



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

President's Message

As we enjoy the first “home grown” veggies and flowers of the season, we also have some wonderful local speakers at our June meetings. Check Pat’s notes for details. You won’t want to miss either of them.

I enjoyed spending time with Janet Waters, Patti Gilbert, Cindy Speake, and Roger Clarke at the Dothan State MG meeting. In spite of challenges, the Wiregrass group hosted a good conference. Their hard work showed! A new record was set, I think, for silent auction receipts!

Regarding state meetings.....

- You may want to start planning now for the **seed exchange** which the Huntsville group is starting for the May 2017 conference. Watch for details on the Alabama Master Gardener website. We will share more, here, as well. It will be May 1-3, 2017.
- Gail Pless and the planning team for this Fall’s **2016 State 1-day event** are making great strides. The theme will be “There’s No Place Like Home” and will feature the talents of many of our current MGs. Mark your calendars for Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016 at BBG.
- The Alabama MG store is open at <http://www.victorydesigns.com/amg/>. Items are of good quality and are available now.

JCMGA happenings....

- Watch for **meeting location** notices. We will be moving around the BBG for the next few months for our regular meetings. Thank you for your patience.....We are meeting at the usual time (2nd Tuesday, 10 a.m.) at the BBG, just not always in the same place! This month, we are back in the **LECTURE HALL**.
- Christopher Pugh has agreed to lead our community service project intake and review process. Please give him your support as we go forward putting that into action.
- GPIC workers are still needed. If you’d like to brush up on procedures for working there, contact Susan Jackson, or schedule yourself to work a shift or two with some “regulars.”

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JCMGA May Program Notes

Tuesday, June 14

9 a.m. Social Hour, Plant Adventure Zone

(Directions to PAZ....Follow the hallway in the Educational Wing down to the end, go through the double doors....you are there.)

10 a.m. Meeting, Lecture Hall

Speaker: James Horton,

Director, BBG

Topic: TBA

Hope you will be able to make the meeting and enjoy the lecture given by James Horton. He is famous for his knowledge of everything in the Gardens, from the ground up! This includes style, selection, planning, and equipment.

James is also the person to call if there is an accident in the Gardens. Most of the time you will just see him rushing in the door or rushing down the hallway and out to the golf cart, hurrying on his way to correct whatever needs to be corrected.

We are so lucky to have him, and certainly want to come to the lecture to show our appreciation. Hope to see you there...

Next, our June evening meeting:

**Tuesday, June 21, 6 p.m.,
1st Floor Conference Room,
Education Wing**

Speaker: Mike Rushing

Topic: Growing Older in the Garden

Well, aren’t we all?...and what better place to do it than in the garden? Can’t wait to hear all about this.

Please come and join us, and bring a snack, and a guest if you wish. We love to share our knowledge!

See you soon,

Pat

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

Bethany's Extension Extras

Summer Plant Propagation Workshop

Like most home gardeners, you surely have favorite plants growing throughout your garden. But sometimes propagating those favorites can become a challenge. Join other Master Gardeners for a summer propagation workshop led by Bethany O'Rear and learn how to successfully propagate some of your favorite plants!

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, July 19**. Check in begins at **8:30 am**, and the morning workshop runs from **9:00 am-12:00 pm**. The class will meet at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, exact room TBD. To register for this class, please contact Annette Drummonds at 879-6964 x10 or Bethany O'Rear at bethany@aces.edu.

All Bugs, Good and Bad

Join **First Friday Webinars @ 1pm, All Bugs Good and Bad** each month for information you can use about good and bad insects. Click [here](#) if you missed the latest presentation that aired Friday, June 3 on Spotted Wing Drosophila, presented by Dr. Hannah Burrack, and moderated by Bethany O'Rear and Dani Carroll.

Check out the entire archived series and learn how to control insects like fire ants, vegetable bugs, and cockroaches. (And snakes, too!) This is a great way to learn more and earn CEUs!

Herbs in your summer garden

Summer is a great season for herbs to take the spotlight in our garden. Herbs in the garden provide signature blossoms and fragrance while they grow and unique tastes when harvested – and these are just the beginning of reasons gardeners grow herbs.

Check out two great publications to provide even more inspiration for gardening with herbs. [Growing Herbs](#) provides information about where and when to plant, soil conditions, propagation, and more. The publication also includes an extensive list of selected herbs for Alabama. And for those gardeners who enjoy the culinary contribution of herbs, [Drying Herbs](#) gives simple directions for preserving those favorite herbs for year round enjoyment.

Cumulative CEU Hours from 2016 Meetings

January 12 (Jason Kirby)	1.0 CEU
February 9 (Reach for the Stars) No CEU for this mtg.	
March 8 (William Cureton)	1.25 CEUs
March 15 (David Glass)	1.25 CEUs
April 12 (Sallie Lee and Andy Baril)	1.25 CEUs
May 10 (Plant Swap)	1.0 CEU

(Extension Extras, continued)

Now is a great time to get plugged in!

Are you ready to find a new project to jumpstart your summer? Whether you graduated recently or several years ago, there are always projects needing additional volunteer support from Jefferson County Master Gardeners. [Contact me](#), and let's find a project that fits your schedule and abilities. Now is the perfect time to get started with a community garden project!

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

- A huge thank you is due to Leonora Roberson for hosting our plant swap in May. There were wonderful plants offered for exchange and generous offerings for "give aways," as well. Thanks to all who participated!

Enjoy this early summer time! The gardens around town are in full bloom!

See you at the June meetings.

Ann Gray

Ann Gray Harvey, President

Treasurer's Report

April/May 2016

Beginning balance March 31, 2016	\$11,033.40
Deposits	\$105.00
Disbursements	\$86.11
Ending balance May 31, 2016	<u>\$11,052.29</u>

--- Tom Douglass, Treasurer

May 2016 Minutes

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Meeting – May 10, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the JCMGA was held on May 10, 2016 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Ann Gray welcomed four new members, one visitor, and members of the 2016 Master Gardener Class. She reminded everyone to sign in and to be sure their name is on the “paid” list. If you have not paid your dues, your name will be on a separate list.

Secretary’s Report: Ann Gray asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting as printed in the newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

Treasurer’s Report: Ann Gray regretfully announced that Marie Roberson had resigned as treasurer. According to JCMGA bylaws, the Board shall fill the vacated treasurer’s position. At their last meeting on May 6, the Board voted unanimously to install Tom Douglas as treasurer. Ann Gray asked for and received the membership’s confirmation of this action. To give Tom time to look at the finances, the treasurer’s report for this month was suspended and a two-month report will be presented in the June issue of *Roots & Shoots*.

President’s Report: Ann Gray reminded members to be sure their email address is in the online directory and to update their Garden Interests and Volunteer Interest in the “My Page” tab of the jeffcomg.org website.

Ann Gray announced that the Board approved moving forward in changing the nominating process as described in the bylaws. Article VI section 1 of the bylaws will be rewritten to define the nominating committee composition as follows: there will be five members - the chair will be the immediate past president, two members will have had experience as an officer or committee chair, and two other members will be from the general JCMGA membership. The change in the bylaws will be presented in writing to the general membership prior to voting for its approval.

The Fall AMGA meeting hosted by us will be a one-day meeting held at the BBG. Volunteers are needed to help and the committee, chaired by Gail Pless, is looking for sponsors to help defray the cost of the meeting.

The Alabama Master Gardener Store is now open and can be accessed through the alabamamg.org website. Caps, shirts, aprons, etc. are available. Look for “ACES Online Store” under the RESOURCES heading.

Two upcoming events of the Fern Society were announced – the *annual fern lecture* on Wednesday, May 18, 4 p.m. at the BBG, “**The Case of the Promiscuous Quillworts**” by Dr. W. Carl Taylor and the *annual fern show and sale* on Wednesday, June 15 at the BBG. The show will be available for viewing from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. The sale will be from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Ann Gray reminded members of **Second Saturdays at Sloss Walks & Talks in Grandmother’s Garden**. Talks are from 10:30-11:30 a.m., are free of charge, and are given by Sallie Lee and Antonia Viteri.

Extension Report: Bethany O’Rear was away with the Walker County Master Gardeners group.

No **Committee Reports** were given.

Program for this meeting was the annual **Plant Swap**. Thank you Leonora Roberson for your descriptions of all the plants brought in for the plant swap.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

This program is approved for 1.0 CEU.

Kathy Rostand, Secretary

June brings Summer fun to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Mark your calendars for the following opportunities:

Lunch and Learn opportunities in June

(Each session takes place 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Bring a lunch to enjoy; dessert provided.)

*June 8: **Native Flower Arranging** - Learn how to grow and use natives in flower arranging.*

*June 25: **Aquatic Gardens** - Learn about the plants, maintenance and care for ponds - large or small.*

For more information or to register online, visit www.bbgardens.org/classes.

Birmingham Butterfly Education & Awareness Day

This year's event (*June 12, 1-4 p.m., Free*), features Butterfly releases butterfly releases at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. from Birmingham Zoo, a Birds of Prey Presentation from 2-3 p.m. from Alabama Wildlife Center, tours of the Pollinator Display area by the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Girl Scout Troop #1017 at 1:45 p.m. and 3:45p.m., and a demonstration on how to design and build artistically inspired pollinator houses and bee condos presented by the staff of Ruffner Mountain.

Birmingham Fern Society Show and Sale

The Birmingham Fern Society Show and Sale is scheduled to take place *June 15*.

Entries will be accepted 8 - 10 a.m. Show from 1 - 4 p.m.

Flicks Among the Flowers

Flicks Among the Flowers returns on *June 15*. June's film is *Dirty Dancing*. Movie snacks and beverages will be available for purchase from Kathy G. & Co. The film will begin when the sun completely sets, which is usually at approximately 8 p.m. No pets or outside beverages are allowed.

Parking is free at The Gardens, but it is also limited. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to secure the best available parking spaces. While the event is free, a \$5 donation is suggested.

A preferred seating area will be open to members, with each membership allowing two patrons seating until 8 p.m.

A rain date is scheduled for June 22, if needed.

Rain Barrel Workshop

Scheduled for June 18, 9:30-noon. \$5 Sit-in. \$25 plain barrel to take home. \$50 completed rain barrel.

Presented with Alabama Cooperative Extension System. For more information or to register online, visit www.bbgardens.org/classes.

Upcoming Events at Aldridge Gardens

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

Hypertufa Workshop

Saturday, June 25, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Instructor: Harold Deason, Jefferson County Master Gardener

Cost: \$46 Members/\$55 Non-Members (includes all materials)

Class Size: Limited to 12 participants

Rain date: Saturday, July 16

Fashioned after the old stone watering troughs of England, these great containers can stand the freeze/thaw cycle of most climates. Join us for a hands-on workshop to make your own hypertufa out of cement, perlite, and peat moss.

We will also discuss planting options. Make your hypertufa on June 25. Let it cure for a week, and pick up the following weekend.

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.

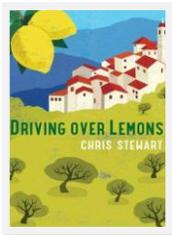
News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

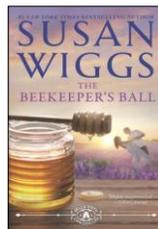
Art Gallery News

The work of Judy Bobula themed "Garden Music" will continue to be displayed in June.

Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, June 7, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Driving Over Lemons: An Optimist in Andalusia* by Chris Stewart.



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, July 12, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *The Beekeeper's Ball* by Susan Wiggs.

Contact Hope Long, director of library services, at 205.414.3931 or hlong@bbgardens.org to learn more about the book club.

Library Volunteers Needed

The Library at the Gardens has an immediate need for additional volunteers on 1st Saturdays (1-4), 3rd Saturdays (1-4), 4th Saturdays (10-1 and 1-4), and 5th Saturdays (10-1 and 1-4). Contact Taylor Steele, 205-414-3962 or tsteele@bbgardens.org for 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.

The Color Theory of Flower Arranging

Instructor: Zhaleh McCullers

Sunday, June 26|2-4 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Members \$20|Non-members \$25

This introductory class will provide students with the confidence to create dynamic, colorful arrangements. They will learn how to utilize a color theory in order to create eye catching arrangements. This is the second installment of a series on basic floral arrangement. Please check our adult class listings for future courses. No materials are needed for this class. Handouts will be provided by the instructor. Minimum of ten participants.

Mushrooms, Mycorrhizae, Magic and Madness: An Introduction to Mycology

Instructor: Juan Luis Mata, Ph.D., Department of Biology, University of South Alabama

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, July 9, 2016 | 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Members \$40 | Non-Members \$45

The study of fungi is an immense field. This class will focus on the macrofungi, which include any type of fungal reproductive structure that is evident to the naked eye. Recognition of the major groups of macrofungi will be taught with special attention to those forming beneficial symbiotic relationships with plants. After an introductory lecture - participants will collect specimens in The Gardens for detailed examination and hands-on learning. Final remarks on macrofungal ecology, diversity and importance, and useful tips - will conclude the class.

Flora Photography

Instructor: Hank Siegel

Saturday, July 30, 2016| 9-1 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Members \$60|Non-Members \$75

Spring has sprung and this class is designed to teach the student how to capture images of the plants - shrubs, flowers, and trees - specific to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

The class is organized into five segments:

- Equipment...those things one must have and those that are nice to have.
- Camera Setup...how to setup the camera to enable one to capture the best images.
- Image Capture...techniques, processes and tips to capture great plant images.
- Image Processing...software options and how tos for effective image processing.
- Practical Application...field work in the gardens.

Need to bring:

- Your digital camera (preferably an SLR or high end digital compact or bridge camera with functions that go beyond "Full Auto").
- A tripod (if you have one - not essential for the class)

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.)

From Ferns to Flowers to Fossils - The Ancient Forests of Alabama (elective)

Instructor: Brian Axsmith, Ph.D., Dept. of Biology, University of South Alabama

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, June 18 | 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Members \$40|Non-Members \$45

Alabama forests were once dominated by giant club mosses and horsetails; this class will address varied topics such as the fact that the first and only fossil of a Begonia was found in Mobile, and that a close relative of Australia's Bunja conifer tree inhabited Russell County. We will consider the rich and significant paleobotanical record of Alabama including examination of fossil specimens, and discuss what they reveal about the history of our state and its amazing flora. We will also consider how studying plant fossils can help reconstruct ancient climates and carbon dioxide levels. Studying these records provides insight into what the future may hold. Participants will gather leaves from The Gardens to learn the practice of using leaf features to determine ancient history.

A Close Look at Oaks and Hickories: Ubiquitous Trees of the Southeast (elective)

Instructor: Ron Lance, Biologist & Land Manager, North American Land Trust

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, June 25, 2016 | 8:30-12:30 p.m.

Members \$40 | Non-Members \$45

The oaks (*Quercus*) and hickories (*Carya*) are two of the most important genera of trees in the eastern forests. Their recognition and natural history is both challenging and fascinating for many people who are not aware of the diversity among the species. This program will illustrate those species native to Alabama, with a focus on identification features present in summer and winter.

There will be 39 oak and 11 hickory species discussed, with natural history and horticultural utility saturating the narrative. Time will be spent in The Gardens to corroborate what we have learned.

Volunteer Opportunities with John Manion

Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead volunteer sessions in the Kaul Wildflower Garden on June 2, 7, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, and 30.

For more information, write John Manion at jmanion@bbgardens.org.

Summer's Here—Savor the Season with the JCMGA!



Bethany A. O'Rear
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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***