

Roots and Shoots

AUGUST 2014



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

President's Message

My four year old granddaughter enters the room with a cheerful "Hello," usually followed by one or two more "Hello?" so "Hello" to our August newsletter.

July was as busy as ever; it is amazing to me how many activities Master Gardeners can get in to a month!

I know for many of you August is a month to get away to beat the heat and humidity of our Alabama summers, but I hope you have our August meeting on the 12th highlighted on your calendar. Michelle Reynolds will be speaking on bird habitat development, a subject I have a great deal of interest in. Future programs include Don Ehrett on Dahlias and Lois Chapman on Edible Gardens. Hopefully Don's dahlias will be in bloom and we can have a field trip.

I know I have said this several times, but I love the summers in Alabama. I grew up in England, not the bright sunny scenes you see on most movies, but the rainy, or overcast and cool days you can associate with Nicholas Nickelby, where summer can be one warm weekend. So I perspire, and sometimes I do complain of the humidity, but overall I love it when its eighty degrees first thing in the morning and I can get out in my garden and putter.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on August 12, and remember that being a gardener is having faith in the future.

Roger

Roger Clarke, President

JCMGA August Program Notes

**August 12, 10 a.m. at BBG
Creating Urban Habitat for Birds
Michelle Reynolds**

I don't know about you, but this time of year finds me looking for shade and shelter until the worst of the summer heat passes. With that in mind, join us in the cool shade of the BBG Auditorium August 12 at 10 a.m. for our monthly JCMGA meeting.

Our speaker this month is someone known to many of you. I met her through volunteering and gardening and I always learn from her! Michelle Reynolds is a native plant enthusiast on a mission to teach others how to put nature back into the urban landscape. As president-elect of Birmingham Audubon's Board of Directors, she is working to bring awareness of the importance of creating habitat for birds in the urban setting of greater Birmingham. She is on the Alabama Rivers Alliance Board of Directors and is an Outdoor Classroom Consultant for the Alabama Wildlife Federation. She leads garden projects, programs, and field trips for local and regional organizations. As a contributing writer and columnist for Alabama Gardener Magazine, she hopes to help readers connect to larger ecological issues.

As we cultivate our own yards and those of our communities, we can provide some of the same essential elements of natural habitat to create bird-friendly landscapes across the city and beyond. This will help offset forest fragmentation caused by urban sprawl.

Michelle has contributed wonderful ideas for the schools where I volunteer and has helped inspire me to a much greater awareness of habitat creation in gardening.

For the calendar: We will have two meetings in September, so mark your calendars for Tuesdays, September 9 for our regular meeting and September 16 for our quarterly evening meeting.

Be safe outside and come join us for these meetings. I look forward to seeing you.

Ann Gray

Ann Gray Harvey,
First Vice President

Bethany's Extension Extra

Here are more interesting educational and service opportunities coming up for you in the months ahead:

BBG EDUCATION PROGRAM NEEDS DOCENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM



Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens is seeking docents to guide middle school students for the *Plants Inside Out* Discovery Field Trip. In teams of two, docents facilitate an educational experience about plants and the environment through hands-on outdoor discovery labs.

This is an opportunity to enjoy being outdoors in The Gardens while contributing to our educational mission! Training is provided (training date to be announced.) Volunteer teams schedule two mornings per month (September-November) and (March-May). Program time for each morning is 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For more information about the program, contact Education Program Coordinator Ellen Hardy at 205.414.3953 or ehardy@bbgardens.org. To get involved today, contact Volunteer Coordinator Taylor Steele at 205.414.3962 or tsteele@bbgardens.org.

Ellen says “We can't wait for you to grow forward with us as a member of our volunteer team!”

Cumulative CEU Hours from 2014 Meetings

January 14 (James Horton)	1.0 CEU
March 11 (Fred Spicer)	1.0 CEU
April 8 (David Doggett)	1.0 CEU
May 13 (Plant Swap with Linda Emerson and Leonora Robertson)	1.0 CEU
June 10 (Japanese Gardens, Robert Wendorf)	1.0 CEU
June 17 (Charlie Thigpen's Garden Gallery)	1.0 CEU
July 8 (UAB speaker and Leonora Robertson)	1.0 CEU

HELP NEEDED AT THE GPIC!

There is an immediate need for more Master Gardeners to help staff the Gerlach Plant Information Center (GPIC) at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

If you have ever worked at the GPIC, you know that it's not only an enjoyable way to serve the gardening public, but also an excellent way to continue learning more and more about plants and gardening yourself. And the fellowship with other MGs working your shift is an added bonus. If you've never worked the GPIC, this just might be a good time to give it a try!

To sign up, just look online; the sign-up schedule is located on the service report website.

Coming Soon....

Save the date ...

(more information to come)

September 16:

ACES event: *Putting Down Roots*

September 19 – 21:

Alabama Orchid Society 30th Annual Show and Sale

Treasurer's Report

June 2014/ July 2014

Beginning balance June 1, 2014	\$9,576.59
Deposits	\$122.00
Disbursements (including State dues 560.00 and toner for GPIC 117.12)	\$927.72
Ending balance July 29, 2014	\$8,770.87

---Submitted by Lisa Ennis, Treasurer

July 2014 Minutes

Jefferson County Master Gardeners Meeting –July 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ann Gray Harvey.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved as written. The Treasurer's Report was approved

Guests were recognized: two interns, Alex and Senitra.

There were no committee reports.

Announcements

A pair of black sunglasses were found after last month's meeting. They were claimed by their owner.

Taylor Steele introduced a new staff member, Brooke McMinn. She is the new Plant Adventure coordinator. She is part of the speaker's bureau and is a Master Gardener.

Upcoming Classes/Events

July 9 – “A Change of Scenery: Landscape Changes for Lifestyle Changes” - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., part of the "Lunch and Learn" series.

July 10 - Class cancelled

July 23 - Vasha Rosenblum

August 6 - Pollinators Landscaping with Sallie Lee

August 13 - James Horton

Program

Dr. Wendy DeMark - Wahnefried and Lenora Robertson presented the program on “Harvest for Health: A Gardening Intervention for Cancer Survivors.”

Gardening intervention has been used since the time of Cicero.

Birmingham's program was a pilot study to help improve diet, physical activity and physical function. Survivors actually do the gardening. Home visits are made. Questionnaires are completed and bloodwork done to chart progress.

New volunteers are needed, especially for rural areas, for the next study. The program pairs a Master Gardener with a one-year survivor. The program requires at least one monthly visit and phone calls. The Master Gardener should be logging visits and calls.

Activity with the MG can include: gardening year round, providing assistance in creating raised beds or earth boxes, supplies and seeds. The gardens should be as organic as possible.

There is a website to upload pictures of people and activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope Cooper, Secretary

Terrific Tomatoes Workshop and Competition Returns August 7!

One of our favorite summer events at BBG takes place this week, as ACES hosts the annual **Terrific Tomatoes Workshop and Competition**, asking “What is life without homegrown tomatoes?”

The event takes place Thursday, August 7th, 8:30 a.m. – Noon
 Cost is \$10, and you are asked to register by Tuesday, August 5.

Everyone is invited to enter their homegrown tomatoes in one or all categories:
 Biggest Tomato, Tastiest Tomato, Most Popular Roma Tomato, and Best Pop-in-Your-Mouth Tomato

Information will be presented on Tomato Variety Selection, Insect Management, and Disease Control.
 Then, following the fun and fellowship of the competition, the morning will conclude with feasting on sandwiches made with home grown tomatoes and bacon! Yum!!

Contact: Sallie Lee at leesall@aces.edu or Bethany O’Rear at Bethany@aces.edu or call 879-6964, ext. 10.

Step into My Garden . . .

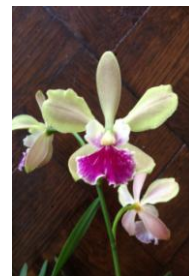
Several Master Gardeners responded to last month’s invitation to send pictures from their summer garden. If you have photos (small files, please) you’d like to share from this year’s gardens, send them to Cchagood@aol.com.



Here’s Linda Grissom pausing to enjoy one of the hundreds of blooms that make her flower garden so spectacular.



This summer I agreed with Fran Brandon’s “Niki Blue” hydrangea. It responded by displaying some really show-stopping color.



With her Cty. Serena’s Tinkerbell “Paradise”—a beautiful specimen—Madelon Rushing is already thinking of Fall, and the September 19-21 Alabama Orchid Show and Sale. Last year, our local orchid group created a display (see below) at the Alabama Show that took first place in its category!



Upcoming Events at Aldridge Gardens

Find more information at www.aldridgegardens.com.

PAINT PARTY

Tuesday, August 19, 6-9 p.m.

This Paint Party with Beverly Klamer is back by popular demand! Using brushes and a palette knife, participants will learn how to paint The Old Oak Tree on a 24" x 24" canvas. Just in time for autumn, we'll be using acrylic paints in the fall color palette, including shades of green, rust and ochre.

All art supplies are furnished, and you'll get to take home a beautiful finished painting. Wear old clothes or bring an apron. And, this is a party, so bring your favorite beverage and we'll provide cheese and crackers.

Gather up your friends and join us for an evening of fun at the Gardens! Ages 21+
\$32 members/ \$42 non-members

Volunteer Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

For information on how to volunteer at Aldridge Gardens, contact Peggy McVay at pmcvay@aldridgegardens.com or follow the link on the Aldridge Gardens website to volunteer online.

News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

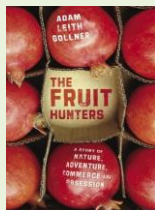
For more information, visit www.bbgardens.org/library.

Director of the BBG Library Hope Long reminds us that our beautiful botanical library is constantly adding interesting new volumes to its collection. Among some new titles to explore: *The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food*, *Practical Botany for Gardeners: Over 3,000 Botanical Terms Explained*; *Indoor Kitchen Gardening: Turn Your Home into a Year-Round Vegetable Garden*; *Handmade for the Garden: 75 Ingenious Ways to Enhance your Outdoor Space*; *Grow a Sustainable Diet: Planning, Growing*. Come and check them out!

Main Art Gallery:

The work of William Thomas continues to be displayed and for sale at the Art Gallery during the month of August.

Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, August 5 at 6 p.m., in the Library at BBG to discuss *The Fruit Hunters: A Story of Nature, Adventure, Commerce and Obsession*, by Adam Gollner. Come join the group!



Brown Bag Series at BBG

August 6: The Buzz on Pollinators
Sallie Lee

August 13: Permeable, Porous, and Pervious
James Horton

Lunch and learn at BBG; this 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.

Current openings are as follows: Mondays (9-1), 2nd Saturdays (10-1 and 1-4), 3rd Saturdays (10-1), and 4th Saturdays (10-1).

Please contact Taylor Steele, Volunteer Coordinator, at 414-3962 or email him at steele@bbgardens.org for an application.

Educational Opportunities at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

Among upcoming classes at BBG:

Photography: Seasonal Series

This course will introduce the participant to techniques, tools and skills necessary to capture visually stunning and interesting images through the creation of a seasonal series of landscapes/nature scenes.

For more information and to register online,
visit www.bbgardens.org/classes.

*August 9, 9 a.m. – noon.
\$65 Members; \$75 Non-Members*

Photography: Water Features (Walking Class)

This class will start with a short, 15 minute presentation in the classroom, then proceed to the various garden water features to actually experiment and experience different techniques: manipulating zoom focus, controlling shutter speeds and aperture (f-stop), and the use of ND filters; all towards getting the images that reflect their creative vision.

For more information and to register online,
visit www.bbgardens.org/classes.

*August 23. 9 – 1 p.m..
\$65 Members; \$75 Non-Members*

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.)

Summer Identification of Native Woody Plants (elective) – 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.

For more information and to register online, visit www.bbgardens.org/native-plantstudies.php.

August 9. 8:30 - 12:30 p.m.. \$40 Members; \$45 Non-Members.

Nighttime on the Cahaba – by Canoe! (field trip) - What better way to escape the heat of summer than participating in a leisurely moonlight paddle on the Cahaba River? This unique and relaxing way of enjoying a flat water portion of the Cahaba River will allow us to experience the Cahaba in a different light; we will see some familiar plants not normally viewed at night, as well as see and hear a variety of wildlife (imagine: beaver tails slapping water and the calls of night birds), including hundreds of glowing firefly larvae. (The majority of proceeds will benefit the Cahaba River Society.)

For more information and to register online, visit www.bbgardens.org/native-plantstudies.php.

August 9. 6 - 10 p.m. p.m. \$45 Members; \$55 Non-Members.

Bat and Plants (field trip) - After visiting some distinctive botanical sites en route to our destination, we will gather at the 264-acre Sauta Cave National Wildlife Refuge, whose cave is home to federally endangered gray and Indiana bats. After a briefing on bats - we will witness what may be the most significant evening bat flights in the Southeast. Recent estimates of bats emerging were 300,000-400,000! After viewing this spectacle, we hope to conclude the evening by observing a resident colony of glow worms. Participants are invited to bring a picnic dinner to enjoy on the cave's observation deck just before dark.

For more information and to register online, visit www.bbgardens.org/native-plantstudies.php.

August 16. 2 - 9 p.m.. \$60 Members; \$70 Non-Members.

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

Volunteer Opportunities in Native Plant Studies

Volunteer Workdays – Volunteer Workdays: Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead volunteer sessions in the Kaul Wildflower Garden on August 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28. The propagation group will meet on Fridays August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. For more information, write John Manion at jmanion@bbgardens.org.

A summer of happy surprises . . .

Early rains brought JCMGA Master Gardener Fran Brandon a Limelight hydrangea that grew taller than she is! (You'll see a detail of this lovely plant on the headline of this month's newsletter.) Fran had another happy hydrangea surprise this summer, as well, with her gorgeous "Niki Blue" (see inside).

Several JCMGA Master Gardeners responded to our invitation to send along photo news from their summer gardens, as you'll see on page 4. If you'd like to share a favorite photo from this season, send it (small files, please), to Carol Hagood at Cchagood@aol.com, with subject line: MG Summer Photo, and, as space permits, we'll try for a *Summer Scrapbook* in the next issue. CCH



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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***