

# Roots and Shoots

JANUARY 2016



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

## President's Message

### Welcome to 2016 with your friends at the JCMGA!

We are looking forward to the year and to all of the projects in which this group is involved. January is our start-up month. Please join us for the first regular meeting (see Pat's note for details). Contact your MG friends that you haven't seen for a while and meet them for the meeting.

This year, we'd like to widen our "footprint" in Jefferson County. We are going to have a couple of special collections for organizations with whom we have done work. Also, we'd like to have information about where you are volunteering and working. Please see the notes below!

**Special Collection:** For the January JCGMA meeting, we are collecting peanut butter or canned meat donations for the Christian Service Mission. Protein sources are needed for their food mission. Please add peanut butter or canned meat to your grocery list this week and donate when you arrive for the meeting next week. We will be doing similar collections for affiliated groups over the course of the year.

**Dues:** 2016 Dues are due now (checks for \$35 payable to "JCMGA") to Tom Douglass or Marie Robertson, if you did not pay 2016 dues last fall. You may find contact information for them in the MG Service Report site (click "Directory" tab and then "details" next to their names for address, etc.). Please make sure your name and contact information are on the check or, if paid in cash, make sure your information is on the envelope, so that you may be credited with the payment! Payment may also be left with the ACES office, but is best sent/given directly to our treasurers.

**Updating Your Information:** Members may update their own contact information for emails, newsletter, etc. by going to the MG Service Report site and clicking the "My Data" tab. Update the information shown there by following the edit prompts.

Please check this for accuracy and check your friends' info, as well. We will migrate to this information for all communications over the next few weeks. Going forward, it will be each member's responsibility to assure that his/her contact information is correct. See Ann Gray Harvey if you have challenges with this process. *(continued on page 2)*

## JCMGA January Program Notes

**Tuesday, January 12**

**9 a.m. Social Hour, 10 a.m. Meeting  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens,  
Lecture Hall**

**(Goodies will be available during the  
Social Hour in the Education hallway)**

**Speaker: Jason Kirby, Archivist,  
The Library at the Gardens**

Many of you have enjoyed Jason Kirby's lovely displays in the hallway just outside the BBG Library. You may wonder, as I did, "Where does he get all of these interesting items?"

If you have not had an opportunity to see these display cases, which change periodically, you have missed a real treat.

Jason worked at the downtown library in the Archives Department, and we are lucky to have him continue here at BBG. Please give Jason a warm welcome. Come early for the social hour, and bring a covered dish and a friend.

At this time each year, when the temperature drops, we do more cover-up-and-protect in our gardens than much else. I have a nice little garden on the patio table with a small bird bath in the center. It contains winter things—parsley, onions, etc. The birds love it, and it is nice to use the plants in the kitchen.

The camellias are in full bud, with some blooms, which give a pretty view from the deck. Not all so bad after all, while the chill is about 32 degrees at night—not to forget to enjoy the scent of the tea olive in the afternoon. It will be warm again sooner than you think!

Thank you again for allowing me to continue as JCMGA's 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and warm regards to each of you.

**Pat**

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

**A Word From Bethany**

**Please Continue To Welcome New MG Graduates**

An exciting new group of Master Gardeners was added to our association last November as our 2015 Winter and Summer interns graduated on November 10. You will see them actively participating in special events, working in various gardens, coming to Master Gardener meetings and workshops.

Help me welcome them to our growing association! We need their enthusiasm and energy to join us in the on-going good work of our Jefferson County Master Gardener Association.

**Chris Boles Takes Top Honors at BBG Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**

(The following photo and write-up from Fletcher Harvey will appear in an upcoming edition of *Garden Pathways*.)



Jefferson County Master Gardener Chris Boles received the Ida C. Burns Volunteer of the Year Award at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens' annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

This well-deserved award recognizes Chris' years of involvement and many volunteer hours of service in many areas of BBG. Chris also shares her time and considerable talent with her Jefferson County Master Gardeners and the Fern Society, which she currently serves as president. Congratulations, Chris!

**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**

Watch this space each month for the number of CEU hours to be earned from attending each Master Gardeners' meeting; then record them online at <https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/mgmanager/login/>.

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

**Name Badges:** If you have lost your name badge, January (by Jan 15) is a time to reorder. The next time to order will be September. Please check at the sign in area at the JCMGA meeting if you need to order a replacement badge. The badges are used as identification at volunteer sites, so please replace yours if it has been lost.

**Hours Entry:** Just a reminder that the deadline for entering hours for 2015 is January 15. Please go ahead and enter those hours so that the Jeff Co ACES office, the JCMGA, and you can get credit for your work! It is important to show those hours.

**Jeff Co Footprint:** We are grateful to all of you for your membership and your volunteer contributions. We'd like to recognize your projects and your work. Please enter the projects/sites with which you are working in the "Success Stories" tab of the MG Service Report site and/or provide Bethany O'Rear, Taylor Steele, or Ann Gray Harvey with your information. Thank you for all that you do!

**JCMGA Needs:** There are several special projects for which the association needs volunteers. If you have computer skills, public speaking ability, desire to help with project requests and other needs, we would like to hear from you. Please let Ann Gray know of your interest or availability.

Ready, set, grow! We are off into 2016!

***Ann Gray***  
Ann Gray Harvey, President

**Treasurer's Report**

**November/December 2015**

Beginning balance November 1, 2015	\$8,311.51
Deposits	\$4,623.00
Disbursements	\$2,636.55
Ending balance December 31, 2015	<u><u>\$10,297.96</u></u>

---Submitted by Tom Douglass, Treasurer

## November-December 2015 Minutes

### Jefferson County Master Gardeners' Association Meeting – November 10, 2015

The 2015 annual graduation banquet was held November 10, 2015 at Brookwood Baptist Church. There were approximately 85-90 people in attendance.

President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. She welcomed new and existing Master Gardeners and all guests in attendance.

She then asked that the 2016 officers stand and be recognized. They are as follows:

Ann Gray Harvey, President  
 Pat Cosgrove, 1st Vice President  
 Hope Cooper, 2nd Vice President  
 Marie Robertson, Treasurer (not in attendance)  
 Kathy Rostand, Secretary

She also thanked Tom Douglass (treasurer) and Alicia Hall (secretary) for their service during the 2015 year.

Ann Gray then expressed her appreciation and the appreciation of the membership to the Hospitality Committee, including Martha and Maurice Picardy, Bruce Steele, Thelma Stichweh, Gary Walker, Kathy Connolly and Mary Jo Quintana, for their work throughout the year and in arranging the food for tonight. She also complimented and expressed gratitude to the Banquet Committee, including Natalie Lee, Bernadine Faulkner and Patricia Cosgrove, for arranging the venue and the décor for the banquet tonight.

Ann Gray acknowledged the support and assistance of Bethany O’Rear, Extension Agent, and Fred Spicer, Chief Executive Officer of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, to the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association during the 2015 year.

Members were asked to have a moment of silence in remembrance of our members lost during the 2015 year.

Ann Gray asked that all members of the Winter/Spring Master Gardener Class, Summer Master Gardener Class, and 2016 officers assemble at the front of the room for photographs with Diane Remick.

**Bethany O’Rear - Awarding of Graduation Certificates:** The following participants have completed all course work and volunteer hours and were awarded certificates of graduation:

**Winter/Spring Class**

Benjamin Arrington	Liz Bishop	Tommie Ruth
Mindy Bodenhamer	Caroline Boone	Sivaleela Boppana
Connie Bostany	Judy Courington	Rick Cybulsky
John DeBuys	Julia Dettling	Don Flurry
Patty Gilbert	Margot Glenboski	Stephanie Gurley
Beth Hamer	Meg Koss	Betty Lee
Eleanor Lozier	Dale Magers	Nancy Majors
Eric Milton	Charles Murray	Laurie Nabors
Nancy Natter	Peter Northcott	Cathy O’Sheal
Carol Pearce	Karen Smith	Cindy Speake
Jarry Taylor	Jennifer Thomas	Rebecca Wisotsky
Carol Womack		

**Summer Class**

Worth Barham	Lyn Froning	Patti Hammond
Christopher Pugh	Tony Snedecor	William Tanner

*(November/December Minutes, continued)*

Bethany offered her congratulations to each of our graduating Master Gardeners. The Winter/Spring class logged 2389 volunteer hours. The Summer class logged 663 volunteer hours. Their total volunteer hours are 3052.

Bethany introduced her assistant Mindy Bodenhamer. Bethany reminded us that we may receive e-mails from Mindy under her direction.

Bethany also announced that Lisa Jones has been hired as the Jefferson County Extension Coordinator. Her office is located at the 2121 Building.

**Fred Spicer, Birmingham Botanical Gardens:** Introduced his staff in attendance including John Manion, Curator of the Kaul Wildflower Garden, and Taylor Steele, Volunteer Coordinator. Fred said that there is a place for each of us to volunteer at the gardens. Fred thanked all of those who volunteer with the gardens and all who will volunteer in the future.

**Program:** Vice President Pat Cosgrove introduced our speaker for the evening. **Dolores Hydock** is a storyteller and actress whose one-woman shows have been featured locally, at the National Storytelling Festival, and at other events and festivals throughout the U.S.

Dolores presented two entertaining stories this evening. The first story was a story of graduation and the second “Close Encounters of the Gardening Kind.”

**Door Prizes:** Numerous door prizes were awarded by Pat Cosgrove and Hope Cooper.

**Conclusion:** Ann Gray thanked all who attended this special evening. She asked all in attendance to mark their calendars for the next meeting of the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association scheduled for January 12, 2016. The place to be determined (based on the renovation schedule of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens).

Respectfully submitted,  
Alicia Hall, Secretary



**Our new 2015 Master Gardeners**, in photos borrowed from the JCMGA Web site:

*At left*, graduates of the **Spring 2015 Master Gardeners** class; *at right*, **Summer 2015 Master Gardeners** graduates.

## Upcoming Event at Aldridge Gardens

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

### Whimsical Woodland Sprites Workshop

**Instructor: Joanna Cassady (featured in *Celebrate Fall*)**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2015 6 - 8 p.m.**

**Members: \$20; Non-Members: \$25.**

Learn techniques to create your own fairy-like creatures from woodland materials.

Bring your clippers and mini hot-glue gun or borrow ours for the workshop.

You may want to bring sprite-making materials including dried leaves,  
acorn caps, nutshells like pistachio halves,  
dried money plant, mussel shells, and okra pods.

We will also provide lots of supplies for creating the sprites of your imagination.

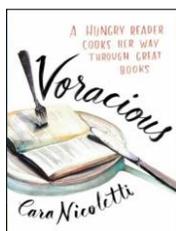
## Volunteer Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

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.

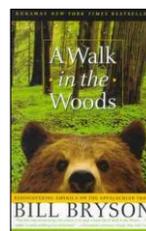
## News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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, January 5, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Voracious* by Cara Nicoletti.



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.

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 (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:*

**Yoga with Lindsay** – Join instructor Lindsey Barclift at the Gardens on Thursday in our new adult yoga class. Twenty five years of classical ballet training, plus many years of cardio, weight and group training has allowed Lindsey to understand one's limitations as well as specific training designed to maximize results while avoiding injuries. She understands the importance of knowing one's limits and backing away to avoid pain and injury. Trained through Yogafit, Lindsey's goal is to introduce you to yoga and to assist you in developing a safe daily practice. Breathe, strengthen, stretch and relax.

*Thursdays. 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 11:30-12:30 p.m. \$5 Members, \$7 Non-Members.*

**Photography: Memorable Images** - This class is designed to introduce the student to basic concepts in photography and digital camera operations including: Image Capture - understanding the light, know your camera, develop techniques; Image Transfer - set up the computer, manage your image files, accessories; Image Processing – software available, capabilities, techniques; Image Sharing - email, websites, print.

For more information and to register online, visit [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes).

*January 9 & 16. 9-noon. \$100 Members. \$120 Non-Members.*

**Botanical Beauty Secrets** - Join Plant Adventures Program Specialist, Brooke McMinn, and Library Director, Hope Long, to learn which botanical ingredients are most effective for common concerns and create several products to take home. Part I will focus on formulas for the face with a cleansing oil, a toner and a moisturizer. Part II will focus on recipes for the body with a sea salt scrub and a sore muscle soak. Register for both classes at once and receive a \$10 discount for a total member price of \$50 or a non-member price of \$60.

For more information and to register online, visit [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes).

*January 16 & 30. 10 – noon. Prices vary, \$30-\$60.*

**Birmingham Botanical Gardens Photo Talk** – This group is not a class; it is a casual but informative venue for amateur to expert level photographers to come together to share their ideas, tips, advice, tricks and knowledge with each other. This group is highly recommended for those who are planning to take or who have already taken digital photography classes offered at the Gardens or other local teaching venues.

For more information and to register online, visit [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes).

*January 17. 3 - 5 p.m. Free, \$5 suggested donation.*

**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).

*January 28. 6-8 p.m.. \$20 Members. \$25 Non-Members. **SOLD OUT** (Second class added for February 25).*

## 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.)

**Winter Identification of Native Woody Plants (elective)** – Identifying plants in winter, many of which have lost their foliage for the season, can be a challenge. Using The Gardens' extensive living collections as a hands-on resource, CEO Fred Spicer will focus on attributes and identification features of woody plant species found naturally or in cultivation in Alabama. Attendees will examine and learn to identify approximately 20 woody plants whose key traits are evident in winter.

For more information and to register online, visit [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes).

*January 16. 12:30-4:30 p.m. \$40 Members. \$45 Non-Members.*

**Medicinal Plants of Alabama (elective)** – Alabama's geographical position between Appalachia and the Gulf Coast provides a diverse array of environments that collectively host many of the most valued medicinal plants in American history. Alabama's native plants have contributed heavily to the evolution of both American and European botanical pharmacy. Today, some of these plants are endangered due to commercial exploitation and over harvesting. This class, led by T.A. Breaux, identifies over one hundred medicinal plants native to Alabama, examines their natural environments, and explores their roles in botanical medicines of the past and present. The instructor will cover the history and development of American botanical medicine, the habitats of native medicinal plants, historical methods of collection and preparation, and their traditional uses. The instructor will also discuss the mimicry of native habitats, propagation, and cultivation for the benefit of those interested in including them in their own collections.

For more information and to register online, visit [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes).

*January 30. 8:30 - 12:30 p.m., \$40 Members. \$45 Non-Members.*

## Volunteer Opportunities with John Manion

Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead volunteer sessions in the Kaul Wildflower Garden on January 7, 14, 21 and 28. The propagation group will meet on January 5, 12, 19 and 26.

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

***Don't miss the first Master Gardeners Meeting of 2016!***

**Tuesday, January 12  
9 a.m. Social Hour, 10 a.m. Meeting  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens,  
Lecture Hall  
(Refreshments available during the  
Social Hour in the Education hallway)**

**Speaker: Jason Kirby, Archivist,  
The Library at the Gardens**



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 [www.jeffcomg.org](http://www.jeffcomg.org).**

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