



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

President's Message

This time of year makes gardening a challenge! Between thunderstorms and heat, being outside can be “downright” hazardous! I find myself looking out the window at what needs to be done, but having zero interest in going out!

Still, signs of cooler weather are not far away. School is starting, days are shorter, and football camps are opening!

The MG calendar is about to get busier, as well. As most of you know by now, we have early elections this year for our 2016 Officers. We are making the change this year because of the **immediate work that needs to start for the 2018 Southern Regional Convention in Birmingham.** The Alabama MG group will be hosting the region. Please come to the August Meeting and vote!

If you are interested in leading or working on a committee for the Convention, please see me at the August meeting or send me an email. This event typically draws 500-700 people, so LOTS of help is needed! You may also contact Kerry Smith at Auburn, as well. She will be directing the effort.

The 2015 Summer Intern Class just completed their classwork! Congratulations on finishing successfully! We look forward to welcoming you, as well as the earlier 2015 Intern Class, to the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association. Your 2015 dues are covered by your tuition and we hope you will continue your membership. The monthly meetings are not only good opportunities for the necessary CEUs, but they are also a great place to learn about projects, get plant advice and enjoy some food and fun with fellow MGs.

Be careful out there, and we look forward to seeing you at the August meeting.

Ann Gray

Ann Gray Harvey, President

JCMGA August Program Notes

**COME EARLY AND
BRING A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!**

**Tuesday, August 11
9 a.m. Social hour; 10 a.m. Meeting
Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium
Speaker: Henry Hughes,
Director of Education, BBG**

Topic: Centennial Tree Program

We have covered *Plant Adventures* speaker **Brooke McMinn**, *Organics* speaker **Sallie Lee**, *APPs* speaker **Bethany O'Rear**, *Ferns* speaker **Eleanor Craig**, *Bugs* speaker **Jim Jacobi** and *Garden Styles* speaker **Fred Spicer**.

We also had an *Awards Meeting* with **Ken Hall** and a *Plant Swap* with **Leonora Roberson**. Now we are working our way to the *Trees* speaker **Henry Hughes**. Henry advised that they had spent many hours in the Gardens detailing our trees.

Every garden must have a few trees. Do not worry; there are enough varieties as there are needs: small medium, and large. We have fruit, nuts, flowers, spice, medicinal, evergreen, fragrant ... and on and on. They seem to do for a garden what icing does for a cake, which not only makes it look beautiful, but protects as well.

Do you remember a special tree from your childhood? It was there before you, and will surely be there long afterwards, to help another generation look down upon the earth for miles and miles of views—magnificent—some real and some imaginary. Trees keep us cool in the summer and “warm” in the winter ... long before heatpumps ... and **with no expense.**

See you at the Gardens on August 11! Don't forget family, friends, and neighbors are always welcome guests, and can join us in a warm welcome for **Henry Hughes.**

Pat

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

Mark Your Calendars!

Save the Date: Tallapoosa Co. MG Event

The **Fall Gardening Extravaganza** will return to Tallapoosa County in September.

After much success last year, the Tallapoosa County Extension office and Tallapoosa County Master Gardeners will host another grand event this year.

The 2015 event will be Friday, **September 18th** at Central Alabama Community College in Alexander City. All details can be found at www.aces.edu/Tallapoosa.

Save the Date: Blount Co. MG Fall Conference

The Blount County Master Gardener's Fall Conference will take place on **October 1, 2015**, from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., at Palisades Park in Oneonta. (Street address for the event is D.S. Loyd Buidling, 225 Palisades Park, Oneonta, AL 35121.)

A series of informative sessions will be presented on photographing your landscape (Larry Clowdus), winning success with hostas (Judy Groover), adding vegetables to your landscape (June Mays), and learning how to garden successfully and cost-effectively (Chip East). Your \$20 registration fee includes all program sessions, lunch, and snacks. Participants attending all sessions earn 4 CEUs.

To register, send your \$20 check, made payable to Blount County Master Gardeners Association, along with your name, address, email address, and phone numbers, to Wanda Perrin, Treasurer, Blount County Master Gardeners, 11 Blackberry Lane, Remlap, AL 35133.

For more information about the event, you can contact Sherilyn Osborne at sherilynosborne@bellsouth.net or (205)681-9896, or Wanda Perrin at wandaperrin72@yahoo.com or (205)681-9091.

Volunteer Opportunities in Plant Adventures

Interested in helping adults with special needs to learn valuable life skills while working in The Gardens? Contact Brooke McMinn, Plant Adventures Program Specialist for The Birmingham Botanical Gardens, at bmcminn@bbgardens.org or 205.414.3914 for more information on our volunteer opportunities!

Cumulative CEU Hours from 2015 Meetings

January 13 (Brooke McMinn)	1.0 CEU
February Reach for the Stars program	(no CEU)
March 10 (Sallie Lee and Sloss Group)	1.25 CEU
March 17 (Bethany O'Rear)	1.0 CEU
April 14 (Eleanor Craig)	1.25 CEU
May 12 (Plant Swap: Leonora, Linda, Melanie)	1.0 CEU
June 9 (Jim Jacobi)	1.0 CEU
June 16 (David Doggett)	1.0 CEU
July 14 (Fred Spicer)	1.25 CEU

Still More Service Opportunities to Explore:

Birmingham Eastside EcoGardens: Volunteers are needed at the Birmingham Eastside EcoGardens on the second Sunday of every month. For more information, contact Deanna Cummings at beecommunity@yahoo.com.

Get Into The Gardens ! Interested individuals in helping facilitate demonstration activities and talks on the weekends at Birmingham Botanical Gardens now until Saturday, November 15 are encouraged to contact Volunteer Coordinator Taylor Steele at 205.414.3962 or tsteele@bbgardens.org.

Hikes for Tykes: A Saturday morning field trip at The Gardens geared toward preschool children and their parents. The program is a partnership between Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Fresh Air Family that engages children and their parents in an outdoor educational adventure.

Birmingham Fern Group: Each Thursday in the Fern Glade, volunteers are needed from 9 - noon. If you're interested in joining, contact Volunteer Coordinator Taylor Steele at 205.414.3962 or tsteele@bbgardens.org.



Treasurer's Report

July 2015

Beginning balance July 1, 2015	\$8,385.17
Deposits	\$74.00
Disbursements	\$114.45
Ending balance July 31, 2015	<u>\$8,344.72</u>

---Submitted by Tom Douglass, Treasurer

July 2015 Minutes

Jefferson County Master Gardeners' Association Meeting – July 14, 2015

The regular meeting of the JCMGA was held on July 14, 2015 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). There were 50-55 members present. President, Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

President's Report and Routine Business:

1. Ann Gray asked that everyone sign-in at the sign-in table.
2. Members are asked to pick up any of the stars earned if you have not yet done so.
3. Ann Gray announced that the order for name badges and stars will be placed in the next couple of weeks and to please see Linda Systrom if you are in need of a replacement star or badge.
4. Ann Gray thanked David Doggett for his presentation on propagating hydrangeas. This night meeting was well attended and an excellent program.
5. Ann Gray welcomed new and returning members as well as guests and first-time attendees including Gene Martin, Randy Mayor, Jennifer Thomas, Beth Hamer and Carolyn Boone.

Ann Gray announced that we have had another loss, Don Ehrett, a member of our Master Gardener family. Other losses in the last couple of weeks include the fathers of members Maurice Picardy and Mickey Farmer. Our condolences go out to each of these three families.

Secretary's Report: Ann Gray asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Minutes from the June 9, 2015 meeting or the June 16, 2015 night meeting as published in the newsletter. A motion was made to accept the Minutes as published. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Gray asked if there were any corrections or concerns regarding the Treasurer's report. A motion was made to accept the report as published in the July newsletter. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

Finance: Ann Gray thanked Roger Clarke for his excellent presentation on the finances of JCMGA at the June 9 meeting. Ann Gray said that while we have cash in the bank, the board has adopted a resolution to balance our budget within the next three years. She said that proposals at the June 9 meeting included raising our dues to \$18.00 or \$22.00 per year for local dues. The state dues will remain \$10.00. Ann Gray said that an increase to \$22.00 per year will make a fund raising effort optional, but at \$18.00 we may have to have a fund raiser so that we can continue to support Master Gardener scholarships.

A motion was made from the floor to increase our annual dues to \$25.00, along with the \$10.00 state membership dues. This motion was seconded and approved by the membership. No opposition was voiced and the motion was passed.

Tom Douglass said that our dues have remained \$12.00 since at least 1998.

Nominating Committee: Ann Gray reiterated that a motion was made and approved at the June 9 meeting to select a nominating committee at today's meeting for election of the 2016 officers, to occur at the August JCMGA meeting. This would allow the officers to continue the business of the organization and then select a steering committee to proceed with the 2018 Conference planning.

Karen Mitchell brought up the idea of having officers serve a term of two years instead of a one year term. Ann Gray will look at the bylaws to see if this is consistent with our bylaws.

The nominating committee is as follows: Roger Clarke (President Ann Gray Harvey's appointment), Gary Walker, Nancy Poynor, and Karen Mitchell. The committee will present the slate of officers at the August meeting for a membership vote.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality: Bruce Steele thanked the members who came in early to assist with set-up in the absence of Maurice and Martha Picardy.

(Continued below)

(July 2015 Minutes, continued)

Education: No report.

Membership Committee: Linda asked that members check the sign-in sheet. If your name does not appear, you may not have paid your dues. Ann Katholi asked if previous Master Gardeners could be added to the contact list. Recommendations included forwarding e-mails containing meeting information and /or sending links for the website.

Community Service Spotlight: Taylor thanked Hope Cooper, Kathy Connolly and Ray Thweatt for their work in the vegetable garden during Amanda's pregnancy. Hope and Kathy will coordinate the volunteers during Amanda's maternity leave. Volunteers should let Hope or Kathy know if they are available to volunteer in the vegetable garden. *Urban Farm Camp:* Taylor thanked Gail Pless, Ruth Varnell and Jessica Germany for their work. Brooke McMinn and Taylor Steele were the garden staff overseeing the camp. Partners involved that made this camp a success included the Junior Master Gardeners and Carol Hagood's Girl Scout troop. Gail used her Master Gardener Handbook along with numerous ACES publications in planning the curriculum. Campers were given several ACES publications to take home. The campers put together a vermiculture box and also worked with Amanda Clark in the vegetable garden. Henry Hughes did a lesson on soil science. The campers' ages were 9 – 12 years and there were 11 participants.

Taylor then introduced our community service spotlight guest as **Jennifer Thomas of Americorps**. She is currently assigned to the Woodlawn YWCA. She explained that Woodlawn is an area in transition and is being revitalized. This program teaches teenagers how to grow healthy foods and then to prepare them in a test kitchen. She has about 30 students in her database and consistently has 6-8 students working. She will be reassigned in September and will need master gardener volunteers to assist during the transition to water, harvest vegetables and weed. Students will be available until school starts.

Taylor thanked Jennifer for coming and passed around a sign-up sheet for interested volunteers to give their contact information.

Program: Pat Cosgrove introduced our speaker for today as **Fred Spicer**, Executive Director and COO of the Friends of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Fred has extensive experience in Landscape Architecture. Fred's topic for today was **"An Examination of Garden Design Styles, Historical Influences and Future Development."**

Fred told the group that the Birmingham Botanical Gardens is a representation of historical garden design with real life gardens. In 2010, the gardens developed a new master plan. There are two steps to a master plan: including analyzing the existing gardens features and synthesis of a plan. Gardens can be grouped in different ways. One way is to group them in to nature, culture and collections. At the BBG gardens, the Kaul Wildflower garden is an example of a nature garden, the Japanese Garden and Southern Living gardens are examples of culture gardens, and the Fern Glade is an example of a collections garden.

Formal gardens such as the Dunn Rose Garden are designed with symmetry in mind, including bilateral and radial symmetry. A formal garden has strong geometric shapes, radial curves and high functional spaces, and a highly contoured appearance. Some of the earliest gardens were likely fenced in oasis where fruit and nut trees could be safely grown and protected from animals.

Fred reviewed the characteristics of classical gardens and their origins showing beautiful photographs of one of the earliest examples of landscape architecture from 1450 BCE of the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut in Karnak, Egypt. In addition, there were lovely photographs of the House of Vettii designed in 79 CE in Pompeii, Italy.

The influence of Medieval Gardens was demonstrated by the plan of St. Gall Abbey of St. Gall in Switzerland. This plan was never executed but featured herbs for medicinal and culinary purposes but also numerous plantings used to improve the smell of those who in this era bathed infrequently.

The Italian Renaissance period was demonstrated by St. Peter's Basilica. Fred compared this garden to the Bruno Herb and Vegetable Garden at the BBG. Of note, the Bruno Vegetable garden produces approximately 3000 pounds of edibles each year and Fred would like to see this expanded to triple the size and produce approximately 10,000 pounds each year.

(Continued below)

(July 2015 Minutes, continued)

An example of French Baroque is at the Vaux-le Vicomte in Maincy, France (c. 1660). Fred showed us plans for an extension of the Dunn Formal Rain Garden to include an upper plaza area that would address our storm water drainage issues and create a barrier free garden for those with physical challenges.

Romantic influences can be seen at the Gardens at Castle Howard which are picturesque and with a more wild element. The Gardens at Gravetye Manor in West Sussex England from 1885 is a typical “cottage garden”.

American interpretations of landscape architecture can be viewed at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA, built in 1831. It is perhaps the first public garden.

Frederick Law Olmstead is considered the father of American landscape architecture. He introduced public gardens and designed Central Park in New York. Another notable landscape architect was Jen Jensen who encouraged the planting of only native plants. The Kaul Wildflower Garden includes Arts and Crafts-inspired details with artistic stonework.

Asymmetrical gardens include few geometric shapes and non symmetrical designs. There are serial views creating distinct views as you progress through the garden. The appearance is less construed. They are influenced by religion and arts.

Chinese and Japanese architectural contributions were also noted. The Japanese Gardens at the BBG do not include all of the aspects of a typical Japanese garden, but represents harmony with nature. The Seven Virtues waterfall in the BBG Japanese garden represents rectitude, courage, benevolence, respect, honesty, honor and loyalty. A “Zen Garden” has also been included in the Karesansui or dry garden. Zen is working, not just watching in that the garden is raked to create designs.

American interpretation can be seen at the Donnell Garden in Sonoma, CA by Thomas Church. This iconic modernistic garden is home to the first kidney shaped pool. The Arrington Plant Adventure Zone is a modernistic design and includes event space and space for educational programs. It is designed to accommodate physically challenged individuals. Eco geographical designs can improve existing drainage and wetland issues by incorporating native plants that thrive in this environment. A wetland habitat garden is planned at the Lane Park entrance of the garden and will be the first wetland area for sun loving plants.

Fred included many beautiful photographs of garden design as well as a look forward for the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Ann Gray thanked Fred for his presentation.

Fred assisted with awarding six door prizes. Roger Clarke won the money pot.

Ann Gray announced that the next meeting of the JCMGA would be August 11, 2015. Henry Hughes will make a presentation on the Centennial Tree Program.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

This program is approved for 1.25 CEU.

Respectfully submitted ,
Alicia Hall, Secretary

Upcoming Event at Aldridge Gardens

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

Mosaic Memory Flower Pots

Monday and Tuesday, August 24 and 25, 6 – 8 p.m.

Instructor: Felicia Dubose, Mixed Media Mosaic Artist

Total: \$42 Members/ \$50 Non Members (Materials fee of \$10 included)

Class limited to 12

Bring old jewelry, grandma's broken vintage china, coins, keys, beads, etc. to commemorate your special occasion into your own mosaic 10" flower pot. Session 1: Learn technique, design, and begin application. Session 2: Grout and finish your project. A few tiles, grout, materials and handouts will be provided, but participants should bring their own mementoes and tiles for personal design. Please do not bring glass.

Wear a work shirt, and bring a pen and tile nippers (available at craft stores for about \$12).

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. For more information, visit the Aldridge Gardens website.

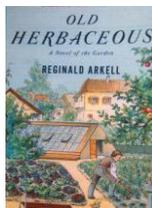
News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

The Junior Master Gardener program engages children in novel, hands-on group and individual learning experiences that promote a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind. JMG also inspires youths to be of service to others. The next upcoming class, on Saturday, August 15, features *Vegetables and Herbs*.

For more information on this and other classes in the series, see www.bbgardens.org/classes.

Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, August 4, 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Old Herbaceous: A Novel of the Garden* by Reginald Arkell.

For a full listing of book club selections for the coming year, visit the Library web site (see above).

Come join the group!

Art Gallery in July/August: *Florals and Landscapes in Alabama* by Magare' Mason

Main Art Gallery:

Margare' is a realist/impressionist painter and loves to paint nature en plein aire so as to capture the light as it changes.

Library Volunteers Needed

Jason Kirby notes that the Library at the Gardens has an immediate need for additional volunteers on 3rd Saturdays (1-4 p.m.), 5th Saturdays (1-4 p.m.), 2nd Sundays (2-5 p.m.), 4th Sundays (2-5 p.m.), and Wednesdays (9 a.m.-1 p.m.).

Please contact Taylor Steele at 205-414-3962 or tsteele@bbgardens.org for more information and a volunteer application.

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 and events at BBG - look online for more opportunities:

Lunch and Learn: What's Bugging You?— Hunter McBrayer, of the ACES Diagnostic Lab, helps identify problems and cures. For more information, visit www.bbgardens.org/classes. *August 5. 11:30-12:30 p.m. Free.*

Lunch and Learn: Curb Appeal – Leaf and Petal demonstrates how to add year-round color, interest, and charm to your landscape. For more information, visit www.bbgardens.org/classes. *August 19. 11:30-12:30 p.m. Free.*

Pruning: Techniques, Outcomes & Design Influences
Instructor: Fred Spicer; Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Thursday, August 20 | 6-8 p.m.
Members-Only

Pruning and training of plants is an essential part of garden development and maintenance, yet even savvy gardeners approach these basic tasks with a mixture of ignorance and trepidation. Using before and after images of selected plants—with recent updates—Spicer tracks the establishment of his home garden, illustrating basic pruning tools, methods, and techniques—and the plants' responses along the way. You'll learn not only the "how-to" but the "why to" as he shows how each approach works to enhance the garden's overall design.

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.)

Introduction to Native Plant Conservation (core)

Instructor: Bob Boyd PhD

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, August 22 | 8:30-4:30 p.m.

\$80 Members | \$90 Non-Members

The flora of Alabama is one of the richest in the country, which underscores the importance of conserving our plants and their habitats. This course is a general introduction to plant conservation, focusing particularly on Alabama plants. We will cover a broad set of topics, including rarity ranking systems, invasive species, restoration ecology, conservation ethics, conservation legislation and conservation methods such as safeguarding. Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance projects will be emphasized as examples.

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

Volunteer Opportunities in Native Plant Studies

Volunteer Workdays: Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead volunteer sessions in the Kaul Wildflower Garden on August 4, 6, and 11.

For more information, write John Manion at jmanion@bbgardens.org.

It's Tomato Time Again!

The **Terrific Tomatoes Workshop & Competition** takes place at Birmingham Botanical Gardens again this year, this time on Thursday August 6, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Update your tomato-growing tips for next season, and enter your tomatoes in our contest.



Enter in one or all of the contest categories:

Biggest Tomato
Tastiest Tomato
Most Popular Roma Tomato
Best Pop-in-Your-Mouth Tomato

Registration fee is \$10; please register by Tuesday, August 4.

For more information, contact Sallie Lee at leesall@aces.edu or Bethany O'Rear at Bethany@aces.edu/ 205-879-6564.



JEFFERSON COUNTY
Master Gardeners

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

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