

Roots and Shoots

JUNE 2014



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

President's Message

June is busting out all over and summer is heating up – after complaining about the cold, my mother's admonition "be careful what you wish for" is on my mind.

So is the saying "Gardening is a way of showing you believe in tomorrow," and looking around my garden, boy do I believe in tomorrow! Construction always seems to take so much longer than originally planned, so my plants from the spring sale are still in pots. I hope they survive to get planted!

June is such a great month for gardeners, when so much of the spring toil begins to flourish and bear fruit. The month is also full of activities. Visit our web site and calendar and check them all out. Some of the highlights are the Chattahoochee Valley Daylily Festival, and the Fern Society's show and sale on June 18. Also, on June 17, our evening Master Gardeners' meeting will be a real treat featuring Charlie Thigpen.

Congratulations to all the new Master Gardeners who have completed class work, volunteered on the helpline, and have their volunteer hours finished. We will honor them at our November meeting. I want to thank all the Master Gardeners who helped train the interns on the helpline---it couldn't be done without your help.

The helpline, or GPIC as many of us call it, is a great service for the community. Manning it will certainly expand your gardening knowledge, and can be a lot of fun. If you have not volunteered at GPIC, I encourage you to give it a try. Nervous about answering the phone? You shouldn't be, but we can have an experienced MG with you to help; just let me know what shift you would like to try.

Roger

Roger Clarke, President

JCMGA June Program Notes

**June 10, 10 a.m. at BBG
Business Meeting at 10 a.m., then
Tour of the Japanese Garden with Robert Wendorf**

**June 17 at 6 p.m.
at Charlie Thigpen's Garden Gallery,
Pepper Place, Downtown Birmingham**

Thanks for the wonderful donations for May's JCMGA plant swap. Thanks also to Linda Emerson and Leonora Robertson for hosting the event. I echo their accolades to the Jefferson County MG members for bringing a variety of native plants, many other interesting plants, and for not bringing invasive plants to share! Responsible sharing makes a special statement! Thank you all!

June brings two very special opportunities, but don't plan to participate sitting down! On Tuesday, June 10, we will have a short business meeting at 10 a.m. at the BBG. After that, we'll welcome Robert Wendorf for a program on Japanese gardening and a tour of the BBG Japanese garden--a wonderful opportunity to see it with an expert!

A tip for those who like to "smell the flowers;" if there is a large group you will want to stay close to Bob to make sure you don't miss the presentation. It will be a walk and talk event. For those who are interested, he has offered a discounted rate on his publication on Japanese gardening and will have monographs available for sale. Wear clothing suitable for the weather, bring sunhats and sunscreen if it is sunny, and join us for this special event.

The second event in June is our second evening meeting on Tuesday, June 17. Please note that this event will NOT be held at the BBG. We will be meeting at the Garden Gallery in Pepper Place in downtown Birmingham, with owner Charlie Thigpen. The program will start at 6 p.m.

For those who haven't been there, set your GPS or bring a friend to help navigate and come on down for a treat at 2805 2nd Ave South in Birmingham's Pepper Place. There is parking behind the Garden Gallery shop and on the street, as well. Please join us for another special June event! For reference here's the website (<http://www.charlie-thigpen.squarespace.com/>).

I look forward to seeing you at both of these events.

Ann Gray

Ann Gray Harvey,
First Vice President

Bethany's Extension Extra

Have a look at some of the service and educational opportunities coming up for you in the days ahead:

Birmingham Butterfly Education/Awareness Day

In cooperation with the Birmingham Zoo, Ruffner Mountain, Birmingham Audubon Society, and McWane Science Center, Birmingham Botanical Gardens presents Birmingham's Butterfly Education and Awareness Day on June 14.

Each year, the Association for Butterflies, a non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of butterflies through conservation, research and promotion of butterfly gardening and butterfly farmers, celebrates Butterfly Education and Awareness Day on the first Saturday of June. This year, three of Birmingham's most recognizable cultural institutions have chosen Father's Day weekend to bring the celebration to the Magic City as part of The Gardens' "Get Into The Gardens" series.

The Gardens will also be joined by its friends at Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Native Plant Group at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The event will be held at The Gardens from 10 – 2 p.m. Admission is free. There will be native plants available for purchase.

Taylor Steele has invited Master Gardeners to assist with this event and facilitate a table with information on landscaping for butterflies and pollinators.

If you would like to be part of this interesting event, please contact Taylor at tsteele@bbgardens.org or 414-3962 to volunteer.



Birmingham Fern Society's Annual Show and Sale

The Birmingham Fern Society's 38th Annual Show and Sale will take place on Wednesday, June 18 from 1 - 6 p.m. at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. This event is free and open to the public.

Everyone is encouraged to enter fern fronds or potted ferns in the show. Entries must be received between 8 - 10 a.m.; vases will be provided. Experts will be available to help everyone identify their fern entries. Ribbons will be awarded to the top three entries in each category. All entries will be available for viewing after judging is complete.

The fern show and sale will open at 1 p.m. A great variety of very reasonably priced hardy ferns will be available for purchase. Society members will help attendees select the perfect ferns for their gardens!

To learn more visit www.bbgardens.org/otherevents.

Treasurer's Report

April 2014/ May 2014

Beginning balance April 1, 2014	\$9,821.13
Deposits	\$193.50
Disbursements	\$498.29
Ending balance May 26, 2014	\$9,416.34

---Submitted by Lisa Ennis, Treasurer

Cumulative CEU Hours from 2014 Meetings

January 14 (James Horton)	1.0 CEU
March 11 (Fred Spicer)	1.0 CEU
April 8 (David Doggett)	1.0 CEU
May 13 (Plant Swap with Linda Emerson and Leonora Robertson)	1.0 CEU

May 2014 Minutes

Jefferson County Master Gardeners Meeting –May 13, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Clarke.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved. Motion by Bruce Steele, seconded by Ann Katholi.

The Treasurer's report was approved. Motion by Fletcher Harvey, seconded by Bruce Steele.

The gold and platinum service badges were distributed.

Announcements

Printed editions of the directory are available for \$3.50

The Shepherd's Center is grateful for the assistance and the plants. (If there is a Master Gardener in the eastern end of town, they could use some ongoing advice. They do not know what “dead heading” means.)

There will be a Butterfly and Pollinators program on June 14, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed.

Bethany O'Rear needs three people to be judges for the tomato contest in July. The "Ready, Set, Grow" program will be on June 19, from 8:30a.m. to 3 p.m. Help would be appreciated.

Program - Plant Swap with Linda Emerson and Leonora Robertson

Gardeners were asked to bring specimens that were preferably native and non-invasive. Linda stated that native plants that do “extremely well” are called “aggressive” as opposed to “invasive.” We were urged to be careful of what is planted where, and then to be observant of what happens. Plants may be overly “happy” and grow a great deal...or not.

Each of the donations was named, described and optimal growing conditions given. Among the many plants: Bridal veil spirea, Hearts a' bustin', Toad Lily, Dogwood (*cornus florida* seedling), variegated spirea, variegated Solomon's Seal, Aster (light blue), Spiderwort (this one can be 'aggressive'), wild geranium, Christmas fern, Phlox, Native iris, Jack in the Pulpit, Southern Shield Fern, Hardy Orchid (terrestrial), Huechura, and...lamb's ears.

The “swap” ensued. When you signed in, you received a number. Numbers were called, and you could go take your pick...at the end, there was an announced “free for all.”

All in all, lots of good information and lots of fun.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope I. Cooper, Secretary

A Special Opportunity to Learn About Community Gardening

On Thursday, June 19, ACES presents

READY, SET, GROW! **Successful School and Community Gardening**

Topics to be discussed:

Basic gardening tips

Grant writing

Volunteer recruitment and retention

Outdoor classroom breakout session

Community garden breakout session

Event takes place at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens
on Thursday, June 19.

Registration at 8:30 – 9 a.m.;

Program, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Cost: \$20 (lunch included).

Please register by Monday, June 16:
contact Sallie Lee (leesall@aces.edu) or Bethany O'Rear (bethany@aces.edu)
or call 205-879-6964, ext. 10.

Upcoming Events at Aldridge Gardens

Find more information at www.aldridgegardens.com.

HYDRANGEAS UNDER THE STARS

Mark your calendars now for June 13 - the night of the premier event of the season benefiting Aldridge Gardens! Join honorary host and hostess Hoover Mayor Gary Ivey and Mrs. Carolyn Ivey for a night of food, drink, a live auction and a lot of fun under the stars - all to benefit Aldridge Gardens.

Tickets available at the Aldridge Gardens website.

ART IN THE GARDENS

Some of the best artists in the country live right here in Alabama. June 21 and 22, 2014 is your chance to stroll through the Gardens, see their works up close, and of course, shop!

Volunteer Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

For information on how to volunteer at Aldridge Gardens, contact Peggy McVay at pmcvay@aldridgegardens.com or follow the link on the Aldridge Gardens website to volunteer online.

News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

Main Art Gallery:

During the month of June, the main art gallery at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (in the hallway just outside the Library) will continue to feature the work of artist Nancy Johnson.

Thyme to Read book club:

The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, June 3 at 6 p.m., in the Library at BBG to discuss *A Handmade Wilderness* by author Donald Schueler.

Come join the group!



Brown Bag at BBG

June 11:

411 to 911 Rescues
Hunter McBrayer

June 25:

The Dirt on Soil
Henry Hughes

July 9:

A Change of Scenery
Mike McQueen

Lunch and learn at BBG; each free session is 11:30 – 12:30. Drinks and dessert provided.

Library Volunteers Needed

The Library at the Gardens has an immediate need for additional volunteers.

If you or someone you know may be available, contact Taylor Steele, tsteele@bbgardens.org or 414-3962.

Educational Opportunities at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Register online at www.bbgardens.org, for more information, call Dawn Coleman at 205-414-3958.

Among upcoming classes at BBG:

Members-only Class: Pruning: Techniques, Outcomes and Design Influences

Pruning and training of plants is an essential part of garden development and maintenance, yet even savvy gardeners approach these basic tasks with a mixture of ignorance and trepidation.

Using before and after images of selected plants, Spicer tracks the establishment of his home garden, illustrating basic pruning tools, methods and techniques - and the plants' responses - along the way. You'll learn not only the "how-to" but the "why to" as he shows how each approach works to enhance the garden's overall design.

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

June 12, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Free to members.

Photography Class: Memorable Images

Instructor: Hank Siegel

June 14 & 21 | 9 - 12 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens - Adventure Classroom

\$100 members | \$120 non-members

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 - E-mailing, WEB sites, printing

Whether you've got a simple "POINT-AND-SHOOT" digital camera or a more complex Digital SLR, you can gain skill and confidence in your ability to create memorable images.

Need to bring:

- your digital camera
- your camera's user's manual

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:

(You don't need to be enrolled in the entire series to attend these, or any other CNPS events.)

The Bibb County Glades (field trip)

Trip leaders: Tom Diggs, Ph.D., Fred Spicer & John Manion

Location: Bibb County Glades

Saturday, June 7 | 8:30 - 4:30 p.m.

\$60 Members | \$70 Non-Members

Called "a botanical lost world," partly due to eight new species of plants having been discovered there, this unique relict landscape contains a number of Alabama endemic plant species and others rare, unusual and particularly adapted to life in this distinctive Ketona limestone glade. This is a moderate walking trip on natural, uneven and rocky terrain. Depending on their flowering period this year, we hope to follow our trip to the glades with a visit the Cahaba lilies.

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

Instructor: Tom Diggs, Ph.D.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, June 14 | 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. Recommended reference: *Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary*, by James G. Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris (Jan 1, 2001).

Making New Plants: All about Plant Propagation(elective)

Instructor: Henry Hughes

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, June 21 | 8:30 - 12:30 p.m.

\$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members

Plant propagation is the study of plant structures and plant growth and development relating to reproduction by the germination of spores and seed - or by the initiation of adventitious roots and shoots from vegetative structures. Collection, storage, preparation and treatment methods for successful propagation of woody and herbaceous plants will be discussed. In addition to traditional "greenhouse propagation" an introduction to laboratory tissue culture will be included.

Check online for other upcoming CNPS classes and events; they often fill fast, so plan ahead!

Volunteer Opportunities in Native Plant Studies

Volunteer Workdays – On many Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion leads volunteer sessions in the Kaul Wildflower Garden, beginning at 9 a.m. On Friday mornings, the plant propagation group often meets, as well. For more information, write John Manion at jmanion@bbgardens.org.

How does your garden grow?

If you have garden photos to share in our newsletter (from your own garden, from Master Gardeners service projects, or from your summer travels), please send them to Carol Hagood at Cchagood@aol.com with the subject line: JCMGA Garden Pictures (please limit file size to 400 KB or less).

Photos may be used in future issues as space permits.



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We're on the Web! Visit us at www.jeffcomg.org.

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