

## Horticulture BPC Meeting Minutes

11/8/2012 - 6:30-8:45 pm

Present:

Laurie Albrecht, Mounts Botanical Garden  
Carol Cloud Bailey, Ballen Isles Landscape Dept.  
Joel Flores, PBSC CCE  
Tim McColgan, Valley Crest Landscaping  
Laura McCleod, Sanctuary Landscape Design  
Mala Naik, PBSC Adjunct Prof.  
Tim Osborne, Living Color Landscapes  
Bill Schall, PBC Extension  
Tim Whelan, Art by Nature  
Bob van Der Velde, PBSC Assoc. Dean  
George Rogers, Dept. Chair

George Rogers presented a brief overview of the program, including schedule, program health indicators, resources, issues, and facilities, with a discussion of the demographics of our students

Mala Naik described the Landscape Management class we are trying to launch. Carol Bailey discussed some of the history of that effort, noting that a target audience was landscape managers. George and Carol described ongoing problems with getting this class off the ground. Several committee members made suggestions for the class with general discussion. The main upshot of the conversation was that the class would benefit from being as hands-on as possible, and perhaps even with built-in Internships, as Tim McColgan suggested.

Joel Flores discussed his efforts at teaching classes relating to the FNGLA certifications, the main problems being sparse enrollments and low publicity. Various committee members shared their experience and "takes" on these certifications, and helped Joel understand them in more depth and detail. Bill Schall suggested using the PBC occupation license database as a source for a mass mailing.

George described how our Landscape Design class has lost popularity, and the general consensus of the committee was that there are few job opportunities now in that area, and it is best not a career option to feature, although a skill landscapers should have among other skills.

The conversation came back to job opportunities and hands-on instruction, with most career opportunities for graduates these days probably with the large landscape firms as entry-level supervisors. Tim Whelan asked what opportunities there are for internships, and George described recent history. He and Tim McColgan offered to help place students in Internships as cooperative training and recruitment.

Tim McColgan brought up the topic of teaching students basic business skills. George Rogers noted that we have a degree requirement for a Business class. Tim Osborne described his 1-credit Business Skills for the green industry course, and the committee discussed seeing if we can expand that class to three credits.