



APRIL 2016



*Carol Cook Hagood, Editor*

## President's Message

The old military recruiting poster “Uncle Sam Wants You” and the recruiting slogan: “We’re looking for a few good men and women” come to mind as I sit down to write this! We have a lot of volunteer opportunities and would appreciate any time and talent you have to give! Some are listed later in this newsletter, as well.

Here’s a starter list! **Volunteers are needed for:**

- The **Master Gardener booth** at the BBG plant sale (Contact: Bethany)
- The **BBG Plant Sale** - with all aspects of the sale (Contact: Taylor Steele).
- The JCMGA, to help coordinate the intake and review of project requests (Contact: Ann Gray Harvey).
- The JCMGA, to help host the **state MG meeting in September**. Contact Gail Pless if you are interested in helping – speakers, hospitality, site, etc...
- **The Speaker's Bureau**. Make sure Hope Long has your interests and your contact information.
- The **GPIC** still has open shifts. If you want to work with someone for an update, just sign up when someone else is working until you are comfortable. (Contact Susan Jackson with questions.)
- Numerous other garden programs and groups

Just know that if you are willing there are lots of folks who can use your talent. Please don't be shy about calling and volunteering or asking questions. Any of the folks listed above would be very grateful for the help!

Now is the time to pot plants for **May's plant swap** – if you haven't already done so. Plants transplanted the night before the sale often look a little “shocked”!

As always, natives are encouraged, but most plants, shrubs, and trees are welcomed—and invasives will be turned away at the door! Please don't hesitate to ask if there are questions about what to bring. We invite one or two plants to swap. If you have quantities of sharing plants, you may bring those as well for the “free give away” area. We look forward to this event each year and hope you will participate!

*(continued on page 2)*

## JCMGA March Program Notes

**Tuesday, April 12**  
**9 a.m. Social Hour, 10 a.m. Meeting**  
**BBG's “new” Auditorium**

**What is Under Your Sink  
and in Your Garage?**  
**Sallie Lee,**  
**ACES Urban Regional Extension Agent**

WOW.....what a topic. You know it will be a great presentation, because Sallie is always outstanding in any category.....knowledge, guidance and friendship.

Please come early and bring along a friend, neighbor, or family member, with your best covered dish. We will be meeting in the brand new Auditorium, so it will be good to be back home.

Memo for next month: May 10 PLANT SWAP with Leonora Roberson. Make sure to mark all of your plants, with both names. The swap is always a welcome Spring function for this garden group.

See you!

**Pat**

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

### Bethany's Extension Extras

#### Master Gardener Booth at BBG Spring Plant Sale

The Spring Plant Sale is just around the corner... literally and figuratively!

April is here, so it's Plant Sale time. And we're returning with tents to Macy's at Brookwood Mall parking lot for a second year. Our customers rely on our Master Gardener booth to answer questions, provide information, and spotlight great things our local Master Gardeners are doing. So, if you can fill any of the following slots, please notify me ASAP at [bethany@aces.edu](mailto:bethany@aces.edu).

#### **Friday, April 15**

1:00-3:00 pm – two slots available

3:00-5:00 pm – two slots available

5:00-7:00 pm – two slots available

#### **Saturday, April 16**

11:00 am-1:00 pm – one slot available

1:00-3:00 pm – one slot available

3:00-5:00 pm – one slot available

#### **Sunday, April 17**

11:00 am-1:00 pm – one slot available

1:00-3:00 pm – two slots available

#### 2016 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series

Tune in each month for this timely webinar series to uncover information you can use about good and bad insects. We will discuss how you can help pollinators and other good insects by using pesticides properly. We will also talk about how to control insects we consider as bad, like fire ants, vegetable bugs, a new invasive fruit fly, and cockroaches. Snakes aren't insects but they can be good and bad, so we will have a webinar about them too. New webinars air on the first Friday of each month at 1:00 pm. Click on the title to find information about connecting to the live webinar. If you miss the live webinar, you can still visit individual installments by following the link below. This series of webinars is a great way to gain information at your convenience while earning CEU hours. Whether you attend the live webinar or watch an archived edition later, be sure to visit the [Master Gardener Service Report](#) and log your CEU.

For more webinars in this series, see [2016 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series](#). The webinars are brought to you by the following [eXtension](#) Communities of Practice: [Imported Fire Ants](#), and [Urban IPM](#); and by the [Alabama Cooperative Extension System](#), the [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#), [Clemson Cooperative Extension](#) and the [University of Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture](#). *(continued above right)*

#### **Cumulative CEU Hours from 2016 Meetings**

January 12 (Jason Kirby)	1.0 CEU
February 9 (Reach for the Stars)	No CEU for this mtg.
March 8 (William Cureton)	1.25 CEUs
March 15 (David Glass)	1.25 CEUs

*(Extension Extras, continued)*

#### Your Ideas = New Gardening Programs

Is there a topic you're ready to dig into? Upcoming this summer will be a morning class focused on **Plant Propagation**, providing Master Gardeners with in-depth information about this topic that touches every garden and gardener. Send your ideas to me at [bethany@aces.edu](mailto:bethany@aces.edu) to suggest topics that will interest our Master Gardeners for deeper study.

*(President's Message, continued from page 1)*

**April JCMGA Meeting Note:** We are among the first groups to meet in the newly renovated Auditorium! In addition to hearing a great talk from Sally Lee, come see the changes that have been made since last fall. The newly decorated rooms look great!

Discounted registration for the **Alabama MG Spring Meeting** in Dothan has been extended until April 15. This is a good time to network with other gardeners from around Alabama and to get CEUs!

Take a moment to see the beauty around you as spring continues in full flower around Birmingham and the larger Jefferson County area. This awakening of our landscape is a special time. Enjoy!

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting next week!

**Ann Gray**

Ann Gray Harvey, President

### Treasurer's Report

#### **March 2016**

Beginning balance February 29, 2016	\$10,821.40
Deposits	\$407.00
Disbursements	\$195.00
Ending balance March 31, 2016	<u>\$11,033.40</u>

--- Marie Robertson, Treasurer

## March 2016 Minutes

### Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Meeting – March 8, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the JCMGA was held on March 8, 2016 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 10 AM. Ann Gray welcomed the 2016 Master Gardener Class members and said that the GPIC committee is developing clearer guidelines for training of new interns.

**Secretary's Report:** Ann Gray asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting as printed in the March newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously by the membership.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ann Gray asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report as published in the March newsletter. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as published. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

#### President's Report

Ann Gray thanked Ken Hall's Committee (Susan Jackson, Madeline Rushing and Bruce Steele) and Martha and Maurice Picardy for a wonderful *Reach for the Stars* meeting and lunch in February.

Ann Gray again reminded members that they should sign in at each Master Gardener meeting and that each member is responsible for updating his/her contact information online at the [jeffcomg.org](http://jeffcomg.org) website. Two email messages had been sent out using the new email system and members should be sure they have received them. Ann also asked members to log on to the website for reporting their hours and provide information concerning their garden interests and volunteer preferences at the website tab "My Page".

Ann Gray reported that she and others are working to develop a better procedure for responding in a timely fashion to requests for assistance from the community. A gatekeeper to triage incoming requests and to insure that appropriate master gardening interest groups are contacted needs to be identified. Anyone interested should contact Ann.

The JCMGA has been asked to host the Fall AMGA statewide meeting. The meeting probably will be held at the BBG in September. It will be a one-day weekday meeting with lectures and breakouts and lunch. The meeting is an opportunity to earn CEUs. Ann Gray asked for a motion to approve moving forward with planning this meeting. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Ann Gray announced two upcoming events: the AMGA May statewide meeting in Dothan, May 12-14, and a Master Gardener meeting to be held in Canada April 8-10.

**ACES:** Ann Gray reminded members that there will be a Master Gardener Booth at the Spring Plant Sale, April 13-14. Volunteers are needed.

#### Committees

**Education and Speakers Bureau:** Hope Long reminded members who are interested in speaking that their information needs to be on the website. She handed out forms for members to fill out and return so Diane Remick could update the Speakers Bureau list online. Sandra Oden requested that speakers programs already developed be shared so others could present them.

**Membership:** Linda Systrom asked members who might have forgotten their password for accessing the website to email Bethany and ask for a temporary password so they can log on and create a new password. The temporary password is good for a week or two. Ken Hall said he still had some stars that needed to be picked up.

**Communications:** Ann Gray thanked Carol Hagood for her work on the newsletter and Diane Remick for keeping the website up to date.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Taylor Steele reminded members that the Spring Plant Sale is coming up on April 14-17. The "Dollars and Sense" training for volunteers will be on March 22, 9:30-11 AM at the BBG. Training specifically for volunteers working with vegetables will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 9-11:30 AM.

Taylor introduced Andy Coleman from Birmingham Audubon. Andy discussed a community service project that they would like to invite master gardeners to participate in. Audubon offers mini-grants of \$1000/school year to schools wishing to establish gardens. Ideally master gardeners would partner with schools to help develop the gardens as habitats using native plants. Cards were available at the sign-in table for members to take if they were interested.

(Minutes continued below)

*(March Minutes, continued)*

**Speaker:** Pat Cosgrove introduced the speaker, William Cureton, who spoke on “*Composting Techniques for Sustainable Farming*”. His slides and information are readily available at [captaincompostalabama.com](http://captaincompostalabama.com)

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. Door prizes were given. This program is approved for 1.25 CEUs.

Kathy Rostand, Secretary

## Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Evening Meeting – March 15, 2016

President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens at 6 p.m. There were approximately 30–35 members in attendance. Ann Gray welcomed all in attendance, including several interns from the current Master Gardener class.

### Announcements:

1. There will be a “Household Hazards Waste Collection Day” this Saturday, March 19, at Legion Field-McClendon Park at 400 Graymont Avenue West.
2. The Community Service intake process is being revised to make it more efficient and user friendly.
3. Sallie Lee will be our speaker at the April 12 meeting.
4. If you have stars that need to be picked up, please see Ken Hall.
5. The Alabama Hydrangea Society program on March 23 will feature Jeanie Sherlock on selling hydrangeas and a behind-the-scenes look at the plant sale. The meetings will be held at 1 p.m. at Aldridge Gardens and 6 p.m. at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Pat Cosgrove introduced David Glass as the speaker for tonight’s program. Mr. Glass has worked for many years selling camellias at the Spring and Fall Birmingham Botanical Gardens’ Sale. He is a long time member of the Camellia Society. Mr. Glass has been a Master Gardener since 2000.

Camellias have been grown in China for 5000 years. They were introduced in the U.S. in the 1800’s. There are two primary types that we grow in our gardens, including *Sasanqua* and *Japonica*. In the 1960’s the state legislature adopted the camellia as our State Flower, replacing the goldenrod. There are more than 30,000 camellia japonicas registered.

Camellias have a variable bloom form, including single, semi-double, peony, formal double, rose form and anemone form. You may select camellias for your garden based on color or bloom time. Most camellias do well in our area, and Mr. Glass provided a list of the recommended varieties. Many varieties will be available at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Spring Sale. You should always purchase your camellias from a reputable nursery, and healthy plants should have clear, bright leaves, be free of scale, and have stems with no cuts or scars. When the camellia is removed from the pot, you should see a number of white roots.

Camellias typically grow about 6-12 feet tall and can be used as a hedge if planted three feet apart or as specimens when planted at least six feet apart. You should select a site that offers partial shade, among tall pines is perfect. Camellias will grow in similar sites as azaleas. Cultivars should be planted in late fall to winter. Transplants should also be moved in the fall or winter. Container grown or plants in burlap can be planted at anytime but should be watered weekly when there is no rain. Pruning should be done after flowering. Fertilizer should be applied each spring and he recommended a 10-10-10.

Mr. Glass discussed a number of diseases that can affect your camellias including petal blight (clean up dead blooms and give a fungicide drench in winter) dieback canker (control by pruning to remove diseased area making sure to clean your pruners between cuts with isopropyl alcohol) and root rot which is common in poor drainage areas (treat by improving drainage). He said two of the oils that he prefers are Dormant Oil and Volck Oil. Be sure to follow all package directions.

Mr. Glass said that camellias do not grow true from seed but cuttings, grafting and air layering are all feasible propagation methods. He also discussed techniques used in show flowers to promote larger blooms including disbudding and gibberelic acid. Mr. Glass said that a rule of thumb for camellias is that *Sasanquas* bloom early and *Japonicas* bloom later. Mr. Glass brought a number of beautiful camellia blooms and showed examples of genetic variegations and viral variegations.

Mr. Glass invited all to join the Camellia Society which meets five times each year. An annual show is held each year and a propagation meeting is held each May or June.

Pat thanked Mr. Glass for coming and sharing his love of camellias with the Master Gardener group. Door prizes were awarded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Alicia Hall for Kathy Rostand, Secretary

## Upcoming Events at Aldridge Gardens

To find information about other events or to register for classes, visit <http://aldridgegardens.com>.

The 2016 Plant Sale at Aldridge Gardens takes place  
 (Member's Sale) May 5, 4 – 7 p.m.  
 (Public Sale) May 6, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m and May 7, 9 a.m. – Noon

Don't miss the annual Spring plant sale at Aldridge Gardens, where you can find the perfect plants for your containers or garden spot.

Volunteers and gardeners will be on hand to help with selections and to give advice about placement, care, and maintenance.

[Learn more about the sale here](#) and/or [see a list of the plants available for sale here](#).

## Volunteer Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

If you are interested in volunteering at Aldridge Gardens and would like more information, contact Phyllis Giles at 205-682-8019, or send an email to [volunteer@aldridgegardens.com](mailto:volunteer@aldridgegardens.com).  
 For more information, visit the Aldridge Gardens website.

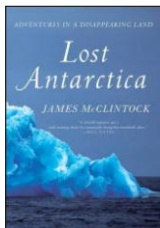
## News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

For more information, visit [www.bbgardens.org/library](http://www.bbgardens.org/library).

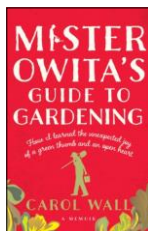
### Art Gallery News

The Art Gallery at The Gardens continues to display the work of Pat Carroll throughout April.

### Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, April 5, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Lost Antarctica* by James McClintock.



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, May 3, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Mr. Owita's Guide to Gardening* by Carol Wall.

Contact Hope Long, director of library services, at 205.414.3931 or [hlong@bbgardens.org](mailto:hlong@bbgardens.org) to learn more about the book club.

### Library Volunteers Needed

Jason Kirby notes that the Library at the Gardens has an immediate need for additional volunteers on Tuesdays (9-1), 4th Saturdays (1-4), 5th Saturdays (10-1), and 5th Saturdays (1-4). Contact Taylor Steele, 205-414-3962 or [tsteele@bbgardens.org](mailto:tsteele@bbgardens.org) for information and a volunteer application.

## Educational Opportunities at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Register online at [www.bbgardens.org](http://www.bbgardens.org) or, for more information, call Dawn Coleman at 205-414-3958.

*Among upcoming classes and events at BBG - look online for more opportunities:*

### **Establishment and Aesthetics of the Traditional Japanese Garden**

**Instructor: Mickey J. Lollar, Curator and Education Programs Director, Berry Library & Museum**

**April 7 | 6-8 p.m. Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Members-Only class**

Whether for recreation, aesthetic pleasure, or spiritual practice, the Nihon Teien (Japanese Garden) utilizes a historical, philosophical, botanical, and physical landscape to provide serene sanctuary for its visitors. This 2-hour lecture will introduce you to the storied history behind traditional Japanese Gardens, the philosophies that have cultivated traditional Japanese garden design, and optimal garden design techniques that are centuries old. Also included in this lecture will be plant and garden ornament identification and details of plant health and soil amendment and supplementation. Upon conclusion, the participants will possess a small portfolio of information, ideas, and sample garden design plans.

### **Photo Talk**

**Instructor: Hank Siegel**

**Every 3rd Sunday | 2 - 4 p.m. Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Free, \$5 donation suggested**

**Ages 12 and up**

If you can answer yes to any of these questions then this discussion group is for you!

1. I'm interested in photography.
2. I want to develop my photographic skills.
3. I want to get the most out of my digital camera's capabilities.
4. I'm not sure my photographs capture the mood I want.
5. I want advice on equipment, tools, techniques, shooting locations, classes, etc.
6. I'd like feedback, in a non-threatening environment, on my images.

Format: Bring your pictures on a jump/flash drive, or on your camera's memory card, or in print.

This group is not a class; it is a casual but informative venue for amateur to expert level photographers to come together to share their ideas, tips, advice, tricks, and knowledge with each other. This group is highly recommended for those who are planning to take or who have already taken digital photography classes offered at the Gardens or other local teaching venues.

### **Detoxify Your Home and Beyond**

**Instructor: Antonia Viteri, Wellness Educator and Consumer Advocate**

**Saturday, April 30|10-2 p.m. Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**\$30 Members| \$35 Non-members**

Are you ready to knock home toxins to the curb and give your home a makeover? Then join Antonia on an elaborate room-by-room journey on how to better make your home toxic free and eco-friendly. Today our modern world overwhelms us with many products for almost every aspect of our lives. Of course, we naturally assume most household products are safe, when in fact many dangerously toxic substances may be lurking in your own home! This class will discuss hidden toxins found in our food, body-care products, furniture, garden-care chemicals, electronics and house-hold cleaning supplies; in addition, offer safer, more natural options that work and make a minimal impact on the environment.

The biggest way one can promote overall wellness is by advocating for environmentally friendly products. So, knowing that consumer demand is a powerful force will be included as a topic to reflect on. Class discussion will further extend to how a home wellness makeover can enhance general health, correct chronic issues, create a better mood and alleviate stress; all notions that extend beyond ourselves. Earthwise Wellness is a universal intention; as work on the individual scale can have a domino effect into the collective scale. Starting with your own home can have a significant impact on many levels beyond.

## Certificate in Native Plant Studies Program

Find more information or register for classes online at <http://www.bbgardens.org/native-plant-studies.php>.

### *Among upcoming CNPS classes and events--look online for additional opportunities:*

(You don't need to be enrolled in the entire series to attend this, or any other CNPS offerings.)

#### **Spring Identification of Native Woody Plants (elective)**

**Instructor: Fred Spicer, Director, Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Saturday, April 9 | 8:30-12:30 p.m. Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**\$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members**

Spring is an especially good time to learn woody plants, since many species will be clothed in their juvenile foliage and even flowers. Using The Gardens' extensive living collections as a hands-on resource, we will focus on attributes and identification features of trees, shrubs, vines and groundcovers found naturally or in cultivation in Alabama.

Attendees will examine and learn to identify approximately 20 plants whose key traits are evident in spring. This is an excellent opportunity to learn how to determine which woody plants grow on your property, or are best to use in your landscape.

#### **The World of Insects: The Good, The Bad, and The Beautiful (elective)**

**Instructor: Henning von Schmeling, Director, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Roswell, GA**

**Saturday, April 30 | 12:30-4:30 p.m. Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Members \$40 | Non-members \$45**

Whether we love or fear them, play with or run from them, insects are an essential part of nature.

Join "Bug Man" Henning von Schmeling for a fascinating workshop which focuses on the beautiful and oft-misunderstood world of insects, why they deserve respect, and how to attract the good ones to your gardens. Indoor presentation followed by a trip out on a bug collecting brigade unlike anything you've experienced before! Magnifying glasses will be provided.

#### **The Beauty of the Black Belt! (new overnight field trip)**

**Prairies, Perry Lakes Park, Barton's Beach, and Spencer Farm**

**Trip Leaders: Brian Keener, Ph.D., University of West Alabama; John Manion, Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator, BBG; and Greg Harber, Chair, Audubon Teaches Nature**

**Friday and Saturday, May 27 and 28 Location: Sumter, Dallas and Marengo Counties, AL**

**Members \$210 | Non-Members \$230**

This overnight trip will begin at the University of West Alabama in Livingston, where we will be joined by Brian Keener. From there we will spend the morning exploring a fascinating and strange prairie and prairie woods near Epes, AL, whose soils contain so much chalk that it looks like someone painted the ground white. This distinctive landscape supports the growth of several special plants.

We will then lunch at the Touch of Home Bakery, a popular Mennonite bakery in Livingston, before travelling to an area near Old Port Bluff, which is rich in fossils (which we may collect) and many botanical curiosities.

Our next stop takes us to a location where we will see, among other treasures, a newly discovered species of *Clematis* sp. nov., leather flower—and a population of the stunningly beautiful *Delphinium alabamicum*, Alabama larkspur, listed as imperiled at both the global and state levels due to its extreme rarity.

After checking into our motel to freshen up we will enjoy a cook-out at the home of Brian and Traci Keener, overlooking the confluence of the Tombigbee and Black Warrior Rivers. The following morning we travel to Spencer Farm, where we will be hosted for a home-cooked breakfast and a glimpse into sustainable farming. Our last stop will be at Perry Lakes Park and Barton's Beach Cahaba River Preserve, where we will rendezvous with Greg Harber to traverse trails along its oxbow lakes rimmed by Spanish moss-draped *Taxodium distichum*, bald cypress. There will be a plethora of birds and plants to observe, as well as the innovative and unique structures designed by Auburn University's Rural Studio, including the 100-foot birding tower moved there from York, AL.

## Volunteer Opportunities with John Manion

Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead volunteer sessions in the Kaul Wildflower Garden on April 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28.

Write John for more information at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org).

***BBG Spring Plant Sale is April 15-17—don't miss it!***

The Spring Plant Sale at Birmingham Botanical Gardens offers customers a chance to shop over 100,000 plants, with each purchase benefitting educational programming at The Gardens.

Annuals, biennials, climbers, bedding plants, herbs, vegetables, natives, roses, trees and shrubs, daylilies, bonsai, camellias, tropicals, irises, perennials, and much more are available for purchase.

Volunteers and staff members are on hand all weekend to provide expert planting advice.

The weekend begins on Thursday, April 14, with a ticketed Preview Party from 5-6:30 p.m., immediately followed by the Members-Only Sale from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The public sale is open on Friday, April 15 from 9-7 p.m., Saturday, April 16 from 9-5 p.m., and Sunday, April 17 from 11-3 p.m. Admission to the public sale is free.



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**We're on the Web! Visit us at [www.jeffcomg.org](http://www.jeffcomg.org).**

**Also see Facebook pages for *Jefferson County Cooperative Extension System*  
and *Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association***