



MARCH 2015



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

President's Message

The old adage that March “comes in like a lion and out like a lamb” appears to be true. It is a month where the seasons pivot from winter to spring. I’m looking out the window at multiple projects that need to be completed, soon, but am firmly planted in the warmth waiting in hope of a nicer day! Snow is predicted as I write this and it will probably be warm and sunny by the time this goes out....that’s the swing of this time of year.

There are lots of things happening and preparations are underway! The **Alabama MG Association meeting** is to be held on March 23-25 in Cullman. Registration forms have been sent by email and the state newsletter, but if you still need one, check the Conference website at <http://www.amgaconference.org/>.

We have been asked to supply **door prizes** for the conference. As Glenda Dicks noted at the February meeting, “One person’s trash is another one’s treasure!” This is a good time to start the spring cleaning and bring in “stuff” that might make someone’s day as a door prize! Bring any surprises you want to donate to the March JCMGA meeting or contact Glenda Dicks for information.

Construction at the main building at the Botanical Gardens has not yet begun, so we will still be located in the usual places for our March meetings. Be sure to check the program notes for both meetings in March, the usual 2nd Tuesday (March 10) and the evening meeting on March 17. Please continue to check the website and the Facebook pages for information about locations going forward.

We have some great folks who have agreed to work with our committees and need your help, as well. To volunteer, please see the chair people of the various committees at the March meeting. The names and committees are listed in Alicia’s minutes of the February meeting (in this newsletter). In addition to that listing, Natalie Lee and Bernadine Faulkner have agreed to chair the November Banquet planning group. Please volunteer wherever your interests and skills lead you. Don’t be shy about approaching these folks.....they are looking for help!!

Copies of the proposed JCMGA Bylaw revisions were made available at the last meeting. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact me. We would like to take action on these at the March meeting.

Most importantly, special congratulations go to those who received stars, badges, jewels or commendations at the February meeting. The volunteer work done by each person, award recipient or not, is what makes this association so special. It is the heart of who we are. So, thank you, *everyone*, for the many hours of volunteer work!

I look forward to seeing you at one of the March meetings!

Ann Gray

Ann Gray Harvey, President

JCMGA March Program Notes

March 10, 10 a.m.

**Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium
Extension Agent Sallie Lee: Organic Gardening**

**[Important Note: JCMGA will gather for
its regular morning meetings
in the BBG Auditorium through September.]**

At the March 10 regular meeting of JCMGA, welcome Sallie Lee and her presentation on organics. What is organic gardening? : “a system of gardening that uses fertilizers and mulch containing only animal or vegetable matter.”

Sallie will answer the how and why this process can affect our people, our animals, and our environment. She has been with the Extension since 1998, providing her knowledge, guidance, and friendship to so many . . . lucky us!

On March 17 at 6 p.m., come to the March evening JCMGA meeting at BBG (first floor conference room) to enjoy Bethany O’Rear’s program on apps useful to gardeners. It seems we have something new available every week or so. Bring a friend along with you—the more, the better!

If you are a new member attending your first or second Master Gardeners’ meeting, be sure to let the check-in table know, so that you can be welcomed and recognized.

I’d like to send out special thanks to Hope Cooper, our second vice president for “having my back” in February—no pun intended. Her help while I was “out of commission” was much appreciated. And thanks to everyone for the calls and cards, which were the best medicine ever.

I’m looking forward to seeing many of you on March 10 and March 17!

Pat

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

Bethany's Extension Extra

Here's my **Followup Report** on our participation at the **2015 Birmingham Home and Garden show**:

A HUGE thank you to all of the MG's that volunteered to staff the **Speak to a Master Gardener** booth. By all of the feedback, the MG's had a great time. We had over thirty volunteers helping folks out during the weekend. If we assume that only 10% of the show attendees visited the Speak to a Master Gardener booth (I think that percentage is quite low – after all, you had to pass our booth on the way to free food!), we helped/talked with over 2500 folks.

Thousands of publications were handed out, numerous questions answered, many recommendations made. We even had folks who brought landscape plans for evaluation and plant recommendations. Please see the following notes from the show manager, Liz Benkovich. *I can't wait until next year!*

From Liz: "Bethany, Here are some comments we received about the Master Gardener booth:

'Speak to a Master Gardener was a fabulous show feature. The presence of Master Gardeners gave consumers a great opportunity to get answers to their challenges, problems and concerns relating to a variety of gardening and landscaping topics. The fact that the Master Gardeners were present during the entire show and easily accessible proved to be very worthwhile. The collateral material that homeowners were given and could use a resource at home was very much appreciated by all. I was very impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment on the part of the Extension and Jefferson County Master Gardeners. All involved took this feature seriously. They were always present and enthusiastic.'

'The internet and books are valuable. But nothing beats face-to-face communications. Show visitors really appreciated interacting with experts and speaking with people who had the knowledge they were seeking.'

'I love the fact that the Birmingham Home and Garden Show mirrors what is happening in the marketplace. Our job is to marry buyers and sellers of products, services and expert advice.'

'The addition of this feature added greatly to this event.'

(Continued in second column above)

Cumulative CEU Hours from 2015 Meetings

January 13 (Brooke McMinn) 1.0 CEU
 February Reach for the Stars program (no CEU)

[Again, from Liz] Bethany, I very much want to repeat this feature next year! I think the location of the feature at the top of the stairs was perfect. We advertised this heavily and people were able to find you easily.

I know consumers loved the idea of being able to speak to your experts. I was so pleased with the people manning this area. I think this was a runaway hit!"



**All Bugs, Good and Bad Webinar Series:
 Next Installment – Friday, March 6**

Hey, Master Gardeners, here's a great CEU opportunity!

On March 6, 2015, we will be discussing **Fire Ant Management Using Baits**. Learn how to make the biology of fire ants work for you, not against you.

This webinar presented by Dr. Lawrence "Fudd" Graham from Auburn University will discuss fire ant baits and other control methods. It will also provide the latest information on the *Pseudacteon phorid* flies, natural enemies of fire ants.

Please see the following links for more information: <http://www.extension.org/pages/72197> and <https://learn.extension.org/events/1852>

Treasurer's Report

February 2015

Beginning balance January 31, 2015	\$9,448.76
Deposits	\$66.00
Disbursements	\$628.02
Ending balance February 28, 2015	\$8,886.74

---Submitted by Tom Douglass, Treasurer

January 2015 Minutes

Jefferson County Master Gardener's Meeting – January 13, 2015

Editor's Note: The January 2015 Minutes were inadvertently omitted from the February 2015 newsletter. They are recorded here; February 2015 Minutes follow.

The regular meeting of the JCMGA was held January 13, 2015 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). There were 65-70 members present. President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Ann Gray noted that our last meeting held was the November graduation banquet. She acknowledged and thanked all who participated in arranging the food and decorations for the banquet. She also thanked Anne Thomas and Bruce Steele who served as greeters today, welcoming new attendees and our regular master gardener members. Then Ann Gray acknowledged and welcomed two new members attending today.

Ann Gray then introduced the 2015 officers and Board Members: Ann Gray Harvey, president; Patricia Cosgrove, first vice-president; Hope Cooper, second vice president; Tom Douglass, treasurer; Alicia Hall, secretary; Roger Clarke (immediate past president – not in attendance today); and “at-large” board members Martha and Maurice Picardy, Suzanne Clisby, and Glenn Peoples.

Ann Gray announced that Tom Douglass had our most recent membership list with him. She asked that each member check the list to make sure that their dues have been paid and that their contact information is correct. Dues must be paid by January 31 to remain active members.

New Business:

Bylaws: Ann Gray reported that at the JCMGA Board meeting held one week ago, the Board had reviewed the bylaws and made recommendations for changes and revisions. She summarized the changes as follows:

1. Advisory Council: Has not been active in several years and paragraphs containing this term will be reworded.
2. Lifetime membership will be removed as a membership category. Ann Gray said to her knowledge that there are no current members in this category. She asked that if there are lifetime members, please let her know and the membership will be honored.
3. Historical / Scrapbook Committee will be deleted.
4. Newsletter Committee is to be renamed the “Communications Committee”. This committee will be responsible for the newsletters, electronic media and all written communications.
5. Telephone Committee will be renamed “Membership Committee” and will promote membership and maintain an official membership roster for the local and state Associations.
6. An Education and Speakers Committee is added. This provides structure to what is already being done.
7. Hospitality Committee is being added as a standing committee. Again, this committee has been active, but not listed in our bylaws as a standing committee.

Ann Gray said that there are still positions available on a number of these committees and asked that anyone interested in serving should let her know. She brought copies of the proposed bylaws revisions and encouraged anyone who desired a copy to pick one up. She will also be sending these out electronically for members to review prior to the February meeting, where the membership will be asked to vote on these changes.

Old Business:

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the October JCMGA meeting were previously published in the newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as published. The motion was carried by the membership.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was published in the newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as written and published. The motion was carried by the membership.

Committee Reports: Reach for the Stars: Ken Hall said all hours must be entered by January 15. On the 16th, the committee will print the work sheet to determine who has reached a milestone. Hours entered after January 15 will still be reflected in lifetime hours, but will not be considered this year for “Reach for the Stars”. He also stated that Alicia Hall has agreed to enter hours for those without access to a computer.

Announcements: Hope Long announced that the Hydrangea Society will begin having monthly night meetings at BBG (6 p.m. in the Hodges Room), held on the same day as the noon daytime meetings held at Aldridge Gardens.

(Continued below)

(January 2015 minutes, continued)

Community Service Projects: Girl Scout Troop 31017, which began meeting at BBG last year, is now being led by MG Carol Hagood. At present, there are only a few members but they have been very active and have already installed a pollinator garden at the BBG. In addition to their work at the BBG, they are also participating in the usual Girl Scout troop activities and have just completed a study of Japan including a tour of the Japanese Gardens with Bob Wendorf and an educational session with Jason Kirby, archivist at the Library at BBG. Scout Emma Hornsberry was present to take orders for Girl Scout cookies, which she will bring to the next meeting in February.

Vegetable Garden Spotlight: Hope Cooper said that the BBG Vegetable Garden was able to donate 2800 pounds of organically-grown produce to Magic City Harvest. At present the garden is staffed by Amanda Clark and James Parrish, with the assistance of a core group of volunteers. With James' retirement, there will be an even greater need for volunteers; the work group meets on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week at 9 a.m., weather permitting.

Extension Report: Bethany announced that JCMGA is being given a prominent role in the **Birmingham Home & Garden Show**, and that it is imperative that we fill all of our volunteer slots. Any not taken by our MG volunteers will be offered to Master Gardeners from surrounding counties. She brought a sign-up sheet to the meeting today.

Success Stories Tab on the MG Service Report Page: Bethany said that anyone involved in a community service project should write a short paragraph on the Success Stories Tab. Include a picture if you can (photos should not include children.) Kerry Smith uses this information for filing Federal reports about our volunteer activities. All MG interns will be required to submit a success story as part of their training. **Harvest for Health** continues. Volunteers involved meet first Wednesdays of each month; anyone interested in the program is invite to attend a meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities: Taylor announced that BBG has benefited from 27,000 volunteer hours this past year, 68-69% of these from Master Gardeners. Any volunteer that did not receive their BBG coffee mug and seeds are encouraged to see Taylor. Taylor said there are volunteer opportunities as **docents for Discovery Field Trips, and with Sunday strolls, "Get into the Gardens" and Sunday Scene activities**. In addition, Dr. David Glass from the Camellia Society will present an educational session on reclaiming **heirloom camellia varieties**, on January 29 at 9:30 a.m. James Horton will give an update on BBG happenings /plans just prior to the start of the formal meeting. **The Birmingham Rose Society will have a pruning session** in the Dunn Formal Rose Garden on February 28 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will include education on appropriate pruning techniques. **The Jefferson County Urban Forestry Fair** will be held at the Boutwell Auditorium on February 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed for this event. **The Birmingham Fern Society** needs volunteers on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The work groups meet at 9:00 to do maintenance work in the fern glade or to work with the ferns being grown. Plan to bring a picnic lunch for lunch in the Fern Glade. **Plant Adventure** also needs volunteers for the numerous educational activities they provide to the community. The **Library at BBG** has volunteer spots open on 3rd and 5th Saturdays. **Spring Plant Sale:** Volunteer leadership roles are available in the Plant Loading zone and a chairperson is needed for Tropicals. **Urban Farm Camp:** Gail Pless said that the camp would be held June 22 through 26 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The children attending will be 4th- 6th grade. They will be working in the vegetable garden in the mornings and in the afternoons have projects that they can take home. Lunch sessions will include an educational component. Volunteers are needed.

Speaker/Program: Pat Cosgrove, first vice president, introduced our speaker. Brooke McMinn, Plant Adventure Specialist gave an interesting program about all of the educational activities and projects that the Plant Adventure Zone is involved with. She is trained in ethnobotany, the study of the relationship between people and plants.

The Arrington Plant Adventure Zone has an outdoor classroom with high and low raised beds that can accommodate physically handicapped individuals. They are in the process of putting in a mosaic for the visually impaired. Brooke has brought plants to the Adventure Zone from areas in the gardens that would be inaccessible for individuals with physical challenges. The Plant Adventure Zone hosts groups from Glenwood Autism & Behavioral Health Center and The Arc of Jefferson County. Brooke is in the process of setting up a program with Foxtrot from the Lake Shore Foundation to assist recently injured Veterans. PAZ has numerous Citizen Science Projects including teaching tools for aquaponics, IPM, evolutionary adaptations, varietal trials and wildlife habitats. Programs hosted by the Plant Adventure Zone include Urban Farm Camp, Adventures in the Gardens, our Girl Scout troop, Scale Back Alabama and Hikes for Tykes, to name just a few.

Ann Gray expressed appreciation to Brooke for her willingness to come and present this program to the JCMGA. Three door prizes were given away. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted ,
Alicia Hall, Secretary

February 2015 Minutes

Jefferson County Master Gardener's Meeting – February 10, 2015

The regular meeting of the JCMGA was held on February 10, 2015 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). There were 65-70 members present. President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., welcomed Members, and recognized Cindy Speak—a member of the current Master Gardener class—as a first time attendee.

Announcements and Presidents' Report:

1. Girl Scout cookies ordered at the January meeting are available for pick up at the registration desk.
2. Rosters for today's meeting are located just outside the auditorium at the registration desk. Members are encouraged to check their contact information for accuracy and to correct information as necessary.
3. Copies of the 2014 Directories are available today at a reduced cost.
4. 2015 membership cards are available at the registration desk. Members are asked to pick up their cards today.
5. Ann Gray said that the State Advisory Committee met February 3, with no significant information to report.
6. Ann Gray reminded the group that the State Master Gardeners Conference is scheduled for March 23—25 at the Cullman Civic Center. Contact her if you have not received your registration information.
7. Glenda Dicks announced that the Conference Committee is looking for silent auction donations and asked that any items for donation be brought to the next meeting. Items do not have to be gardening related

Board Report: Bylaws: The Board met on February 9, 2015. President Ann Gray said that some members wanted additional time to review proposed changes and recommended post-poiing a vote on the Bylaws until the March meeting. She also reported that after much discussion and review of the state bylaws, the Board has recommended leaving in Lifetime membership, awarded to members with 10,000 volunteer hours. Printed copies of the proposed bylaw revisions were available at meeting, with members were encouraged to pick up a copy. **Financial Review:** Tom Douglass outlined the results of the financial review conducted by the Audit Committee with the leadership of Harold Deason from Blount County. Tom reported that a detailed review was conducted and the results revealed that our practices are well within the guidelines of the state organization. Harold's conclusion was that our practices should be an example for other Master Gardener organizations throughout the state.

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

Committee Reports: Ann Gray introduced committee chairpersons as follows: **Hospitality** headed by Martha and Maurice Picardy. Martha said that she had a sign-up sheet for this committee. **Community Service** will be led by Karen Mitchell; Karen currently has only limited availability, so Ann Gray will be available as a resource. **Education and Speakers Bureau** coordinated by Fletcher Harvey and Hope Long. Hope announced that anyone interested should speak with her. **Reach for the Stars** facilitated by Ken Hall, Anne Thomas, Bruce Steele and Madelon Rushing. **Communications** headed by Diane Remick and Carol Hagood.

Education Opportunities: A pre-dig orientation for the New Georgia Landfill dig (Feb. 28) will be held at BBG on February 21, 9:30 a.m.—noon. Orientation can be counted as continuing education. Volunteers are needed for the dig.

Dollars and Sense will be presented by Fred Spicer and Mike Rushing on March in the Adventure Classroom at BBG. This class, which counts as CEU, will provide volunteers information on how to sell plants at the Spring Plant Sale.

Dunn Rose Garden pruning, February 28, 8 a.m.—1 pm., is a good opportunity to learn pruning techniques.

Reach for the Stars Awards Ceremony Ken Hall announced that in 2014 Master Gardeners around the state contributed 227,000 volunteer hours, and that in Jefferson County hours total 17,244. Ken thanked all of the award recipients for their hard work and said that the Master Gardener Association is honored to have them as members.

Community Service Project Spotlight Dr. Wendy Demark from UAB presented an update on the Harvest for Health project which pairs a Master Gardener with a breast cancer survivor, to assist the cancer survivor in implementing a garden to grow healthy fruits and vegetables. The study is evaluating the effects of a healthy diet on physical activity and physical functioning. The Master Gardener works with the survivor for one year assisting with a fall, spring and summer garden. The project is funded by the National Cancer Institute and the Women's Breast Health Fund. Dr. Demark is applying for funding for an additional 208 cancer survivors. She presented award certificates to the following Master Gardeners who have been participating: Jeanne Bearden, Jennifer Hicks, Nora O'Connor, Diana Jones, Debra Owsley, LeAnne Porter, Su Reid St. John and Leonora Roberson. *(Continued below)*

(February 2015 Minutes, continued)

After a door prize was won by Carol Hagood, Ann Gray adjourned the formal meeting at 11:35. The award recipients were asked to come forward for pictures, and other members began enjoying a fabulous potluck lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia Hall, Secretary

Upcoming Classes at Aldridge Gardens

Find more information or to register for classes, visit <http://aldridgegardens.com>.

Learn a New Skill: Vegetable Gardening 101; Thursday, March 5, 2015 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Instructor: Brad Waguespack, Biology Faculty, Vestavia Hills High School/ \$12 members/\$15 non-members

Just in time for spring planting, learn how to garden vegetables and enjoy the fruits of your labors all summer long!

If you've always wanted a garden to provide fresh healthy foods for your family, this is the place to start! The beginner's seminar is designed for the hopeful green thumb novice. We'll walk through the entire gardening process from site selection and preparing the soil to choosing what and when to plant. Participants will also learn about various types of fertilizers, weed control and pest control strategies. At the end of the class, participants will have a gardening plan for the upcoming growing season that will put vegetables on your table all summer long!

Bring supplies to take notes.

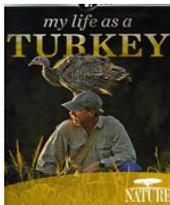
Volunteer Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

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.

Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, April 7 in the Library at BBG to discuss the video *My Life as a Turkey*. 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 March/April: *East Asian Inspired Art: 7 Artists*

Seven artists have created an exhibit of painting, sumi-e, and photography in celebration of the art, subject matter, and tradition of East Asia. Represented are the traditional subjects of cherry blossom, koi, bamboo, teahouse, crane, ginger jar, persimmon and many more.

Artists are Sandra Babb, Carol Hobbs, Sherry Hullender, Janice Kennedy, Leslie O'Rear, Linda Rugina and Evelyn Maria Williams.

An opening reception will be held March 20 at 5:30-7:30 p.m.

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.), 4th Sundays (2 - 5 p.m.), and Mondays (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.). Please contact Taylor Steele at 205-414-3962 or tsteele@bbgardens.org for more 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.

Among upcoming classes at BBG - look online for more opportunities:

Small Space Solutions for Vegetables

Instructor: Brooke McMinn

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Wednesday, April 8 | 10-11:30 a.m.

Free Members-Only Class

Gardening in small spaces can be surprisingly simple and rewarding. With a little planning and the proper tools, even the smallest spaces can be used to grow delicious and nutritious vegetables at home. Learn space-saving strategies to turn your windowsill, balcony or small backyard into a flourishing vegetable garden. We will discuss sunlight assessment, variety selection, container use and making the most of vertical space.

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---look online for additional opportunities:

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

Introduction to the Study of Native Plants (core)

Instructor: John Manion

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

\$80 Members | \$90 Non-Members

This full-day introduction to the study of native plants will begin in the classroom and later move outside into The Gardens and greenhouses, 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 propagation. This class will benefit those whom have already taken CNPS classes, as well as anyone interested in the topic.

**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 March 3, 5, and 10, starting at 9 a.m. The propagation group will gather on Friday, March 6. For more information, contact John Manion at jmanion@bbgardens.org.

Congratulations to Reach for the Stars award recipients!



For a complete list of all 2015 JCMGA Reach for the Stars award recipients, see the February *Roots and Shoots* or the Jefferson County Master Gardeners Web site at <http://www.jeffcomg.org>.



JEFFERSON COUNTY
Master Gardeners

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*