



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

## President's Message

**Celebrate!** The February JCMGA meeting is one of my favorite meetings each year because it celebrates the great work done by all the members of the JCMGA. A list of award recipients can be found later in this newsletter. While these folks crossed special thresholds this year, this meeting is to celebrate everyone! If that doesn't entice you, the food alone is worth the trip! It's a covered dish event and we have some great contributors. Please check Pat's column, bring a dish and join us for a fun event.

**Donate!** Last month, the Girl Scout troop based at the BBG started a collection of coats and other winter wear for children. Adult sizes are invited as well. Check your closets and clean out the out-grown or gently used and no longer needed winter coats and accessories, and bring them to the February meeting. The Scout troop is collecting them for children in the area who do not have warm clothing.

**Create or Evaluate!** Please double check your data on the MG Service Report Site. We will be using that information going forward as the source for mailing lists and other contact information. Please check the "My Page" tab and make any necessary corrections. If you need help, please contact Alicia Hall or me.

**Procrastinat--ors! Accumulate!** If you still have volunteer hours to enter from the past, the system will accept them. The hours will not count toward the awards given this month, but are needed for other purposes. I know it's tempting to ignore, but please enter them!

**Appreciate!** Help us recognize programs and projects to which our members contribute! We'd like to celebrate good work. Please brag on your friends to Taylor Steele, Bethany O'Rear or me so that we may spotlight work done well.

**Resuscitate your membership!** 2016 dues are to be paid by January 31. Please send/give payment to Marie Robertson if you have not already done so. Dues are \$35 for the year. January 2016 Interns do not pay until 2017.

Before I *herniate* this message with my rhyming...

(continued on page 2)

## JCMGA February Program Notes

**Tuesday, February 9**  
**9 a.m. Social Hour, 10 a.m. Meeting**  
**Shades Valley Presbyterian Church,**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**2305 Montevallo Road (behind Bromberg's)**

**Reach for the Stars Celebration**  
**and Covered Dish Luncheon**

The February 9th meeting will be the annual awards program with Ken Hall as our Master of Ceremonies. There are 36 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 7 of this newsletter: congratulations to each and every one!

We also want to thank Ken Hall and his committee: Madelon Rushing, Bruce Steele, and Susan Jackson.

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.

So what is coming up next month?? "Composting" at the March 8 day meeting, and a March 15 night meeting all about "Camellias." Mark your calendar and check the March newsletter for the location of each meeting.

Meanwhile, we hope to see everyone at the JCMGA meeting on February 9. (If you are attending for your first or second time, please advise the sign-in table crew, so we can recognize you and let you know how happy we are that you have joined JCMGA!)

**Pat**

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

### Bethany's Extension Extra

**MG's: Don't miss out on the action!**

#### Birmingham Home and Garden Show, February 18-21

This year's Birmingham Home and Garden Show is just around the corner, and we need YOUR help! Our Jefferson County Master Gardener booth will be open to thousands of area visitors who need relevant and reliable garden information.

Recruit a partner and make plans now to volunteer during this 4-day show at Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex! Email Bethany O'Rear to reserve your 2-hour timeslots – we have 38 opportunities for Master Gardeners to plug into our schedule for Thursday (11 a.m. – 9 p.m.), Friday and Saturday (10 a.m. – 9 p.m.), and Sunday (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.). Volunteering for this event gives you the opportunity to share important information and jumpstart your volunteer hours for 2016!

#### Audit a Master Gardener class and keep learning

Our 2016 Jefferson County Master Gardener class is already off to a terrific start, with 31 interns participating each Thursday. Maybe you missed a class during your Master Gardener training, or perhaps you want to sharpen your knowledge with a one-day refresher course. Check the calendar for a class you may wish to audit. So that we have plenty of seats in the classroom, notify Bethany O'Rear in advance if you plan to attend.

#### Publications galore!

Are you itching to get outside and get going with winter gardening? The right time to prune may be just days ahead if your plant blooms in May or later. For expert advice on pruning and more, visit Alabama Cooperative Extension System on the web for up-to-date publications on your favorite garden topics.

Smart Yards, a mobile app, is another convenient way ACES delivers information to your fingertips. Visit the App Store and download this free resource to link to information about pruning, lawn care, and more.

#### 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](mailto:bmcminn@bbgardens.org) or 205.414.3914 for more information on our volunteer opportunities!

#### Cumulative CEU Hours from 2016 Meetings

January 12 (Jason Kirby) 1.0 CEU

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

... let me *disseminate* sincere thanks to all of our members for the volunteer leadership, talent, skill and work that are shared with so many each year. The blending of all of those efforts is something beautiful to *contemplate!*

See you at Shades Valley Presbyterian Church for some fun this month!

**Ann Gray**

Ann Gray Harvey, President

#### Spring Project: You Can Make a Beautiful Mosaic Memory Flower Pot

incorporating your own mementos, in an upcoming 2-day workshop at Aldridge Gardens. See page 5.



#### Treasurer's Report

##### January 2016

Beginning balance January 1, 2016	\$10,297.96
Deposits	\$1,460.00
Disbursements	\$585.50
Ending balance December 31, 2015	\$11,172.46

---Submitted by Marie Robertson, Treasurer

## January 2016 Minutes

### Jefferson County Master Gardeners' Association Meeting – January 12, 2016

The monthly meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. Due to renovations in the BBG Auditorium the meeting was held in the Lecture Hall with hospitality preceding the meeting in a classroom. President Ann Gray Harvey recognized one visitor and one member who was attending for the first time.

The minutes of the November meeting, which had been sent out in the newsletter, were approved without corrections.

Marie Robertson was introduced as the new treasurer and members were encouraged to pay their dues to her after the meeting. Dues should be paid by January 31. Marie reported that the recent audit was favorable but had recommended more detailed reporting. She gave a summary of our income and expenses, the cost of the banquet and the balance for 2015. Ann, responding to a question, said our reserve account was a little over \$10,000. It was moved and seconded that the audit report and the Treasurer's report as printed in the newsletter be accepted. The motion passed, unanimously.

**President's Report:** Ann Gray announced that the Birmingham Home & Garden Show will be February 18-21 and asked that anyone willing to help to please see Bethany.

If anyone needs a new name badge they should tell Ken Hall or Linda Systrom. Replacement name badges will be made only in January and September.

As part of our community outreach, today's food donations will go to the Christian Service Mission to supplement their food pantry needs.

Watch for the location for our February potluck Reach for the Stars event. It cannot be held at the BBG because of ongoing renovations. Members should report their hours by Friday, January 15 at midnight.

Ann Gray asked members to please update their information on JCMGA Service Report (which may be reached via the JCMGA.org webpage by using the "my page" tab.) The contact information shown there will be the contact information used by this organization – phone, email and home address.

Ann Gray announced a class at Aldridge Gardens entitled "*Crape Murder*" and *Pruning for Form*. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 6-8 PM. Class size is limited so pre-registration is suggested.

**Extension Liaison Report:** Bethany asked for volunteers to help in the MG/ACES booth at the Home & Garden Show on February 18-21. There will be two-person shifts on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Bethany presented more information about the work that the Christian Services Mission does including providing "compassion boxes," supplying other food pantries when needed, helping during disasters, and bringing the faith-based community together. Their community gardens may serve as projects for the Master Garden Classes.

Bethany reported that she would like to use Master Gardeners as mentors for students in the MG classes, Anyone interested in mentoring should contact Bethany.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Hospitality: Ann Gray thanked the Picardys for drinks and snacks before the meeting.

Education and Speakers: Fletcher Harvey reported that stipends given to speakers from our speakers bureau will be given to JCMGA to support charitable donations, stipends for speakers and mileage when needed.

Membership: Ken Hall reported that records of volunteer hours are due in by midnight, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Ken needs time to tabulate the data and get it into state before their deadline. He welcomed help with this. Diane Remick and Alicia Hall will help anyone who needs help entering their hours.

(Minutes continued below)

*(January Minutes, continued)*

**BBG Volunteer Needs:** Taylor Steele reported that there was new signage throughout the Gardens, that the new gate onto Cahaba Road is open and that there are new trash and recycling cans in the Gardens. He also asked for volunteers with carpentry skills to help build shelves and repair door frames.

Taylor introduced Emma Thornsberry from our sponsored Girl Scout troop. She reported troop activities and offered us the opportunity to order Girl Scout cookies. Cookies will be delivered at the February meeting.

Taylor and Emma asked for donations to My Child's Closet. They are in need of winter coats, all sizes and gender, and other winter weather clothing. A box for these items will be in GPIC for about three weeks.

The Spring Plant Sale will be held on April 13, 14, 15, 16. The location has not been determined.

Renovations at the Garden are ahead of schedule.

**Speaker:** Pat Cosgrove introduced Jason Kirby as speaker. Jason is the Archivist at The Library at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Jason presented a slide show of "*50 Years at The Gardens*," taking us back to pre-BBG days and the origins of the land that is now the BBG. He emphasized the early connection between the Zoo and the Gardens and, coming forward through decades of development, he drew attention to the men and women who were leaders in the growth of the Gardens and The Friends of the Gardens.

**Next Meeting:** February 9th, Reach for the Stars Luncheon. Probably at Shades Valley Presbyterian Church.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM

Door prizes were given.

Those who attended may count 1 CEU for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Rostand, Secretary

## Upcoming Event at Aldridge Gardens

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

### Mosaic Memory Flower Pot Workshop

**Instructor:** Felicia Dubose, Mixed Media Mosaic Artist **Location:** Field Trip Gardens

**Saturday, March 12, 1 – 3 p.m., and Sunday, March 13, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Members: \$42; Non-Members: \$50 (materials fee of \$10 included)**

**Class limited to 12 participants**

Bring old jewelry, grandma's broken vintage china, coins, keys, beads, etc., to commemorate your special occasion into your own mosaic 10-inch flower pot. Perfect for a gift or for yourself! In Session 1, on Saturday, learn technique, design, and begin application. In Session 2, on Sunday, grout and finish your project.

A few tiles, grout, materials, and handouts will be provided, but participants should bring their own mementos and tiles for a 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.)

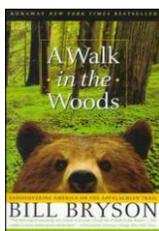
## Volunteer Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

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@aldrigegardens.com](mailto:volunteer@aldrigegardens.com). For more information, visit the Aldridge Gardens website.

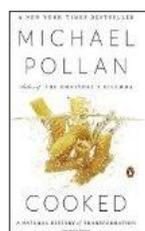
## News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

### Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, February 2, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson.



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, March 1, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation* by Michael Pollan.

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 2nd Saturdays (10-1), 3rd Saturdays (10-1), 3rd Saturdays (1-4), 4th Saturdays (1-4), 5th Saturdays (10-1), 5th Saturdays (1-4), and 2nd Sundays (2-5). Please contact Taylor Steele at 205-414-3962 or [tsteele@bbgardens.org](mailto:tsteele@bbgardens.org) for more 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:*

**Spring Cleansing** – Ease your winter to spring transition with emerging spring plants. Cameron and Antonia will discuss the traditional use of herbs to jump start your body with a spring cleaning. For more information and to register online, visit [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes). *February 13. 10-noon. \$15 Members. \$20 Non-Members.*

**Whiskeys of the World** – Join Plant Adventures Program Specialist Brooke McMinn, and all-around whiskey enthusiast Nathan McMinn, for a trip around the world of whiskey. We will begin with a discussion about the botanical aspects all whiskeys share, from the grain to the oak. Then, starting in Scotland and moving through Ireland, Canada, America, Japan and back to Scotland, we'll learn what makes each style distinct. For more information and to register online, visit [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes). *February 25. 6-8 p.m.. \$20 Members. \$25 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 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.)

#### **Our Native Lichens: Curious Life Partners (elective)**

*Saturday, February 6 / 8:30-12:30 p.m. / \$40 Members, \$45 Non-Members*

Explore the fascinating world of native lichens in Alabama. This class will include an introduction to these symbiotic organisms, their forms, functions, uses and the surprising roles they play in our world. Participants will learn basic identification skills of the major growth forms to assist them in discovering these interesting organisms on their own. After an introductory lecture and hands-on time in the classroom, students will walk through the nearby Union Hill Cemetery and The Gardens to observe and discuss these wonderfully enigmatic organisms. For more information and to register online, visit [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes).

#### **What's That Plant? A Workshop for Learning How to Identify Plants (elective)**

*Instructor: Tom Diggs, Ph.D., Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens*

*Saturday, February 20 / 8:30 - 4:30 p.m. / \$80 Members, \$90 Non-Members*

Identifying plants can be challenging and perplexing, but is an important skill to possess. This full-day workshop will begin at a very basic level and progress to the use of more complex methods and tools used for learning a plant's identity. Basic terminology will be presented, followed by instruction on the use of a variety of tools, primarily taxonomic keys used as "roadmaps" that lead to plant identification. Ample time will be spent doing hands-on exercises and corroborating material learned while examining plants in The Gardens.

Highly recommended reference: *Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary*, by James G. Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris. Spring Lake Pub., 2nd edition (Jan 1, 2001).

## Volunteer Opportunities with John Manion

Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead volunteer sessions in the Kaul Wildflower Garden on February 4, 11, 18 and 25. The propagation group will meet on February 2, 9, 16 and 23.

For more information, write John Manion at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org).

**JEFFERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS  
2015 REACH FOR THE STARS AWARDS  
TO BE AWARDED FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

**BRONZE STAR** – 19 (100-299 hrs)

Worth Barham	2015s	115.25	Kitty Lineberry	2014	135
Elizabeth Bishop	2015w	118.5	Mary McGlaughlin	2014	149.25
Judith Courington	2015w	145.75	Charles Murray	2015w	131.5
Richard Cybulsky	2015w	117	Cathy O’Sheal	2015w	168
Ann Davis	2014	206.5	Sally Price	1994	126
Debbie Dumais	2013	126.5	Christopher Pugh	2015s	254.8
Mickey Farmer	2012	191.25	Crystal Salter	2014	115.5
Linda Goode	2014	165.2	Renee Saul	2014	117
Paula Haynes	2013	111	Neal Schooley	2013	157.5
Steven Knop	2014	262.25			

**SILVER STAR** – 3 (300-499 hrs)

Elissa Capps	2012	352.75	Peggy Thompson	2014	327.25
Maurice Picardy	2007	379.2			

**GOLD STAR** – 9 (500-999 hrs)

Bertice Brown	2011	613.6	Diana Jones	2013	549.25
Mary Connolly	2013	714.1	Donna Madison	2013	574.25
Hope Cooper	2012	723.75	Gail Pless	2014	504.75
Thomas Douglas	2010	802	Marie Robertson	2012	801.5
Ann Gray Harvey	2011	980.25			

**GOLD NAME BADGE** – 3 (1,000-1,999 hrs))

Lawrence Michalove	2004	1143.25	Janet Waters	2008	1378.45
Martha Picardy	2007	1013.03			

**PLATINUM NAME BADGE** – 2 (2,000+ hrs)

Alicia Hall	2011	2316.35	Leonora Roberson	1998	2617
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***Congratulations to all!!***

***REACH FOR THE STARS at our February 9th meeting!***

***Be sure to join your fellow  
Jefferson County Master Gardeners  
in celebrating another year  
of learning, service, and  
fellowship.***

***Shades Valley Presbyterian Church  
Social Hour at 9, Meeting at 10, followed by a  
wonderful Covered Dish Luncheon***



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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**