

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DRAFT
FEBRUARY 6, 2024

The AMGA Advisory Council met on February 6, 2024 at Petals from the Past, Jemison, AL. Vice Chairman, Tony Wallace called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. There were twenty-eight (28) counties represented. Minutes from the November 2023 meeting were approved as published on the AMGA website.

Michelle Giddens, Bibb County Extension Coordinator, spoke on an opportunity for the Master Gardeners to volunteer at Brierfield Historic Ironworks Park. Opportunity to install native plants and provide teaching at the park will be available. Michelle is still finalizing dates to work.

Attendees introduced themselves. Updated LMGA Information was collected from associations. Associations should forward new information to Skeeter Sims at skeetere2c@aol.com.

Representatives from Baldwin County were collecting Silent Auctions. An association may send \$100 for silent auction.

Representatives were reminded to provide plant sale dates and events that would be of interest to surrounding associations to Webmaster Caroline Etheridge at alabamamga.webmaster@gmail.com.

President's Report—Devonne Ellis

Devonne Ellis was pleased with the great attendance at the meeting. She recognized Lyn Webb who recognized the association with the most attendees. Chilton County received a gift card for having the highest number of members present. Lyn invited members to invite others to the Advisory meeting.

Updates on the Alabama Master Gardener Conferences were provided.

2024 –Baldwin County—April 22-24, 2024. “Paradise Found”

Paula Pritchett announced 249 people have registered so far for the conference. Early Bird registration is closed but regular registration is opened. Many of the

tours and workshops are full. An email will be sent if additional tours are available. The conference will be at the Daphne Civic Center.

2025—Autauga County—April 3-5, 2025. “Fountains of Knowledge: Learn, Grow, Share.”

Sondra Henley announced the conference will be at the First Baptist Church, Prattville. The committee is continuing to secure speakers for the conference. Joe Lamp’l will be the speaker on Thursday.

2026—Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Limestone County and Morgan County—May 6-8, 2026—“Gardening to the Moon and Back”

The conference will be at the Westin Hotel at Bridge Street in Huntsville. The committee has secured eight speakers and have scheduled three tours.

Michael Thomason gave a report on the naming of the Transformation Garden Path. The committee members Lyn Webb, Harriet Jackson, Mary Hamilton, Fletcher Harvey, and Michael Thomason have been working for eight months on the project naming. During that time members submitted over 50 names for the pathway. The committee distributed the list of possible names to each association to select three to five names during the break to narrow the list. The committee will tally the names and present them to the AMGA Board at its next meeting.

Extension Update—

Emily Burchfield announced the Registration for the Fall intern classes will be from June 1-30. The first day of class will be August 8. She distributed postcards for the Monthly EMG Update zoom meetings.

Kerry Smith reported on the new service report. If there are problems, members need to email Kerry and provide a screenshot of the problem with the URL if possible.

Kerry emphasized Master Gardeners need to sign the MOU by February 29. Members who do not log hours should sign a copy and return it to the hours manager or agent. To be listed as an Active member, members need to sign the

MOU, pay the 2024 dues, and enter 25 volunteer hours and 10 CEU hours for 2023 by February 29, 2024.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Susan Hagen announced that the AMGA Speakers Bureau is available for any group that needs a speaker. If anyone is interested in being a speaker or securing a speaker, please visit the AMGA website for guidelines.

Sherilyn Osborne announced the Blount County Fall Conference will be October 3.

Jason Powell, Petals from the Past, announced that Chilton County is ahead in chilling hours for their peaches. He was quite pleased with the number of people who continue to show interest in gardening, and he thanked the Master Gardeners for providing information to them.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 7 at 10 a.m. at Petals from the Past.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
Cynthia Kershaw, Secretary