

ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 1, 2023

The AMGA Advisory Council met on August 1, 2023, at Petals from the Past, Jemison, AL. Advisory Council Chair, Skeeter Sims, welcomed members and guests and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Roll call: Twenty-nine (29) Associations represented.

The Minutes from the May 2, 2023, meeting was approved as published on the AMGA website.

AMGA Report:

Devonne Ellis, AMGA President, reported on the International Master Gardener Conference in Overland Park, Kansas, which she attended. She presented the “2023 David Gibby Search for Excellence Award”, Youth, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, to the East Central Alabama Master Gardener Association. Information for submitting awards was provided previously through the Advisory Council.

The next International Conference will be in Texas. It will be virtual.

State Conference Reports:

Debbie Boutelier, AMGA Vice President, reported the next AMGA State Master Gardener Conference will be in Baldwin County. Paula Pritchett reported the Conference will be April 22-24, 2024, at the Daphne Civic Center. The theme is “Paradise Found”. Speakers have been obtained and topics include Greenhouse Basics, DIY Drip Irrigation and Building a bee box. Vendors are needed and members were encouraged to suggest vendors. Donations for door prizes may be brought to the Advisory Council meetings. A donation with a value of \$100 or more is suggested. Checks for \$100 are also accepted.

2025 Conference: The conference will be April 3-5, 2025, at the First Baptist Church in Prattville. Since Prattville is the City of Fountains, the theme will be “Fountains of Knowledge”. Planning continues.

2026 Conference: Associations were encourage to consider hosting the 2026 AMGA Conference.

#### Extension Update:

Kerry Smith, State Master Gardener Program Coordinator, presented information on the new Volunteer Hours reporting changes. Members of the Steering Committee: Lyn Webb, Skip Coulter, Jack Lecroy and Kerry Smith, have been working on these changes through discussions with Master Gardeners from each association. There are 7 categories with drop-down boxes for more specific information. A handout was provided to show how the new categories correlate to the old categories. Training will be provided prior to the start of the new categories on January 1, 2024.

Handouts were provided for the Master Gardener Intern Spring Training.

Kerry Smith encouraged members to “like/share” the Facebook/Instagram page “Zooming Zinnias and More”.

A statewide Master Gardener Intern graduation is scheduled for December 15, 2023, in Auburn, AL. Interns may choose to attend this ceremony as well as their own graduation through their own association. Further information will be forwarded by Emily Burchfield, Volunteer Training Coordinator.

#### Group Discussion:

Debbie Boutelier reported the Master Gardener Leadership College is scheduled for August 7 and 8, 2023. Eighty-five (85) people are currently registered from various locations throughout the state. Format includes webinars and small group discussions. Additional training will be scheduled for those who are unable to attend.

Michael Thomason, Chairman of the Transformation Garden AMGA Pathway Name Committee, reported the committee has been considering names for the Pathway. The committee consists of Fletcher Harvey, Mary Hamilton, Harriett Jackson and Lyn Webb. He asked for proposed names to be submitted to [mg2023MBT@gmail.com](mailto:mg2023MBT@gmail.com). The name selected will be announced at the 2024 Master Gardener Conference.

#### Transformation Garden Funding:

Cecilia Adams, AMGA Treasurer, reported that \$73,385.65 has been collected since January. This includes AMGA and Association contributions. Held checks have been sent to Auburn University and donors should receive a notice of thanks. Donations should be sent to AMGA and include the form provided on the AMGA website. Pledge forms may be e-mailed to Cecilia Adams [aadams2cs@icloud.com](mailto:aadams2cs@icloud.com)

or mailed to Cecelia Adams at PO Box 3031, Decatur, AL 35602. Donations should be mailed. Please send an e-mail so she will expect a check.

Regina Ford reported Etowah County Master Gardeners have sold their property and liquidated their greenhouses. They are interested in discussions with those associations who have greenhouses to obtain information to help with their decision-making process. Any information is welcomed. Please contact Regina at [jjudge@att.net](mailto:jjudge@att.net) or 256-490-2996

Pathways welcomes Sheila Bolen to the team. The deadline for the next Pathways is September 15, 2023.

Skeeter Sims reported that the Nominating Committee requests volunteers. Advisory Council nominations will be presented at the November meeting. Tony Wallace, Etowah County, has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair due to Skeeter Sims' move to Chair. Secretary and Hospitality positions will be vacant.

The Blount County Fall Conference is October 12, 2023, at Locust Fork Baptist Church. The application is available on the AMGA website.

The Fall Seminar, "Celebrating 50 Years of Master Gardeners", will be in Huntsville on September 26, 2023, at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens.

Jason Powell welcomed the group to Petals from the Past. He commended the Chilton County Master Gardeners for their participation in a project to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center.

The next meeting is November 7, 2023, at Petals from the Past at 10:00 am. There will be a pot-luck soup/salad/dessert luncheon. A sign-up sheet was provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.

Submitted by:

Amanda Redman  
AMGA Advisory Council Secretary