association dues should be lowered were all addressed by Mr. Babbitt.

After much discussion, President Wylie called for a vote and the 2008 Budget was approved.

4-H Awards Funding Request: President Wylie proposed that the TMGA consider funding the 4-H Round Up again this year at the same \$500.00 amount as in previous years. Motion was made by Guy Okeson, Bell County, seconded by Ginger Bason, Tarrant County to provide \$500.00 in support of this program. The motion was approved. Dr. Welsh commented that our contribution helps to fund the recognition awards for the annual 4-H Round Up. Dr. Welsh added that currently there are three horticulture students at Texas A & M who were former award winners in this competition.

Vegetable Garden Specialist Program: Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County, announced that a Vegetable Garden Specialist Program is tentatively scheduled for October 16 – 17, 2008. Skip Richter, CEA Travis County, and Tom LeRoy, CEA Montgomery County will be the instructors for this new specialist program.

Junior Master Gardener Program: Neil Cochran, Williamson County, reported that the joint tomato and pepper sale held this spring by the HEB grocery chain & JMG’s was a success. The amount of money that will go to JMG has not been finalized at this time. Mr. Cochran reminded everyone of the JMG advanced training June 11-12 in Georgetown.

2009 Advanced Training: Debbie Bates, Harrison County, announced that the training dates for 2009 will be April 23-25. Harrison County is one of the smallest counties to assume responsibility for hosting the annual advanced training. Ms. Bates reported that the optional

tours are set and include a tour of Marshall Pottery, a tour of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Reserve as well as others.

Other New Business: President Wylie stated that host for the 2010 advanced training was still needed. He also announced that the Dallas Arboretum will be hosting a “Masters of Gardening” day on Saturday, September 6, 2008 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Master Gardeners and a guest will be provided complimentary admission to the Arboretum on this day. County associations can set up a booth to promote their county and events. There will also be a lecture by Jimmy Turner but a fee will be required to attend.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Cunningham
Secretary, TMGA