

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

**Official Minutes of the August 6, 2011 Meeting**

**The following officers were present:**

President, Homer Babbitt; Executive Committee Member, Doug Richards; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Ginger Bason; Treasurer, Donna Hagar; Secretary, Diane Bush; Past President, Lonnie Matthew

**Directors/Alternates from the following associations were present:**

Angelina, Aransas/San Patricio, Bell, Bexar, Brazos, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Harris, Hood, Hunt, Jefferson, Johnson, Leon, McLennan, Nueces, Parker, Rusk, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Taylor, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wichita, Williamson, Wood counties.

**Guest from the following associations also attended:**

Bell, Brazos, Ft. Bend, Galveston, Johnson, McLennan, Smith, Travis, Victoria, Wichita counties.

**Call to Order:**

President Homer Babbitt called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM after welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. George Ammermann gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President Homer Babbitt introduced Virginia Krebs, Wichita County. Virginia said that they will hold a Regional Conference called Living Well with Less Water in Texohoma, 2011, scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2011 from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Registration cost is \$40.00 and after September 1<sup>st</sup>, the price will be \$55.00. Vendor booths are available for \$100.00.

**Sharia Lanza Award – Ginger Bason:**

Ginger thanked all of the Master Gardeners for the Sharia Lanza Award. Ginger is very grateful and humbled by this award. Ginger also mentioned that her county (Tarrant) pays for her expenses to attend the Director's meeting in College Station because her county feel that it is an honor to have someone on the Executive Board. Ginger suggested the Directors should go back and ask your county would be willing to pay your expenses for you to serve on the board.

**Review and Approval of April 27th, 2011 Meeting Minutes:**

A few copies of the unofficial minutes from the April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting were available for review and were also posted on the TMGA website and the newsletter. President Homer Babbitt said since we notify everyone electronically we will no longer print copies. Homer asked if there were any corrections, questions or changes to the minutes.

There being none, Barbara Lutz, Bexar County, made motion to approve the minutes and JoAnn Hahn, Tarrant County seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. President Homer Babbitt informed the Secretary to change minutes from unofficial to official and provide a copy of the minutes to the webmaster for posting to the TMGA website.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Donna Hagar reported that she will no longer be providing copies of the Treasurer's Report as well, due to the fact that they are also on the website and newsletter. Donna reported as of April our bank balance is \$32,719.50, and \$64.00 in income and dues, and interest, and we have \$3,300 in expenses mainly for awards and \$1,000 in specialist reimbursements with an ending balance of \$29,505.46. The books are also reconciled and audited on a monthly basis by Doug Richards.

**2011 Texas 4-H Roundup – Michael Edward**

President Homer Babbitt introduced Michael Edward who is the past president of the 4H council. Michael gave a brief history as to how he became interested in the 4H council. Michael said that there are 65,000 youth enrolled in the 4-H and they connect with over 640,000 youths and after school programs and their youth centers. The 4-H Mission statement is to prepare the youth to meet the challenges of childhood, adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated long term progressive series of educational experience that enhances life skills and develop social and emotional, physical and connective experience. The major way that they are doing this is through Round Up. This is a state wide event for ages from 8 to 18 and they compete at their county level, such as public speaking, communication with adults, and organization skills. By donating to this organization all of this has been made possible for these young men. Michael thanked the Master Gardeners for their donation to the 4-H foundation. Our contribution to the 4-H is \$500.00 for 2011.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Awards Committee – Mary and Paul Meredith:**

Ginger Bason said the hard copies that were submitted for these awards will be available at the December meeting. The 2012 awards will cover what your associations are currently doing in 2011. The information will be in the newsletter and the website with a few changes to the form.

**Conference Planning Committee – Dudley Hargrove:**

President Homer Babbitt stated that we have a lot of information and knowledge and mistakes from past conferences that could apply to future conferences so that is why this committee was formed. President Homer Babbitt introduced Dudley Hargrove who is chairman of this committee. Dudley said that they have accumulated all of the information from past conferences so we can provide all of this knowledge for future conferences. They have identified the best of the best and formed processes and procedures where future counties can gain information. Dudley said that they have

formed a standing committee and this committee will meet several times a year. There are educational parameters and Agrilife expectations that we need to abide by. Doug Richards and Donna Hagar have created a great website for this. There are two objectives; to assist by sharing experience from the past conferences and to help with the agendas and other issues that might arise. This is a two year commitment to put together a state conference. This committee can help you and make it easier for you and to have a successful conference. This committee will not micro-manage or over shadow but simply to provide the knowledge needed.

**2011 TMGA Conference – Donna Hagar and Doug Richards:**

Dong Richards and Donna Hagar thanked everyone for all of the support and for attending the 2011 State Conference. Doug said that it was a great learning experience. Doug thanked the TMGA Executive Board, Jayla Fry, and also the 2010 Dallas County conference members for all of their help. Donna Hagar said that there conference was the largest state conference in the TMGA history with 765 registrations and 885 attending their banquet and felt that they did a good job by providing education and also made it fun. Doug also thanked Kathy Murray, past president in Granbury for all of her help during this time.

**2012 TMGA Conference – Lou Kellogg:**

The 2012 TMGA State Conference will be held in San Antonio May 3 -5, at the Norris Convention Center, located at IH10 and 410. Lou Kellogg and Barbara Lutz gave an overview of sites and tours during the convention. They have major sponsors that have been lined up for two years. They are presently working on the registration and should be available later this year. All the tours will be on Saturday and the Awards Banquet will be held on Friday. Director's meeting will be held Thursday on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM. Registration cost will be \$200.00 and will include a T-shirt. A few of the speakers are Malcolm Beck, a successful organic farmer; Botanist, Paul Cox, Dr. Bruce Fraedrich, Vice President of Research at the F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company; Karen Guz, Director of Conservation for San Antonio Water System; Paul Johnson, Texas Forest Service Regional Urban Forester for the San Antonio/Alamo Region; Dr. Jerry Parsons, retired horticulture specialist with the Texas Cooperative Extension in San Antonio; Felder Rushing, an author and co-author of 16 gardening books; and Dr. William Welch, Professor and Extension Landscape Horticulturist , Texas A&M University and Extension Landscape Horticulturist, Texas A&M University.

**2013 TMGA Conference – Hidalgo and Cameron:**

President Homer Babbitt said at the present that Hidalgo and Cameron County are planning to make a presentation later in the year and we will look at this at a future date.

**Newsletter - Donna Hagar:**

Donna said if you are having problems opening the newsletter to please let her know so she can look into it. Donna asking someone to assist her in proofreading the newsletter before it is disseminated at the first of the month.

**Nominating Committee – Elaine Bell:**

President Homer Babbitt said that the nominees that are introduced today will be voted on in the December Director's Meeting. All nominees must be in good standing and dues paid. Elaine presented the slate of nominees for 2012 as:

- President, Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County,
- 1st Vice President, Ginger Bason, Tarrant County
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Dick Coupe, Dallas County
- Secretary, Karen Colwick, Bell County
- Treasurer, Donna Hagar, Somervell County

President Homer Babbitt asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, Homer asked that the nomination be closed. Gayle Johnson, Guadalupe County made motion to approve, and Barbara McSpadden, Aransas Pass seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

**Outreach Committee – George Ammermann and Ginger Bason:**

There was a lot activity the first quarter and still a little activity taking place. As we go into the fourth quarter we are going to try and help people and make sure that they are chartered. Please remember when the time comes to submit your dues to the treasurer and next year send in your new roster. We need this information because this is how we communicate with everyone. If you have any questions, contact your Outreach Committee member or if you do not have one, email George and he will do his best to assist you. Communication is the link between your local association and the state.

**Website – Ron Williford:**

Ron encouraged all to go to the website. It is an archival site and you it can be viewed 24/7. This site is actually a blog. The site name is TXMG.org; password is sunset, (case sensitive). When you are finished with this site be sure and log out because this site may be viewed by others. This site is a valuable tool because it is a vehicle to education and this is the future for our country by getting information electronically. Ron said that he will continue to maintain the website.

**Unfinished Business – Dr. Sam Cotner Honorarium:**

President Homer Babbitt brought this up in our meeting in April about making a donation to honor Dr. Sam Cotner's memory. President Homer Babbitt gave us a brief review of Dr. Sam Cotner's extensive career with Texas A&M. He received three degrees here at A&M, his Bachelor, Masters, and his PhD. He basically spent his entire life here at Texas A&M and mainly in the Horticulture Department. Dr. Cotner passed away the early part of this year. Dr. Cotner introduced the Master Gardening Program to the state of Texas. The Executive Committee recommended that we make a \$500.00 donation to his scholarship fund. George Ammermann, Gaudalupe County made the motion that we accept the Executive Committee recommendation, Fran Amuny, Jefferson County seconded the motion. All approved and motion carried. This is a one-time contribution only. Brenda Cunningham, Dallas County suggested that we put something permanent in

the garden behind the Horticultural Building in his memory. We will look into this at a future date.

**New Business:**

President Homer Babbitt welcomed Doug Richards as a member of the Executive Committee to fill the gap after 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Chris Oefinger resigned. The Office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president will remain unfilled for the balance of 2011.

**New Business from the Floor:**

Mary Snodgrass, Brazos County, raised a concern over criminal background checks. She feels they are looking too deeply into personal backgrounds. Jayla Fry will look into this.

**State Master Gardener Coordinator – Jayla Fry:**

**Update on the Partial Cost Recovery:**

Jayla said that they were looking at around June and July to having to eliminate positions. The Partial Cost Recovery was rolled out but introduced very poorly but we did this to save these positions. We now know for sure that we have been cut by legislature by 11% and Texas Department of Agriculture and the Texas Education Agency were cut 38%, so we came out pretty well. They have decided to wait until the fall because most of the programming activities increase in the fall. They have decided to wait until fall to make their decision. Jayla encouraged all counties to go back and put together events, programs that is worthy of cost recovery. In the future we are looking at grant funding by 5%. We still have not had to RIF any of our agents, but we lost two positions in the horticultural department.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bush  
TMGA Secretary

