



JEFFERSON COUNTY
Master Gardeners

Roots and Shoots

September 2011

President's Message. . .

After hearing about the *Farm, Home and Wildlife Expo* for several years, I was able to attend this year's event. If you have never attended, I encourage you to put it on your calendar for 2012! It is held the first Saturday in August at the Chilton Research and Extension Center (just down the road from Petals from the Past). There was something for everyone - Children's activities, wildlife control and capture, home lawn care, 4-H Center raptor program, honeybees, gun and dog demonstration, tours of the Center, and much, much more. My favorites well the food, of course, Tastings of many varieties of peaches, peach ice cream and peach cake – well what do you expect from Chilton County!

Kudos to Fletcher for the August MG program! Eddie Aldridge provided an entertaining and informative program on the History of Aldridge Gardens. Eddie and his wife, Kay, are truly an inspiration to all gardeners and are so very giving.

I strongly encourage you to attend our September MG meeting which will be a field trip to the Southern Environmental Center on the Birmingham Southern Campus. I visited this facility last year and was very impressed with their mission and their educational activities. It's worth the trip – here in our own backyard!

Glenda

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

September Master Gardener Meeting

Sept. 13, 2011

Southern Environmental Center
Birmingham Southern College Campus
Meet at BBG to carpool – 9:15 a.m.
Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

Our program on September 13 is a field trip to the Southern Environmental Center on the Birmingham Southern College campus. Roald Hazelhoff promises our group a lecture and tour of their museum and an opportunity to visit their gardens. Getting there will be as easy as 1-2-3... actually, that's the exit (Arkadelphia Road, exit 123) you take from Interstate 20/59 heading toward Tuscaloosa. Take a left on Arkadelphia Road at the top of the ramp and enter the BSC campus on the right. The SEC will be on your right. Even easier, there will be an opportunity to car pool from the Botanical Gardens. We will congregate at BBG around 9:15 and will leave no later than 9:30. If you'd like to take advantage of this option, please give Fletcher a call at 879-4228 or Annette at 879-6964, ext. 10 so we can be sure we've retrieved everybody. There will be a very brief business meeting to elect the Officer Nominating Committee.

On September 20, for our final evening program of the year, we are very fortunate to have Phillip Hunter from Hunter Trees in Alpine, AL presenting his program on "Trees in the Urban Landscape." Before starting his tree farm in Talladega County in 1999, Phillip had several years of local experience with Landscape Services. This should be a

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Meet Our New Extension Agent Bethany O'Rear



Although she is new to the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Bethany's gardening roots run deep. Growing up on a family farm in Blount County, Bethany and her sister were expected to pitch in to help grow vegetables and other crops.

Not only did Bethany learn about gardening, she also learned the value of hard work from her father, who farmed, had a construction business and pastored a small church to support the family. "I learned the benefits of hard work and its importance in building moral fiber. I learned that you must work for what you receive; you can't expect it to be given to you," she said.

When Bethany was in junior high school her family began truck farming. With the proceeds she earned from selling vegetables at parks and parking lots, Bethany put herself through Jeff State and Auburn University, graduating with a degree in Horticulture in 2000.

"I knew from a very early age that I wanted to do something agriculture or horticulture related. I didn't want to be cooped up inside an office," Bethany said.

With her new Horticulture degree, Bethany went to work for Landscape Services. Working initially in Purchasing, her duties expanded to include managing the nursery, as well as consulting with homeowners and property managers.

As a Regional Extension Agent in Commercial and Home Horticulture, Bethany is looking forward to working with Master Gardeners and meeting with gardeners and the public. With her interest in vegetable gardening, she hopes to work to help establish community gardens, and show gardening enthusiasts that they can easily grow vegetables. "It's not that hard, and it has a multitude of benefits," she said.

Bethany and her husband, Cliff, are the parents of two sons: eight-year-old Elijah and nearly-five-year-old Isaac.

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
- August Meeting – CEU 1 – Eddie Aldridge

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.

Speakers' Bureau

The speakers bureau represents one of the most important parts of the Master Gardener program - EDUCATION. Every Master Gardener represents not only the county extension office, but also Auburn University Agricultural Department from which we receive our certification. We delight in educating people on making the world a better place with a healthy respect for nature and all its bounty. Please consider serving the public in speaking and teaching on topics related to horticulture! To be included on this list contact Yvette: yvette.heath72@gmail.com or 988-8050.

—Yvette Heath

Name Badge

If you have lost or worn out your Jefferson County MG name badge and need a replacement, please see Glenda Dicks. The cost is \$5.00. Orders will be placed on October 1. Make your check payable to JCMGA.

JEFFERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MINUTES

AUGUST 9, 2011

The Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association met at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, August 9, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

President Glenda Dicks called our meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending today. There were no first-time attendees.

The Minutes of the July 12, 2011 meeting and the July, 2011 Treasurer's Report were approved as published in the August Jefferson County Master Gardener newsletter.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements: Glenda Dicks stated the new Regional Extension Agent who is replacing Tony Glover's position, Bethany O'Rear, will be in her office beginning August 15th. Volunteers are requested to help clean the office Wednesday and Thursday, August 10th and 11th. Glenda asked that we stop by and welcome Bethany when she arrives.

Dianne Brannon, coordinator of the Glenwood Autism Center project, stated the hardscape projects at the Center were wonderful, as well as the building of the raised beds. Unfortunately, due to the heat and problems with watering, many of the flowers were lost. She stated that they will attempt to replace plants in the fall.

Karen Mitchell, coordinator of the Children's Hand In Hand Garden, reported that the hot weather has also affected the growth in that garden. She stated soil work needs to be done when cooler weather arrives.

Harold Deason, Chair of the 2012 AMGA Conference, reported the planning of the conference is coming along well with the Steering Committee now meeting monthly. Harold also stated the 2011 JCMGA Directory was published last month and is available today. It can also be e-mailed to those members who would like a copy.

Tricia Farris, *Roots and Shoots* editor, thanked everyone who submitted information for the newsletter. She also requested information from any committee chairs. Deadline to send information to be published in *Roots and Shoots* is the last Monday of each month.

Glenda Dicks also gave the following information on volunteer projects:

- A recent article in the Birmingham News described a new garden at Riverchase Elementary School. The article reported that the garden was designed by the Alabama Wildlife Federation with work being done by parents and students. The school initially sent a request for assistance to the JCMGA and no members volunteered. Glenda urged members to be more responsive to community outreach projects.
- In *Garden Pathways* it is noted that this year the Alabama Master Gardener program is celebrating its 30th anniversary. In celebration, ACES and AMGA are encouraging all local MGA's to plant trees in public areas. Glenda asked for a volunteer to chair this project for the Jefferson County Master Gardeners.
- The Jefferson County Beekeeper Association is showing the film, "Queen of the Sun: What are the Bees Telling Us?" to be shown at BBG on Thursday, August 26th, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- Flyers are available on the Sustainable Backyard Series giving dates and times of the six classes to be held. Contact the JeffCo Extension Office if interested in attending any of these sessions.
- For any donations to the Silent Auction to be held during the 2012 AMGA Conference, please contact Glenda Dicks.

The next Night Meeting of the JCMGA will be held at BBG on September 20th. Phillip Hunter will be speaking on Trees in the Urban Landscape, which coincides well with the 30th Anniversary Project of the AMGA.

Vice President Fletcher Harvey announced that our September day meeting will be held at the Birmingham Southern College Environmental Center on Tuesday, September 13th. Meet at 9:30 at BBG if you wish to car pool.

Fletcher then announced our speaker today, Eddie Aldridge, who gave an interesting talk on the history of Aldridge Gardens. Eddie is known internationally for the discovery of the "Snowflake Hydrangea." Eddie talked about his book *A Garden of Destiny* and proceeds from the book sales will go to Aldridge Gardens.

The door prize today was a "Snowflake Hydrangea" and was won by Tricia Farris and Bruce Steele won a copy of the book *A Garden of Destiny* written by Eddie Aldridge.

There being no further business, our meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Thomas, Secretary

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a timely and entertaining program. The meeting will be from 6 to 8 p. m. in the Linn-Henley Lecture Room, and will be open to the public. Bring a guest.

Our sympathy goes to those of you who missed Eddie Aldridge's very special visit in August. Eddie is known for his wonderful personality and fun programs, and August 9 was no exception. An added treat, Eddie's lovely wife Kay was also our guest.

Many thanks, again, to Billy Angell, Oak Street Garden Shop, for his/their continuing generosity. The Snowflake Hydrangea made an appropriate door prize for our "Aldridge Celebration."

—Fletcher Harvey



AMGA 2012 Conference Update

Time is flying by and the leaves are beginning to change color and the days are getting shorter. It is a little like planning for the State Master Gardener Conference; the days are flying by, but it my hair

that has changed color and continues to fall out. It is a real honor to represent the members of the Jefferson County Master Gardeners as the Chairman of the 2012 State Conference on 22 – 24 March 2012. It has been a very interesting eighteen months since we accepted the bid and many issues have been identified and handled thanks to the great Steering Committee for the 2012 Conference. Some of the committee members have been working nearly 18 months on different facets of the conference and getting their teams and committees together to host the best conference ever.

Jefferson County last hosted the conference in 2004 and some of those members are still here today to help with hosting the 2012 conference. The conferences have changed a lot and we have placed more importance on education and communications between master gardeners and the public that we work with. The Alabama Master Gardener Association and all members units are guided by the rules under 501-C-3 which is to be a non-profit organization to provide education and service to the communities and their citizens. During the conference the public is invited to attend, but must pay the entrance fees as do members.

We have had a great response for volunteers but we will need some 140 for the conference so we still need a few more. Let Karen Larsen or any committee chair know and we will get you signed up for helping during the conference. You will not have to work all the time.

We normally hold the Steering Committee Meeting immediately following the regular monthly Master Gardener meeting but this month since we will be at Birmingham Southern College we will postpone the meeting to later in the month. I will announce the date during the meeting at BSC.

—Harold Deason

September Gardener's Calendar

FRUITS AND NUTS--New catalogs will be arriving soon. Start plans for future selection and plantings.

Take soil test for new planting areas. Fertilize established strawberry plantings.

SHRUBS--Study landscape to determine plant needs. Check early varieties of camellias. You may want to replace those damaged in spring by late freezes. After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

LAWNS--Plant seed of winter grasses where situation prevents planting permanent grasses. Winter seeds will appear soon. Stop fertilization three weeks before frost.

ROSES--Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips. Keep plants healthy.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS--Last chance for planting perennials and biennials. Old clumps of perennials may be divided. Plant peonies.

BULBS--Spring-flowering bulbs may be planted late this month in North Alabama. Delay planting in South Alabama.

MISCELLANEOUS--Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc. If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather. Build compost bin or box; leaves will be falling soon. Move houseplants indoors.

VEGETABLE SEED--Plant hardy vegetables and root crops.

VEGETABLE PLANTS--Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, celery, Brussels sprouts, and onion sets.



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.

Send registration & check payable to Capital City MGA to:
Montgomery Co. Ext Office
Two East Office Center 400 Eastern Blvd., Suite 107
Montgomery, AL 36117-2043

2011 Directory Now Available

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



Gardener's Bookshelf

Check out these new arrivals at The Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens .

Vinegar & Oil: More Than 1001 Natural Remedies, Home Cures, Tips, Household Hints and Recipes by Bridget Jones

Planting the Dry Shade Garden: The Best Plants for the Toughest Spot in Your Garden by Graham Rice

Grafting & Budding: A Practical Guide for Fruit and Nut Plants and Ornamentals by W.J. Lewis

Compost, Vermicompost, and Compost Tea: Feeding the Soil on the Organic Farm by Grace Gershuny

Raising Goats for Dummies by Cheryl Smith

Birthday Recognition

In conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of Alabama Master Gardeners, *Garden Pathways* would like to honor any Master Gardeners who are 90 + years old. Since we do not record birthdates, please let me know if you, or someone you know, would meet this criteria. The deadline is September 15, 2011.

-Glenda Dicks

The deadline for the October issue of *Roots and Shoots* is September 26th. Please send information to newsletter editor Tricia Farris at news@jeffcomg.org.

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: _____

MG Volunteers Execute "Extreme Makeover"

What can half a dozen motivated MG volunteers accomplish in a matter of hours? After a flurry of activity, sorting, grouping, recycling, discarding, wiping, polishing, reorganizing and more, the result is **one sparkling office Extreme Makeover.**

Tremendous thanks to Alicia and Ken Hall, Karen Larsen, Natalie Lee, LeAnne Porter and Diane Remick for creating a welcome environment for The Hanna Center's new Horticulture REA/Regional Extension Agent Bethany O'Rear. Please drop by Bethany's office, introduce yourself and check out her sparkling space!

August Treasurer's Report

Submitted by *Roger Clarke*, Treasurer

Beginning balance	\$13,989.94
Receipts	\$15.00
Disbursements	\$0
Ending balance August 23, 2011	\$14,004.94

"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>

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.

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 and every 2nd Saturday. 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

Sept. 11 Aldridge Gardens "Make a Native American Basket" 12:30—5:00 p.m. Instructor Betsy Irwin of Moundville Archaeological Park will discuss different types of weaving materials. Students will then have the opportunity to make their own Cherokee style basket incorporating two different weaving techniques. Bring an old towel and wear old clothes. \$35 members/\$45 non-members includes dyes and all weaving materials. Pre-registration required. Workshop limited to 15. For more information call 682-8019 or visit www.aldridgegardens.com.

Sept. 16 -18 Alabama Orchid Society 27th Annual Show and Sale, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Sept. 27 Fall AMGA CEU Event "All About Trees: Growing for Alabama's Future", see p. 5 of this newsletter.

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.

Employment Opportunity

Gardener Landscaping has opened a nursery in the Riverchase area and needs **part-time help**. Duties include: helping customers select plants, watering plants, checking customers out, helping customers load their items when needed, taking inventory, entering data into reports, labeling plants and merchandise, etc. Employees can qualify for discounts on items they purchase for their own use at their homes. For more information, contact Grant Gardner, Gardner Landscaping, LLC, 3965 Lorna Crest Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35244, Work: (205) 823-3168 Mobile: (205) 401-3347 or e-mail gardenerlandscaping@gmail.com.