



JEFFERSON COUNTY
Master Gardeners

Roots and Shoots

August 2011

President's Message. . .

Hallelujah for the rain that occurred during the month of July!!!!

The Summer issue of the *Garden Pathways* announced the 30th birthday of Master Gardeners. Alabama County Extension Service along with the Alabama Master Gardener Association is encouraging all local MGAs to plant a trees(s) in a public spot to show our support in the future of our communities. I would like for JCMG to participate in this effort and would appreciate your ideas and assistance. Kerry Smith has asked that we let her know of our plans as she wants to create a state wide media blitz.

As I mentioned at the July meeting, we will need to select a nominating committee at the September meeting. If you would be willing to serve on this committee, please let me know.

Also, if you would like to be considered for or would like to nominate a member for office of President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, **with permission of the nominee**, please complete the information included in the section of this newsletter entitled *Duties and Responsibilities* of the different officers and submit this form to a member of Nominating Committee.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the August meeting – I know Eddie Aldridge will be a very entertaining and informative guest speaker. Bring a friend and, as always, refreshments are appreciated by all!

Glenda

Glenda Dicks
gmdicks@bellsouth.net
205-620-0758

August Master Gardener Meeting

August 9, 2011

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Hospitality – 9:30 a.m.

Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

A second generation nurseryman now retired, Eddie Aldridge will join us on August 9th for a “fireside chat...without a fire.” Those who have attended any of Eddie’s many public appearances know we’re in for a real treat as he reminisces about his experiences in the nursery trade and encounters with gardeners and gardening. Eddie is internationally known for discovering and marketing *Hydrangea quercifolia* “Snowflake” and is the author of “A Garden of Destiny,” an account of the development of Aldridge Gardens. We are thrilled that his lovely wife, Kay, will be joining him for this special occasion.

We’ll reserve comment on our door prize, but rest assured it will be very special and appropriate for the occasion.

Those who missed the July meeting and Wendy Ulrich’s presentation on infused vinegars and herbal butters should hope for a re-run. Her presentation was not only fun and informative, but also quite tasty. Many thanks to Wendy for her great program. Many thanks also to Myers Nursery for our July door prize(s), the beautiful caladium plants and tubers.

Program Notes continued on p. 4

Top Tomatoes!



Photo courtesy of Petals from the Past

Jefferson County Master Gardener Alberta Fields scored two big wins in the Petals from the Past Fifth Annual Tomato Contest. Alberta won the "Hybrid/Slicing Flavor" category with her Sophya Hybrid entry and the "Cherry/Pear Best Appearance" category with a Chocolate Cherry. Congratulations, Alberta!

2011 CEUs to date

The following are the Volunteer /CEU Hours to date for this year's JCMGA meetings:

Jan Meeting – Meeting Cancelled

Feb Meeting – Stars Award : 1 hour volunteer time if you brought food for the luncheon.

March Meeting - CEU 1 – Tony's Presentation

Spencer Lecture - CEU 1

April Meeting – CEU 1 — John Manion

May Meeting — 1 CEU – Plant Swap

June Meeting — CEU 1 — Dr. Michael Wyss

July Meeting – CEU 1 – Wendy Ulrich

Please remember to record both CEUs and volunteer hours on-line. Hours will not be accepted for 2011 unless they are logged into the on-line site and properly classified. If you need assistance entering your hours, please let Glenda Dicks know.

Community Projects Update

The Glenwood herb garden is growing nicely; the fig and persimmon trees are getting established, and the Lady Banks roses are finding their way up the trellis. The tea olives look good and the butterfly bushes are blooming. The raised bed vegetable gardens have bright red tomatoes and peppers and I saw quite a few cucumbers. Unfortunately, due to irrigation problems they lost quite a few of the perennials. The Shasta daisies are thriving; the very hardy purple coneflowers, rudbeckia, yarrow and gaura are hanging in there thanks to the wonderful afternoon showers we have been getting. The zoysia grass is growing well. Due to the extreme heat, the Glenwood residents have not been able to spend much time in the garden; however, this fall, it will become a pleasant retreat. The Boy Scout who has been working on the project has built and placed six benches around the grass area and is now working on the pergola.

We need two Master Gardeners to assist with this project. Please call Dianne Brannon at 967-6635.

—Dianne Brannon

A Word from the Speakers' Bureau

The Speaker's Bureau list is off to a good start... for those of you who are already participating, THANK YOU! For those of you who are thinking about it...email or call me so your information may be posted online as well. There have already been requests from garden clubs wanting speakers for next spring on peonies and roses! We need speakers for these and a variety of other subjects. What an awesome way to share your Master Gardener knowledge with the community! Contact Yvette Heath Yvette.heath72@gmail.com or 988-8050.

Spaces Available in Next Shelby County Master Gardener Class

Openings are still available in the upcoming Shelby County Master Gardener class, scheduled to begin on August 17th. If you know someone who might be interested in taking the course, they may contact Nelson Wynn at <http://www.aces.edu/directory/u/wynnnel/>

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association

July, 2011

The Jefferson County Master Gardener Association met at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Glenda Dicks, President, called the meeting to order.

We welcomed one visitor, a new intern from the Class of 2011, Jollette Dean.

The Minutes of the June 14, 2011 meeting were approved as published in the *Roots and Shoots* newsletter. The Treasurer report was also approved as published in the *Roots and Shoots* newsletter.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements: Glenda Dicks requested we send in information to *Roots and Shoots* involving committee reports, volunteer opportunities, etc. She stated that it has been more difficult to obtain articles for *Roots and Shoots* recently.

Glenda also emphasized reporting volunteer hours to the State AMGA now and keeping these hours up-to-date. Also we can count the May Plant Swap as one hour CEU as Linda Emerson was identifying and advising on the growth habits of plants available for the Swap. The recent JCMGA Night meeting with Gary Gray as speaker will count as two hours CEU.

The Nominating Committee for the 2012 officers needs volunteers for this important job. If you will serve as an officer or volunteer to serve on the Committee, please let Glenda know. Those who served on the Nominating Committee for the 2011 officers will not be eligible for the 2012 Nominating Committee.

The next JCMGA Night meeting will be held on September 20, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m..

It was noted with sadness that the son of one of our members, Sharon Leader, recently passed away.

AMGA State Conference: Several Steering Committee Chairs need volunteers for the 2012 AMGA State Conference. Linda Systrom, Vendor Chair; Glenda Dicks, Silent Auction Chair; and Anne Thomas, Food Chair, all request additional volunteers.

Volunteer Opportunity: Laura Rogers with the Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College has requested MG volunteers with several projects available. If interested, please contact Glenda Dicks for further information.

2011 Directories: Harold Deason announced the 2011 JCMGA Directories are now available. If someone would like the color version, the PDF version is available.

Fletcher Harvey announced the September program will be held at the Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College with Roald Hasselhoff as speaker.

Fletcher then introduced our speaker today, Wendy Ulrich, who works with Dr. Jim Jacoby in the Plant Lab at BBG but is also a Platinum Badge Master Gardener. Wendy gave a wonderful (and tasty) program on "Herbs And What To Do With Them." She demonstrated making herbal vinegars and teas, herbal sugars, herbal butters and cheese snacks using many types of herbs. She then let us sample her wonderful creations.

Fletcher thanked Wendy for a delightful program. The Door Prizes for today were from Myers Nurseries in Pelham.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Thomas, Secretary

July Treasurer's Report

Submitted by *Roger Clarke*, Treasurer

Beginning balance	\$14,190.94
Receipts	\$34.00
Disbursements	\$235.00
Ending balance July 25, 2011	\$13,989.94

"Botanically Speaking"

John Manion, curator of the BBG's Kaul Wildflower Garden, invites all MGs to check out "Botanically Speaking," for news about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities in the KWG. Check it out at: <http://bbgardens.org/BotanicallySpeaking.php>

Program Notes *Continued from p. 1*

Planning ahead:

We will venture to the Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College for our meeting on September 13. Roald Hazelhoff will speak to us and conduct a tour of the museum and garden. There will be a brief meeting to select a Nominating Committee to determine candidates for JCMGA officers for 2012.

Our September 20th evening meeting will be conducted by Phillip Hunter from Hunter Trees who'll discuss "Trees in the Urban Landscape." The meeting will be at BBG from 6:00 to 8:00. The public will be invited. Bring a guest.

Special thanks to Harold Deason for our new directory. Harold puts a lot of time into this and always does a beautiful job. Please make the following corrections to the calendar (not Harold's fault): *August 9* -Business Meeting; Program: Eddie Aldridge, "A Fireside Chat...Without a Fire"; *September 13* - Field Trip to Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College, Roald Hazelhof, Director, Lecture and Museum and Garden Tour, Brief Business Meeting for Selection of Nominating Committee; *October 11* - Business Meeting/Update on 2012 State Meeting/Election of Officers for 2012; *November 8* - Graduation Banquet for Master Gardener Class of 2010, Installation of 2012 JCMGA Officers; Special Speaker.

Night Meetings: *September 20* - Phillip Hunter, Trees in the Urban Landscape.



AMGA 2012 Conference Update

All the committees have been working hard to insure that all aspects of the conference are covered. Thanks for the budgets and all the members of JCMGA and the surrounding counties for volunteering to help.

The steering committees and several members met following the monthly Master Gardener meeting and discussed many issues. One of the issues was that most of the volunteers have not done much yet. First of all thanks for volunteering to help with the conference and be assured that we will use you and your abilities as we get closer to the actual conference. We are still planning and trying to get everything put together so that we can get all the packets and programs lined up to print or publish. Feel free to contact any of the committees and come to the Steering Committee Meeting following the next Master Gardener meeting August 9th.

There is still a need for volunteers so please send an e-mail to Karen Larsen at amg2012cvols@att.net and let her know what you would like to do. Many volunteers will have several jobs according to where we are in the planning and execution of the plan.

Thanks so much for the Steering Committee and their hard work in preparing for the 2012 Conference 22 – 24 March 2012.

If you have not volunteered and became active with a committee, do it today and bring a friend with you.

—Harold Deason

August Gardener's Calendar

FRUITS AND NUTS-Cut out old blackberry canes after fruiting and then fertilize and cultivate for replacement canes. Remember to order new catalogs for fruit selection.

SHRUBS-Layer branches of hydrangea.

LAWNS--Watch for diseases. Mow regularly Water as needed.

ROSES--Keep roses healthy and actively growing. Hybrid teas and floribundas may need slight pruning to prevent scraggly appearance.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Water as needed. Plant perennials and biennials.

BULBS-Divide old iris plantings and add new.

MISCELLANEOUS--Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task during this month. This means close observation for insects and diseases. Water.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant turnips, rutabagas, beans, and peas in South Alabama.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, and celery

Vacancies on Alabama Master Gardeners' Advisory Council

If you are interested in being nominated for an officer's position on the Alabama Master Gardeners' Advisory Council please contact Camille Becker prior to September 30th. Positions available are: Chair - currently held by Diane Jones; Vice-Chair - currently held by Brenda Tapp; Secretary - currently held by Cathy Canant.

Duties and Responsibilities of JCMGA Officers

At the regular meeting in October, the Nominating Committee will submit its slate of nominees for officers of the Board. These officers are: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The following is a summary of duties for each office:

President:

- Preside at all meeting of the Board, Advisory Council, and Association.
- Appoint all standing and special correspondence
- Coordinate the work of the Association
- Be ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee
- Write monthly article for Roots and Shoots

Vice President:

- Be an aide to the President
- Presides in President's absence
- Submits a program package for the year at the January Board meeting for the Boards' approval
- Serves as Host to the speakers and makes arrangements for any equipment that they need such as sound, screens, projectors, etc.
- Writes monthly article for Roots and Shoots

Secretary:

- Record the minutes of all meetings of the Association, Board and Advisory Council.
- Conduct the Association's correspondence as directed.
- Maintains a file of all previous meeting minutes
- Submits minutes for publication in the Roots and Shoots

Treasurer:

- Be custodian of all the Association's funds
- Maintains records, receipts and acknowledgments of donations as proscribed by 501 (c) (3)
- Collects dues and distributes annual membership cards
- Disburse funds by direction of the Association
- Notify the President and Extension Liaison of delinquent members.
- Prepare a budget to be adopted by the Board and membership at the January meeting.
- Submit a monthly financial report for Roots and Shoots

All:

- Since most of the Association's correspondence is now conducted by computer it is imperative that all Board members and committee chairpersons be computer literate. They should be able to create a document, convert it into a usable file and send it by e-mail for publication.
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Nomination Form for 2010 JCMGA Officers

Nominations are currently being sought for 2010 Officers of the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association. If you wish to nominate a member for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer, **with permission of the nominee**, please complete the information below and submit this form to a member of Nominating Committee (to be selected at the September meeting.)

Name of Nominee: _____

Office: _____

Telephone Number/E-mail of Nominee: _____

Your Name: _____



All About Trees

This year, the Alabama Master Gardener program is celebrating its 30th anniversary. In 1981 a Master Gardener from New York and an enthusiastic Extension Agent in Madison County combined forces to host the first MG training classes in Alabama. AMGA has now grown to a state-wide program supported by 18 Extension Agents, 37

local Master Gardener Associations and a state association, the Alabama Master Gardeners Association. All Master Gardeners have common goals of sharing information, volunteer service, learning more about gardening, and in making their communities better places to live.

In celebration of the program's 30th anniversary, ACES and AMGA are encouraging all local MGA's to celebrate our 30th anniversary with a fall tree planting in a public spot – park, school, city hall, street, etc. This project gives MG's an opportunity to invest in the future of Alabama's local communities. On-line resources are available to assist with the project at www.aces.edu/mg.

"All About Trees: Growing for Alabama's Future" will be the AMGA's Fall CEU event. The workshop will be held on September 27, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. at Taylor Rd. Baptist Church in Montgomery. Six CEUs will be awarded for the full seminar. Seminar Goals include:

- Learn basic tree planning and design principles
- Review proper tree planting and maintenance
- Overview of healthy pruning techniques
- Learn the basics to protect mature trees.

Registration forms must be received by September 19th. The \$18.00 registration fee will include a box lunch and drink. For more information contact: Patti Householder at 334-332-8044, or Suzanne Reaves at 334-224-2718.

Gardener's Bookshelf



Check out these new books available at the BBG branch of the Library.

American Eden by Wade Graham

Founding Gardeners by Andrea Wulf

Nature Principle by Richard Louv

Landscaping your Home by Catriona Erler

Modern Homestead by Renee Wilkinson

Organic Farming Manual by Ann Hansen

Apartment Gardening by Amy Pennington

Harvesting Color: How to Find Plants and Make Natural Dyes by Rebeca Burgess

Back to Basics: Traditional Garden Wisdom by C. Ryrice

Japan Home by Lisa Parramore

Extension Offering Sustainable Backyard Series

The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service is offering "The Sustainable Backyard," covering a series of subjects including Home Grown Vegetables, Food Preservation, Backyard Chickens, Backyard Beekeeping, Home Grown Fruits, and Backyard Livestock. You will have the option of registering for individual classes for \$15.00 per class or you may register for the whole series for \$60.00 (like getting two classes free.) The series will be taught by specialists at Auburn University. Lee County Extension office will host the program and broadcast to select Extension office locations across the state. The series will consist of six classes held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Featured topics and broadcast dates are:

Home Grown Vegetables, August 23, 2011

Food Preservation, August 30, 2011

Backyard Chickens, September 6, 2011

Backyard Beekeeping, September 13, 2011

Home Grown Fruits, September 20, 2011

Backyard Livestock, September 27, 2011

If you are interested and you live in the Birmingham area, the program will be held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. To register contact the Jefferson County Extension Office located at the C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and Environmental Center, at 205-879-6964 extension 10. For more information visit www.aces.edu.

Directories Available

Copies of the 2011 JCMGA Directory are now available. Pick up your copy at the September JCMGA meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities

Alabama Master Gardener Association 2012 Conference volunteers needed. Jefferson County Master Gardener Association will host the 2012 Alabama Master Gardener Association Conference. To be held March 22-24 at the Birmingham Marriott and other area venues. Committee chairpersons have been selected and are looking for volunteers. If you would like to help please e-mail amg2012cvols@att.net and request a volunteer application.

Aldridge Gardens "Own a Zone" Aldridge Gardens is seeking horticulture volunteers who would like to help the gardens by adopting a zone. One group of Master Gardeners just adopted the zone below the rock wall and have added their own touch. At their suggestion Aldridge Gardens' St. Francis statue was moved into this wispy garden and now can be viewed and enjoyed by all who pass along the lakeside. Others have partnered to adopt paths, trails, beds and bog areas. For more information or to volunteer, call Volunteer Coordinator Jan Rogers at 682-8019.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens' Library needs volunteers to work every 4th Sunday and on Mondays. For more information, contact Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens needs volunteers for the Native Plants Group. The group meets Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Potting Shed behind the Conservatory at the BBG. For more information, contact Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org.

Mark Your Calendar

Aug. 6 Petals from the Past 10:30 a.m. "Butterflies of Alabama - Glimpses into Their Lives" - Paulette Ogard, writer and Sara Bright, photographer, authors of *Butterflies of Alabama*. In late summer and early fall, butterflies abound in Alabama's gardens. The session will look at basic butterfly biology and end with glances at a few of Alabama's most common as well as some of its rarest species. There will also be a walk through the gardens focusing on butterfly garden-worthy plants. For more information, call 205-646-0069.

August 18 Birmingham Botanical Gardens "Mint Mixology." 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Instructor Michael Connors will teach participants how to make the perfect Mint Julep, Mojito, and how to add mint to their cocktail maker's toolkit. Cost \$20 members/\$25 non-members. For more information, www.bbgardens.org/adult.php.

Aug. 26-27 Playful Mosaics: Can You Pique Assiette (2 session class) Session 1: Friday, Aug. 26, 4:00-7:30 p.m. Session 2: Saturday, Aug. 27, 9 a.m. – noon. Instructor: Melanie Colvin, Mosaic Artist. Cost: \$60 members/\$80 non-members (includes \$5 materials cost). Pre-registration required; class size limited. Learn the skill of using tiles and grout to make colorful mosaic pots and garden art with broken vases or china plates. In the workshop participants will master the techniques of how to create mosaics in the pique assiette style to create a 8"X9" decorative flower pot. For more information call 682-8019 or visit www.aldridgegardens.com.