

Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes

Petals from the Past

Jemison, AL

August 2, 2022

The Alabama Master Gardeners Advisory Council met on August 2, 2022, at Petals from the Past, Jemison, AL. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Advisory Council Chair, Deborah Boutelier. Twenty-five (25) counties were represented.

The April 2, 2022, meeting minutes were approved, as published on the AMGA website.

AMGA Report: Myra Lassere, AMGA President

The Fall Seminar, “A Garden Transformed”, will be October 6, 2022, at the Nursing Building in Auburn, AL. The deadline for registration is September 9, 2022.

The 2023 Conference, “Home Grown in Alabama”, will be in Tuscaloosa, AL. Registration forms will not be mailed but will be available online in the January 2023 Pathways (alabamamga.org). “Save the Date” cards will be mailed in December. If paper copies are needed, each association may print the number needed.

Susan Hagen, Blount County, was installed as a Board Member at Large.

Sondra Henley, Autauga County, was installed as a member of the Nominating Committee.

Sondra Henley was presented the Jean Lee Lifetime Hour Achievement Award for 2022 by Awards Committee Chair, Lavella Webb. Sondra has over 8400 lifetime volunteer hours.

AMGA Conference: Devonne Ellis, AMGA Vice-President

2022 Conference: Devonne Ellis reported that the 2022 AMGA Conference, “Behind the Garden Gate”, that was held in Montgomery, AL was a great success. Approximately 292 were registered with over 300 attending the banquet. Janice Jackson, Capital City, thanked those who contributed to the Conference, including Mobile, Calhoun and Chilton Associations who provided information and donations.

2023 Conference: Chairman, Wanda Smith, reported that planning continues for the Conference, “Home Grown in Alabama”, which will be April 3-5, 2023, at the Bryant Conference Center. There will be a garden tour available on Monday, April 3, 2023. They expect information on hotel availability soon. Items for the Silent Auction are appreciated. Members may bring items to the November Advisory Council meeting. For questions or donations, contact Wanda Smith, at wans7124@gmail.com or 251-401-3536.

2024 Conference: Baldwin County will host the 2024 Conference, “Paradise Found”, at the Daphne Civic Center, Daphne, AL. The Conference will be April 22-24, 2024.

Members were encouraged to consider hosting a future conference.

ACES REPORT: Kerry Smith and Emily Bornstein

Kerry Smith, Alabama Master Gardener Program Coordinator, provided an outline of highlights from the Alabama Extension Master Gardener and ACEs Strategic Assessment survey (December 2020-February 2021). There is a survey planned for the Fall which will go to Community Partners where Master Gardeners volunteer. Members were asked to provide names of 2-3 community partners to include in the survey. Email Kerry at smithkp@auburn.edu. Kerry also provided information on two fall events: AMGA Fall Seminar, October 6, 2022, in Auburn and the Nurseryman’s Association Fall Seminar on August 27, 2022 in Athens, AL.

Emily Bornstein, Volunteer Training Coordinator, provided information on the Fall 2022 Master Gardener Volunteer Training. The course will be a hybrid, with videos, reading, activities and hands-on labs. erb0039@auburn.edu.

State Speakers Bureau Proposal-Debbie Boutelier and Susan Hagen

Building on an idea from the April Advisory Council Zoom meeting, a State Speakers Bureau database is being compiled. Susan Hagen presented the idea to the members. A list of available Master Gardener speakers and topics would be available on the AMGA website for associations to access when a speaker is needed for a meeting or event. Members were encouraged to contact Susan Hagen, shagen@bsc.edu, to be included in the database. This is an ongoing process.

501(c) 3 Information-Debbie Boutelier & Myra Lassere

Debbie Boutelier and Myra Lassere discussed the interest of associations in filing as a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization. The Board will further discuss, and a class may be provided.

Transformation Garden-Roger Clark

Roger Clark, Endowment Committee, discussed the Transformation Garden and possible sponsorship of a walkway “Alabama Master Gardener Way”. Associations may donate and/or pledge to this initiative.

Greatest Concerns for LMGA’s in 2022

There was discussion about the increase in cost of the Master Gardener classes. At this time, the classes remain \$150.00. It was decided that the price increase did not impact the counties as expected. There were other issues, such as regional agents not holding classes in some counties that affected the LMGA’s ability to recruit new members.

Another concern was involving and retaining interns. This topic will be covered at the next meeting.

Announcements

Sondra Henley reported that the Cookbook Committee had decided that it is not a suitable time to compile a cookbook. Ideas for fundraising for the Transformation Garden are appreciated and may be sent to sondrahenley@gmail.com.

Mary Howe, State Membership Chairman, announced availability of 2023 Membership cards.

Myra Lassere reported issues with suspicious e-mails being sent in her name. If it looks suspicious, please delete.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2022, at Petals from the Past at 10 am. This will include a Potluck lunch. Further information and a sign-up sheet will be forwarded.

Members may bring Silent Auction items to the November meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Amanda Redman

Advisory Council Secretary