



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

President's Message

When did it get to be February? Given cooler weather and grey skies, my first inclination is to look for a warm spot for a bit of hibernation! But not the JCMGA! Our group's pace of activity is heating up! In this month when we celebrate love, heart health and "Go Red for Women," the JCMGA celebrates members' heart-felt giving and special service as we "**Reach for the Stars.**"

We have business which will perhaps need a vote in February. The **Bylaw revisions** have been sent to you for review. The Board does not take these changes lightly, and wants to assure that we are following our guidelines as an organization or amending them accordingly. We also want to know if there are issues/changes that we have not considered. The purpose of the changes is to better align the Bylaws with the actual work and functioning of the JCMGA today. Please be in touch if there are questions or concerns.

An **audit** of our 2014 financial practices and position was conducted on Monday, January 19, 2015. My thanks to Harold Deason, Hope Cooper, Tom Douglass, Alicia Hall and Roger Clarke for seeing that this important process was carried out. We will have those results for the membership in February, as well.

The **Birmingham Home and Garden Show** is coming this month! Bethany is still looking for a few folks to help with the MG booth this year. We are in a featured Booth this year! Please see Bethany's report for details and see her if you'd like to volunteer.

Our **Committee Chairs** will be introduced at the February meeting. I hope you will consider your talents and skills and volunteer for one of the committees that support the work of the JCMGA. There are lots of volunteer opportunities; please see me or any of the folks listed as contacts if you are looking for places to be involved! And a huge thanks for all the work that is already underway.

I am looking forward to seeing you next week.

Ann Gray

Ann Gray Harvey, President

JCMGA February Program Notes

February 10, 10 a.m.

**Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium
Reach for the Stars celebration,
followed by a covered dish luncheon**

The February 10th meeting will be the annual awards program, with Ken Hall as our Master of Ceremonies. There are 37 Master Gardener volunteers who have earned a higher level of recognition for the hours they have given to the Gardens and surrounding community. (You will find a list of these volunteers on page 3 of this newsletter). Congratulations to each and every one!

We also want to thank Ken and his committee: Anne Thomas, Madelon Rushing, Bruce Steele, and our wonderful ACES agent Bethany O'Rear.

Following the meeting and awards ceremony, there will be a covered dish luncheon, so be sure to bring one of your favorite dishes to share with your fellow Master Gardeners, as we celebrate another year of activity and achievement.

Next month, at our March 10th meeting, ACES agent Sallie Lee will present an interesting program covering organics. Be sure to mark your calendar for March 10 at 10 a.m.

Then, on March 17, we will have our first night meeting of the year, and this is a do-not-miss! Bethany O'Rear is taking time from her busy schedule to present a program on "apps," with all the new tech and equipment used in cyberspace for anyone who wants to learn more. Be sure to mark your calendar for March 17 at 6 p.m.!

Now, here is an **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT** regarding our meeting place. **While our Feb. 10 Reach for the Stars program will take place, as usual, in the BBG auditorium, following February we will be holding meetings in other areas of the BBG to accommodate upcoming renovations.** Final plans for our new meeting place(s) have not yet been made, so watch your email and the March *Roots and Shoots* to check locations for our March day and evening meetings.

Meanwhile, we hope to see everyone at JCMGA meeting next week. If you are attending for the first or second time, please advise the sign-in table crew, so we can recognize you and let you know how happy we are you have joined JCMGA!

Pat

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

Bethany's Extension Extra

Hello all! As you know, we have been invited to set up a **Speak with a Master Gardener** booth at the 2015 Birmingham Home and Garden show!

This booth will be highlighted as one of the show's feature attractions and publicized as such. Show attendees will be encouraged to bring all of their gardening questions to us. (Internet access and laptops will be made available for MG volunteer usage.)

Take a look at the following link for a spotlight on this feature at the show:

<http://www.birminghamhomeandgardenshow.com/BHGS/AfTheShow/59.aspx>

I would also like to use this opportunity to highlight all that you our Master Gardeners are doing, as well as provide related publications and info on the MG program. Each volunteer is being asked to staff a 2-hour shift, and then you are free to tour the show at no charge.

Please see our booth schedule, as outlined below.

The show hours are as follows.

Thursday, February 12: 11 AM – 9 PM (2-hour shifts, beginning with first shift at 11)

Friday, February 13: 10 AM – 9 PM (2-hour shifts, beginning with first shift at 10, will cover the additional hour with a 3 hour shift, or an additional 1 hour shift)

Saturday, February 14: 10 AM – 9 PM (2-hour shifts, beginning with first shift at 10, will cover the additional hour with a 3 hour shift, or an additional 1 hour shift)

Sunday, February 15: 10 AM – 6 PM (2-hour shifts, beginning with first shift at 10)

Many of these shifts have already been assigned, **but I do have a number of shifts that still need to be filled!**

To make the most of this wonderful opportunity for publicizing the Jefferson County Master Gardener program, we need to have full coverage of this booth.

So, if you can lend a hand, please do get in touch with me right away so that we can find a place for you in this very special opportunity for our JCMGA group!

(Continued above)

In other news, we welcomed a new class of **Master Gardener Interns** in January they are currently enjoying exploring the Master Gardener curriculum. Current members are invited to these classes, too—if there is an area or areas you'd particularly like to “brush up” on, just let the ACES office know you plan to attend, and bring your own lunch.

Whether in the MG meetings or around BBG, I know you will enjoy meeting our new interns and will want to make them welcome to the JCMGA program!

Also, once again, this reminder: So many of you are doing great things, and we are constantly trying to get the word out! There is now another means by which we can publicize all that you do. When you log in to the MG Service Report, please click on the “Success Stories” tab at the top of the page. Share your wonderful efforts, and you can post a picture(s) after the story has been saved.

Regarding the pictures, please do not post any with children included in them. We cannot publicize pictures of youth without a signed waiver.

Posting your stories is a great way to let other MG's see what you guys are doing. Also, it is extremely helpful to Kerry Smith (state MG coordinator).

Bethany

BBG Girl Scout Cookie Orders Delivery

If you placed a cookie order at the January MG meeting, your cookies will be delivered by Scouts at the February 10 meeting.

If you have not yet paid for your order, please be prepared to pay on Feb. 10 with cash or a check (email reminders of your order will be sent this week.)

Extra cookies will also be available for sale.

Treasurer's Report

January 2015

Beginning balance January 1, 2015	\$10,085.58
Deposits	\$572.00
Disbursements	\$1,208.82
Ending balance January 31, 2015	\$9,448.76

---Submitted by Tom Douglass, Treasurer

Cumulative CEU Hours from 2015 Meetings

January 13 (Brooke McMinn) 1.0 CEU

Reach for the Stars Awards 2014

BRONZE - 24

Mary Babbit
 Peggy Comer
 Elizabeth Ellaby
 Jane Fike
 Karen Harmon
 Nonhlanhla Jones
 Dan Jones
 Linda Joseph
 Mitzi Link
 Donna Madison
 Jamie Martinez
 Elizabeth McKean
 Kay Milstead
 Therese Mitchell
 Martha Norville
 Becky Parr
 Gail Pless
 Su Reid-St John
 Dinah Sisson
 Stephen Sisson
 Peggy Thompson
 Ray Thweatt
 Sue Webb
 Diane Wehby

SILVER - 12

Julie Adams
 Sarah Bettinger
 Mary Connolly
 Hope Cooper
 Diane Fisher
 Margaret Fritsma
 Ann Gray Harvey
 Richard Healy
 Jennifer Hicks
 Diana Jones
 Dona Musgrave
 Maurice Picardy

GOLD - 3

Carol Hagood
 Robin Mansfield
 Darlene Walker

GOLD NAME BADGES - 6

Kaye Carlisle
 Roger Clark
 David Doggett
 Alberta Fields
 Linda Grissom
 Diane Remick

PLATINUM NAME BADGES - 4

Ken Hall
 Glenn Peoples
 Bruce Steele
 Thelma Stichweh

JEWELRY - 2+1=3

RUBY- Nora O'Connor
 Linda System

EMERALD-Fran Brandon

Mark your calendars for these exciting Spring events at BBG...

Annual Rose Pruning Event in the Dunn Formal Rose Garden

The Birmingham Rose Society (BRS) will be conducting its annual rose pruning on Saturday, February 28th, 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

If the weather is bad (call the Front Desk @ 414-3900 to be sure), the following Saturday, March 7th is the make-up date.

Volunteers should bring their own pruners (if they have them) and gloves. The BRS members will give on-the-site instructions regarding the proper way to prune roses.

For more information or questions please contact one of the following.

James Horton - 414-3904
Bob Eskew - 823-6621
Taylor Steele - 414-3962

Here are some other events coming up soon at BBG. Save the dates now, and watch for more information in later newsletters:

Spencer Lecture: The 2015 Spencer Lecture, March 5, is the latest in the Spencer Lecture Series made possible by the Virginia Beeland Spencer Lecture Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham. The fund was started by the late Williams M. Spencer, III in honor of his wife, the late Virginia Beeland Spencer. This year, it will feature Dan Hinkley, Seattle-based horticulturist and author, who presents his talk "The Life and Times of a Modern Day Plant Hunter." Register for this event online at BBG.

BBG Spring Plant Sale: The 2015 Spring Plant Sale will be held on April 10 -12 for the public. The weekend event will begin with the preview party on Thursday, April 9, 5-6:30 p.m. The Members-Only Sale will immediately follow on Thursday, April 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Earth Day at the Gardens: Earth Day at The Gardens returns on April 25, 2015 from 11 – 4 p.m. in the Formal Garden in front of the Conservatory. This year, the annual celebration will commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II by highlighting Victory Gardens.

Displays and demonstrations will feature topics such as: 1940's Victory Garden design, archival display of Victory Garden memorabilia, World War II Victory Garden propaganda movies, Victory Garden inspired art crafts, Story time with American Girl Molly and Victory Garden character actors. Focus will be maintained on how urban gardens impacted American culture during World War II and how they impacts us today.

The event is free to the public.

Upcoming Classes at Aldridge Gardens

Find more information or to register for classes, visit <http://aldridgegardens.com>.

Pruning for Form and How to Avoid “Crape Murder”

Sunday, February 22 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Learn the correct guidelines to pruning trees and shrubs, how to eliminate “crape murder,” and the best ways to remove unhealthy clutter from your garden and bring new vigor to your landscape this spring.

[Class size is limited, reserve your space now.](#)

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.

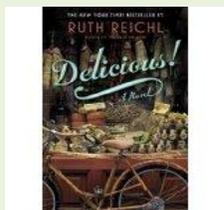
News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

Main Art Gallery:

The work of Fran Nagy and Billie Dupree will continue to be on display and for sale at the Art Gallery during the month of February.

Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, March 3 in the Library at BBG to discuss the book *Delicious* by Ruth Reichl.

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

Come join the group!

Looking for a Unique Gift or Meaningful Memorial?

If you don't see a book in the library that you think we should have, please remember that the library accepts your suggestions and donations.

Also, you may wish to [memorialize or honor](#) a relative, friend, or professional colleague and help grow The Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens at the same time.

Library Volunteers Needed

Jason Kirby notes that The Library at the Gardens has an immediate need for additional volunteers on 3rd Saturdays (10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m.) and 5th Saturdays (1-4 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 at BBG - look online for additional opportunities:

Beginning Zentangle

Instructor: Darla Williamson

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Thursday, February 12 | 9 - noon

\$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members

Zentangle® is an easy to learn method of creating beautiful images from repetitive patterns. It is fun, relaxing and anyone can use it to create beautiful pieces of art! It is enjoyed by a wide range of ages and skill levels across the world. During this two and a half to three hour introductory course, you will learn tangles inspired by nature as well as a few others to show the variety of design in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Ages 12 and up (10 and up if accompanied by an adult).

For the Love of Chocolate

Instructor: Brooke McMinn & Pam Childers

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, February 14 | 10 - 12 p.m.

\$18 Single | \$30 Couple

Few foods inspire such passion in humanity as our beloved chocolate. Learn about the plants that make it possible as well as its fascinating history of ritual, medicine and passion reaching back through the last 4,000 years into exotic lands and ancient cultures. Then grab your spoons and get your aprons ready as we learn the process of creating flavorful hot cocoa stirrers, piping and how to dip your favorite treats. You will take your handmade treats home in a Valentine box perfect for sharing on Valentine's Day! Limited Spaces available!

A Continuing Series: From the Ground Up

Learn how everyday plants in your yard can be used to enhance your beauty regimen and pesky weeds can actually benefit your garden. Every second Saturday, January – May, Herbalist Antonia Viteri and Clinical Herbalist Cameron Strouss will help you discover history and benefits of the fauna around you from the ground up:

Herbs: From the Ground to Medicine Cabinet - Part I

Instructor: Antonia Viteri & Cameron Strouss

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, February 14 | 2 - 4 p.m.

\$15 Members | \$20 Non-Members

“Learn how to treat common household ailments using Southern herbs.”

Part one will introduce 20 Southern herbs. Discussion will focus on traditional uses for promoting relief of common ailments such as: colds, coughs, flu, stress, insomnia, and seasonal allergies. Class time will be spent on plant identification, herbal properties, growth habits, and seasonal times for harvesting medicine. Herbal highlights include: Cayenne, Elder, Goldenrod, Hydrangea, Passionflower, Peach, Solomon's Seal, Yarrow, and Yellow Root. Students will leave this class with informative handouts and recipes.

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---look online for additional opportunities:

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

Plant-Soil Relationships (core)

Instructor: Henry Hughes

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, February 7 | 8:30 - 4:30 p.m.

\$80 Member | \$90 Non-Member

Explore the physical, chemical and biological properties of natural soils as well as the characteristics of the native plant communities growing in them. Plant growth reciprocally modifies soil properties. This class will explore the ways that natural soils and native plants together form unique systems with interdependent living and non-living characteristics. Methods for amending compromised soils to improve plant growth and the technique for obtaining a soil sample for testing will be demonstrated. This class will include some field work.

Native Woody Plants: The Basics and Beyond (elective)

Instructor: Fred Spicer

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, February 14 | 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

\$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members

As somewhat permanent elements in landscapes, both cultivated and natural, native woody plants play numerous important roles. This in-depth look at basic plant types (tree, shrub, vine, deciduous, evergreen, coniferous) will introduce participants to a glossary of terms essential for understanding this plant group, and identifying its members. Concepts will be illustrated with detailed images as well as the opportunity to observe them in The Gardens. This is an excellent class to attend before enrolling in our seasonal woody plant identification.

Making New Plants - Plant Propagation (elective)

Instructor: Gail Barton

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, February 21 | 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

\$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members

This hands-on class will focus on growing plants using methods (seeds, cuttings and division) that may be accomplished by home gardeners. After a review of plant reproductive strategies we will explore vegetative propagation techniques (cuttings and division), after which we will focus on seed propagation. Many types of fruit and seed will be examined, followed by information about harvesting techniques and collection timing. Participants will process the fruit and seed of several plant species to prepare it for planting. We will sow seeds or make them available for those who wish to take them home. Additionally, information will be shared about follow-up care - including seed treatments and storage, planting techniques, recommended supplies, watering strategies and winter protection.

**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 February 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 26. The propagation group will gather each Friday: February 6, 13, 20, and 27. For more information, write John Manion at jmanion@bbgardens.org.

Reach for the Stars!

Here's an Important Reminder:

February is a special month for the JCMGA! Please come celebrate all the volunteer service that has taken place during the past year and receive any awards that you have earned.

Don't forget to bring a dish to share and stay to enjoy a meal after the monthly meeting and awards ceremony. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at the BBG.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone!



Bethany A. O'Rear
Regional Extension Agent
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and
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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**