

Roots and Shoots

APRIL 2014



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

President's Message

I write this March 24th, and temperatures in the 20s are expected in two days. Will someone please tell Mother Nature it's spring already?

If you have not visited and explored jeffcomg.org you are missing out on a lot of information. A lot of time and effort went into creating this web site—eye catching, easy to use and informative. What more could you ask for? Let me walk you through the web site:

Along the right side are links to Jefferson County Master Gardeners, the service report, Alabama Extension Service, *Roots & Shoots*, Jefferson County Extension Service, and Alabama Master Gardeners. No more searching for web sites or trying to remember how to get to the service report or who to contact at state. I personally give thanks for these links every time I am on the site.

And across the top of the website are “drop down” boxes with additional links:

About Us gives you:

Newsletters – several issues of *Roots & Shoots*
2014 Officers

Awards – this month a picture of many of the Reach for the Stars recipients

Calendar gives you:

Calendar – and just look at all the activities listed! We are indeed an active group.

Upcoming Events – such as the BBG Spring Plant Sale

CEU's – current opportunities to earn those hours

MG Class gives you:

2014 Intern class

2013 Intern class

2014 class schedule – MG's are welcome to sit in on any of the current sessions. Please notify Annette Drummond if you want to attend, and be sure to bring your own lunch.

Community Service gives you:

Volunteer Opportunities

Speakers Bureau – If you are interested in being a speaker, contact Fletcher Harvey

GPIC

Map shows where we have volunteer projects.

WOW! FANTASTIC! UNBELIEVABLE!

It really is great, and if you want to add your project, volunteer opportunity or community involvement, just contact me at roger.clarke@bellsouth.net.

We have a **terrific** program for our April meeting: David Doggett will be discussing hydrangeas. See you on the 8th!

Roger

Roger Clarke, President

JCMGA April Program Notes

April 8 at BBG

Meeting at 10 a.m., with David Doggett

Whether you are one who experiences “plant lust” at the offerings of the annual BBG spring plant sale or you haven't become acquainted with the world of hydrangeas, this next program is a “must do”! David Doggett will be speaking on Hydrangeas—varieties and their special needs/attributes. This is especially timely with the plant sale starting several days after David's presentation.

Come, make notes on your favorites and then get better acquainted with them in the “Trees and Shrubs” section at the plant sale.

May brings our annual plant swap program. Linda Emerson will be back as our “swap host” and this year will be assisted by Lenora Roberson.

Remember: Invasive plants are not invited for swapping!! If you have questions or concerns, talk to fellow JCMGA members at the April meeting or check in with others before selecting plants.

Bring one or two plants for the swap, if you wish to participate. It helps if you share your plant's identity on a marker or tag. If you know the full varietal name, please include it. Even if you choose not to participate, the plant swap is a wonderful time to get to know a wide variety of plants.

As spring brings gardens back into bloom, it is also a good time to choose and pot plants for sharing! Don't miss the fun or the chaos of this event!

We also need to include a big “thank you” to both Fred Spicer of the BBG and JCMGA member Su Reid-St. John for leadership of two great programs in March. Also, congratulations to all who received stars or new name badges at the March meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on April 8 at 10am at the BBG to learn more about Hydrangeas.



Ann Gray

Ann Gray Harvey,
First Vice President

Bethany's Extension Extra

Have a look at some of the service and educational opportunities coming up for you in the days ahead:

Jefferson County Master Gardeners are invited to the first annual **Chattahoochee Valley Daylily Festival** on Saturday, June 7, from 1—6 p.m. and Sunday, June 8 from 1—5 p.m. You can shop the daylily arts and crafts marketplace, enjoy an accredited daylily show, and learn from the pros.

On Saturday at 3 p.m., Walter Reeves, “The Georgia Gardener,” will share tips and trends in the world of daylilies, and, on Sunday, Oliver Billingslea, who is the author of *Landscaping with Daylilies*, will share daylily design principles.

Tickets are \$15 (one day)/\$25 (both days). For more information, contact Columbus Botanical garden at 706-327-8400 or visit columbusbotanicalgarden.org.



Norwood community gardens folk are planning another garden workday on **Saturday, April 5** (originally scheduled for Saturday, March 29).

Volunteer check-in (with snacks) begins at 8:45 a.m., and work begins at 9 a.m., at the first garden, located at 3301 Norwood Blvd, Birmingham 35234. Bring gloves and a favorite digging shovel, if you have one. There will be extra gloves and equipment on hand if you don't.

The plan is to get several loads of leaf mold moved to the beds and mixed in with the soil already in the beds. Among other benefits, this will help make the soil more workable, especially for some of the older gardeners who have difficulty digging in the heavier soil now in the beds.

Once we finish in the first garden, we'll move on to the second (Steve's garden at 3400 13th Ave. N.) and then finish up at the third (Brian's garden at 3433 17th Ave. N.)

If you have questions about the workday, contact Sarah Bettinger at s_bettinger@hotmail.com.

Cumulative CEU Hours from 2014 Meetings

January 14 (James Horton)	1.0 CEU
March 11 (Fred Spicer)	2.0 CEU
March 18 (Su Reid-St. John)	1.0 CEU

If you would like to get exercise, grow healthy food, and help the community while you're at it, you're invited to volunteer with the **Oliver Elementary Farm Lab**.

You can visit the Farm Lab at Oliver on **Tuesday afternoons between 1:30 – 4 p.m.**, or join the Oliver group **every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month through May**, from 9 a.m. – Noon. (The dates for these workdays are **April 5 and 19, and May 3 and 17.**)

Plan to wear weather-appropriate clothes that can get dirty, and bring gloves, a water bottle, sunscreen, hat, and any other items that can help you stay comfortable in a variety of weather conditions. If there's a thunderstorm, volunteer hours and workdays will be cancelled; but work will go on in a light drizzle.

Contact Steph Munkachy at 334-717-1860 or at steph@jvtf.org if you'd like to volunteer.

As a reminder, the **Women's Ministry at Faith Chapel Christian Center** would like to have a MG booth at the Women's Expo they are scheduling for **Saturday, April 26**, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

They are planning for an attendance of 600 women, and would like MG's to answer gardening questions and provide publications. The group is hoping to provide life-changing information to their community, and would welcome your help. For more information, you can contact Tammy Young at 930-1467.

Treasurer's Report

Feb. 2014/ March 2014

Beginning balance February 1, 2014	\$9,504.53
Deposits	\$452.00
Disbursements	\$152.03
Ending balance March 28, 2014	<u>\$9,821.13</u>
Certificates of Deposit	\$10,349

---Submitted by Lisa Ennis, Treasurer

March 2014 Minutes

The regular, monthly membership meeting of the JCMGA was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). The meeting was called to order by President Roger Clarke. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as written and distributed. The treasurer's report was given by Lisa Ennis. It was approved.

Announcements:

- A family friendly program on strawberry pots will be held on March 18.
- The Spring Plant Sale will be April 11-13, with Members Sale on April 10. It will be held, once again, at Century Plaza. Volunteers are needed for the Master Gardeners booth at the sale. Please see or contact Bethany O'Rear about this. Posters for the sale need to be distributed. Please take some for your school, church, neighborhood, etc.
- The Master Gardeners who pruned roses on March 1 were given a big "thank you." For the first time ever, all of the beds in the Rose Garden were pruned on one day.
- There were Arborvitae ferns 'free to good homes.'
- Fletcher Harvey asked for volunteers for the Speakers' Bureau.
- Registration for the State Conference must be done by the end of this month (March).
- The community garden at Shepherd's Center East was vandalized. Hope Cooper has been in contact with the director and will let us know what we can do to help.
- On April 8th, David Doggett will present a program on hydrangeas.

President Clarke thanked the Piccardys for their work in setting up our meeting room.

Our agenda was re-arranged to accommodate the schedule of our speaker, Director Fred Spicer, and so, we ate lunch.

President Clarke and the awards committee of Ann Thomas, Ken Hall, and Bruce Steele presented the recipients in the Reach for the Stars awards program. Members received 38 awards, including 29 Stars: 19 Bronze, 5 Silver, and 5 Gold. There were also five members receiving Gold Badges and four receiving Platinum Badges. The four Platinum recipients were Pat Cosgrove, Fletcher Harvey, Dale O'Connor and Mike Rushing. Quite an accomplishment for all concerned. At a minimum, these Master Gardeners represent at least 18,400 hours of accumulated work!!

Director, Fred Spicer presented a program on pruning. He distributed an outline with notes and names. The accompanying 'pictorial' history of work done at his home over a number of years included pruning done just days ago. Questions were asked and answered during the talk.

We were adjourned.

Notes from the Board Meeting

We have three new members at large: Tom Douglass, Karen Larsen and Karen Mitchell

We have received a request for assistance from Shelby County MG Dolly Walker for some financial support for work at the Riverchase Elementary School. A motion was made by Fletcher Harvey to send a check for \$100. The motion was seconded by Hope Cooper. Motion passed.

There was discussion of the need for some sort of 'formal budget' for evening meetings. Food and door prizes have been not been budgeted, but donations sought. Honorariums have traditionally ranged from \$25 to \$50.

If you have a door prize for the upcoming evening meeting on March 17, contact Pat Cosgrove.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope I. Cooper, Secretary

Volunteer Opportunities at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Taylor Steele at tsteele@bbgardens.org or 205-414-3962.

Volunteers needed for two major events at BBG

Taylor Steele, Volunteer Coordinator at BBG, needs your help with two large upcoming events.

April 8 – 13, the Annual Spring Plant Sale at BBG

Volunteers will be needed all week to help with set-up, the public sale, and break down. Check with Taylor right away if you have not yet signed up.



and

April 26, Earth Day at The Gardens

The focus this year for EDATG will be on urban agriculture and community gardening, with displays and demonstrations on healthy foods, sustainable living, pollinators, native plants, and eco-friendly family activities that relate to our theme: **Growing Community Roots**.

This free event will include interactive demonstrations featuring topics such as vegetable garden design, organic vegetable gardening, raised bed construction, urban permaculture design, vermiculture, composting, backyard chickens, rainwater irrigation, beekeeping, and much more!

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Oxymorons.

All activities will be in the Bruno Vegetable Garden, and around the Formal Garden in front of the Conservatory. While helping at Earth Day, you'll have the chance to learn a great deal about all of these topics, and to meet many involved in community gardening in Birmingham.

Educational Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

Register online at www.aldridgegardens.com.

Caterpillars to Butterflies: How These Insects Use Plants to Thrive

Mike Howell, Ph.D.

Tuesday, April 22: 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Members: Child \$5, Adult \$10; Family maximum \$20

Non-members: Child \$7, Adult \$10; Family maximum \$26

Learn how a tiny egg, the size of a grain of sand, transforms into a beautiful, colorful butterfly. Mike Howell, Ph.D., author, Biologist, and Professor Emeritus at Samford University will teach us about the life cycle of butterflies in our area.

Each family that registers for the Family Nature Program will receive a butterfly host plant. Plant in a sunny spot, then wait to see if a butterfly lays eggs that transform into caterpillars.

Volunteer Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

Volunteers are needed for two large annual events coming soon at Aldridge Gardens—**Whispers from the Past: A Native American Experience**, on Sunday, April 6, and the **12th Annual Spring Plant Sale** on Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3.

To offer your help, contact Peggy McVay at pmcvay@aldridgegardens.com or volunteer online.

News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

For more information, visit www.bbgardens.org/library.

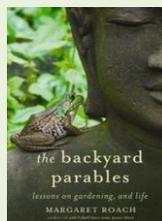
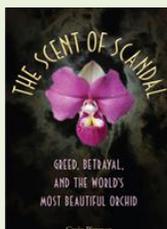
Main Art Gallery:

Don't miss the remarkable work of Danette Steele Jones featured in the art gallery this April. And to see examples of Danette's work online, make a visit to danettejoneswatercolors.wordpress.com/2/.

Thyme to Read book club:

The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, April 1 at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *The Scent of Scandal, Greed, Betrayal, and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid* by author Craig Pittman and *The Backyard Parables* by Margaret Roach.

Come join the group!



Brown Bag at BBG

April 2: Eat Your Yard
William Randle

April 9: Medicinal Gardening
Cameron Strouss

Lunch and learn at BBG; each free session is 11:30 – 12:30. Drinks and dessert provided.

Library Volunteers Needed

The Library at the Gardens has an immediate need for additional volunteers.

If you or someone you know may be available, contact Jason Kirby at jkirby@bbgardens.org.

Educational Opportunities at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Register online at www.bbgardens.org or, for more information, call Dawn Coleman at 205-414-3958.

Among upcoming classes at BBG:

Cocktails with Class: Whiskey Edition

Instructors: Demian and LeNell Camacho Santa Ana

April 7 | 6 - 8 p.m.

\$20 Members | \$25 Non-Members

Demian and LeNell Camacho Santa Ana come to Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Monday, April 7, to host "Cocktails with Class: Whiskey Edition," a class presented by Junior Board of Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Menu:

Iron Fashioned

This drink recently won cocktail competition in honor of Vulcan. Made with Buffalo Rock ginger ale syrup.

Whiskey Sour

We'll sweeten it up with Alabama honey mixed with Georgia cane syrup.

Starry Night Julep

Made with blackberry syrup and mint.

Basic Bee-havior

Instructor: Sallie Lee, Extension Agent

April 19 | 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens – Exploration Classroom

Free Members-Only Class

Get to know the world's sweetest pollinator – make friends with honey bees. Learn how to 'bee-have' around honey bees, and how easy it is to share space with these fascinating creatures. Pollinator populations, including honey bees, are in decline in many countries; learn what is being done to stabilize and increase their numbers worldwide.

If you are not a current member, visit www.bbgardens.org/membership to join or renew online.

Film Screening: *Growing Cities: A Film About Urban Farming in America*

Monday, April 21 | 7:30 p.m.

\$5 Admission (at the door)

Community Garden Coalition for Birmingham and Birmingham Botanical Gardens will host a film screening at 7:30 p.m.

Prior to the film, light hors d'oeuvres, local beer and wine will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. A Q&A session will follow the film at 8:30 p.m.

21 years or older

Note: Be sure to check online for a variety of other interesting classes coming to BBG in May; some may fill quickly, so visit www.bbgardens.org to plan ahead.

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:

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

Alabama's Special Native Plants in Spring (elective)

Instructors: Fred Spicer & John Manion
 Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
 Wednesday, April 2 | 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
 \$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members
 Limited to 10 participants

This special class will be a collaboration with our Georgia counterpart – the Certificate in Native Plants program at the State Botanic Garden of Georgia at Athens. Fred and John will present some of favorite woody and herbaceous plants in spring – which we will see on our walking portion of the class. Many of these plants will be flowering, and the spring ephemerals go dormant in summer. Several of these species make excellent choices for your landscapes.

Spring Visit to the “Botanical Lost World” (field trip)

Trip leaders: Tom Diggs, Ph.D., Fred Spicer & John Manion
 Location: Bibb County Glades
 Thursday, April 3 | 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
 \$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members
 Limited to 10 participants

We will still be leading our annual day-long trip to Bibb County Glades on June 7, but along with participants in the Certificate in Native Plants program at the State University of Georgia at Athens, we will make this spring afternoon visit, allowing us to see a different palette of plants than later in the season.

Making New Plants: All about Plant Propagation (elective)

Instructor: Henry Hughes
 Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
 Saturday, April 5 | 8:30 - 12:30 p.m.

\$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members Plant propagation is the study of plant structures and plant growth and development relating to reproduction by the germination of spores and seed - or by the initiation of adventitious roots and shoots from vegetative structures. Collection, storage, preparation and treatment methods for successful propagation of woody and herbaceous plants will be discussed. In addition to traditional “greenhouse propagation” an introduction to laboratory tissue culture will be included.

Summer Identification of Native Woody Plants (elective)

Instructor: Fred Spicer
 Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
 Saturday, August 9 | 8:30 - 12:30 p.m.
 \$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members

Using The Gardens' extensive living collections as a hands-on resource, we will focus on attributes and identification features of species found naturally or in cultivation in Alabama. Attendees will examine and learn to identify ~20 plants whose key traits are evident in summer, as well as learn which of these plants make good sense to use in your landscapes. This is largely a walking class, held outdoors; please dress appropriately for the weather.

Check online for other upcoming CNPS classes and events; they often fill fast, so plan ahead!

Volunteer Opportunities in Native Plant Studies

Volunteer Workdays – On many Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion leads volunteer sessions in the Kaul Wildflower Garden, beginning at 9 a.m. On Friday mornings, the plant propagation group often meets, as well. For more information, write John Manion at jmanion@bbgardens.org.

The plant sales are coming; get ready to shop!

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Spring Plant Sale 2014 offers more than 100,000 plants!

Preview Party: **Thursday, April 10, 5-6:30 p.m.**
Members-only Sale: **Thursday, April 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
Public Plant Sale: **Friday, April 11, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.,
and Sunday, April 13, 11a.m.-3 p.m.**

Held again this year at the former J.C. Penny at Century Plaza, 7580 Crestwood Boulevard

Aldridge Gardens
12th Annual Spring Hydrangea Sale

Friday, May 2, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Saturday, May 3, 9 a.m. – noon

Shoppers will find many varieties and sizes of hydrangeas at the 12th annual Spring Plant Sale. They can choose from Snowflake, All Summer Beauty and many more. Also natives, bulbs, and companion plants. Members always get 10% off purchase.



JEFFERSON COUNTY
Master Gardeners

Bethany A. O'Rear
Regional Extension Agent
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and
Environmental Center
2612 Lane Park Road
Birmingham, AL 35223-1082

We're on the Web! Visit us at www.jeffcomg.org.

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