

Unofficial Minutes of the August 2, 2008 Meeting

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

Aransas/San Patricio, Austin, Bell, Brazoria, Brazos, Collin., Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Guadalupe, Harris, Hays, Hood, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Kerr, Leon, McLennan, Montague, Montgomery, Nueces, Parker, Potter/Randall, Rusk, Somervell, Smith, Tarrant, Travis, Victoria and Williamson.

Guests from the following associations also attended:

Aransas/San Patricio, Bell, Galveston, Grimes, Hood, Tarrant and Wichita counties.

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Dr. Doug Welsh shared with the group that Extension Horticulture was beginning to broaden their scope again to include Master Gardeners. Dr. Welsh reported that four new support staff members have been added including Jayla Fry as Extension Assistant and Master Gardener Coordinator; Karin Wallace, who as Science Coordinator and IT Coordinator will provide approximately 20 percent of her time in support of Master Gardeners; Martin Anderson as the new Web Administrator replacing Doug Lineberger; and Dr. Joe Masabni, Vegetable Specialist who will train Master Gardeners. Dr. Welsh also reported that even though Dr. Bill Welch is now a part-time employee he will continue to train Master Gardeners and will continue to participate in the Landscape Design Study Courses held twice each year.

Dr. Welsh also stressed the importance of ensuring the accurate branding of all products and documents with the Texas AgriLife Extension logo. The AgriLife logo can be used with logos from other organizations, i.e, Texas Department of Transportation, but not replaced by the logos of other organizations.

Call to Order:

President Wylie called the meeting to order at 11:25 am and reminded 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 Wylie asked for any questions or comments regarding the minutes of the April 24, 2008 meeting as posted on the TMGA website and made available at the meeting. Sallie Bourgeois, Fort Bend County noted that Fort Bend County was represented at the April meeting by the presence of Lynn McKillop who is an Alternate Director for their county in addition to serving on the Executive Committee. Motion was then made by Sallie Bourgeois,

Fort Bend County, that the minutes from the April 24, 2008 meeting be approved as amended to include Fort Bend County's attendance/representation. Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County, seconded the motion and all agreed.

Treasurer's Report:

The members were asked if there were any questions about the Treasurer's Report, prepared by Homer Babbitt, Parker County, which was made available on the TMGA website prior to the meeting as well as at the meeting. There being no questions, President Wylie moved on to Committee Reports. Income for the period January 1, 2008 through July 19, 2008 was \$37,683.46, expenses for the same time period were \$11,287.51, resulting in a balance of \$26,395.95. The report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Mentoring: Chair Bunny Williams, Dallas County, reported that the committee which also includes Karen Bitnar, Hood County and Kristi Brooks, Hood County, will be sending surveys to all counties the following week to gather information on different mentoring programs. In addition to looking within TMGA, the committee will also be gathering information from national programs in order to develop a roadmap of proven guidelines for member associations. Karen Bitnar will consolidate the feedback.

Junior Master Gardeners: President Wylie reported that due to an administrative change there is a need for someone to chair this program.

Painting Texas with Wildflowers: Kay Dillingham, Victoria County, announced that there will be a media event on September 11, 2008 to kick off this program. Todd Staples, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, will attend the event, and all Master Gardener Associations are invited to participate. Victoria County Master Gardeners requested \$300.00 to reimburse them for expenses incurred to date in preparing for this event. The motion by Fran Amuny, Jefferson County, and second by Sallie Bourgeois, Fort Bend County, to reimburse Victoria County Master Gardeners \$300.00 was approved.

Outreach: - Chair George Ammermann, Quadelupe County, read a proposed mission statement that he is developing for TMGA that should assist in Outreach activities. Mr. Ammermann reported that there is still a need for representation in seven of the twelve districts. Volunteers were asked to contact him.

EarthKind Rose Demonstration/Research Gardens: President Garey Wylie, Johnson County reported that Joan Leach, Johnson County, has assumed responsibility as Chairperson for this committee. Ms. Leach said there are currently 27 counties that have an existing EarthKind rose demonstration garden. She asked that each county with an existing garden verify that they are included on the list. This committee will send an information packet and criteria for monitoring and documenting results to any county that is interested in starting an EarthKind rose demonstration garden.

Website: President Wylie introduced the new website coordinator, Dove Johnson, Somervell County, and the new TMGA newsletter editor, Donna Hagar, Somervell County. Both reported that they want to hear feedback from the counties if there are areas that need improvement. Ms. Hagar also reminded everyone to submit articles to her of activities in their county by the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

Rainwater Harvesting: There was no report from this committee.

Vegetable Gardening Specialist Training: Chair Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County, reported that they are still planning to have this new specialist training in October but since Williamson County has a new County Agent the timing of the program is under review. Mr. Rhoden will continue to work on the administrative side as if the program will proceed as planned and he will advise as soon as a final determination is made. At this time, Tom LeRoy, CEA Montgomery County and Dr. Joe Masabni are scheduled as instructors.

As a side note and related to 501(C)3, Mr. Rhoden reported that the TMGA 990N form is in the process of being uploaded by the IRS. Mr. Babbitt reminded all everyone to make sure that they use the EIN (Employer Identification Number) for their county and not the EIN for TMGA as this will prevent TMGA from being able to file their annual report and will result in additional paperwork for everyone.

TMGA General Update:

Jayla Fry, Master Gardener Coordinator, introduced Dr. Joe Novak who provided information about planting, growing and harvesting winter melons. Dr. Novak provided samples from several different types of melons for the group to enjoy during the lunch break.

After lunch, Ms. Fry reported status on the following training programs:

Rainwater Harvesting Specialist Training in Conroe, September 11-12 - information is on the TMGA website

Greenhouse Management Specialist Training in Fort Worth, September 17-19 – information is on the TMGA website

Entomology Specialist Training in Austin, September 15-19 - class is full

Vegetable Gardening Specialist Training, Georgetown, October 16-17 – training is currently pending as reported by Mr. Rhoden

Landscape Design School, College Station, September 15 – 16 – Dr. Bill Welch and Charlie Marr will be the instructors again

Ms. Fry advised that the International Master Gardener Conference will be March 22-26, 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Those interested in attending were made aware of the early bird registration which will begin on August 20, 2008.

Old Business:

President Wylie reminded those in attendance of the invitation from the Dallas Arboretum to attend the “Gardening with the Masters” day on September 6, 2008.

Ginger Bason, Tarrant County, provided the 2007 Awards wrap up stating that the submissions this year were great and that more Associations submitted entries than in any previous year. Any suggestions for changes need to be made as soon as possible to be included in the information to be posted on the website so that participants can begin work on their submissions for the 2008 year. Ms. Bason indicated that there may be a need for additional judges next year due to the increased volume of entries. President Wylie thanked Ms. Bason and the other committee members for their awesome job.

New Business:

2010 TMGA Conference: Bunny Williams, Dallas County, reported that Dallas County Master Gardeners will be hosting the 2010 conference and are looking to member associations to say what programs would be of interest to them. Dr. Welsh stated that the CEA's in all counties had been asked to indicate if they were interested in hosting in 2010 and when none indicated an interest, they were notified that Dallas County would do so. After motion by Mary Jane Willig, Hood County and second from Pat Maggard, Johnson County, it was unanimously agreed that Dallas County should host the 2010 conference.

4-H Roundup Thank You Notes: Past President, Karen Bitnar, Hood County, shared the contents of a thank you note from Gaylon Leopold, a second year participant from Lavaca County, for the \$500.00 contribution from TMGA to the 4-H competition.

2009 TMGA Officers: Nominating Committee Chair Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County, reported that with Treasurer Homer Babbitt, Parker County and Secretary Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County, both agreeing to serve in those positions for a second year, and with the rotation of the 2nd Vice President to the 1st Vice President position, and the rotation of the 1st Vice President to the position of President the only position to be filled this year would be that of 2nd Vice President. Mr. Rhoden presented Lonnie Matthew, Aransas/San Patricio County, as the committee's recommendation to fill the position of 2nd Vice President in 2009. Nominations were requested from the floor and when none were presented, the nominations were closed. Voting will be done at the December 6, 2008 meeting.

Proposed Bylaws Change: President Wylie referenced the handout provided at the beginning of the meeting which outlined three proposed changes to the bylaws which will need to be voted on by the membership at the December meeting. The proposed changes are:

- to eliminate any reference to "Texas Cooperative Extension" and update those references to "Texas AgriLife Extension Service"
- to amend the definition of "membership" in Article IV, Section 1 and in effect eliminate the "members at large classification"
- to amend Article VII, Paragraph 5 (J) to include the Nominating Committee in the list of committees that should receive a list of associations in good standing

After discussion of the proposed changes, President Wylie asked for any other new business from the group. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Cunningham
Secretary, TMGA