



JEFFERSON COUNTY
Master Gardeners

Roots and Shoots

October 2011

President's Message. . .

Having been to the Southern Environmental Center last year, I knew what to expect. However, I had forgotten how enthusiastic the Director, Roald Hazelhoff is about the City of Birmingham. Roald has lived all over the world, and he has chosen Birmingham to work and raise his family. This was a great field trip!

Phillip Hunter gave a wonderful presentation on "Trees in the Urban Landscape" at the September evening meeting. Phillip and his brother own and operate a tree farm in Talladega County. It was most interesting to have an up close and personal look at the challenges and rewards of operating a tree farm.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to remind you one more time to get those volunteer hours reported. I have heard some folks say they don't report their hours because they are not interested in getting an award. Even so, the JCMGA counts on each of us to report our hours for our funding. So, please report those hours. If you need help or need someone to enter your hours electronically, please let me know.

To insure we have your correct contact information, please forward Roger Clarke the membership form (found on page 3 of this newsletter) along with your check for 2012 AMGA and JCMGA membership dues. The total is \$17. You may pay Roger at the October meeting or mail it to him at 414 Norfolk Lane, Homewood AL 35209

Look forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting!

Glenda

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

October Master Gardener Meeting

Oct.11, 2011

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

9:30 a.m.— Hospitality

10:00 a.m. —Meeting

Our meeting this month on October 11 will be our annual "Getting Down to Business Meeting." We will hear from Bethany O'Rear, our newest extension agent, and we look forward to a report from Harold Deason on plans for the AMGA 2012 Conference. For those of us who may have been dozing for the last couple of years, the state conference will be held here in Birmingham next March, and we are ultimately responsible for its success. We will also have a report from the Nominating Committee and the election of officers for 2012. Refreshments will be served at 9:30. The business meeting will begin at 10:00.

Our door prize for this month will be donated by Jon Culver's Sweet Peas Garden Shop in Homewood.

September's field trip to the Southern Environmental Center proved to be an exciting morning. Many thanks to Roald Hazelhoff and Laura Rogers for a fine lecture and tour of the garden. For those who continued, lunch at Niki's West was memorable, especially for the first timers. Our well-attended evening meeting on September 20 was equally interesting. Phillip Hunter's presentation on "Trees for the Urban Landscape" was quite interesting and informative. It has been suggested that Phillip be invited back for a regular day-time meeting and that we explore the possibility of a trip to his farm to observe the digging, wrapping and shipping process. Thank you, Phillip, for a great reason to come out on a stormy night. Thank you, also, to Linda Systrom and Alicia Hall for their delicious cookies.

Bethany's Extension Extra

"Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower" (Albert Camus). Fall is finally upon us. The leaves will soon be turning, exhibiting their brilliant hues of red, yellow and bronze, and, the cooler mornings are a welcome respite from the fury of this summer's heat. How I love this time of year!

I would like to say how much I am enjoying working with the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association. Wow! What a great group of folks! You have made me feel welcome and at home from the very beginning. I have only had the good fortune of meeting a few of you, but I am looking forward to getting to know all of you in the near future.

As I mentioned before, fall is just around the corner, which means that the time to select a new group of participants for the 2012 Master Gardener program is at hand. If you know people who are interested, please encourage them to get their applications in by the middle of October. We will start the selection process shortly thereafter.

Also, the Alabama Cooperative Extension 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 contact me for more details.

See you all at the next meeting!

—Bethany O'Rear

September Treasurer's Report

Submitted by *Roger Clarke*, Treasurer

Beginning balance	\$14,004.94	
Receipts	\$17.00	
Disbursements	\$248.50	
Ending balance September 20, 2011		\$13,773.44

"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>

Annual Banquet

Graduation of 2011 Intern Class and Installation of 2012 Officers

November 8, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Our November meeting will be our annual Banquet to honor the graduates of the 2011 Intern Class and installation of officers for the upcoming year. Prior reservations and payment for the dinner are required. The cost will be announced at the October meeting. Guests are welcome!

Native Plants Needed

Do you have native plants that have multiplied a little too well or wandered into areas where they weren't intended? If you have a surplus or know of a location where they could be dug, the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Native Plant Group needs them. The group propagates and tends the natives sold at the BBG fall and spring plant sales. The sales benefit the BBG, encourage the use of natives in local landscapes, and spreads the word on the value of native plants. The group meets on Wednesday mornings from 9 - 11 a.m. and you can bring plants to them during that time. They ask that you have from 20-30 of any kind of plant in order to make it a viable grouping for the sale. Bring donations to the potting shed behind the public greenhouse. To gain access to this area as well as parking, take the service road off of Cahaba Road not far from the entrance to the Zoo (across the street). If you aren't sure whether a plant is native, need to make special arrangements for delivery, need help digging or transporting or have question, contact Ann Katholi at katholi@bellsouth.net or Betsy Fleenor at mfleenor@bellsouth.net.

"Pass-Along" Plants

Aldridge Gardens has requested "pass-along" plants for their Fall Plant Sale to be held on Oct. 19-21. For more information contact volunteer coordinator Jan Rogers at 205.682.8019 or send an email to her at jrogers@aldridgegardens.com.

JEFFERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MINUTES

September 13 , 2011

The Jefferson County Master Gardener Association met on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at The Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College at 10:00 a.m.

President Glenda Dicks called our meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Glenda announced that a Nominating Committee has been formed to select JCMGA officers for 2012. The following have volunteered to serve on the committee: Ann McAdams, Tom Douglass and Harold Deason, with Bonnie O'Bannon as alternate. Glenda opened any nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, a motion was made that the names as listed above be accepted to serve on the Jefferson County Master Gardeners 2012 Officers Nominating Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

The night meeting of JCMGA will be at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. The speaker is Phillip Hunter and all Master Gardeners are invited to attend.

Glenda reminded us that JCMGA dues for 2012 are now due and payable.

A reminder to report all of your 2012 Volunteer and CEU hours was made.

Glenda then turned the meeting over to Fletcher Harvey, Vice President. Fletcher introduced Roald Hasselhoff, director of the Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College. Roald gave a very exciting and inspiring talk regarding Birmingham, Jefferson County and surrounding areas. He reminded us that our area is really a "gateway to Nature" as we are in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountain chain. He stated we can make our state more livable and also support more communications between our communities by taking vacant and underutilized land and revitalizing it. He stated the EcoScape at BSC serves as a resource and supports the Urban Environmental Studies Program at Birmingham Southern College. Also that the Southern Environmental Center is heavily involved in several projects throughout our city and county, including Railroad Park, Red Mountain Park and Trail among many others.

We then dismissed to tour the EcoScape at Birmingham Southern College Gardens.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Thomas, Secretary

Dues are Due!

We will begin collecting Membership Dues at the October meeting. 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 next meeting 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: _____

AMGA 2012 Conference Update



All the committees have been working hard to insure that all aspects of the conference are covered. I am glad to report that all the speakers for the main and breakout sessions have been identified and most of the contracts are in. Please check the Alabama Master Gardener website, www.alabamamg.org for more information regarding the conference.

Where do you start in thanking volunteers for such an outstanding job in organizing and get the conference ahead of schedule? The Steering Committee and the individual committees have been really focused on getting the best items, best vendors and the best presenters possible.

The major items left for completion are the Conference booklet, getting the registration packet ready for publishing and assembling registration items. There will plenty of work for everyone between now and March.

We really need your assistance in two areas now. The first is the need for more vendors. If you have a favorite store that you shop and get your gardening supplies from ask them about sponsoring the conference. If you do not want to get involved in the details, please provide the information to Linda Systrom or Glenda Dicks and they will contact your lead. The second is good items for the silent auction. These should be items that you would like to have. The silent auction can be items from individuals, shops, artists or any source. Please remember small items can be combined with other items to fill a basket.

If you have questions regarding some aspect of the conference, please ask any of the committee chairs or members or come to the next steering committee meeting following the regular scheduled Master Gardener meeting on 12 Oct 2011. To volunteer, 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. If you have not volunteered and become active with a committee, do it today and bring a friend with you.

—Harold Deason
Conference Chair

Conference Needs Silent Auction Items

The Silent Auction Committee needs your help. If you know a business that might be willing to donate an item(s) for the Silent Auction at the 2012 State Conference, please forward their name, company name, address and phone number to Silent Auction Chair Glenda Dicks at gmdicks@bellsouth.net. The Silent Auction Committee will make the contact. Monetary donations will be used to purchase items. The Silent Auction is an opportunity to make money

October Gardener's Calendar

FRUITS AND NUTS—Planting season for strawberries starts in South Alabama. Clean up orchard area. Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

SHRUBS—Shrub plantings can be made. Water when needed. Note varieties of camellias in bloom. Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.

LAWNS—Continue to mow lawns until no new growth is noticeable.

ROSES—Continue insect and disease control practices. New rose catalogs will be coming in. Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS—Visit flower shows and gardens. List desirable varieties of mums. Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost.

BULBS—Plant tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, crocuses, Dutch irises, anemones, and ranunculuses. Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in warm place.

MISCELLANEOUS—Renew mulch around shrubs and rose beds. Loosen mulches that have packed down. Spray with oils before freezing weather to kill scale, mites, etc. Remove all dead stems and trash from flower beds. Transplant into small pots any cuttings taken earlier.

VEGETABLE SEED—Plant turnips, mustard, kale, rape, spinach, and onion sets.

The deadline for the November issue of *Roots and Shoots* is October 24th. It will be the final issue for 2011. Please send information to newsletter editor Tricia Farris at news@jeffcomg.org.

Invasive Plant Atlas of the Mid-South Volunteer Training Workshop

The Invasive Plant Atlas of the MidSouth (IPAMS) is a program designed to train volunteers to identify important invasive plant species, learn about using the on-line database to enter plant locations, and provide information on the management of these species. During the four-hour workshop, participants will learn to identify forty different invasive plant species, use the IPAMS webpage and database, Early Detection and Rapid Response steps for reporting and managing invasive plants, and how to identifying your location from a GPS or GIS mapping function. Data derived from volunteers will be used to target the management of these invasive species. Each participant will be provided a training manual, species fact sheets, and identification cards for the forty species. Trainers will be Drs. Victor Maddox and John Madsen of the Geosystems Research Institute, Mississippi State University. Training will start at 8:00 a.m. and be completed by 12:00 p.m. Break refreshments will be provided during the workshop.

The workshop will take place in the Auditorium on November 16, 2011 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham. Contact Bethany O'Rear at 205-879-6964 ext. 15 or Bethanyau00@yahoo.com for more information. There is no cost to participate in the workshop.

Fall Color Gardening Workshop

Come learn about: selecting trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs for fall

color, garden design, and planting procedures.

Date: October 13, 2011

Time: 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Wiregrass Research and Extension Center, 167 State Hwy 134E, Headland, AL 36345

Cost: \$10.00

To sign up or for more information, call Denise at 701-0439 or the Headland Extension Center at 693-2010. Preregistration and payment is required by Tuesday, October 11th. Space is limited!

2011 CEUs to date

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

August Meeting – CEU 1 – Eddie Aldridge

Sept. Meeting — CEU 2 – Birmingham Southern College

Sept. Night Meeting—CEU 2—Phillip Hunter



Gardener's Bookshelf

Check out these new arrivals at The Library at

Birmingham Botanical Gardens .

Encyclopedia of Tropical Plants - Firefly Books

The Home Orchard Handbook by Cem Akin and Leah Rottke

Garden up: smart vertical gardening for small and large spaces by Susan Morrison & Rebecca Sweet

Southern Appalachian Celebration: in praise of ancient mountains, old-growth forests & wilderness by James Valentine

Plants & Society by Estelle Levetin and Karen McMahon

Planting the dry shade garden by Graham Rice

Home Ground: sanctuary in the city by Dan Pearson

Living with goats by Margaret Hathaway

Nature's garden: a guide to identifying, harvesting, and preparing edible wild plants by Samuel Thayer

Gardener's guide to propagation: a step-by-step guide by Richard Rosenfeld

A Word from the Speaker's Bureau

We are getting requests all the time from gardening clubs in need of speakers on various topics. So far, all the requests have been fulfilled, but we are in need of more speakers. You will be contacted via e-mail or phone call in the next few weeks asking to be a part of the Speakers' Bureau list. Please consider serving the public in speaking and teaching on topics related to horticulture! If you have any questions or would like to be included on the list please contact Yvette Heath: yvette.heath72@gmail.com or 988-8050.

Community Service Project Update: United Cerebral Palsy Hand-in-Hand Children's Garden

Project coordinator Karen Mitchell reports that 2011 has been a busy year for both students and volunteers in the UCP Hand-in-Hand Children's Garden.

Last spring volunteers put out compost and mulch, sprayed and staked fruit trees, and constructed six planting boxes, row trellises, and a three-bin compost bin. Among the crops planted by the children were: late spring lettuces and spinach, sweet potatoes, summer squash and zucchini, tomatoes, sweet peppers, cucumbers, and morning glories. Parsley plants helped host Black Swallowtail caterpillars and the children also created mud pits in the raised beds to help attract butterflies.

This fall the soil has been amended and the children have planted six types of leaf lettuce, collards, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cabbage, as well as lavender and parsley.

There will be a work day on October 15. Projects will include setting posts and planting muscadines, tilling organic materials into the "field" area, and organizing the garden shed. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Karen Mitchell at karen35216@bellsouth.net.



Community Service Project Update: Glenwood Autism Center

Another Boy Scout has been awarded the designation of Eagle Scout through cooperation with Master Gardeners and the Glenwood Autism Center. Vincent Zicarelli has completed the benches and pergola. Another scout built a fence around the raised beds which has protected the vegetable garden from numerous deer in the area. We have appealed to Troop 320 for another scout to build a picnic table and benches to be placed in the area where we have planted the fruit trees. A Vestavia troop of Girl Scouts will be helping us plant this fall.

We need two volunteers to assist with the Glenwood project. Unfortunately, we lost many of the perennials due to an irrigation problem, which has been remedied. Glenwood does have enough funds to purchase more plants and we have scheduled a planting day on Wednesday, October 26 at 9:00. They could use more irises. If you have some to spare, please bring them to the next meeting or bring them with you on the 26th. If anyone has any creative ideas on making plant markers as an activity for the adults at Glenwood please let me know. The Glenwood adults will be starting their fall garden soon, planting radishes, lettuce and cabbages. Please call Dianne Brannon at 967-6636 if you would like to help plan garden-related activities for the adults with autism at Glenwood or assist with collection of perennials for the Sensory Garden.

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 Fall Plant Sale (Oct. 19-21) needs volunteers to help with the sale and with drop-off and set up on Oct. 17-18. Volunteer coordinator Jan Rogers is also requesting donations of "pass-along" plants to donate for the sale. For more information, contact Jan at 205.682.8019 or send an email to her at jrogers@aldrigegardens.com

Aldridge Gardens needs volunteers to assist with its 2nd annual "**Whispers from the Past: A Native American Experience**" event on October 23rd. Volunteers are needed from 12:30 – 5 p.m. to assist with events like the Three Sisters garden, Medicinal Plant scavenger hunt, beading looms, "Chungke" game, clay coil pots, Atlatyl throw, tattoos, leaf pounding, flintknapping and more. Call Jan Rogers for time slots at 682-8019 or send her an email at jrogers@aldrigegardens.com.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale (Oct. 22-23) needs volunteers to work as Cashiers, Plant Loaders, Box Builders, Hospitality, and Plant Salespersons. Volunteers also needed for set-up day on Friday, Oct. 21. For more information, contact Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens' Library needs volunteers to work three-hours shifts on Monday and Wednesday mornings. 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

Oct. 13 Fall Color Gardening Workshop, Headland, AL. For more information see p. 5 of this newsletter.

Oct. 19 - 21 Fall Plant Sale. For additional information and hours contact Aldridge Gardens at 682-8019.

October 22—23 Birmingham Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale. Saturday, 9-5 p.m., Sunday, Noon-5 p.m. The sale will be held on Blount Plaza at the BBG. For more information <http://www.bbgardens.org/fall-plant-sale.php>

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. See p. 5 of this newsletter.

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://aldrigegardens.com/visitorsguide/event_calendar.html