

Notes from the Advisory Board

The Advisory Board met October 9, 2007 in Clanton. It was noted the 2008 Master Gardener Conference will be held in Dothan, March 6-8 and the theme will be "Down Home Gardening". The 2009 conference will be in Huntsville April 2-4 and the theme will be "A Garden for All Seasons". The 2010 conference will be held in Montgomery.

Insurance liability coverage was discussed briefly. It has been determined there is no insurance coverage for Master Gardeners unless the project is under the direct umbrella of Auburn University.

There was mention of a need for interns to receive both state and local newsletters.

Discussion followed on how to handle returning Master Gardeners who have been inactive for some time. One member stated that at the 2007 state conference, there was discussion of requiring returning members to do 40 hours volunteer work and be recertified. Master Gardeners coming from another state may be asked to retake classes at a reduced rate, and do 40 hours volunteer work. Clarification will be requested from the state level. One member requested a representative from the state level be present at all Advisory Board meetings.

It was noted one way to keep the interest of interns following graduation, is to have interesting programs and speakers. A mentoring program may be beneficial too.

A member who received grant money last year, requested grant money be distributed earlier in the year, so projects can be completed prior to very hot weather. It was noted people have a year to complete their project after receiving grant money.

Associations who have 5013c status may go online and receive an ID#, and they need to keep up with their evidence for five years, keeping every piece of paper for accounting purposes.

Tuscaloosa Master Gardener Association gives a \$1000.00 scholarship to Auburn Horticulture School each year. At least one other association does also.

Tuscaloosa Master Gardener Association is sponsoring a workshop April 8 and 9, 2008 with Felder Rushing as speaker. Subjects to be covered are: Pruning, composting and Pests and Diseases. The cost will be approximately \$25.00.

Autauga County has information online re bluebirds and the Bluebird Trail. The website is www.autaugabluebirdtrail.com.

There was discussion re a statewide directory. One suggestion was that each association upload their information to the state website. Another suggestion was the membership committee mail an annual booklet to each Master Gardener Association in the state.

Fred Evans said the state level nominating committee, consisting of Fred, Harry Anderson and Linda Stevens need to fill three positions: two for the nominating committee and one for member at large.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be January 8, 2008

Submitted by Judy May