

**Advisory Council**  
**ACES via Zoom**  
**February 2, 2021**  
**Minutes**

**Welcome:** Sondra Henley, AC Chair, opened the meeting promptly at 10 a.m. She welcomed everyone and introduced Rudy Yates, Alabama Extension agent from West Alabama, who hosted the meeting for Kerry Smith. Of the 63 participants, 45 representatives attended the meeting remotely due to Covid 19.

**Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 9<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting as emailed by Jim Harris and seconded by Debbie Boutelier. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**AMGA Board Report:** Michael Thomason, president of Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA), gave a report from the Board of Directors.

The AMGA Annual Meeting will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 10 a.m. on Zoom. Invitations will be sent just before the meeting. The meeting will include voting for the new officers and the installation of officers. Every member is invited to attend.

As of March 1<sup>st</sup> the cost to become a Lifetime member of AMGA will become \$150. The \$100 cost will remain through February.

Michael reported that his email has been grabbed and an email went out this week asking for gift cards. He said this email did **not** come from him and do not send gift cards. Thankfully some folks called or emailed him asking if this was true.

**Conference Announcements:**

Myra Lassere reported about the next annual conferences.

1. **2021 Conference** has been cancelled because of the Covid pandemic.
2. **2022 Conference** will be held on May 2-4, 2022, in Montgomery at Embassy Suites. The theme is "Behind the Garden Gate" and will be hosted by Capitol City and the Central Alabama Master Gardeners. They expect to have Steve Bender, Michelle Foo, Jack Roe, David Brown, etc.
3. **2023 Conference:** Tuscaloosa Master Gardeners are looking forward to hosting our conference in the spring of 2023. They are meeting this week with the University of Alabama and Tuscaloosa Chamber of Commerce.
4. **2024 Conference:** AMGA is looking for a host for 2024.
5. **2021 Fall Conference:** Autauga County Association is planning a fall conference to be held in Prattville in September.

**Devonne Ellis, AMGA Awards chairman,** asks that 1 person send her an address for the AMGA awards for that association to be mailed to since we are not meeting in person.

**Sheila Bolen, AMGA Grants Committee** said that they had received six requests for monetary grants for 2021. The committee will meet next week to make that decision and will announce them at the April Annual Meeting.

**ACES Report:** Rudy Yates asked Amanda Redmond and Phyllis Clay to explain the Master Gardening Steering Committee. They have been studying Helpline, ACES, and Master Gardening working together better. They are starting a new program called "Zooming with Zinnias." Zinnia seeds are given to folks when Master Gardeners speak to children or even older folks telling them about the Master Gardener program and ACES. The Steering Committee would like us to take pictures or videos of the zinnia planted in their area and post them on social media. Seeds should go to non-Master Gardeners. You can send questions or pictures to Phyllis Clay at [greenborough62@gmail.com](mailto:greenborough62@gmail.com) or to Amanda Redmond at [amanda99@aol.com](mailto:amanda99@aol.com). We can't wait to see the whole state awash in Zinnias.

There are a classes available on line from ACES: Alabama Smart Yards on Wednesdays from 1p.m. Home Beekeeping the last Tuesday of a month from 6:30 p.m. Back to Basics on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Eco Friendly Fridays on the last Friday of a month at noon. Alabama Garden Walks on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays at noon. Raising Trees on Thursday at noon, ForestHer Webinar on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays at noon. Natural Resources on Wednesdays at noon. Q and A Friday! at 11:30 a.m. All last about an hour.

Master Gardener intern classes start this week all over the state.

Kerry has asked that every Master Gardener send the ACES survey back to Kerry. She received very few on her first request just before Christmas so she will send another one out next week.

There is also a Master Annual Survey which becomes part of Kerry's Annual Report. That was due in December and is sent in by the president of an association. It is too late to send that in for 2020 but please see that it is sent in for 2021. Sondra Henley said she would talk to Kerry to get a better clarification on each survey and send an answer to the AC membership.

ACES is looking for a new director. That person should be in place shortly.

Thank you for all you do as Master Gardeners for Extension. Extension really appreciates you all.

Sondra Henley spoke about What Are the Representatives Responsibilities? She pointed that she was glad we were all here. She started by asking each of us to read the Standard Operating Procedures for Advisory Council Representative which are found on the Advisory Council part of the AMGA website. Representatives should take information received at our quarterly meetings back to their Association through a written report or one given at the next meeting. She pointed out that Representatives have great value and that AMGA needs you. Representatives have a 2 year term. There are only 4 meetings a year and reps should regularly attend. Bring your questions, local concerns; Advisory Council is designed to pass on information between AMGA, ACES, and local associations. She has found that she always learns new ideas at these meetings. Encourage your alternate representative and even your President to attend. Let Elouisa know about officer changes within your association. Have a substitute come to the meeting if you cannot be there.

Sondra has sent out forms to the local associations but has not received all the answers. No other committee at AMGA collects this information so please send it to Sondra by email or snail mail. Let Sondra know if you are not receiving notices from her.

When you receive a notice from Sondra, please reply to sender not to ALL.

#### **Announcements:**

Kerry and Sondra would like to know when your plant sales are happening. Devonne Ellis said they are having one in Dothan. Marshall County will have one at DAR school. Etowah County is planning a plant sale and monthly meetings as well as an open house at their green house. Blount County plant sale will be held on April 24 at the Agri Building in Oneata. Turkey Creek has been upgraded and is having plant sales and opening as they had planned a trip there with the conference. MGNA is planning a plant sale in Huntsville April 24 as well as working on a new greenhouse. Morgan County has been working with their farmers market, a plant sale, three greenhouses. Tuscaloosa had been building raised beds for the University of Alabama. Autauga County has received plants and is improving and updating the farmers market garden and flower garden in addition to having two very successful plant sales on line. Send all plant sale information (county association, date and place of sale, contact person and email address) to Sondra Henley by March 15. She will request a link to be put on the AMGA website.

If you have a question or need more information, please email Sondra at [sondrahenley@gmail.com](mailto:sondrahenley@gmail.com).

The next meeting will be on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. The place is to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elouisa Stokes

Advisory Council Secretary, [elouisastokes@att.net](mailto:elouisastokes@att.net)