

# Roots and Shoots

MARCH 2016



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

## President's Message

Ok, no rhymes this month—and if this last week is any indicator, March is “coming in like a lion!” I’m looking forward to the “lamb” part of that old saying. In addition to seed catalogs and websites, much activity is swirling around the JCMGA as spring approaches.

First, I want to say a huge “thank you” to **Ken Hall and the “Stars” committee (Susan Jackson, Bruce Steele and Madeline Rushing)** for organizing our recognition program at the February meeting. Great job, folks! Members, **if you received a star or a name badge and were not at the meeting**, please see the membership table team at the March 8 meeting. Also, please inquire with them about past years’ recognition if you think you have not received something that has been earned.

With that “thanks” comes huge **gratitude to Martha and Maurice Picardy** for the beautiful decorations and for managing the hospitality aspect of the event. The food that was provided was delicious and the Fellowship Hall at Shades Valley Presbyterian looked wonderful. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

The “Stars” event is our celebration of the community service provided by our membership. The hours and the work that is done by our organization is amazing. Please congratulate yourself whether your contribution was **50 or 500 hours. Every hour counts** . . . . and don’t be shy about posting your work and results on the “Success Stories” tab in the MG Service Report site.

Many community groups are looking for assistance, so if you are not getting the **volunteer opportunities** you want, please check in with Taylor Steele, Bethany O’Rear or me. There are opportunities for all! Many are listed here in the Newsletter, on the JCMGA website ([jeffcomg.org](http://jeffcomg.org)), and on our Facebook page, and additional opportunities will be handled by Taylor and the Community Services Committee. We are working on a process to assure that projects are taken in, reviewed, recruited and answers given to the requestor in a timely way. Many thanks to Linda Joseph for being willing to help us develop this process.

As we begin to organize our community responses, we will be looking to get to know **members’ skills and preferences** for work. To assist us with this, please go into the *Volunteer Interests* and *Gardening Interests* sections in the “My Page” tab of the MG Service Report site. *...(continued on page 2)*

## JCMGA March Program Notes

Here we are moving into March, along with the wind! This is our double feature month for JCMGA. We not only have our regular monthly meeting, we also have our first night meeting in our 2016 season:

**Tuesday, March 8**  
**9 a.m. Social Hour, 10 a.m. Meeting**  
**BBG Lecture Hall**

**Composting**  
**William Cureton, “Captain Compost”**

At our March 8 morning meeting, you will meet “Captain Compost”—also known as William Cureton—our speaker. He is a graduate of Clemson University. He moved to Birmingham in 1985, then to Talladega to a 3-acre farm (garden) in 1997. His last move was to St. Clair county where his composting business is now located. The corporate slogan is “CAPTAIN COMPOST AND MULCH WOMAN (HIS WIFE) ARE HERE TO SAVE THE SOIL.” There will be compost for sale at the meeting.

**Tuesday, March 15, 6 p.m.**  
**Evening Meeting**  
**BBG Education Classroom**

**All About Camellias**  
**Dr. Dave Glass**

Dr. Dave Glass is our speaker and a most knowledgeable camellia expert. Bring along a notepad, because he will have information of camellia culture, propagating methods, planting and care info, areas’ best varieties, color, size, bloom time—you name it, he has it covered. Camellias are the wonderful shrub which blooms from September through April **WHEN ALL ELSE IN YOUR GARDEN IS COLD AND BARE**. Bring a guest—they are always welcome!

Hope you have enjoyed some of our 70-degree days. Spring will be here in a few weeks, which cannot be soon enough for me. Remember to mark your calendar for both programs, and bring a friend or neighbor, and a covered dish. Let’s all share our garden knowledge.

**Pat**

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

### Bethany's Extension Extra

**Thank you, Birmingham Home and Garden Show volunteers!** Master Gardeners, you really helped us take our show on the road by staffing our booth at the recent Birmingham Home and Garden Show. Countless questions/curiosities were raised by home gardeners, who are always grateful to receive trusted advice from seasoned Master Gardeners. In just four days, we staffed 38 time slots and covered over 40 hours of face-to-face contact with an eager audience. You make a difference every time you step up to volunteer!

**How's YOUR winter garden coming along?** Red, yellow, and Merlot bell peppers, California Wonder, cayenne and tabasco peppers are just the beginning of my list of newest plantings. This weekend, my sons and I started a variety of seeds in my portable greenhouse at home on my family's deck. Tomato choices include Mortgage Lifter, Arkansas Traveler, and Celebrity. We also planted rows of lettuces in the ground, alongside kale and spinach.



How about posting a little bit about what you're doing to get ready for spring? Are you starting your own vegetable or flower seeds? Or maybe building a raised bed for your herbs? Do you have a tip to share for keeping your tools sharp? Visit our Jefferson County [Master Gardeners' page on Facebook](#), be sure to "Like" our page, and then post your late winter garden projects. Your ideas may be just the inspiration to get another Master Gardener started.

**Publication spotlight** Speaking of planting seeds, here's a publication to check out as you make plans for your spring plantings. Auburn University's J.M. Kemble offers tried-and-true advice in [Keys to Producing and Selecting Quality Vegetable Transplants](#). You'll find tips for choosing the right growing media and containers, as well as advice on watering and fertilizing. His table on temperatures and times required for growing transplants includes details for a variety of fruits and vegetables, from asparagus to watermelon.

**Cumulative CEU Hours from 2016 Meetings**  
 January 12 (Jason Kirby) 1.0 CEU  
 February 9 (Reach for the Stars) No CEU for this mtg.

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

We hope to use this as a source to recruit those who may be interested in projects that are available.

In the **Plant Info Center (GPIC)**, Susan Jackson and Mitzi Owen have agreed to coordinate a group to help schedule training and facilitate communication for those working there. We are trying to share "best practices" among those who routinely work there and for interns who are learning about it. If you would like to work in the GPIC, but would like a mentor or a "refresher" shift or two, please check in with Susan or Mitzi.

A few additional notes about "happenings:"

- We had a very successful MG booth at the **Birmingham Home and Garden show** at the BJCC. Thanks to all who participated in that effort. The reports on client satisfaction were very positive!
- The **BBG Spring Plant Sale** will be April 15-17. Taylor Steele (tsteele@bbgardens.org) would love to hear from you if you would like to volunteer for that event.
- Mark your calendars and see Pat Cosgrove's note for **BOTH March meetings** – 8<sup>th</sup> (10am) and 15<sup>th</sup> (6pm).
- Our **May JCMGA meeting is our plant swap**. Now is the time to think about your contribution (or 2) so that it is not potted the night before and looking "shocked" at its new surroundings! Also, remember.... invasives are not invited! Natives are encouraged, but all other plants are welcomed, as well. It is a great opportunity to learn about a variety of plants and to pick up a new one or two for your garden. Check in with Bethany or Lenora Roberson if you have questions about your contribution.
- Registration has opened for the **Alabama MG meeting May 12-14, 2016** in Dothan, Alabama. This is a great opportunity for both education and networking with other MGs around the state. Follow the links at <http://alabamamg.org/> to register. Those who have earned special nametags or "jewels" for volunteer service will be honored at this meeting.

Thank you for all the work that is done by members of the JCMGA. Y'all are an amazing group of people. Hope to see you at the March meetings.

*Ann Gray*

Ann Gray Harvey, President

### Treasurer's Report

#### February 1, 2016

Beginning balance January 1, 2016	\$11,172.46
Deposits	\$345.00
Disbursements	\$696.06
Ending balance February 29, 2016	\$10,821.40

--- Marie Robertson, Treasurer

(Note: Ending bal. date in last issue should have been Jan. 31, 2016: editor's error)

## February 2016 Minutes

### Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Meeting – February 9, 2016

The regular meeting of the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 in the fellowship hall of the Shades Valley Presbyterian Church. President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

**Secretary's Report** Ann Gray asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Minutes of our January 12, 2016 meeting as published in the *Roots and Shoots* newsletter. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as published. The motion was approved by the membership.

**Treasurer's Report** Ann Gray asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Treasurer's Report as published in the *Roots and Shoots* newsletter. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as published. The motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report** Ann Gray urged members to check their personal information in the online directory. A printout of this directory was available at the sign-in table for making corrections. Members can access and make corrections and additions at the JCMGA website by going to the "My Page" tab on the Service Report webpage. This directory will be used for emails and other contacts starting next month. Members must themselves make corrections or additions to their information. If anyone needs help they could check with Ann Gray in GPIC after the meeting. Dues should be paid to Tom Douglas or Marie Robertson.

Ann Gray thanked members for their donations of winter clothing to be distributed to children in need by the BBG sponsored Girl Scout Troop.

Ann Gray took food donations from last month's meeting to the Christian Service Mission. They have extensive raised bed gardens and are growing vegetables by hydroponics. Volunteers to help with their gardens would be welcomed. Anyone interested in helping should contact their volunteer coordinator Michael Bowen.

The March meeting probably will be held at the BBG but watch for notices in case there is a change. Ann Gray thanked Fletcher Harvey and Bobby Pickett for making the church available for today's meeting and Martha and Maurice Picardy for the decorations.

Fletcher Harvey alerted members to the Great Backyard Bird Count coming up the weekend of February 12-14. Participation in the count can be reported as volunteer hours. There is a link on the JCMGA website and on our Facebook page for more information. Or you can Google "bird count" to learn how to conduct and report the count.

**ACES Report** Bethany O'Rear thanked members that had signed up for shifts at the Home and Garden Show. She will be sending you more information.

Bethany had copies of the paperback "Smart Yards Manual" which are available for \$10. Money from the sale of these books will be given the JCMGA.

In order to expand our community outreach Bethany and Ann Gray are working to develop an improved procedure for submitting projects offering volunteer opportunities so it will be possible to respond in a timely fashion to people requesting help. Ann Gray suggested it would be helpful to organize members according to their interests.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Hospitality** Martha Picardy asked for interested members to please signup for the hospitality committee to help with events and the banquet.

**Education and Speakers** Fletcher Harvey reported that there are 15 names in our speakers' bureau.

**Membership** Linda Systrom reminded members to pay their 2016 dues and to check their personal information on the website. Diane Remick is available to take your photograph if you need one.

*(Minutes continued below)*

*(February Minutes, continued)*

**Communications** Carol Hagood thanked the newsletter team for their timely help.

**Community Service** Taylor Steele introduced Tori McDonald from the YWCA AmeriCorps. Tori reported on the Norwood Gardens project. Residents in the neighborhood are working to rehabilitate four community gardens. Master gardeners who would like to volunteer their help should sign up with Tori or contact Norwood Resource Center and Learning Gardens at 205-322-7361, or go to [norwoodresourcecenter.org](http://norwoodresourcecenter.org).

Taylor announced there will be a Plant Dig on February 27, 2016 at the New Georgia Landfill from 8AM to 1PM. Master gardeners are needed to help answer questions during the dig. Orientation for members wanting to help will be held at the BBG in the Linn Henley Lecture Hall on February 20<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to 10AM.

The annual pruning of the Dunn Rose Garden will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> from 8AM until 12N. Instruction will be given on how to prune prior to actually doing the pruning.

The Jefferson County Urban Forestry Fair will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:30AM until 1PM at Boutwell Auditorium. If you are interested in helping at the Fair you should contact Taylor.

The Spring Plant Sale will be at Brookwood Village on April 14-17. Help is needed for setup on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 300 volunteers are needed. Volunteer applications are available from Taylor.

Sallie Lee reported on progress at the Sloss Furnace Grandmother's Garden. Heirloom plants are grown there in much the same way they would have been in years past before commercial fertilizers and pesticides. Sallie thanked the master gardeners who have worked at the site saying that their efforts have really made the gardens "come alive". There are at least 200,00 visitors to the Sloss Furnace each year and the Red Mountain Trail will have a stop off place at Sloss. Volunteers work at the gardens for a couple of hours on Wednesday mornings starting around 9AM.

**Program** Ken Hall introduced the "Reach for the Stars" program honoring individuals who have reached milestones in their Master Gardening lives. He thanked Bruce Steele, Susan Jackson, Madeline Rushing, Bethany O'Rear and Keri Smith for their help in collecting and reporting members' volunteer hours. **Bronze Star** awardees were Worth Barham, Elizabeth Bishop, Judith Courington, Richard Cybulsky, Ann Davis, Debbie Dumais, Mickey Farmer, Linda Goode, Paula Haynes, Steven Knop, Kitty Lineberry, Mary McGlaughlin, Charles Murray, Cathy O'Sheal, Sally Price, Christopher Pugh, Crystal Salter, Renee Saul, and Neal Schooley. **Silver Star** awardees were Elissa Capps, Maurice Picardy, and Peggy Thompson. **Gold Star** awardees were Bertice Brown, Mary Connolly, Hope Cooper, Thomas Douglass, Ann Gray Harvey, Diana Jones, Donna Madison, Gail Pless, and Marie Robertson. **Gold name badges** were awarded to Lawrence Michalove, Martha Picardy, and Janet Waters and **platinum name badges** were awarded to Alicia Hall and Lenora Roberson.

**Upcoming Meetings** "Composting" will be the topic of the next meeting on March 8. The topic for the March 15<sup>th</sup> evening meeting will be "Camellias."

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Door prizes were given.

A potluck meal followed the meeting.

No CEUs are given for this meeting.

Kathy Rostand,  
Secretary



*In February, Master Gardener volunteers assisted many of those attending the Home and Garden Show in Birmingham.*

## Upcoming Events at Aldridge Gardens

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

### Mosaic Memory Flower Pot Workshop (*limited to 12 participants*)

**Instructor:** Felicia Dubose, Mixed Media Mosaic Artist **Location:** Field Trip Gardens

**Saturday, March 12, 1–3 p.m., and Sunday, March 13, 1:30–3:30 p.m.**

**Members: \$42; Non-Members: \$50 (materials fee of \$10 included)**

Bring old jewelry, grandma's broken vintage china, coins, keys, beads, etc., to commemorate your special occasion into your own mosaic 10-inch flower pot. Perfect for a gift or for yourself! In Session 1, on Saturday, learn technique, design, and begin application. In Session 2, on Sunday, grout and finish your project. A few tiles, grout, materials, and handouts will be provided, but participants should bring their own mementos and tiles for a personal design. Please don't bring glass. Wear a work shirt and bring a pen and tile nippers (available at craft stores for about \$12.)

### Make Your Own Terrarium (*limited to 16 participants, registration deadline March 14*)

**Instructor:** Donna Bishop, Terrarium Designer; **Saturday, March 19, 10 a.m.—Noon**

**Members: \$26; Non-Members: \$33**

Come get ready for Spring by designing and planting your own terrarium. Terrariums, which have been popular since Victorian times, are glass enclosed containers for growing small plants. You will learn about proper soil mixes, charcoal, moisture, light, temperature, fertilizing, plant selection, and maintenance. Bring to class a clear glass container of your choice (with or without a lid), with a maximum base of 8-10 inches. Plastic will not work. Suggestions include a wide-mouth bottle, a cookie or pickle jar, large brandy snifter, fish bowl, or glass cylinder. Check out the craft stores and Home Goods for container ideas. All other supplies, including plants, will be provided.

## 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.

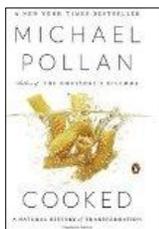
## News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

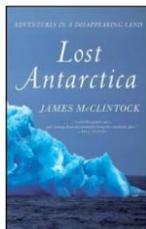
### Art Gallery News

On March 4, The Library at The Gardens will host an Art Gallery Opening for Pat Carroll from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Carroll's work will be displayed and available for purchase throughout the month.

### Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, March 2, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation* by Michael Pollan.



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, April 5, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Lost Antarctica* by James McIntock.

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 Tuesdays (9-1), 3rd Saturdays (1-4), 4th Saturdays (1-4), 5th Saturdays (10-1), and 5th Saturdays (1-4). Contact Taylor Steele, 205-414-3962 or [tsteele@bbgardens.org](mailto:tsteele@bbgardens.org) for 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:*

### **Herbal Recipes, Remedies and Revelries from the Garden**

**Instructor: Antonia Viteri & Cameron Strouss**

**Saturday, March 12 | 2-4 p.m.**

**Members \$15 | Non-Members \$20**

Join Herbalists Antonia Viteri and Cameron Strouss for an exploration on the many benefits an herb garden can provide. This class uniquely offers components of garden design, historical uses of herbs, medicine making and culinary adventures of common herbs and “weeds” found in the garden. Participants will learn about infused oils, vinegars, herbal honey and cordials that will inspire your taste buds and /or help manage common ailments. Class will also cover how to properly harvest and keep your pantry stocked.

### **Flora Photography**

**Instructor: Hank Siegel**

**Saturday, March 12 | 9-1 p.m.**

**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-to's 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)

### **Whiskeys of the World**

**Instructors: Brooke and Nathan McMinn**

**Thursday, March 24, 6-8 p.m.**

**Members \$30 | Non-Members \$35**

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.

## 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 the Study of Native Plants (core)**

**Instructor: John Manion, Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator, Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Saturday, March 5 | 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

**Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Members \$80 | Non-Members \$90**

This full-day introduction to the study of native plants will begin in the classroom and later move outside to The Gardens, where we will correlate much of what we have learned. The class will be a broad overview of several topics relevant to native plants, including: terminology and definitions, why natives, plant conservation, recommended references, and historical and contemporary uses in our landscapes. Other topics to be discussed will be plant identification, designing with natives, and how to grow them. This class will benefit those whom have already taken CNPS classes, as well as anyone interested in the topic.

#### **Growing Native Trees from Seed—Oaks, Hickories and Others—Part II (elective)**

**Instructor: Henry Hughes, Director of Education, Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Saturday, March 12 | 12:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**\$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members**

What do you do with your native white oak acorns that germinate in the fall? Can you slow them down to synchronize with your spring germinating red oak acorns? How do you know when they are ready to plant? Which potting mix and which containers do you use? Where do you put them to grow and be protected them from winter-starved chipmunks? How do you tell when the seedlings are ready to plant in the ground?

Using classroom instruction and field observation and everyday household items, this class will demonstrate hands-on methods of tree seed storage, germination and planting. It will cover growth and development of seedlings, transplanting of small seedlings into larger containers and planting of seedlings in the field. The class is aimed at both home gardeners and small-scale nursery producers.

#### **Introduction to Botany – the Science of Plants (core)**

**Instructor: Tom Diggs, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of Plant Biology, University of North Georgia, Gainesville**

**Saturday, March 19 | 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

**Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Members \$80 | Non-Members \$90**

In order to truly appreciate the endlessly fascinating world of plants, it's important to have a basic understanding of them. This class will introduce participants to the fundamental concepts of botany, including plant tissues, anatomy of the major vegetative and reproductive structures of the plant body, global plant habitats, basic botanical terminology through the use of a key, and a discussion of Alabama plant diversity.

After the classroom portion of this class, we will walk out into The Gardens to explore the physiology and diversity of the plants around us.

## Volunteer Opportunities with John Manion

Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead volunteer sessions during the month of March.

On Tuesday, March 1 and Tuesday, March 8, the Propagation Group will meet; on Thursday, March 3,

The Kaul Wildflower Group will meet. Meet at 9 a.m. in the garden du jour, ready to work!

Write John for more information at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org).

## *Master Gardeners—mark your Spring calendars!*

*(some important reminders from our President's Message, page two)*

- The **BBG Spring Plant Sale** will be April 15-17. Taylor Steele (tsteele@bbgardens.org) would love to hear from you if you would like to volunteer for that event.
- See Pat Cosgrove's note (page 1) for **BOTH March meetings** – 8th (10 a.m.) and 15th (6 p.m).
- Our **May JCMGA meeting is our plant swap**. Now is the time to think about your contribution (or 2) so that it is not potted the night before and looking “shocked” at its new surroundings! Also, remember.... invasives are not invited! Natives are encouraged, but all other plants are welcomed, as well. It is a great opportunity to learn about a variety of plants and to pick up a new one or two for your garden. Check in with Bethany or Lenora Roberson if you have questions about your contribution.
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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***