



JEFFERSON COUNTY
Master Gardeners

Roots and Shoots

July 2011

President's Message. . .

Hope everyone had a happy and safe Fourth of July.

One of my least favorite gardening things is standing out in the early morning hours with a water hose in my hand. I know the recent rains have caused some property damage and interrupted some outdoor activities, but I am so thankful I don't have "to water." Every year I say I'm going to install a drip irrigation system..... so much for good intentions.

At the last MG meeting, one of our members asked to buy a new t-shirt. When I located them in the storage room I noticed there were additional shirts. If you interested in purchasing a new or replacement shirt, the cost is only \$10.00. Make your check payable to JCMG and give your check to Roger Clarke, Treasurer, or any officer.

Some members have not picked up their Stars from the February meeting (Debbie Evans, Taylor Steele, Janet Andrews-Smith, Rosemarie Fernades, Edna Alderman). These will be on the Registration table at the July meeting. After the meeting, I will leave them with Annette Drummond, ACES Administrative Assistant.

If you have paid your annual membership dues (\$17.00) and are not receiving your electronic monthly newsletter, *Roots & Shoots*, please add JCMGA to your contact list. This will avoid the newsletter going into your Spam account. If you have anything you would like to share with other members, the newsletter deadline is the last Monday of the month. The newsletter is the best means for reaching the membership – due to access to the mailing list, we need to limit sending individual announcements.

Speaking of sharing, Myers Plants and Pottery on Hwy 31 in Pelham is celebrating their 40th anniversary with specials each weekend. Also, Myers is inviting interested gardeners to become trial participants for products they want folks to try and offer feedback. These products include plants, fertilizers, fish food, aquatic plant food, gloves and more. The feedback will then be posted on their public discussion board for everyone to read, post and share. All you have to do is sign up on their website. Once you have been selected, you will receive a return e-mail. Then go by Myers, pick up the product, use it and send in your comments. They will rotate the items to get a good overall idea regarding your feelings toward any product. Visit their website (www.myersplantsandpottery.com) for more details on becoming a trial participant and/or unadvertised specials. Myers is a proud sponsor of JCMGA and donated the door prize for our July meeting.

Thank you for the information you have contributed to the Suggestion Box, especially the person who has been adding positive and encouraging notes. All comments are welcomed, read and addressed.

See you at the July meeting. Bring a friend and refreshments are always appreciated.

Glenda

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

June Master Gardener Meetings

July 12, 2011

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Hospitality – 9:30 a.m.

Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

Don't miss Wendy Ulrich's presentation on "Herbal Butters and Vinegars." This should be entertaining and especially timely as our herb beds are currently in full swing. If you're not growing herbs, you can pick up most of the ingredients to work Wendy's magic at your neighborhood market. If you haven't had the pleasure of working with Wendy, you obviously haven't served your term in GPIC or wandered above the first floor of the Garden Center. You might not know that Wendy is a Platinum Master Gardener (Blount County). She assists Dr. Jim Jacobi in our Plant Pathology Lab.

Our July door prize will be donated by Myer's Nursery in Pelham.

Many thanks to Charlie Thigpen's Garden Gallery for our June door prize, and special thanks to Dr. J. Michael Wyss for his interesting discussion of a possibly positive side of kudzu. We will never look at kudzu in the same way again!

We also thank Gary Gray for his entertaining and informative discussion of "Favorite Fruits and Vegetables and Drip Irrigation" on June 21st for our evening session. .

Planning Ahead:

Eddie Aldridge will present our program on August 9. Those who have attended any of his workshops or talks know we're in for a treat. Eddie's presentation will take the form of a "fire side chat without the fire," as he reminisces about his many years of experiences with plants, gardeners and gardening.

Farm, Home and Wildlife Expo

Saturday, August 6

Noon till 5:00

Chilton County Research and Extension Station

Although the program has not been finalized, some of the programs offered will include robotic lawnmowers, biodiesel demo, birds of prey, cultural practice of fruit trees and vines, narcotics dogs, food tastings, entertainment, tours of the experimental and research station.

Directions from Birmingham: I-65 South, Exit 219. Turn Right. Turn Left on County Road 29. Travel 4.5 miles (past Petals from the Past). The Station is on the left.

Central South Native Plant Conference Discounts Registration Fee for JCMGA Members

As sponsors of the Central South Native Plant Conference, the Jefferson County Master Gardeners will receive a discounted registration fee of \$100. The Conference will be held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, November 4 and 5. In order to receive this discount, the code is 3411I must be on your registration form. Complete program information and registration form can be found at:

<http://www.bbgardens.org/central-south.php>.

CEU/Volunteer Hours for 2011

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 — No CEUs

June Meeting — CEU 1 — Dr. Michael Wyss

July Gardener's Calendar

FRUITS AND NUTS-Protect figs and other ripening fruit from birds.

SHRUBS--Continue to root shrub cuttings until late in the month and mulch to keep soil moist. Remove faded blooms promptly from crape myrtle and other summer-blooming plants.

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

ROSES-Keep roses healthy and actively growing. Apply fertilizer. Wash off foliage to prevent burning if any fertilizer falls on plants.

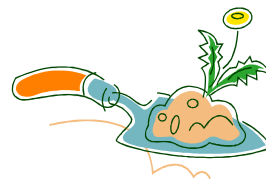
ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Water as needed to keep plants active.

BULBS--Iris and spider lilies may be planted late this month.

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

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant beans, field peas, rutabagas, squash, New Zealand spinach, and Irish potatoes. Plant cabbage, collards, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery for the fall crop.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant tomatoes in Central and North Alabama.



When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

~Author Unknown

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association

June, 2011

The Jefferson County Master Gardener Association met Tuesday, June 14, 2011 in the Ireland Room of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. President Glenda Dicks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She recognized several first-time attendees from the 2011 Master Gardener class.

Glenda introduced Jan Rogers who is the new Volunteer Coordinator at Aldridge Gardens. She replaces LaVerne Martin who recently retired. Jan said that Aldridge Gardens has volunteer opportunities in horticulture and special events, and has recently implemented a program that allows an organization to adopt a zone in the garden. She encouraged anyone who is interested in volunteering to contact her at Aldridge Gardens.

In items of business, Glenda reminded members that dues are past due and those who have not paid their 2011 dues have been removed from the JCMGA mailing list. See Treasurer Roger Clarke if you need to make your dues current. She also announced that volunteers are needed to work the telephones in the GPIC. Contact Glenda or Annette Drummonds in the ACES office to volunteer.

Glenda asked for motions to approve both the Minutes and Treasurer's Reports as published in May and June issues of *Roots and Shoots*. The April items were not approved at the May meeting due to the Plant Swap. All reports were approved as printed in the newsletters with no corrections.

All members were urged to enter their volunteer hours into the on-line automated system. Hours that are not entered into the system and identified with a specific project will not be counted at the end of the reporting year. There are JCMGA members who are willing to help those who do not have computers; however it is advised not to wait until the end of the year to ask for their help. Glenda Dicks reminded members that funding for the MG program is based upon the volunteer hours contributed.

2012 State Conference Chair Harold Deason also noted that hours spent preparing for the conference should be recorded on the on-line system and should also be recorded and sent to Karen Larsen who is coordinating volunteers for the conference. If the 2012 Conference makes a profit, those profits are returned to the state chapters participating in the project using a formula based upon their recorded hours. He also noted that the Conference Steering Committee will meet at the Birmingham Marriott on Thursday, June 16 at 1 p.m.

Vice-President Fletcher Harvey introduced our speaker, Dr. J. Michael Wyss, a faculty member in UAB's Department of Cell Biology. Dr. Wyss was the scheduled speaker for the January 2011 meeting which was cancelled due to inclement weather. Dr. Wyss gave an informative presentation on research of possible medical uses for kudzu, including its effects on cholesterol and insulin production.

Following Dr. Wyss's presentation a drawing was held for the door prize provided by Charlie Thigpen's Garden Gallery.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Farris for Ann Thomas,
Recording Secretary
Jefferson County Master Gardener Association

June Treasurer's Report

Submitted by *Roger Clarke*, Treasurer

Beginning balance	\$14,664.94
Receipts	\$105.00
Disbursements	\$579.00
Ending balance June 18, 2011	\$14,190.94

Next JCMGA Evening Meeting Scheduled for September

The next night meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20 from 6-8 p.m. at the BBG. The program, "Trees for the Urban Landscape," will be presented by Phillip Hunter of Hunter Trees.

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 horticulture volunteers to adopt zones that interest them or to join in the fight against weeds encouraged by all of the recent rains. Call Jan Rogers at 682-8019 to set up a time to get involved with a one time, short-term or long-term horticulture project. There is a group actively involved in the renewal of an old bed and others are invited to join them.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens' Library needs volunteers to work every 3rd Saturday (10 a.m.- 1 p.m.) and every 4th Sunday (2 - 5 p.m.) Weekday shifts also available. 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

June 30 –Seminar: “Sensory Handmade Soaps,” 9:30 a.m.— noon, Aldridge Gardens. Learn several techniques for creating handcrafted soaps. Soap Crafter Julie Morrow will demonstrate “old fashioned” soap making using the cold process method, and class members will receive a bar of Julie’s soap. Next, workshop participants will have the opportunity to create at least two bars of melt and pour soap to take home and enjoy. Attendees will receive detailed hand-outs so that they may continue making handcrafted soaps at home. Cost: \$23 members/\$31 non-members. Pre-registration required. Class size is limited. For more information contact Audrey Ann Wilson, aawilson@aldrigegardens.com, 682-8019, ext. 3.