

JULY 2015

# Roots and Shoots



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

## President's Message

**Happy Independence Day to all!** I hope your holiday celebrations were safe and happily memorable!

There is still a lot of upcoming business for the JCMGA membership:

1. **Nominations for 2016 Officers.** Volunteers for the nominating committee will be sought at the July meeting and will present a slate for election in August. The membership agreed with the Board's recommendation that this be moved up this year in anticipation of planning needs for hosting the 2018 Southern Region MG Conference (2018 Conference).
2. **2018 Conference.** Kerry Smith has asked that anyone interested in working with the Conference to please let her know of her/his interest. Please feel free to contact her at [smithkp@auburn.edu](mailto:smithkp@auburn.edu). I will also have copies of Kerry's planned organization for any who are interested, at the next meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please email me at [anngrayh@gmail.com](mailto:anngrayh@gmail.com) and I'll send them.
3. **JCMGA Dues.** At the last meeting and on behalf of the Board, Roger Clarke shared information about our financial position. While there are good savings for unusual situations, the Board feels that we should fund routine operations each year with the income earned and should not require subsidy each year from these past earnings. Subsidies will not be sustainable, long term. The Board has asked that within the next three years, the organization bring its expenditures into line with its income and continue this balance going forward unless Board action is taken. A dues increase is being considered as it seems to be the preferable way to accomplish some or all of the additional need. The Board will be asking for action at the July meeting.
4. **Name Badge Replacement.** Please contact Linda Systrom or Glenda Dicks if you need a badge replacement. They will work with you to get the information and payment. If you have already been in touch with them, we will be ordering soon and will need your payment.

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## JCMGA July Program Notes

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

**Tuesday, July 14,  
9 a.m. Social hour; 10 a.m. Meeting  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium  
Speaker: Fred Spicer,  
Executive Director and CEO, BBG**

**We want to take a moment to look back on the June meetings.** Dr. Jim Jacobi gave the alert of a new threat in our gardens, Boxwood Blight. It all started from a grower in Utah. We will have some handouts at our July meeting which should cover any questions you may have. Do not buy any new boxwoods. Thank you, Jim, for this valuable information.

Looking back on our night meeting, a good description would be "wow." David Doggett gave us a step-by-step process through which we might propagate hydrangeas. We certainly want to thank him, as well as all of the Master Gardeners, 2015 interns, family, friends, and neighbors, for a total of 46 who attended. That might just be a record-breaker for our night meetings. Thank you, David, for a fine program.

We move on to July with our director, Fred Spicer, who always delivers a splendid lecture. His topic will be: *Birmingham Botanical Gardens Design Styles: Historical Influences and Future Development.*

When he sent the information on the program to me, I began to hum an old tune... "It's a good day for shining your shoes; a good day for paying your dues, etc., etc." It is always a good day at the Gardens, and YOU make it all happen.

**Everyone is welcome always. See you at the Gardens on the 14th.** Don't forget to invite family, friends, and neighbors.

**Pat**

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

**MG's: Do You Need to Replace a Missing JCMGA Badge or Star?**

The JCMGA membership committee is working on a system through which members can replace missing MG badges or stars. Information will be available at the July 14 MG meeting on how you can place your order and make payment for replacement badges and/or stars. See Linda Systrom or Glenda Dicks for more information.

**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](mailto:sherilynosborne@bellsouth.net) or (205)681-9896, or Wanda Perrin at [wandaperrin72@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

*(President's Message continued)*

I have enjoyed working with a number of the 2015 MG Class folks in the **GPIC**. I hope you and the more "seasoned" members will venture back again if this is a place that you would consider volunteering either regularly or intermittently.

If you don't want to do this work routinely, consider picking up a shift after a holiday when things are very busy with the Helpline, or on mornings/afternoons when someone has not been there the previous shift. Extra hands are always welcomed and any of us who work the GPIC will welcome having someone join us when we are working alone.

Just sign up (go into your ACES service report page and click on the "Helpline" tab at the top. Enter your name at the time you want to work. Please alert Annette 879-6964, ext.10, if you make a mistake or need to cancel), and come on in!

We also welcome information about other volunteer opportunities. If anyone has a favorite project that needs extra attention, please let us know. Between the website, newsletter, email, Facebook and other venues, we can help get the word out.

I look forward to seeing you at the July meeting!

***Ann Gray***

Ann Gray Harvey, President

**Treasurer's Report**

**June 2015**

Beginning balance May 1, 2015	\$8,376.17
Deposits	\$119.00
Disbursements	\$110.00
Ending balance June 30, 2015	<u><u>\$8,385.17</u></u>

---Submitted by Tom Douglass, Treasurer

## June 2015 Minutes

### Jefferson County Master Gardeners' Association Meeting – June 9, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the JCMGA was held on June 9, 2015 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). There were approximately 60 members present. President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

#### **President's Report and Routine Business:**

Ann Gray welcomed several of the interns from 2015 Master Gardener class and recommended that we introduce ourselves to these new members.

She announced that an order for new name badges will be placed in the next week or so and that members needing a new name badge should see Linda Systrom.

She also asked that we take a moment of silence in honor of members of our Master Gardener family that we have lost over the last several months including James Finney, LeAnne Porter, and the spouses of Karen Mitchell, Elizabeth Drewry and Nancy Nash.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed in the June newsletter. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the membership.

**Treasurer's Report:** A motion was made to accept the report as printed in the June newsletter. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the membership.

**Ann Gray announced that the JCMGA Board had met on June 8, 2015.** She asked that Roger Clarke review the financial report as presented to the Board. Roger presented a clear and concise overview of JCMGA's financial position:

**BUDGET REVIEW: Balances: Certificates of Deposit \$10,000.00; Checking Account \$8,000.00**  
JCMGA accumulated the money held in certificates of deposit over a number of years. The primary source of this money was from the period of time when JCMGA conducted the Master Gardener classes and collected the fees from class participants. The Board has designated that money as "legacy" or savings for emergencies or special needs of the organization and not for routine day to day expenses.

**Dues income: \$2000.00; Operating expenses: \$2000.00** (includes speakers, door prizes, service stars, supplies, toner ink and stamps). Additional expenditures include: Master Gardener class scholarships (\$400.00), Auburn's Master Gardener Graduate scholarship fund and contributions to the South Central Native Plant Conference have left us with a shortfall that will reduce the amount of the Legacy fund.

**On June 8, 2015 the Board passed a resolution to achieve a balanced budget within the next 3-4 years.** This could be achieved by eliminating the support for the South Central Native Plant Conference and reducing scholarship contributions. Future contributions should be based on excess revenue. A Board decision is required to grant this funding. Roger also stated that he has agreed to spearhead a fund raising activity in 2016 and another in 2017. Lastly, as our membership dues have remained at \$12 for a number of years, the Board is asking the membership to consider a dues increase to either \$15 or \$18. This is in addition to the state membership dues of \$10.

**Ann Gray thanked Roger for his presentation.** She asked the membership consider these options and consider voting on this proposal in July. Member Gary Walker said that we should consider an increase to \$20. Ann Gray said that members of the Board would remain after the meeting to answer questions and for further discussion.

#### **Other Business:**

**Ann Gray announced that we have been asked to host the 2018 Southern Regional Conference.** This will require a good deal of effort and coordination with the State Office. Tasks to be undertaken include site selection, speaker selection, solicitation of vendors, etc. With this, the Board has proposed that for this year only, that we appoint a nominating committee and elect our 2016 officers 2 months early. This would allow us to maintain the business of the organization and select a cabinet (steering committee) to begin planning for the 2018 Conference. After this year, the cabinet will be in place and actively planning for the Conference and early elections will not be necessary. The motion was made to select a nominating committee and plan the election for August. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

*(Continued below)*

(June 2015 Minutes, continued)

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Glenda Dicks asked that each of us reach out to one of our inactive Master Gardener friends and ask them to come back to JCMGA. This could help with our budget issues and enlist more individuals for Conference planning. Glenda said that there is a job for everyone, both small and larger jobs, in planning the Conference.

**Community Services:** Taylor Steele said that the Gardens would like to see a Master Gardener presence at Butterfly Awareness Day. There will be a Master Gardener booth and if you are available to staff the booth, please call or e-mail Bethany. Butterflies will be released at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Lunch and Learn,** June 10, is “Drink your Garden.” Mixologist will be teaching how to use herbs in various drinks.

**Flicks among the Flowers** is scheduled for June 24, and will be showing *Ghostbusters*.

**Community Service Spotlight:** Taylor introduced Deb Wakefield from the East Lake Community Garden and Farmer’s Market. Deb said that the Farmer’s Market has been around for 10 years and is open from 8 a.m. until noon each Saturday. In addition, they are holding a summer camp for 70 children, with the focus being to teach the participants where their food comes from. There are volunteer opportunities at the Market, with the Summer Camp and at the community garden.

**Program: Dr. Jim Jacobi of the Plant Diagnostics Lab** Dr. Jacobi presented a program on Boxwood Blight and Emerald Ash Borer. Boxwood Blight was first discovered in 1990 in the U.K. It is a fungal disease. It became widespread throughout Europe and New Zealand. In 2011 it was found in Connecticut, then North Carolina and Virginia. In 2013 it was found in Birmingham. Symptoms include circular black spots on leaves and black streaks on the stems. The result is rapid and sudden defoliation and then death of the plant. It has spread by long distance transport and in the garden is spread from one boxwood to another with wind or by human and animal transfer. Dr. Jacobi made the following recommendations for management:

1. Don’t bring in any new plants.
2. Carefully inspect new plants.
3. Use drip irrigation
4. Improve air circulation within the plant.
5. Clean your tools.
6. Don’t compost infected leaves.
7. Thoroughly clean the area of leaves and debris.

Fungicides are not effective. There are resistant cultivars such as ‘harlandii,’ ‘Green Beauty,’ and ‘Nana.’

Emerald Ash Borer attacks all native ash trees. Ash trees are used to produce wood products, paper, baseball bats, furniture and tool handles. The Emerald Ash Borer was brought in through Detroit in 2002 and has now been documented in Tennessee and Georgia. While not yet confirmed in Alabama, Dr. Jacobi suspects that they are in Alabama. Emerald ash borer can also infect our *Chioanthus virginicus*.

The insects can fly about ½ mile, and the natural spread is 6 miles per year. The larvae cause the damage by feeding on the inner bark of the trees. The signs that a tree is infected are S-shaped larvae tracks under the bark and a D-shaped exit hole. Other signs are a thinning canopy, woodpecker activity, sprouting of new growth on the lower parts of the tree, and splitting bark.

Ann Gray thanked Dr. Jacobi for the information presented.

**Door Prize:**

Ray Thweatt won the money pot. Kathy Rostand and Ann Katholi won door prizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05.

This activity is approved for 1 hour of CEU.

(June 2015 Minutes continued below, with minutes of the June 16 evening meeting)

(June 2015 Minutes, continued)

## Jefferson County Master Gardeners' Association Meeting – June 16, 2015

An evening meeting of the JCMGA was held on June 16, 2015 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). There were approximately 45 members present. President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**Ann Gray introduced David Doggett as our speaker.** David teaches numerous propagation classes through Aldridge Gardens and has extensive personal experience in propagation techniques. **David presented an easy and systematic approach for rooting “French” hydrangeas** utilizing items typically found in our homes; supplies include: clear plastic soda bottle, round 4.5 to 5 inch pot with drainage holes, plastic plant labels and Sharpie for labeling plants, pruners and scissors, soil mixture, screwdriver or wooden dibble, water source, rubbing alcohol and paper towels to clean tools, rooting hormone containing fungicide, and fungicide solution in spray bottle.

June is a good time to start hydrangea cuttings using “softwood” cuttings, but may be taken from mid-May through mid-July. Water hydrangeas thoroughly the day and evening before taking cuttings. Prepare a mixture of topsoil and soil conditioner in even proportions and a lesser amount of peat moss. Cut off the top portion of the soda bottle and discard. Clean pruners and scissors with alcohol. The best way to ensure success is to start with a well-watered source plant, working in the mornings and in the shade.

Place soil mix in pot, firm up top of soil and thoroughly water soil. Use the screwdriver or dibble to make one to 3 holes in the soil mix to insert cuttings. From the source plant, cut a 6-8 inch tip of a non-blooming stem. Look for a stem of current season growth and cut just above the node. From this stem cutting, select a node that will give you a 3 ½ to 5 inch tip cutting and cut at an angle just below the node. Using scissors, remove all the leaves except the top two, trying to leave the leaf bud. Trim the top two leaves down leaving about 2 square inches of leaf surface. Dip the stem cutting in water and then in rooting hormone. Insert the cutting into the potting mixture, pressing the soil firmly around the cutting so that the cutting stands straight and excess moisture is squeezed out of the soil mix.

Once cuttings are in place, thoroughly spray the leaves and stems with a fungicide spray. Place the inverted soda bottle firmly into the soil mix / pot so that it is secure. Place the cutting in a shady location so that it never receives direct sun. Turn the container each week to even out the exposure to light. Label your plant with the cultivar name and the date cutting was taken.

Gently add additional water should the soil mix become dry. Remove any dead or wilted leaves that may develop. French hydrangeas typically root in about four weeks. New growth is an indication of root development; however, root development is minimal at this point. After 4-5 weeks when all or most of the cuttings have new growth, you should begin to wean your cutting from the high humidity, protective environment. In the cool of the morning in a shady environment, remove the protective covering and thoroughly water. Replace the cover after about 30 minutes. Over the next 7 days, gradually increase the amount of time that the cover is off by about 30 minutes each day (60 minutes on day 2 and 90 minutes on day 3).

Mid to late summer heading into fall is too late to promote leaf and stem growth but you do want to promote growth of the root system. After the cuttings have graduated from their protective covering, apply about ¼ teaspoon of water soluble fertilizer (not slow release) low nitrogen fertilizer. David recommends a 6-10-10 from Walmart called “General Purpose Plant Food”. The phosphorus and potassium will promote root growth and overall vigor of the plant. Repeat this procedure in 3 weeks time. Continue to keep the soil moist but not soggy.

Toward the end of the summer, you may up-pot your cuttings into individual 1 gallon pots using well-drained potting mixture. Label each pot immediately. Water well to settle the soil. Continue to protect from direct sun. You may want to re-treat your hydrangea with a fungicide. Avoid over-watering, watch for slugs and treat for slugs as necessary. Water regularly until the leaves drop. Before the weather gets cold, place in an environment protected from the wind but where they still get rainfall. Water if rainfall is not sufficient to keep soil moist. In the spring, when new growth begins, fertilize with a slow-release fertilizer (19-6-12). These new hydrangeas may now be exposed to morning sun. Repeat fertilization in June.

David's references:

[The American Horticultural Society Plant Propagation](#) edited by Alan Toogood.

[The Propagator's Handbook](#) by Peter Thompson

[Hydrangeas: A Gardener's Guide](#) by Toni Lawson-Hall and Brian Rothera

[The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation](#) by Michael A. Dirr

Alabama Cooperative Extension publications

**The material contained in these minutes is from David Doggett's handout “Easy-Prop Hydrangea Propagation.”**

David also noted that the U.S. Plant Patent Act of 1930 protects the investment of growers for 20 years. It is a violation of federal plant patent law to propagate a patented plant, regardless of who is doing it or for what purpose. To do so robs legitimate patent holders of their intellectual property. Patented plants are identified as such on the plant tag which accompanies the sale of the plant or can be identified with an internet search. Trademark names never expire i.e., “Endless Summer” and can only be used under license by the trademark holder.

This activity is approved for 1 CEU. Door prizes were awarded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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](mailto: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](http://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. For more information, see [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes).

### Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, July 7, 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Seeds of Reprisal* by J. Somerville Park.

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](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:*

**Lunch and Learn: The Terrific Trio!** – William Cureton, Captain Compost, will unearth how to use soil, compost and mulch properly. For more information, visit [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes). July 8. 11:30-12:30 p.m. Free.

**Lunch and Learn: The Understory** – Libby Rich demonstrates how to love the shade and the plants that grow there. For more information, visit [www.bbgardens.org/classes](http://www.bbgardens.org/classes). July 22. 11:30-12:30 p.m. Free.

**Bards and Brews** – Poetry slam presented by Birmingham Public Library and Birmingham Botanical Gardens. July 10, music by Josh Wheeler begins at 6:30 p.m. Beers provided by Cahaba Brewing Company. Free to attend, \$5 to slam. \$200 prize to first place, \$100 prize to second place. Must be 18 to attend, 21 to drink.

**Flicks Among the Flowers** – On July 15, The Gardens will host its final Flicks Among the Flowers of 2015 with a free screening of *Top Gun*. The film will be shown in the Formal Garden in front of the Conservatory at 8 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. Light movie fare and beverages available for purchase from The Gardens Café by Kathy G. Blankets are encouraged. Per The Gardens' policy, pets are not allowed.

## 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 July 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 and 30. The propagation group will gather on Friday, July 10, 17, 14 and 31. For more information, write John Manion at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org).

## *Master Gardeners Sharing Information*

Jefferson County Master Gardeners have been busy in recent months helping out with any number of area events, such as Earth Day at the Gardens, which took place at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on May 31. Our Secretary Alicia Hall shares these photos from the Master Gardener volunteer booth at Earth Day.



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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***