

## ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

July 3, 2007

The meeting began with discussion of the Auburn Master Garden School scheduled for August 14 and 15. Subjects to be covered are: What HGTV does not tell you about flower beds, So Many Plants, So Little Time, What is Wrong in Your yard, Installing and Operating Drip Irrigation for Efficient Landscape Irrigation, How to Select Landscape Design Software, Master Gardeners International Gardens Virtual Pre-tour and conclude with a tour of the Paterson Greenhouse Complex.

A discussion followed on hours for CEU's and mileage. Some Master Gardeners are unaware 10 CEU's are required annually except for interns. Hours are needed by Auburn and help with funding. When members do not report hours, there is no way of measuring impact on the community. Some associations remove members from Active Status if they do not record and report hours annually. Hours are needed by the end of January each year. Kerry Smith teaches a class on recording hours and brings a lap top for each participant in the class. One group includes her class as one of the main courses for interns. Kerry will soon be getting an assistant.

People are being encouraged to record their hours online. Auburn will no longer be printing the booklets. For people without a computer, someone can download one for them.

Someone asked how the President of each organization can access hours recorded by members. The answer is through Kerry Smith.

There was some discussion on what a contact is. A person is a contact if you are talking gardening to someone who is not a Master Gardener. A contact, most agreed is personal rather than through the newspaper. It was noted if you are working in someone else's yard, volunteer hours can be counted if that person is disabled.

Discussion followed in reference to counting membership. Some questions were: How do you count inactive members? Do you count them if they are inactive, but pay their dues? In one county, one person never participates, does not pay dues, but religiously sends in hours at the end of the year. Most present felt once you complete course work, you are a Master Gardener unless you are in a coma. We hope to have Kerry Smith attend the October meeting for some clarification. Some counties carefully screen applicants, asking questions such as "Why do you want to be a Master Gardener. What will you do with the information?" This is an attempt to weed out people who won't stay active. Some counties date the applications as they come in, and it is first come, first served.

How do you handle a situation where an intern has to miss several classes? They can take those missed classes next time at no charge, or take it in another county.

Do we have liability coverage during Master Gardener activities? A 5013c rating makes us eligible for some grants. State level insurance does not cover local organizations. Clarification of coverage will be requested

Some counties do PH testing at their plant sales, and at least one county offers PH testing to people who call the Hot-Line.

Some counties have evening classes, and at least one county had some of their classes telecast.

**FUND RAISERS:** Appleby's and Ruby Tuesday will do pancake breakfasts on Saturday mornings as a group fund raiser, and the only cost to the group is for the food itself. A group that did this charged \$5.00 per person for a substantial breakfast. Master Gardeners were there to meet and greet people and bus tables and roll silverware. Appleby's will print tickets for the meal. The cost of food was \$285.00 and the profit for the group was \$1300.00.

The next meeting will be October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The topic will be: How to retain interns and how to get old members back.

Judy May