

JANUARY 2014

# Roots and Shoots



## President's Message

**Welcome to 2014! I am looking forward to a fantastic year.** A special thank you to the officers for 2014: Pat Cosgrove, Ann Gray Harvey, Hope Cooper, and Lisa Ennis—and of course to Carol Hagood, who does such a great job putting this newsletter together.

Beth and I start the year with a new house we moved into on December 19. We have the standard builder new house landscape package of a few perennials, a couple of small trees, and a lawn that I am sure sits on one inch of top soil. It has been a long time since we had a new yard; we are looking forward to creating our own gardens. I'll give you updates of our progress during the year.

There is not a lot happening in my garden in December, and I wondered what to write in this first letter. Sometimes you find inspiration and sage words in the most unexpected places. And sometimes I think things were just meant to be. Mundane as it sounds, we "always" buy plain paper towels (ever since the Christmas towel event – but that's another story) until my quick trip to Publix (while packing for our move), when I just pulled a roll off the shelf. Turned out to be a garden-themed roll of Bounty. I thought, well it's only one roll, but as I read the "quotes" on the sheets of paper I was delighted to see how appropriate they have been:

**"Gardening is a way of showing you believe in tomorrow"**

**"The flowers of all tomorrows are the seeds of today"**

**"Friends are flowers in life's garden"**

What better words to describe the joy for life and enthusiasm Master Gardeners have, and show every day as they support our communities.

**Happy New Year!**

***Roger***

Roger Clarke  
President

## JCMGA January Program Notes

**January 14 at BBG  
Hospitality at 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10**

**Mark your calendars for the first JCMGA meeting of 2014!**

On January 14, our very own ACES team will present a program on **"ACES Agents.101."** This will be an introduction to the ACES team and their specialty areas and responsibilities.

It will be a great opportunity to get to know the **very special people and programs** who not only oversee our MG training and work, but also share their skills and talents with many in our region and our state. Join your fellow Master Gardeners in a warm place (BBG) for an informative meeting!

**February is the month when we traditionally "reach for the stars," so mark February 11, also!** We may also have a special opportunity that day at the BBG, so watch for further developments.

For those who like to schedule ahead, the **JCMGA meets on the second Tuesday of each month except December. Our evening meetings are tentatively scheduled for 3rd Tuesdays quarterly:** March 18, June 17, and September 16.

We are looking forward to seeing *you* at the meetings this year!

***Ann Gray***

Ann Gray Harvey  
First Vice President

## Bethany's Extension Extra

**Mark your calendars now for a special meeting on Tuesday, February 11.** This is the date of our annual Reach for the Stars Awards program and pot luck lunch. **Many of you will be recognized** for achieving various award milestones. Come join your fellow MG's in celebrating **countless hours given to numerous worthwhile endeavors.**

The Master Gardener program is one that “enables participants to serve their communities through education in environmental sciences, plant clinics, demonstration gardens, phone information, community projects, and continued training of Master Gardeners. **Each year, about 2,000 Master Gardeners donate several thousand hours of community service in partnership with Extension.” You all help to make up that number,** and you are a large part of what makes this community and surrounding areas better!

Happy Gardening!

Bethany O'Rear

### Attention all Jefferson Co. Master Gardeners:

Please be sure to check the 2013 CEU Hours opportunities listed below right away, and make sure that any of these hours for which you are eligible—as well as all your service hours for 2013—have been entered into your Master Gardener's record online.

#### Cumulative CEU Hours from 2013 Meetings

January 8 (Tom Creger)	1.0 CEU
January 24 (Kerry Smith)	.5 CEU
(Fred Spicer)	.5 CEU
February 12 (Awards Celebration)	.0 CEU
March 12 (David Doggett)	1.0 CEU
March 19 (Michelle Schaffert)	2.0 CEU
April 9 (Dan Spaulding)	1.0 CEU
May 9 (Pat Dye Field Trip)	2.0 CEU
May 14 (Linda Emerson/Plant Swap)	1.5 CEU
June 6 Hydrangea Soc. Seminar-full event	5.0 CEU
June 11 (Herb Lewis)	1.5 CEU
June 18 (Hope Long)	1.5 CEU
July 9 (James Spann)	1.0 CEU
July 9 Cullman Extension Tomato Workshop and Field Day (remember to record drive time)	5.0 CEU
August 8 Terrific Tomato Workshop at BBG	3.0 CEU
August 13 (Doug Unkenholz)	2.0 CEU
September 10 (Henry Hughes)	1.0 CEU
September 17 (Wendy Ulrich)	2.0 CEU
October 8 (Community Garden Coalition)	1.0 CEU
October 25 (Amy Stewart, <i>Drunken Botanist</i> )	2.0 CEU
November 12 (Gary Gerlach, MG graduation)	1.0 CEU

### Announcing an exciting update to the JCMGA Web Site! ( <http://jeffcomg.org> )

Thanks to great work by Diane Remick, JCMGA begins the new year with a **fresh new update to our Web site**, which now includes features that will serve us well in the future. *Have a look!* You'll find news of our latest graduates, pages that will allow us to share information on upcoming events, even a handy link to the MG service report page. Now let's get busy filling these pages with great JCMGA news!



#### News of a special service opportunity

*Calling Master Gardeners to assist the community gardening movement in Birmingham:* As the new year begins, the partnership between the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and the Community Garden Coalition for Birmingham will offer many new opportunities for service to members of the JCMGA.

If you would like to become involved with some soon-to-be scheduled educational programs for CGCB members, both at the BBG and in various Birmingham communities, please contact Taylor Steele now at [tsteele@bbgardens.org](mailto:tsteele@bbgardens.org) to let him know of your interest.

### Treasurer's Report

#### November/December 2013

Beginning balance Oct. 21, 2013	\$9,836
Deposits	\$1,549
Disbursements	\$1,383
Ending balance December 31, 2013	<u>\$10,002</u>
Certificates of Deposit	\$10,349

---Submitted by Roger Clarke, 2013Treasurer

## November 2013 Minutes

The regular, monthly membership meeting of the JCMGA was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). Fletcher Harvey, President, noted that there was a quorum present and opened the meeting at 6 p.m. for the annual Master Gardeners graduation program.

### President's Report:

- Fletcher recognized the ACES team and thanked them for their support both for the Banquet and for the Master Gardeners Association.
- The Birmingham Botanical Gardens staff were also recognized and thanked for their support and assistance. Fletcher asked the graduates being honored tonight to please stay around at the end of the evening for a group picture. He gave initial recognition to both the January-May class and the Summer "express" class.

After a prayer, a meal catered by the Char House was provided to those present. Following the meal, the President's Report was continued.

- Fletcher thanked Glenda Dicks for coordinating the event. He thanked all who helped prepare, decorate, and host this evening.
- Thanks were also given to Carol Hagood for the newsletter.
- Fletcher paused to note the special relationship that exists between the City of Birmingham, State of Alabama, and Friends of the BBG in providing support, science and leadership in natural spaces, landscaping, and garden development for the region.

**Program:** Fletcher introduced Fred Spicer, Executive Director of the BBG. Fred introduced Gary Gerlach, the keynote speaker for the evening. Fred noted that Gary Gerlach had been Director of the BBG for 30 years. He is a native of Kentucky, and was a graduate of the first professional management class at Longwood Gardens. Fred noted that he first met Mr. Gerlach on a bus tour in Denver. After completing a warm introduction, Fred yielded the floor to Gary.

Gary Gerlach then provided a rich history of the BBG. He shared anecdotal bits about his selection as Director and what the Gardens were like at his arrival in 1971. He also talked about the beginning development of the Gardens with the City's purchase of the quarry property in 1896. He noted the property's early uses as a cemetery, golf range and more; it even housed a tuberculosis sanatorium early in the 1900's.

He continued to trace development of the BBG in context with other developments around Birmingham, including the Olmstead Brothers' plan for natural park areas.

He noted the importance of bringing the State extension service to the BBG and the development of the plant laboratory there, as well. It is a rare example of the Botanical Society and a City successfully combining to define a need and invite a State presence to join them in a single location.



He also shared stories of still more people and events who were part of making the BBG what it is today and praised those who have successfully guided its development through all of Birmingham's history.

Gary closed by noting that there have been more than 30 years of Master Gardeners graduates and congratulating those new graduates present for completing this program, particularly in this special place.

Fletcher then asked Gary to draw for the night's door prizes before leaving the floor, and he did so.

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*(November Minutes continued from previous page)*

**Graduation:** Bethany O’Rear took the floor with Fletcher for the graduation ceremony.

The following graduates successfully completed the MG class which began in January 2013 and also completed the requisite volunteer hours:

Olivia Alison, Sarah Bettinger, Kathy Connolly, Julie Cundiff, Elena Garcia, Brian Hawkins, Paula Haynes, Karen Holmes, Diana Douglass Jones, Raymond Jourdan, Mitzi Link, Libby McKean, Helen Martin, Jaime Martinez, Kay Milstead, Miriam Newman, Steve Perrett, Shannon Polson, Su Reid-St. John, Gene Robinson, John St. Clair, Dinah Sisson, Steve Sisson, Ruth Varnell.

The following graduates completed the Summer 2013 MG program and also were able to complete their volunteer hours in time for this graduation:

Eleanor Cheatham, Donna Madison, Martha Norville, E.W. Phillips

Fletcher and Bethany congratulated each graduate as names were called and presented plaques commemorating their achievements.

Fletcher then introduced Roger Clarke, the 2014 JCMGA President. Roger expressed thanks on behalf of all present to Fletcher for his service as President in 2013. Roger noted that he was looking forward to serving the Association in the coming year.

Fletcher stated that those present may count 1 CEU for the program tonight.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

---Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Gray Harvey, Secretary



**Congratulations to our newly-graduated Master Gardeners!**

## *Master Gardeners' December Scrapbook*

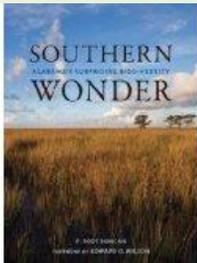
### 2013 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

On Thursday, December 6, the Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens launched a yearlong celebration of its 50th Anniversary at its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Honorees at the luncheon included (shown *below left*, left to right—all Master Gardeners!): **A. Brand Walton, Jr. Unsung Hero Volunteer of the Year:** Natalie Lee; **Ida C. Burns Volunteer of the Year:** Mike Rushing; **Plantspeople of the Year:** Alicia and Ken Hall; and **Educator of the Year:** Carol Hagood. The Friends' **Volunteer Partner of the Year** was awarded to the Native Plant Group, pictured *below right*; this group also includes a number of Jefferson County Master Gardeners.



## News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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



**Author Talk: R. Scot Duncan, *Southern Wonder: Alabama's Surprising Biodiversity***  
**Feb. 6, 6 p.m., Ireland Room, BBG;** Free event, but registration is required, [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes) or 205-414-3950.

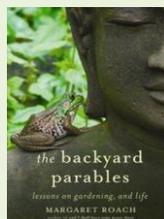
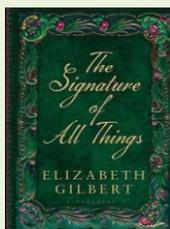
*Southern Wonder* explores Alabama's amazing biological diversity, the reasons for the large number of species in the state, and the importance of their preservation. Following the lecture, Scot will be signing his book, which is available for purchase at Leaf & Petal at The Gardens.

Edward O. Wilson has said of this book: "Scot Duncan has delivered one of the most important books ever written about Alabama. Beautifully composed, it is a revelation about one of the most biologically diverse regions in North America and a call to Alabama's people to treasure and protect the state's living heritage."

### Thyme to Read book club:

The **Thyme to Read** book club will not meet in February, but will be discussing two books on March 4 at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG:  
*The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert and  
*The Backyard Parables* by Margaret Roach.

Come join the group!



### Master Gardeners are invited to join The Library volunteer team:

Volunteers are needed to fill the following openings at the Library at BBG:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday (10-1)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday (1-4)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (2-5)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (2-5)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (2-5)

To volunteer, or for more information, contact Jason Kirby at [jkirby@bbgardens.org](mailto:jkirby@bbgardens.org) or 205-414-3967.

☑ Mark your calendars now for these two events:

## Annual Members Celebration at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens

The 2014 members' celebration will be held **Thursday, January 23 in the Garden Center at 5:30 p.m.** This year's theme, "Looking Back, Growing Forward," will continue our celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Cost per person is \$20. **RSVP, by January 18, to** [www.bbgardens.org/celebrate](http://www.bbgardens.org/celebrate) or call 205-414-3950.

## Art Opening in the Main Gallery at BBG

On **Friday, January 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**, an opening reception will be held for the Laura Brookhart & Barry Graham show, "Elements in Transition." Graham and Brookhart's works feature an intermixture of imaginative paintings, photography, and mixed media. To view some of their work, visit [facebook.com/elementsintransition](https://www.facebook.com/elementsintransition).

## Educational Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

Register online at <http://aldridgegardens.com>.

### Do You Choose Your Plants, or Do They Jump Into Your Buggy?

Saturday, January 25: 9:30–11:30 a.m.  
Instructor: Deborah Elliot  
\$12 Members/\$15 Non-members  
Class size is limited. Preregistration suggested.

When you're out shopping for plants at the nursery or big box store, are you baffled by all the choices?

- Will this look good in my garden?
- All year long or for just one season?
- Will it grow in our climate?
- Or in my soil?
- What about maintenance?
- What plants are good for butterflies and hummingbirds?
- Will it attract deer or repel them?
- Should I buy perennials or annuals?

Many of us need help making these decisions, or we just need some guidance. In this informative and fun class, you'll discover how to choose plants that will make good additions to your garden—without all the stress!

### Amazon: Earth's Greatest Wilderness

Tues., Feb. 25: Salon Talk with Wine and Cheese Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.; Program at 7 p.m.  
Presenter: Richard Ryel, Ph.D.  
Founder, International Expeditions and Past-President, International Ecotourism Society  
\$14 Members/\$17 Non-members  
Preregistration suggested.

Join us for presentation and conversation about the Amazon Basin. At close to 3 million square miles, the sheer immensity and biodiversity of the region is virtually incomprehensible. The mighty Amazon River, with 1,000 tributaries in nine countries, flows over more than 4,000 miles across the South American continent.

Dr. Ryel spent more than a year experiencing many of the natural and cultural wonders of this wilderness area, where the abundant diversity of wildlife is unequalled anywhere else on Earth. Join us to learn more about one of the great natural wonders of our planet, the threats that challenge its survival, and what must be done to conserve this natural treasure.

## 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 at BBG:*

#### **Photography Class: What's This Button Do?**

Instructor: Hank Siegel

Saturday, January 11, 9 a.m.–Noon

\$50 Members | \$60 Non-Members

This class is designed for those who have just gotten their first digital camera, or for those who have had one for a while but never really felt comfortable shooting in any mode other than full auto – point and shoot.

#### **Plant-Soil Relationships**

Instructor: Henry Hughes

Saturday, January 11, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
(CNPS core class)

\$80 Members | \$90 Non-Members

The physical, chemical and biological properties of natural soils affect the characteristics of the native plant communities growing in them. Plant growth also modifies soil properties. This class will explore 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 techniques for soil sample testing will be demonstrated. This class includes some field work.

*For more classes, check online at [www.bbgardens.org](http://www.bbgardens.org)*

## Volunteer Opportunities at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**Volunteer Workday** – To celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, as part of a community-wide day of service, we will hold a volunteer workday at The Gardens from 9 – 3 p.m. Participants will be engaged in a variety of tasks in a couple areas of The Gardens. One need not be present all day, but we do ask for at least a three-hour commitment. This event is open to anyone – and for those working towards CNPS certification, it's an excellent opportunity to earn required volunteer service hours. Please contact Taylor Steele, volunteer coordinator, at [tsteele@bbgardens.org](mailto:tsteele@bbgardens.org) or Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org) if you are interested in attending.

**Volunteer Workdays** – Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead volunteer sessions in the Kaul Wildflower Garden on January 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 and 30. For more information, write John Manion at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org).

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***Reach for the Stars!***

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***On Tuesday, February 11,  
it will be time to join  
your friends in the Jefferson County  
Master Gardeners Association  
to celebrate the many good  
things accomplished in the past year.***

JCMGA Annual Awards Program  
at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
Details to come.  
***See you there!***



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 <http://jeffcomg.org>.**

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