



JEFFERSON COUNTY
Master Gardeners

Roots and Shoots

May 2011

President's Message. . .

What a wonderful time of year! The gardens are springing into life and for the most part, the weather is pleasant. I love all the shades of green, as well as the beautiful colors in my garden. There seems to always be something to be done in my yard.

Good news! We are one step closer to getting a replacement for Tony's position. Kerry Smith notified me that the position of Regional Extension Agent had been approved. Next they will post the position; candidates will apply, and ultimately the position will be filled. We're still a long way from having the position filled, but the wheels of progress turn very slowly (just like the construction on I-65).

As requests from schools and civic groups are forwarded to me each week, I have to take a step back and remember the objective of becoming a Master Gardener. Part of our Reason for Being a Master Gardener is: To promote accepted horticultural practices and techniques to residents, schools, churches and other public institutions of the Jefferson County area.

I hope that everyone will get involved in a horticultural experience that our group is supporting :

- Glenwood Autism & Behavioral Day Center, Irondale - Installation of a sensory garden. Dianne Brannon 205/967-6636 or dbrannon3553@charter.net
- Snow Rodgers Elementary School, Gardendale – Formation of a Junior Master Gardener's group. Jennifer Phillips 205/631-3947 or jensp5@yahoo.com
- Children's Garden at the United Cerebral Palsy Center, Birmingham – Maintenance of Children's Garden. Karen Mitchell 205/903-1987 or karen35216@bellsouth.net

These are not a person specific projects. These are **Master Gardener** projects and they need our help. Please give them a call and offer your assistance.

With this in mind, I want to clarify (with the help of Kerry Smith), some questions I continue to receive regarding recording volunteer hours.

Monthly meetings: If you participate in any way with the monthly meeting (officers, refreshments, etc.) you may count the meeting time as well as travel time to the meeting as **VOLUNTEER** time. If you only attend a meeting when CEUs are offered you count only the CEU *not travel time*.

State Conference: See Conference program for CEU details for lectures, workshops, sharing sessions - and drive time as just that under the CEU menu. Sorry, no volunteer time for eating or sleeping.

General: Volunteer hours for 2011 must be entered electronically. Volunteer hours must be identified and entered into a specific category. Lump sum hours at the end of the year will not be accepted. If you can assist other MGs with entering hours (which you can count as volunteer time) or, if you need assistance with entering your hours, please let me know. We need to make sure everyone's hours are counted.

Hope to see you at the Linda Emerson Show on May 10!

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

May Master Gardener Meeting

May 10, 2011

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Hospitality – 9:30 a.m.

Plant Swap – 10:00 a.m.

Hold on to your invasives, Linda Emerson will come out retirement to officiate at our annual plant swap on May 10. This not-to-be-missed event is informative and entertaining, and depending upon the type and quality of the plants you plan to share, possibly life-threatening. Participants can swap a maximum of two plants but can put any number on the freebie table for the enjoyment of fellow Master Gardeners. Remember, no evil, noxious, alien, aggressive invasives. And please, don't bring something you'd be embarrassed to take home to your own yard. To allow Linda as much time as possible, we will not have a business meeting.

Our door prize for May will be furnished by Plant Odyssey. Many thanks to Petals from the Past for the April door prize.

Planning ahead:

Our regular June 14 meeting will feature Dr. J Michael Wyss from UAB discussing "Kudzu...Alabama's Next Cash Crop?" Don't miss his report on possible medical applications of by-products of this evil, noxious, alien aggressive invasive. On June 21, Gary Gray will present an evening program from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on "My Favorite Fruits, Vegetables and Drip Irrigation." Join us in welcoming the newest addition to our extension team.



Thank You Plant Sale Volunteers

Spring Plant Sale 2011 Volunteers,

Thank you for your marathon of service preparing and executing the 2011 Sale. It is an honor to work with you, to watch you tirelessly share your knowledge with customers, put in long hours day after day, and rise to each challenge with humor and steadfast dedication.

You make it happen year after year. You bring in the crowds by the thousands and you fuel The Gardens mission.

It is a privilege to work with you...and great fun too...!

With sincere thanks,
Mary-Bestor Grant
Volunteer Coordinator
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Gardeners' Bookshelf



Check out these book suggestions from the BBG Library:

Fast, Fresh, Garden Edibles: Quick Crops from Small Spaces by Jane Courtier

Botanical Flowers in Watercolor
by Michael Larkin

Plant Combinations for your Landscape
by Tony Lord

Backyard Harvest
by Jo Whittingham

Fifty Plants that changed the course of History
by Bill Laws

Good Weed, Bad Weed
by Nancy Gift

Vegetable Gardener's Container Bible
by Edward Smith

Honeybee Hobbyist
by Norman Gary

Attracting Native Pollinators
by Xerces Society

May Gardener's Calendar

FRUITS AND NUTS-Continue spray program. Keep grass from around trees and strawberries. Peaches and apples can still be budded.
SHRUBS--Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks. Don't spray with oil emulsions when temperature is above 85 °F.

LAWNS-Now is the best time to start lawns from seed. Water new lawns as needed to prevent drying. Keep established lawns actively growing by watering, fertilizing, and mowing. Spray weeds in lawns with proper herbicide.

ROSES--Spray or dust for insects and diseases. Fertilize monthly with complete fertilizer or rose special. Container-grown plants in flower may be planted. Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Late plantings of bedding plants still have time to produce. Watch for insects on day lilies.

BULBS-Summer bulbs started in containers may still be planted. Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs. Do not let seed heads form on tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.

MISCELLANEOUS--Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done. Avoid drying out new shrub, tree, and lawn plantings.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant heat-loving and tender vegetables. Start cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery in coldframe for fall garden.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potatoes

JEFFERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

APRIL 12, 2011

The JCMGA April meeting was called to order by Glenda Dicks, President, at 10:00 AM. Glenda turned the program over to Vice President Fletcher Harvey.

Fletcher introduced the newest extension agent located at BBG, Gary Gray. Gary covers twelve counties as extension agent and works primarily with vegetable and fruit growers. He may be reached by e-mail at graygar@aces.edu or by phone number 334-539-2128. Fletcher also introduced our visitors today from Lawrence County Master Gardeners.

Fletcher then introduced our speaker, John Manion, Curator of the Kaul Wildflower Garden at BBG. John invited us to attend three events sponsored by the Native Plant Group: A trip to the Okefenokee Swamp; Classes to obtain a Certificate in Native Plant Studies beginning in May; and the South Central Native Plant Conference being held at the BBG in November, 2011. Dr. Douglas Tallamy, author of the book "Bringing Natives Home," will be a part of this conference. The theme is "Native Plants: The Bigger Picture." John spoke with us on the native Spring ephemerals, followed by a question and answer segment.

Glenda Dicks then opened the business portion of our meeting. The minutes of the March meeting and Treasurer's report were approved as printed in the March edition of *Roots and Shoots*.

New Business: None

Old Business: The JCMGA Board of Directors have unanimously agreed to donate \$500.00 to each of the following projects: the Glenwood Autism Center Project, the Snow Rogers Elementary School projects, and the South Central Native Plant Conference.

A number of volunteer opportunities were discussed. GPIC is in need of more volunteers to man the Plant Information line. Please sign onto the MGA website to indicate which dates you can work.

Glenda Dicks stated that she has received several e-mails from six different groups requesting Master Gardener help. Please refer to *Roots and Shoots* for information. Glenda underscored the need for volunteers for the Speakers' Bureau. A list will be made available on line of MGs willing to speak to various organizations in the community.

Dianne Brannon, coordinator of the Glenwood Autism Center project, reported the plant day for the sensory garden is April 28th at 9:00 AM. See *Roots and Shoots* for directions to the site. The grant received for the project may help purchase more herbs for the garden.

Harold Deason gave an update on the 2012 AMGA Conference to be held here in Birmingham. He reported that 25 JCMG members attended the 2011 Conference in Mobile. Harold asked for a volunteer to head the Fund Raising Committee. The next Steering Committee meeting will be April 21st at BBG.

Wayne Boldin who is in charge of the tropical plants for the BBG Plant Sale requested assistance for receiving plants tomorrow, April 13th, at the plant sale site in Vestavia.

Karen Mitchell reported on the status of the Hand in Hand Children's Garden at the United Cerebral Palsy Center. The lettuce and spinach will be planted on Friday or Saturday. Compost day is on April 22nd with the assistance of Eagle Scouts. See Karen for more information.

Glenda Dicks reminded us to report all volunteer and CEU hours on the ACES system.

Fletcher Harvey announced that our meeting on May 10th is the plant swap with Linda Emerson providing plant information and descriptions. Bring two nice established plants to swap. For any extra plants we bring, there will be a freebie table.

Door prizes were won by Glenda Dicks and LeAnne Porter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Thomas

Secretary, JCMGA



Thanks for the great response for volunteering for the upcoming 2012 Conference. We are still in need of help so please check with Karen Larsen, amg2012cvols@att.net or any committee chair. The facilities and food arrangements are complete with the Thursday night being held at the

Birmingham Botanical Gardens and then the remaining portion will be at the Birmingham Marriott on 280. The Program Committee has developed a great array of speakers that will educate and entertain all in attendance. Fundraising is busy looking for sponsors, vendors, door prizes and items for the silent auction. If you have a contact that can assist in this please let either myself or Glenda Dicks, Fundraising Chair know and we will contact them.

We are working to get the conference on both the local and state websites so that more people with "Mark The Date" for 22 – 24 March 2012.

Harold Deason

Conference Chair

chair2012@aol.com

April Treasurer's Report

Submitted by *Roger Clarke*, Treasurer

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|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning balance | \$14,016.41 |
| Receipts | \$353.00 |
| Disbursements | \$137.49 |
| State dues | \$340.00 |
| Ending balance April 27, 2011 | \$13,891.92 |

Speakers Directory Being Compiled

A list is being compiled of Master Gardeners who would like to share their knowledge with the community through speaking engagements. This directory will be posted on-line soon, so if you are interested in being included, please contact YvetteHeath at 988-8050 or yvette.heath72@gmail.com.

Don't Forget to Record Your Volunteer Hours

When you record your volunteer hours you are not only documenting your level of achievement, you are also helping to demonstrate the value the Master Gardener Program provides to the community. Last year, JCMGA members logged 12,210.28 hours for the second highest total among state MG programs.

The following is the number of 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

"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>

Mobile State Master Gardener Conference

Thanks to Harold Deason for sharing these pictures from the Mobile conference.



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 Hydrangea Plant Sale, Friday, May 20th, Noon to 5:00 PM and Saturday, May 21st, 8:00 AM to Noon. We still have some openings available for volunteers to help. If you are interested in volunteering please give the Aldridge Gardens Volunteer Coordinator a call: 682-8019 x2 or email lmartin@aldridgegardens.com. There are also six opening for volunteers to work on a regular basis at Aldridge Gardens. For an application contact Laverne Martin, lmartin@aldridgegardens.com.

Pizitz Middle School -Sixth grade teacher needs assistance with 20 students who are interested in gardening. The plan is to beautify a courtyard area. Need assistance with planning, instruction on soil preparation, and plant selection. Contact Phillip E. VanderKampvander at kamppe@vestavia.k12.al.us.

Birmingham Zoo—We have an African exhibit opening in a couple weeks and one of the interpretive aspects is a crop garden surrounded by chili pepper plants. In Africa, farmers plant chili peppers around their corn or wheat to deter elephants from eating it all. Elephants hate the taste of capsaicin, the chemical in peppers that makes them hot. We were thinking about a row or two of pepper plants and then a few rows of corn beyond that. The scope is small, the "garden" surrounds the village school, so it's about 8 feet wide by 15 feet long. We would like a couple of gardeners to help us plan the garden, plant thepeppers, and if possible, two or three to help maintain it for the beginning of the summer. Once the corn takes and the peppers fill out, I assume it won't take as much care with weeding. I believe there is an irrigation line near there, so we could even work that out. Let me know if this sounds possible, or if anyone wants to come out and look at the site first before they commit. Andy Schertz Supervisor- Program Animals and Interpretation email aschertz@birminghamzoo.com or phone: 205-879-0409x209 .

Three Hots & Cot - Homeless shelter for Veterans located at 2124 Old Springville Road, Center Point, AL 35215 needs help with plant selection, teaching and installing a vegetable garden. Contact J. D. Simpson 205/306-4761 or jdsimpson@cotsforvets.org.

Grapes, Grains, & Gardens: Thursday, June 9 - Wine, Beer & Food Pairing Class hosted by The Gardens' adult education program needs 20 volunteers to assist in set-up, wine & food serving, and clean-up. Volunteers receive complimentary food & beverage tastings! Preferred shift is 5 PM- 9 PM (shorter shifts may be arranged). Contact Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or mgrant@bbgardens.org.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens Library: Fourth Sunday Shift needs volunteers. Contact Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or mgrant@bbgardens.org.

- **BBG Children's Summer Program**—Teen volunteers or junior Master Gardeners needed. Contact Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or mgrant@bbgardens.org.

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Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Plant Sale:

Aldridge Botanical Gardens:

May 20 – 21 – Hydrangeas: Friday, Noon – 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – Noon

May 21 Growing and Using Herbs , 10:30 a.m., Petals from the Past. Debbie Boutelier's interest in herbs began in the early 80's when she planted her first herb garden with culinary herbs. Her interest rapidly grew into a vocation spanning the many different aspects of using herbs in everyday life. As an Air Force wife, she has lived in different areas of the country and broadened her herbal knowledge with each new assignment. Upon moving to Alabama in 1994, Debbie pursued her interest in herbs and gardening on a full-time basis, taking the Alabama Master Gardener course in 1995. She has given over 5,000 hours of volunteer service to the Master Gardener program. Her involvement with the Master Gardener program led her into a new career as a County Extension Agent in Augga County for 8 years. Debbie now teaches nationally and gives many seminars on organic gardening and the many aspects of herbs. She is also continuing her study of herbs at the Appalachian Center of Herbal Studies. Debbie is a long-time member of the Herb Society of America where she currently serves as the Vice-President. For more information and to register, call 205-646-0069.

May 21 Wacky Wind Chimes, 10 a.m.—Noon, Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Join instructors Hope Long and Adrienne Long for a fun morning of going wacky with terra cotta pots. Participants will paint three pots in any design they choose, then assemble them into a beautiful windchime. All materials furnished. Cost: \$25 BBG members (1 adult & 1 child); \$30 non-members. Register on-line at www.bbgardens.org or call 205-414-3958.

June 4 Trading Species Plant Swap, 9 a.m.—Noon, Birmingham Botanical Gardens. BBG members only can swap plants and mingle while expanding their plant collection. Executive Director Fred Spicer will answer questions and give advice. Bring perennials, annuals, tropical or seeds. Plants must be labeled including sun/shade requirements. Invasive species are prohibited. Pre-registration is required. Register on-line at www.bbgardens.org or call 205-414-3958.

June 7 Lunch & Learn at Aldridge Gardens: Cottage Style Cultivating Creativity and Charm. 10—11:30 a.m. Instructors: Betsy Fleenor, Personal Garden featured in April Southern Living; Rebecca Bull Reed, author Charmed by Cottage Style and Assistant Editor, Southern Living; Members \$11/Non-members \$15. Optional \$7.50 box lunch or bring your own. Drinks provided. To register, www.aldridgegardens.com or call 205-682-8019/X3.