

**Advisory Council**  
**ACES via Zoom**  
**August 4, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Welcome:** Sondra Henley, AC Chair, opened the meeting at 10 a.m. She welcomed everyone to the August meeting via Zoom. 41 representatives attended the meeting remotely due to Covid 19.

**Minutes:** Devon Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2020 meeting as emailed. Sherilyn Osborne seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously.

**Fall Seminar:** Debbie Boutelier made an announcement about the Fall Seminar which was planned for September. They have decided they cannot host the seminar due to Covid 19 and the desire to keep everyone safe. Therefore, they will plan to do the seminar next year. They have a great speaker planned and everything is ready to go. An email will be sent to all the Alabama Master Gardener Association members. There were no questions.

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

The AMGA board meeting will be held on September 1 at 10 a.m. by Zoom. It will include a condensed Annual Meeting for all AMGA members since we cannot meet at the Fall Seminar. We will vote on the budget for 2020-2021, vote on bylaws changes, vote for new board members and will include their installations. Michael will see that the members receive information on how to find the budget, the nominated new members, and the bylaws changes.

Michael asked that everyone who can attend the September 1 meeting let him know because we have to have a quorum to do business. The announcement of the meeting will include how to let him know and should be sent out today or tomorrow.

**ACES Report:** Kerry Smith reported that the August issue of *Volunteer Opps* has been sent. She said that there have been lots of opportunities from ACES for gardening studies so load up on CEUs this year. As long as your combined total of CEUs plus Volunteer hours = 35, this achieves your annual hours needed. This is an unprecedented time and even ACES wants to make life comfortable.

Kerry is in the process of redesigning the Service Report. She asked folks how we use it. She is trying to make the first 4 columns available for everyone but the other columns to be available only to Super Administrators in each association. Everyone seemed to be fine with that.

Kerry reported that Master Gardeners are not sitting at home doing nothing: 9000 masks have been made and distributed and 7600 lbs. of produce have been given away this year. Congratulations to everyone.

Kerry also reported about Fig Rust appearing earlier than usual this year. Remember that this common disease often defoliates trees/bushes and may lead to fruit scald since it usually occurs after harvest time.

Some folks in Alabama have received seeds from China without ordering any. The Alabama Department of Agriculture is checking them and so far has found flower seeds, vegetable seeds, herbs, and some weed seeds. If you received any unsolicited seeds, contact the Department of Agriculture at [www.agi.alabama.gov/reportseeds](http://www.agi.alabama.gov/reportseeds) or call 334-240-7304. While not proven yet, there is concern that some of these are new invasive species.

Kerry reminded everyone that you can access the latest Covid 19 information through the website [governor.Al.gov/newsroom/covid19](http://governor.Al.gov/newsroom/covid19). Look for the latest yellow Safer at Home rules.

**Conference Announcements:**

1. Myra Lassere has t-shirts for those who registered for the Mobile AMGA. There was a lot of discussion about how we could distribute them as she lives in Mobile and those who haven't been picked up live a long way from her. She and Sondra and Michael will figure out an economical way to distribute them.
2. **2021 Conference** will be held in the Anniston, AL, Civic Center April 20-22, 2021, with Calhoun County as hosts. The theme is "How Does Your Garden Grow?" They have the 2020 door prizes, goody bags; contracts have been signed with cancellation riders as well as an insurance policy. They are looking forward to a great conference next year.
3. **2022 Conference** will be held on May 2 to 4, 2022 in Montgomery at the Embassy Suites. The theme is "Behind the Garden Gate" and will be hosted by the Capitol City and the Central Alabama Master Gardeners. Janice Jackson reported that Gary Bachman, professor of Horticulture in Mississippi, will be the main speaker. He is on Facebook Live every week. Check it out to see him. He's a very good speaker. Most activities are suspended for the time being due to Covid 19.
4. **2023 Conference:** We are looking for a host association.

**Announcements:**

The *Pathways* Deadline is September 15<sup>th</sup> to be distributed by October 15.

Sondra requested some folks to sign up to be the Nominating Committee for the Advisory Council. She did not receive anyone so she said she would be asking folks. We have to elect a new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary in November.

Because of the national election, there was discussion about the next meeting of the Advisory Council. We also discussed if we could have our meeting outside if we met at Petals from the Past if social distancing was available. It was left that the next meeting will be on November 3 at 10 a.m. at Petals from the Past or by Zoom. If you attend the Zoom meeting, please be ready to join the group by 15 minutes before the meeting starts. Kerry will be the host. If you wish to join by phone or computer, Sondra will send that information at the proper time.

Sondra reminded us to send information we learned at this meeting out to each of our associations.

Respectfully submitted

Elouisa Stokes

Advisory Council Secretary