



JEFFERSON COUNTY
Master Gardeners

Roots and Shoots

November 2011

President's Message. . .

Personal financial expert, Suze Orman, closes her TV show with, "Remember - people first, then money, then things."

As the birthdays begin clicking off rather rapidly, I realize how much this applies to my life. When asked to keep my great nieces, I jump at the chance. Sabrina is twelve and her sister, Aubrie Kate is two. What an impact these little girls have made on my life.

JCMG have impacted my life as well, which is why I agreed to do another year as president of this wonderful group especially since Fletcher Harvey (Vice President), Anne Thomas (Secretary) and Roger Clarke (Treasurer) agreed to continue for another year as well. The friendships I have made with all of you is truly my blessing. I ask you to let me know what your ideas are – what we can do better – what we need to do – etc.

Since this will be our last newsletter for 2011, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you one last time (this year) -

- Please record you volunteer and CEU hours. If you have questions or need someone to enter your hours electronically, please let me know.
- Please pay your 2012 AMGA and JCMGA membership dues. The total is \$17. You may mail your check to Roger Clarke at 414 Norfolk Lane, Homewood AL 35209.

Our November 8 meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the BBG will include a buffet meal, special guest speaker, graduation of the 2011 Master Gardener class and installation of officers. I look forward to seeing you and your guests at this special event!

Glenda

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

November Master Gardener Annual Banquet

Nov. 8, 2011

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

6 p.m.

The program for our Graduation Banquet on November 8, 2011 should be both exciting and entertaining. Celebrating the "metamorphosis" of interns into Master Gardeners, we welcome Tony Glover as he sees his final Jefferson County class advance to badge-wearing members. We are also pleased to welcome Cathy Adams who will tell us about the evolution of a ninety year old garden (hers) and the education of its gardener (her). Though Cathy has had years of experience in gardening and landscape design, let's make it clear she has not been in this garden for its nine decades. It came with her landmark home atop Red Mountain.

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving season, as we give thanks for our many blessings, don't forget the local plant folks that have been so generous in providing door prizes for our monthly meetings and the individuals who gave of their time to present our programs.

Our door prizes:

- ◇ Sumter DeGaris' Leaf and Petal at the Gardens
- ◇ Billy Angell's Oak Street Garden Shop
- ◇ Libby Rich's Plant Odyssey
- ◇ Myer's Nursery
- ◇ Charlie Thigpen's Gardener's Gallery
- ◇ Jon Culver's Sweet Peas
- ◇ Jason Powell's Petals from the Past

Our presenters:

- ◇ Tony Glover
- ◇ Dr. Michael Wyss

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Bethany's Extension Extra

Wow! My how time flies! The past eight weeks have gone by in a flurry. Before long, the turkey will be ready for carving, and families will be gathering for their Christmas celebrations.

As the year inches ever closer to its finale, please include our graduation banquet in your increasingly busy schedule. This year's event will take place on November 8th at 6:00 p.m. Our hospitality committee has arranged for a wonderful meal, so make plans now to attend.

It is also time to start finalizing the Master Gardener class of 2012. It looks like we will have another full class. The class will start the second Thursday in January (January 12th) and will continue for the next 14 weeks. We will have the new schedule posted on the JCMGA website (www.jeffcomg.org) by early December. If you need to make up a missed class or get a refresher on a subject, please let us know. As long as we have available space, we would love to have you attend. Be forewarned – I may ask you to pitch in and help with something, but there will be no charge to attend. I do ask that you bring your own lunch if you choose to come. The pot luck meals are planned for the class and presenters only and often are just enough. On that note, I would like to sincerely thank all of those that have volunteered to help me with this year's class. Being the new kid on the block, I am very grateful to have all of you seasoned veterans along for the ride.

November proves to be a very active month. The Birmingham Botanical Gardens will be hosting the Central South Native Plant Conference on November 4th and 5th. Please visit www.bbgardens.org/csnpcc for additional information. Also, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System will be hosting the Invasive Plant Atlas of the MidSouth Volunteer Training Workshop on November 16th. This seminar is free and will be worth 3.5 CEU's. Please visit http://www.aces.edu/~bao0004/temp/IPAMSFlyer_08222011_BirminghamAL.pdf or contact me for more details.

Again, I hope to see many of you, some for the very first time, at this year's banquet. At this time of year, we often start to reflect on all of the things for which we are truly thankful. A great work environment is something that not all people are afforded. Thanks to all of you who have helped make this such a smooth transition for me. I hope each of you have a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving, Christmas, and holiday season.

—Bethany O'Rear



REACH FOR THE STARS 2011

Reach for the Stars is the volunteer service recognition program honoring Master Gardeners who have assisted the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service in educating and improving our communities, and to encourage Master Gardeners to keep records and report volunteer hours as required by ACES. Recorded hours are utilized in justifying the Master Gardener program.

Hours are cumulative and are updated at the end of each year.

- Bronze Stars are given for 100-298 recorded volunteer hours
- Silver Stars are given for 300-499 hours
- Gold Stars are given for 500-999 hours
- Gold Name Badges are presented for 1,000 -1,999 hours
- Platinum Name Badges are presented for 2,000-3,999 hours

The new Advanced Hours Recognition Program brings a Silver Star with a "gem stone" which may be attached to the Platinum Name Badges.

- Silver Star with Ruby Gem Stone - 4,000 - 5,999 hours
- Silver Star with Emerald Gem Stone - 6,000- 7,999 hours
- Silver Star with Diamond Gem Stone - 8,000-10,000 hours

You may be close to receiving your first Star, a Gold or Platinum Name Badge of the Advanced Hours stars with gems, so please record the hours you have volunteered before December 31st. Stars will be presented at our MG meeting in February with Name Badges and Name Badge Stars presented at the State Conference meeting in March.

—Anne Thomas, Chair
Reach for the Stars Committee

October Treasurer's Report

Submitted by *Roger Clarke*, Treasurer

Beginning balance	\$13,773.44
Receipts	\$1,555.00
Disbursements	\$159.03

Ending balance October 23, 2011 \$15,169.41

AMGA 2012 Conference Update



Much of the preparation for the 2012 conference is complete but there are several items that need additional help. The first is getting vendors to attend the conference and make contributions in the form of booth charges helps to offset the cost of conducting the conference. This one can be handled by any and all simply by asking for sponsorship. If the person or business is interested you can handle it with information from Linda Systrom and Glenda Dicks or you can turn the contact lead over to them and they will follow up with the potential vendor.

We will have a Silent Auction during the conference and we need items for the auction. Smaller items may be combined to make an attractive basket. Bring the items to the banquet or hold onto them until January. The Silent Auction was a great source of funding in Mobile and we will need the additional funds to cover the cost of the conference.

The Steering Committee will be doing a presentation to the Alabama Master Gardener Board on 6 December and that means that most of the layout of the documents has to be done. We have all the speakers lined up and will be entering the data on the web site soon.

We welcome everyone to pitch in and help. If you have not signed up and been assigned a job, please contact 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.

—Harold Deason
Conference Chair

Dues are Due!

Membership dues for fiscal year January 1 through December 31, 2012 are due by January 1, 2011. Members are very important to our association and we hope you will join or renew your membership. Please complete the JCMGA Membership Form (which will be used for the 2012 Membership Directory) and return it with your check to Treasurer, Roger Clark at the banquet or mail to Roger Clark at 414 Norfolk Lane, Homewood, AL 35209. Dues are 17 (\$12 local dues + \$5 state dues) Please make checks payable to JCMGA.

JCMGA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail: _____

County of Training: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Central South Native Plant Conference to Feature Award-Winning Author

Every three or four years since 1991, gardeners, landscape architects and plant enthusiasts are treated to one of the most extensive nature-related seminars in the nation, the Central South Native Plant Conference. On November 4 and 5, Birmingham Botanical Gardens will host this symposium, featuring keynote speaker, Douglas Tallamy, Ph.D., along with a myriad of other presenters for "Native Plants: The Bigger Picture; How Native Plants Complete the Puzzle."

Tallamy currently serves as the Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. His groundbreaking and research-based book *Bringing Nature Home* illuminates the crucial role native plants play as the foundation for all terrestrial biodiversity. The book earned him a coveted Silver Medal from the Garden Writers Association, and ongoing critical praise from the national media. Tallamy will join more than 20 other speakers, discussing native plants and the roles they play in facilitating the health of ecosystems.

Along with impressive lectures from plant experts, the conference will feature a variety of breakout sessions, workshops and field trips. Jefferson County Master Gardener Association is co-sponsoring this event and members are entitled to the member discount. To learn more, see: <http://bbgardens.org/central-south.php>

2011 CEUs

The following are CEU credits for each of the 2011 meetings:

Jan Meeting – Meeting Cancelled

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

March Meeting - CEU 1 – Toni's Presentation

Spencer Lecture - CEU 1

April Meeting – CEU 1 — John Minion

May Meeting — CEU 1 – Plant Swap

June Meeting — CEU 1 — Dr. Michael Wyss

July Meeting – CEU 1 – Wendy Ulrich

August Meeting – CEU 1 – Eddie Aldridge

September Field Trip – CEU 2 – Birmingham Southern College

September Night Meeting – CEU 2 – Phillip Hunter

October Meeting – No CEU – Business Session

Program Notes cont. from page 1

- ◇ Wendy Ulrich
- ◇ Eddie and Kay Aldridge
- ◇ Linda Emerson
- ◇ John Manion
- ◇ Roald Hazelhof
- ◇ Kerry Smith
- ◇ Phillip Hunter
- ◇ Gary Gray
- ◇ Richard Healey and Sallie Lee

—Fletcher Harvey

Gardener's Calendar

November

FRUITS AND NUTS--Select sites for plantings. Start mulching strawberries, blackberries, and grapes.

SHRUBS--Plant shrubs, trees, and vines.

LAWNS--Use proper herbicide to kill germinating winter weeds.

ROSES--Get rose planting underway. Use a soil test as a basis for fertilization. Look for new varieties.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS--Plant hardy annuals such as larkspur, poppies, pansies, anchusa, and candytuft. Get sweet peas into the ground.

BULBS--Continue spring bulb planting. Put lilies of the valley in a shady place.

MISCELLANEOUS--Plant screen plantings for privacy on the patio.

VEGETABLE SEED--Plant cabbage and lettuce in the coldframe.

December

FRUITS AND NUTS--Plant young pecan and other deciduous fruit trees and grapes. Select budwood. Start dormant pruning of established fruits. Protect all young trees from rabbit damage by placing wire around the base of the tree. Put on dormant oil spays for scale.

SHRUBS--Planting is still the main activity but delay in case of freezing weather.

LAWNS--control wild garlic, chickweed, *Poa annua*, dandelion, and other weeds. Read label on each can of weed killer used.

ROSES--Add plants to rose garden. Mulch all plantings.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS--Plant hardy annual seed without delay

BULBS--Continue spring bulb planting.

JCMGA Minutes — October, 2010

The Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association met on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 10:00 a.m. at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. President Glenda Dicks opened our meeting and welcomed everyone.

The September minutes and the Treasurer's Report were approved as published in the October *Roots and Shoots*.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Pat Bullock reminded everyone that the 2012 Jefferson County Master Gardener dues of \$12.00 and the Alabama Master Gardener dues of \$5.00 are now due and payable.

Tom Douglass, representative of the Officer Nominating Committee consisting of Harold Deason, Ann McAdams, Tom Douglass and Bonnie O'Bannon as alternate, presented the following slate of officers for 2012: President - Glenda Dicks; Vice President - Fletcher Harvey; Secretary - Anne Thomas; Treasurer - Roger Clarke. Tom stated the committee requested that each officer from 2011 continue in their position for 2012 to provide continuity for the 2012 Alabama Master Gardener Association Conference being held in Birmingham. Our by-laws permit re-election to a second term of office. Nominations from the floor for each of the above offices were opened. There being no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. A motion was then made and seconded to elect the above slate of officers by acclamation. The vote to elect all of the above officers was unanimous.

Glenda thanked everyone for their vote of confidence for the officers.

Camille Becker reported from the Alabama Master Gardener Association Advisory Board. The Board is taking a survey of Alabama Master Gardeners regarding sending the *Garden Pathways* newsletter by e-mail, which will save a good bit of postage over mailing copies to members. As always, though, the January edition which includes the registration information and forms for the Master Gardener State Conference will be mailed to each member. A "straw poll" was taken of our group today with a vote of 46 members voting yes and one vote no. Also the question of raising the annual State dues by \$5.00, which increases the total annual dues to the Alabama Master Gardener Association to \$10.00. Local dues of \$12.00 remains unchanged. The Board is requesting this increase to override the cost of postage. After much discussion, a "straw poll" was taken and a raise in AMGA dues was not approved.

LeAnne Porter reported on the Speaker's Bureau. She encouraged everyone to volunteer to participate in the Speaker's Bureau. Many calls have been received for a Master Gardener representative to speak in various areas. LeAnne stated we have many great resources for speakers to use and that we do not necessarily have to do a computer or power point presentation. Bob Eskew suggested that we might specify groups looking for garden information. Tom Douglass stated much information is available in the GPIC office also. Also, it might be useful if anyone who is interested in doing a presentation, go with one of the more experienced speakers first. Richard Healy stated if you can handle the questions that come into GPIC, you can make a presentation. Mary Jo Quintana stated that when doing presentations remember we have more information available than the listeners will. Glenda Dicks stated all information regarding the Speaker's Bureau can be funneled through the ACES secretary, Annette Drummonds. She also requested that Richard Healy put information in the *Roots and Shoots* or notify Pat Bullock so that anyone who would like to go with Richard has that information. Glenda reminded us that educating the community is one of our missions.

Glenda announced that the Master Gardeners Banquet for new graduates and installation of officers is Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens at 6:00 p.m. Cost for the banquet is \$12.00 per person and is due by the end of October. Char House Grill will again cater the event. Everyone is welcome to bring a guest and the public is welcome. Send reservations to either Roger Clarke, Treasurer, or Pat Bullock. Volunteers are also requested for set up and clean up.

If you need a new name badge or a replacement, please sign up today.

For Silent Auction items for the 2012 Conference, please contact any business or proprietor for an item or monetary donation. The money will be used to buy items for the auction.

Glenda also requested we submit our volunteer hours. We need to have these by the end of the year. We receive monies based on the volunteer hours submitted. Glenda also said to please tell her or e-mail any suggestions, complaints or information.

Rosemarie Fernandes stated that she and Tony Glover developed a Facebook page for the Jefferson County Master Gardeners under the name of "Jefferson County Master Gardeners."

Vice-President Fletcher Harvey introduced our new extension agent, Bethany O'Rear. Bethany introduced herself to everyone. She also talked about the Invasive Plant Workshop to be held on November 16, 2011. There is no cost to attend the workshop and 3.5 CEUs will be offered. The new 2012 Master Gardener Class will begin the second week in January and Bethany requested help from all Master Gardeners and thanked the ones who have already signed up to do so.

Harold Deason reported on the progress of preparations for the 2012 AMGA Conference here in Birmingham. He stated that the Steering Committees are 95 percent on schedule. The Steering Committees will meet again with the Alabama Master Gardeners State Board on December 6, 2011 at the Marriott on Hwy. 280. He also reported that the 2013 conference will not be in Auburn as previously scheduled but will be in Florence, AL hosted by the Shoals Master Gardeners. That conference will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday secondary to availability of facilities and reduced cost of scheduling. The 2014 Master Gardeners Conference will be held in Baldwin County.

Harold also reported that the JCMGA directory is available and can be e-mailed. Please sign up today to receive the directory by e-mail.

Joanne Carnes won the door prize today given by Sweet Peas Nursery. Nora and Dale O'Connor brought several bags of day lilies to share with anyone who would like them.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Thomas, Secretary

2012 State Conference Silent Auction Committee

The Silent Auction Committee needs your help. If you know a business that might be willing to make a cash donation or merchandise for the Silent Auction at the 2012 State Conference, please contact Glenda Dicks (620-0758).

You may make the contact or the Silent Auction Committee will willingly contact the business. Monetary donations will be used to purchase additional items. Remember the Silent Auction is our opportunity to make money! Your help is appreciated.

It was suggested at the October meeting that we make available a list of those individuals or businesses that have already been contacted and/or agreed to furnish an item. Following is that list:

Cahaba Heights Hardware
 Petals from the Past
 Myers Plants
 SoHo Retro
 Susan Jackson
 Bruce Steele
 Mike Rushing
 Diana's Hair Salon

The following list represents those businesses that are potential vendors for the Conference. An X next to the name represents those who have been sent vendor packages.

	Vendor Name
X	Alabama Goods
	Andy's Creekside Nursery
	Anything Grows Home & Garden
X	Aquatic Gardens
X	Barbara Dollar Designs
X	The Backyard Pantry
	Barton's Greenhouse and Nursery
X	Bet's Pets (betzpets.com)
	Burchfield Lawn & Garden Ctr.
	Calera Garden Center

X	Captain Compost
X	Cecily Chainy Designer Bling
X	The Cheesecake Factory
X	City Vision "BirmINGham"
X	Classic Gardens & Landscape
X	Collier's Nursery
X	Contri Brothers
	Crawford's Nursery
X	Dixon-Ballog Glass Gallery
X	David Doggett (Maple Trees)
X	Elegant Earth at The Arbor
	Fall Branch Nursery
X	Fern Ridge Farms
X	Fleur De Glas
X	Frontera
X	The Grove
X	Grapes to Cheese
	Green Leaf Garden Center
	Green Valley Farms, Inc.
X	Halawakee Creek Nursery
X	Hanna's Garden Shop
	J & K Nursery
	Jim's Nursery and Greenhouse
	John Deere Landscapes
	John's Nursery & Landscape Serv.
X	Joyful Journey
	J. Loper & Company
	Keith Landscaping Co.
	Kelly's Nursery
X	Leaf Guard (Gutters)
X	Leaf 'n Petal
	Leath Greenhouses, Inc.
X	Lowe's
	M & M Nursery & Trees
X	Men of Iron
X	Merrill Lynch
X	Morgan Creek Vineyards
X	Myers Plants & Pottery
X	Niche Gardens
	Oak Street Garden Shop
X	Petals from the Past
X	Plant Odyssey
	Pleasant Grove Nursery & Hdw
X	Pressed Flower Art
X	Priesters Pecans
X	Regions Morgan Keegan Trust
X	Romano's Macaroni Grill

X	Rootmaker Products Co. LLC
	Ruffner Garden Center
X	Soho Retro
	Sojourns
	Southern Gardens
	Southland Nursery, Inc.
X	Springer Sales
X	Stihl Incorporated USA
	Sweet Pea Garden Shoppe
	Thigpen's Garden Gallery
X	Tsitalia Imports
	Triple J Nursery
X	Tuscaloosa County M,G.s As soc.
	Uncut Flowers
	Veterans Garden Ctr.
X	Teresa Wamble, Artist
	Wayside Farms, Inc
X	Wheel Turned Pottery
X	White Flowers Gallery
X	Wild Birds Unlimited
X	Wildflower

In Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathies to Anne Bloomer (MG Class of 2005) in the loss of her son Jeff Bloomer on October 19, 2011.

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 needs volunteers to assist during the holiday season. Events include: Bow-making Party – November 28 (10 – 1); Holiday Decoration – November 28 – December 1 (9 - ?)]; Greenery Sale Setup – December 1 & 2 (9 – 1); Donate cut greenery for the sale – drop off Nov 28 – Dec 1; Greenery Sale – December 3 (9 – 1). Call Jan Rogers for time slots at 682-8019 or send her an email at jrogers@aldridgegardens.com.

Central South Native Plant Conference, Nov. 4 - 5 Volunteers are needed to work in the following areas and times: Registration Table—4 volunteers needed to work on Friday from 7 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Coffee and Snacks Table—2 volunteers are needed to work on Friday from 7 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Saturday, 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lunch Box Table—2 volunteers needed Friday from 11: 30 – 1: 30 p.m. and Saturday, 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. Volunteers will not be allowed to attend the conference sessions unless they have paid to do so; however they are eligible to receive a discounted conference rate. For more information, contact BBG Volunteer Coordinator Taylor Steele at 414-3962 or tsteele@bbgardens.org.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens' Library needs volunteers to work three-hours shifts on Thursdays from 9 a.m.—1 p.m. a and every fifth Saturday from 10 a.m.—1 p.m. For more information, contact BBG Volunteer Coordinator Taylor Steele at 414-3962 or tsteele@bbgardens.org.

Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 4—5 Central South Native Plant Conference *Native Plants – The Bigger Picture: How Native Plants Complete the Puzzle*. In addition to discussing native plants and their related topics, this conference will focus on the important roles they play in our ecosystems and how we can help keep those systems intact. Discussions will address the interrelationships of native plants to the myriad of life forms...birds, bees, butterflies, bugs—and humans. JCMGA is a sponsor of the conference. As part of the sponsorship members get to attend the conference for the discounted rate of \$100. For members to receive this discount they will need to put this code: **3411J** on their registration form. For more information <http://www.bbgardens.org/central-south.php> or contact Shelly McCarty, Special Events Coordinator for Birmingham Botanical Gardens, with any questions at 205.414.3965 or sbusby@bbgardens.org.

Nov. 16 Invasive Plant Atlas of the Mid-South Volunteer Training Workshop. More information in Bethany's column, page 2.

For a list of upcoming classes and events at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, visit: <http://www.bbgardens.org/all-events.php>. For a list of upcoming classes and events at Aldridge Gardens, visit: http://aldridgegardens.com/visitorsguide/event_calendar.html

Jan. 27 – 29, 2012 Callaway Gardens 26th Annual Southern Gardening Symposium. Program includes: in-depth optional pre-conference workshops; optional pre-conference garden tour; a silent auction; a live auction; and garden marketplace, and topics including Dick Bir's *Shrubs and Small Trees for Southern Understories*; Mike Francis' *The Best Maples for the South*; Tovah Martin's *Infusing the Garden with Personality*; Jason Powell's *Small Fruit Trees for the Home Gardener*; Vincent Simeone's *The Ever Changing and Exciting World of Hydrangeas*; Charlie Thigpen's *Have Fun Gardening*; Shawn Walls' *Wait for it, wait for it...*; and Norman Winter's *Hot New Plants and Captivating Combinations*. Registration fee of \$245 includes Friday evening reception, two continental breakfasts, Saturday box lunch; Saturday banquet, Saturday and Sunday programs and materials. Registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 20, 2012. For details and more information, <http://www.callawaygardens.com/info/gardens/education/events.southern-gardening-symposium.aspx>