

Official Minutes of the April 8, 2010 Meeting

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

The following officers were Present:

President, Lonnie Matthew, 1st Vice President, Homer Babbit, 2nd Vice President, Doris Rogers, Secretary, Diane Bush, Past President, Doug Quicksall.

Directors/Alternates from the following associations were present:

Angelina, Aransas/San Patricio, Bell, Bexar, Brazos, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland, Ellis, Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hood, Jefferson, Johnson, Lamar, McCulloch, McLennan, Montague, Orange, Parker, Potter/Randall, Somervell, Tarrant, Travis, Tom Green, Wichita and Williamson counties.

Guest from the following associations also attended:

Bell, Dallas, Cherokee, Denton, Ector/Midland, Ellis, Galveston, Guadalupe, Somervell, Johnson, Tarrant, Victoria.

Call to Order:

President Lonnie Matthew called the meeting to order at 2:40 PM by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. President Lonnie Matthew introduced Bunny Williams and thanking her for having all of us. George J. Ammermann, Guadalupe County, then gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of December 5, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

President Lonnie Matthew introduced TMGA Secretary, Diane Bush, Angelina County who advised those in attendance that some copies of the minutes from the December 5, 2010 were available at the meeting for anyone who had not had an opportunity to review the minutes as posted on the TMGA website. Diane asked if there were any problems or questions or changes to the minutes. There being none, motion was made by George J. Ammermann, Guadalupe County and Doug Richards seconded the motion and all agreed.

Treasurer's Report – Homer Babbit (standing in for Chris Oefinger):

President Lonnie Matthew introduced Homer Babbitt, Parker County, standing in for Chris Oefinger who was unable to attend. Homer presented copies of the financial report showing the 2010 first quarter totaling \$1,661.74 and income of \$11,090. The bank balance as

of April 1, 2010 is \$35,320.00, but keep in mind that this is all the income for the rest of the year, and there will be additional expenses throughout the year, so we should end up with a positive variance of about \$3,000 to \$3,500.00 more in the bank than what we started with. Donna Hagar, Somervell County made motion to approve and Fran Amuny, Jefferson County seconded the motion and all approved.

Standing Committee Report

Awards – Ginger Bason, Tarrant County. Awards Committee

President Lonnie Matthew introduced Ginger Bason who will be giving up her reign after three years of handling this committee. Ginger reported that Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 9:00 AM someone will go home with these awards. She went on to tell us that 34 associations entered and there are 151 competing entries. Ginger thanked everyone for allowing her for the last three years to take on this committee. Ginger introduced Paul and Mary Meredith, Victoria County who will take over as the award committee stating (jokingly) that it would take two to replace her.

TMGA Newsletter – Donna Hagar, Somervell County

Donna asked if we were aware of the new email system and encouraged all counties to send their updated rosters to tmga.newsletter.org or email address to tmga.news@gmail.com. Donna stated that she has received positive response and that all Master Gardeners can receive their newsletter individually instead of relying on others to send. Donna said that they have tried to make the newsletter short so that you can pick and choose what you want to read in the newsletter and she encouraged all to send articles and information about your individual counties.

President Lonnie Matthew encouraged all of us to send articles so we can share each other's experiences across the state.

Special Tax Advisory – Wayne Rhoden – Williamson County

Lonnie asked Wayne if he had any end of the Tax Season comments. Wayne had one reminder that you are going to have to file your 990 before May 15 who are in our 501C3 group exemption. He also said that if anyone had any questions or problems you can contact him via his phone number or email address that is on the TMGA website.

Outreach Committee – George J. Ammermann, Guadalupe County

George stated that the Outreach Committee met in Waco on March 13, 2010 to review a short questionnaire survey that was put together as an information gathering tool. The topics that came up most frequently would be training for new officers at the local level. They discussed how we can serve the people and they are still trying to determine when would be a good time to have a meeting like when we meet for the state conference or to break it up into small groups around the state. George stated that most of the groups are on a fiscal year January 1st through

December 31st, but some are on a July 1st through June 30th year so this would complicate things a little. There were other issues like communication, and getting contact names to the Master Gardeners so we would know who to contact. George stated it was a pleasure to work with the Outreach people and that they were a great group. George said that he will have a thorough report at the next Board of Director's meeting and hopefully he will have information that we can react to. George ask the group what time of the year would be best for training and the majority response was January would be a better time instead of the annual conference.

President Lonnie Matthew ask that the results of the survey be put together and sent to the Board of Director's because we need to see what the answers to the survey are. We need to get this out to all Master Gardeners. We have had a variety of answers and lots of comments regarding poor communication but unless we hear from the Master Gardener's and give us feedback and we have no way of knowing. We need to hear from these groups.

TMGA Coordinator Update – Jayla Fry

Jayla announced the Grove Site will switch to Word Press and she will send out information on training when it comes out, but she said that it should be a smooth transition.

Old Business

Update on 2011 Conference

Donna Hagar of Somervell County said that in the February/March newsletter they sent out a survey asking everyone for inputs as to what we would like to see at next year's conference. Donna said that they had an amazing response from 54 counties and that these inputs are taken seriously. The response was that we want new speakers, lots of workshops and tours and also address the economics of having the conference. Donna asked for the \$5,000.00 for down payments on the facilities and busing. She respectfully asked for that funding. Dick Coop, Dallas County made motion to approve and Barbara Lutz, Bexar County seconded the motion. President Lonnie Matthew asked for a vote and all approved.

NEW BUSINESS – Bid for 2012 Annual Conference

Barbara Lutz made a pitch for Bexar County. Barbara introduced the Three Amigos from San Antonio. The Three Amigos presented scenic pictures of the Japanese Tee Garden, the new part of the river walk and various sites and ending the comical skit with "All roads lead to San Antonio".

President Lonnie Matthew asked the floor for a vote. Fran Amuny, Jefferson County made the motion to approve and Kathy Murray, Hood County seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2011 Conference – Somervell

Donna Hagar and Doug Richards put on a hilarious skit inviting all Master Gardeners to the 2011 State Conference in Glen Rose. The Welcome reception will be at the Granbury Conference

Center on Lake Cranberry and then we will go to the historic Granbury Square where there will be an art show, toe tapping music, and wine tasting. The conference will be at the Somervell Expo center. It is an enormous facility where they can hold everything under one roof and free parking. The awards banquet will be at the same facility with a chuck wagon dinner and it will be a lot of fun. The Keynote speaker will be Paul James, HGTV's "The Gardener Guy".

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bush