

Alabama Master Gardener Association Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2022

The AMGA Advisory Council met on November 1, 2022, at Petals from the Past, Jemison, AL. 24 Counties were represented. The meeting was called to order by Advisory Council Chair, Deborah Boutelier at 10 am.

The August 2022 meeting minutes were approved as published on the AMGA website.

AMGA Report

Myra Lassere, President, reported that the Fall Seminar was a success with over 160 tickets sold.

AMGA has obtained naming rights to the pathway at the Auburn University Transformation Garden. Members were encouraged to send name suggestions to Myra Lassere or Roger Clarke. Funds for the Transformation Garden are to be sent to AMGA Treasurer, Sunita Graves.

The Webmaster, Caroline Etheridge, is preparing a calendar for the AMGA webpage. This will include dates for plant sales, seminars, Lunch and Learn, special meetings, etc. Dates for the calendar may be sent to alabamamga.webmaster@gmail.com.

Pathways articles are due November 15, 2022. Pathways is no longer mailed and will be available online in December.

Conference registration will be online and links will be in the December Pathways. "Save the Date" postcards will be mailed in December/January to announce the Conference date and registration links will be on the postcard.

AMGA Board nominees and bios will be listed in Pathways. The election of officers will be held at the Conference.

There are some proposed changes to the Bylaws which will also be posted in Pathways with a vote on the changes at the Conference.

State dues for 2023 should be submitted by December 31, 2022.

AMGA continues to work with a Tax Attorney and Roger Clarke for guidance to determine if local associations should incorporate and/or apply for 501(c)3 status.

Planning for a Leadership Training program coordinated by Kerry Smith and Emily Bornstein will be held

on Zoom on November 7, 2022. The training will help associations develop the skills necessary for leadership roles in the associations. This training is proposed for the summer of 2023.

AMGA Conferences - Devonne Ellis, AMGA Vice President

- 2023 Conference

Dan Sutton, Tuscaloosa Master Gardener, reported the 2023

Conference will be at the University of Alabama Bryant Conference

Center, April 3-5, 2023. Early Bird registration will be \$160.00 and begins

December 5, 2022 through January 13, 2023. Regular registration (\$170.00)

is January 14, 2023 through February 28, 2023. Late registration is from

3/1/2023 through March 15, 2023. Cost for late registration is \$180.00. T-shirts will be

available for \$17.00. Silent auction items may be brought to the AMGA Board meeting on

December 6, 2022. Donation checks should be mailed to AMGA

Treasurer, Sunita Graves. Checks should designate "Conference – Silent Auction" and

"County."

- 2024 Conference

Debra Marriott announced the conference will be April 22-24, 2024 in Daphne, AL

and will be hosted by Baldwin County. The theme is "Paradise Found." Plans

are underway.

- 2025 Conference

Devonne Ellis encouraged Master Gardeners to consider hosting the 2025

Conference. Several county associations may join together to host.

Jason Powell welcomed the group to Petals from the Past and thanked members for spreading the word about Fall planting.

Transformation Garden-Roger Clarke

Roger Clarke provided additional information on the Auburn University Transformation Garden. The AMGA has the rights to name the pathway at the garden, thanks to support of Auburn University Deans and the AMGA. The initial cost of \$800,000 has been reduced to \$200,000. The one-time contribution from AMGA (\$40,000), proceeds pledged from the 2022 Conference and a generous donation from Jefferson County Master Gardener, Fletcher Harvey, will put us over 50% towards our goal. A pledge form will be sent to all counties and members were encouraged to support this initiative, which is payable over a 5-year period. Donations are considered tax deductible.

The AMGA has met the commitment pledged to the Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship Endowment Funds. Support for the pathway at the Transformation Garden also meets the AMGA goal of providing education and employment opportunities. Master Gardeners will be recognized as a supporting organization for years to come.

- **State Speakers Bureau– Susan Hagen**

Susan Hagen reported the Speakers Bureau listing is available on the Master Gardener website. Each county organization is encouraged to make members aware of this listing. A demographic form, which includes subjects, county, availability and contact information, is available on the website. It is an opportunity for Associations to obtain speakers for meetings, Lunch and Learn, Seminars, etc., as well as for Advanced Master Gardeners to meet the criteria for outreach (10 hrs). Speakers are to be AMGA members and are not required to accept all invitations. Travel expenses may be reimbursed.

- **Project Funding – Sherilyn Osborne**

Sherilyn Osborne reported the applications for Project Funding will be accepted until January 31, 2023. The applications are available on the AMGA website under “Project Funding.” Projects must benefit the county and be educational.

Previous winners must wait 3 years before applying again. Pathways will provide additional information about these grants.

- **Document Library – Debbie Boutelier**

The Document Library is on the AMGA website. Strategic Assessment information will be available.

- **Demo Garden Signs**

Debbie Boutelier reported that an order for new Demo Garden signs is being prepared. Those who need new signage should indicate their interest on the signup sheet.

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

A workshop is planned to provide information on becoming a 501(c)3. AMGA is currently working with a Tax attorney to address County needs. Debbie Boutelier will notify members when this is arranged.

- **Zooming Zinnias – Social Media – Lyn Webb**

Lyn Webb asked for volunteers to assist with this Social Media Master Gardener project. She thanked Phyllis Clay and Amanda Redman for their efforts.

- **Volunteer Service Report – Lyn Webb**

Lyn Webb discussed Volunteer Hours reporting and possible changes to the reporting process. A current list of categories and explanations were provided and members were asked to review and make suggestions for changes, as indicated. Accurate reporting is needed to show the impact of the hours and effort provided by Master Gardeners. Lyn requested that suggestions be forwarded to her as soon as possible.

- **Announcements**

Debbie Boutelier announced that Auburn University has been selected by Conde Nast magazine as one of the 56 most beautiful campuses in America. The cover of the magazine will feature a picture of the Auburn University campus.

Registration for Spring 2023 Master Gardener classes is open from November 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022. The cost is \$150.00. Applications are to be completed online.

AMGA Lifetime dues are \$150.00

Myra Lassere announced the nominees for the AMGA Board (2023-2025)

President: Devonne Ellis

Vice-President: Debbie Boutelier

Secretary: Lyn Webb

Treasurer: Cecelia Adams

Assistant Treasurer: Regina Ford

Member-at-Large: Julie Conrey

Nominating Committee: Sondra Henley

Regina Ford, Etowah County, announced they are moving to Noccalula Falls and will be selling their greenhouses and other items at 3200 W Meighan Blvd, Gadsden. The sale is November 11-12 from 9-2. Additional information is available on the Etowah County Master Gardener Facebook page.

Susan Hagen announced an English Garden Tour for 2024 is being planned. Those interested in additional information and updates are to contact Susan Hagen.

The next Meeting is February 7, 2023, 10:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am. A potluck soup/salad/dessert meal was served and enjoyed by all.

Submitted by:

Amanda Redman

Advisory Council Secretary