

Roots and Shoots

MAY 2016



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

President's Message

Whew! Spring events and gardening are in full swing! I'm still trying to get my Plant Sale purchases into more permanent homes. Some of the "happenings" to keep in mind are:

New Class! We welcome the **2016 MG Intern Class** to the JCMGA. Congratulations on completing your course work and on the volunteer projects undertaken! Good work!! We hope you will join us for meetings this summer; Pat has a great line-up of speakers for us. Also, this is a great place to learn about events, news from the plant world and volunteer opportunities. At the very least, the food at the hospitality time beforehand is always good!!

Mark your calendars! The Alabama MG spring meeting starts May 12 in Dothan. There is still time to register via the Alabama MG website. The fall meeting will be held in Birmingham on September 29. Gail Pless is leading the planning for that event. There will be roles for a number of folks as this develops. Please contact Gail or me if you would like to help.

Thanks! On behalf of those working with school and community gardens, we'd like to send our thanks to the BBG for donating remaining vegetables to our community and school volunteers. Thanks to Taylor and the BBG Friends for the contributions!

More Thanks! While I'm sharing thanks, thank you to those who served at the MG Booth at the BBG Plant Sale and for the Earth Day celebration at the BBG. Feedback on your contributions was very positive.

And to Bethany O'Rear and the ACES staff..... thanks so much for allowing us to sell the "Smart Yards" books to benefit the JCMGA.

And here's a final **Reminder!** Take a minute ASAP to pot your plants for the JCMGA plant swap next week so that they don't look "shocked"!

Finally and most importantly, thanks to all who are volunteering in so many capacities with school and community gardens, with local gardens and garden groups, with churches or your neighbors.

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JCMGA May Program Notes

Tuesday, May 10
9 a.m. Social Hour, 10 a.m. Meeting
BBG Auditorium

PLANT SWAP
Leonora Roberson

Our May meeting is a favorite for all gardeners. You bring a plant and you take a plant home. Be sure all of your plants have a label with both names. I tend to know more of the common names, so we will have a table with help for folks like me.

Make sure the plant is happy and healthy. You may have something you still need to identify. This is Leonora's specialty, and a great opportunity to finally know your plant's name.

Everyone has a good time at the plant swap, so be sure to come and bring a friend or neighbor. We like to share our information, sort of like planting time when we share and then just sit back and watch for new growth. Also, bring a covered dish, cookies, cake or whatever you like to share, as well.

And mark your calendar for June meetings to come:

Tuesday, June 14
9 a.m. Social Hour, 10 a.m. Meeting
BBG Auditorium

James Horton
What's Happening in the Gardens

and the June evening meeting:
Tuesday, June 21, 6 p.m.

Mike Rushing
(topic to be announced)

Hope to see some of the interns show up for the Plant Swap and the meetings in June, too. That would cover the part about watch them grow....

See you!

Pat
Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

Bethany's Extension Extras

Butterflies in Your Garden

For gardeners who enjoy attracting beneficials to their plantings, there is nothing quite like seeing butterflies fluttering around from flower to flower. My recent project with Hayden Primary School (see photo below) has focused on establishing a pollinator garden for K-2 students and teachers, and the students are full of anticipation as plants begin to bloom. For a suggested list of host plants and nectar sources for attracting butterflies to your garden throughout the butterfly's stages of development, check out [Butterfly Gardens](#). This Alabama Cooperative Extension publication may provide just the incentive you need to develop a new garden spot this spring.



Gardeners Don't Brag; They Just Share

Remember to share your garden accomplishments! Rather than seeing your new project as bragging on social media, we can view your post as an inspiration or maybe a garden solution. Go to our **Jefferson County Master Gardeners' Facebook page**, and be sure to "Like" the page. You'll see a space there inviting you to write something on this page. Let us see what you're up to in the community as you contribute volunteer hours, or what you're doing in your own garden. I'm hoping you'll post a garden spotlight for us all to enjoy!

See you at the Plant Swap!

What plant have you chosen to bring to our **Master Gardeners' Plant Swap** at the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, May 10? Maybe it's a plant with a story, or maybe it's your garden's best re-seeding plant that you love sharing with neighbors. Regardless, be sure to bring your plant to swap with another Master Gardener at our annual May event. Remember to label your plant with its botanical and common names. I hope to see you there!

(Extension Extras, continued)

Master Gardener Conference in Dothan, May 12-15

This year's annual **Alabama Master Gardeners conference** in Dothan, *Sculpting the Garden*, is just around the corner. Check out the details [here](#) to learn more about registration, speakers and agenda for the conference.

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

Whether your gifts are public speaking, leading teams, computer work or answering individual garden questions, this is the JCMGA. I am awed and humbled by the knowledge, talents and accomplishments of this group.

I look forward to seeing you at the Plant Swap next week. Let's have some fun!

Ann Gray

Ann Gray Harvey, President

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

Treasurer's Report

The JCMGA April and May financial reports will be in the June issue of *Roots & Shoots*.

April 2016 Minutes

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Meeting – April 12, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the JCMGA was held on April 12, 2016 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 10 AM.

Ann Gray welcomed everyone, especially members of the 2016 Master Gardener Class. Three members of that class were present. All members were reminded to sign in, pay their dues, and check their information in the computer system.

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

President's Report: Ann Gray reminded members of the upcoming BBG Spring Plant Sale. Lenora Roberson encouraged members to repot their plants now for the Plant Swap at our May 10 meeting. Labels will be available so you can provide information about your plants. You may bring visitors to the Plant Swap, but please no invasive plants.

Ann Gray reminded members that we are now using the new email system, so if you are not getting emails please check your information in "My Page" on the JCMGA website. Also update your Garden interests and Volunteer interests.

Upcoming meetings include the May 12-14 AMGA meeting in Dothan and the AMGA Fall meeting to be held at the BBG on September 29, 2016. Gail Pless is heading the committee to organize the one-day meeting in the Fall.

Extension Report: Bethany O'Rear thanked JCMGA volunteers for their help with Master Gardener information tables at various events. Volunteers are needed for the table at Earth Day at the BBG on Saturday, April 23. Another volunteer opportunity described by Bethany is helping a man who is recovering from back surgery and cannot till his ~200 sq. ft. garden in preparation for spring planting. He is a friend of Gail Pless. Bruce Steele suggested that the "no till" approach would be a good alternative. Ann Gray thanked Bethany for making proceeds from the sale of *Smart Yard* books at the Spring Plant Sale available to JCMGA.

Ann Gray dispensed with **Committee Reports** because most committee chairs were away getting things ready for the Plant Sale.

Program:

What's Under Your Sink And In Your Garage?

Presented by Sallie Lee and Andy Baril
Extension Agents of ACES

Most chemicals under our sink and in our garage are pest killers – "-cides": insecticides and herbicides. Sallie made recommendations for using these poisons safely and appropriately.

1. Define the problem. Which pest is doing the damage?
2. When storing these chemicals, keep them in the original container.
3. Inventory your chemicals and, if they are older than about 2 years, dispose of them.
4. READ THE LABEL - What should it be used for, is there some personal protective equipment you should use, is there an antidote, what is its common name and brand name, at what concentration should you use it.

Sallie pointed out that the meaning of LD50 – the amount of the chemical to kill 50% of a test population – can be counterintuitive. A higher LD50 means the chemical is less toxic and a lower LD50 means it is more toxic.

Andy Baril discussed rodent - chipmunk, rat, mouse, squirrel, vole, mole, and woodchuck - control recommending various kinds of snap traps and asking us not to use sticky boards. Again it is important to know which creature is doing damage to your plants. He pointed out that moles are not plant eaters but are good insectivores and armadillos eat an animal diet rather than plants.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. A door prize was given. This program is approved for 1.25 CEUs.

Kathy Rostand, Secretary

May is a busy month at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Mark your calendar for the following opportunities
noted on the BBG website:

Spencer Lecture welcomes noted landscape horticulturist and author Dr. Bill Welch on May 3

William Welch leads the Spencer Lecture at Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, May 3. This free, annual event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with Welch's intriguing talk "Redesigning the Landscape: Some Rosy Ideas." Dr. William "Bill" Welch is a Professor and Landscape Horticulturist at Texas A&M University. He is a native of Houston, has an undergraduate degree in Landscape Architecture from LSU, and also did doctoral work in Horticulture and Extension Education there.

Learn more and reserve your seat online at www.bbgardens.org/spencerlecture.

Birmingham Rose Show

The Birmingham Rose Show will take place May 6 - 8, with a how-to workshop to take place May 7 at 3 p.m.

Lunch and Learn opportunities in May

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

May 11 – *The Wow Factor*: Hear from a realtor the tips and tricks on how to make your home have that Wow Factor. Led by Peter Northcott of LAH Real Estate.

May 25 – *Fronds with Benefits*: In both sun and shade, ferns are functional, cost efficient, and environmentally friendly. Led by Don Spaulding

Alabama Bonsai Society Show

The Alabama Bonsai Society Show is scheduled to take place May 13-15.

The Birmingham Fern Society's Annual Lecture

The Birmingham Fern Society's annual lecture takes place May 18 at 4 p.m. Dr. W. Carl Taylor will be this year's speaker. Dr. Taylor completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Missouri and earned a Ph.D. in botany from Southern Illinois University.

For many years, Dr. Taylor worked at the Milwaukee Public Museum, where he assisted with the development of exhibits, conducted research, and served as Chair of the Botany Department. He has taught university courses in biology, botany, plant taxonomy, local flora, and molecular systematic.

Recently, he served as the Program Director for the National Science Foundation. He is currently retired and volunteers at the Smithsonian National History Museum. He is the author of *Arkansas Ferns and Fern Allies*.

Dr. Taylor will present "The Case of the Promiscuous Quillworts." He will tell the story of how *Isoetes* (quillworts, a fern ally) are recognized and characterized, how the various species are identified, and how their evolutionary history is revealed by molecular data.

The Fern Society's annual lecture precedes an upcoming **Fern Show and Sale**, which will take place this year on June 14-15.

Member Day Trip visits Jasmine Hill on May 19

This year's Member Day Trip travels to Wetumpka, Alabama to visit Jasmine Hill Gardens and Outdoor Museum, also known as "Alabama's little corner of Greece."

After touring the Gardens and Museum and enjoying a catered lunch, Members will travel to Petals from the Past to view their display gardens filled with antique roses, heirloom shrubs and hard-to-find perennials.

This trip is open to members and spaces can be reserved for \$60 per person by [visiting this link](#).

Upcoming Events at Aldridge Gardens

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

**The 2016 Plant Sale at Aldridge Gardens takes place
(Member's Sale) May 5, 4 – 7 p.m. and
(Public Sale) May 6, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and May 7, 9 a.m. – Noon**

Don't miss the annual Spring plant sale at Aldridge Gardens, where you can find the perfect plants for your containers or garden spot. Volunteers and gardeners will be on hand to help with selections and to give advice about placement, care, and maintenance. [Learn more about the sale here](#) and/or [see a list of the plants available for sale here](#).

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.

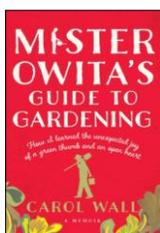
Art Gallery News

Art Gallery 1 at The Gardens in May/June offers a display of the works of Lois Mash and Jane Ross, "Follow the Light." An artists' reception will take place Friday, May 5, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Gallery 2 features works by Judy Bobula in a show entitled "Garden Music."

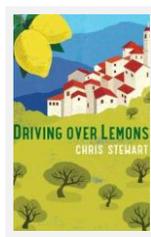
ARC Series Spotlight comes to BBG on May 13 at 6:30 p.m.; tickets are \$10



Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, May 10, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Mr. Owita's Guide to Gardening* by Carol Wall.



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.

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

Jason Kirby notes that the Library at the Gardens has an immediate need for additional volunteers on Thursdays (9-1), 3rd Saturdays (1-4), 4th Saturdays (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.

Gardening Made Easy

Instructor: Brooke McMinn

Tuesday, May 10 | 2-3 p.m. Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Members \$10|Non-members \$15

Does the warm, spring weather make you want to spend more time outdoors? Maybe you'd like to plant some flowers or grow some vegetables, but you're just not sure how to get started? This introductory class with The Gardens' Plant Adventures Program Specialist, Brooke McMinn, will discuss some universal guidelines for deciding what kind of garden will best meet your needs, how to prepare your soil for planting, how to know what to plant and where to plant it, and how to care for it afterwards.

FOOD is MEDICINE: The ABC's of Vitamins and Minerals for health and longevity

Instructor: Antonia Viteri, Wellness Educator and Consumer Advocate

Saturday, May 21|10-2 p.m. Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

\$40 Members| \$45 Non-members

Vitamins and minerals are considered essential nutrients and perform hundreds of roles in the body. They help shore up bones, heal wounds, and bolster your immune system. They also convert food into energy, and repair cellular damage. It is necessary to get vitamins from the foods we eat, because our bodies don't produce enough of them to reap the benefits. Although they are essential for optimal health and longevity, keeping them straight and knowing their unique benefits can be a challenge. This class will help you gain a better understanding of what vitamins and minerals actually do in the body, how they differ, and why you want to make sure you're getting enough of them.

Join Herbalist and Wellness Educator Antonia Viteri for an in-depth study on the nutritional content of whole foods, foods to eat when suffering from chronic maladies, and how to make earth wise and sustainable purchases. In addition, class discussion will introduce notions that food is medicinal and that healthy eating habits result in an active participation to not only your health and well-being, but to the well-being of our planet. Food is Medicine and it is from the Earth; thus forging a deeper connection to the natural world.

Introduction to Flower Arranging

Instructor: Zhaleh McCullers

Sunday, May 22|2-4 p.m. Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Members \$20|Non-members \$25

This introductory class will provide students with the confidence to distinguish between the different styles of flower arranging. They will also learn how to incorporate fresh and artificial flowers into their arrangements. This is the first of a series of basic intro floral arrangement classes. Please check our BBG listings for future courses. No materials are needed for this class. Handouts will be provided by the instructor. Minimum of ten participants.

The Art and Science of Tea Blending (ages 18 and up)

Instructor: Cameron Strouss

Saturday, May 28 | noon-3 p.m. Location: Birmingham Botanical gardens

Members \$30 | Non-members \$35

If you are a tea lover, from sweet to medicinal; green, black, and herbal-come quench your thirst! We utilize teas on a daily basis but perhaps you have never given a lot of thought to the types of plants that you are extracting and how best to combine them for taste, enjoyment, ceremony and medical potency and benefit.

Learn how to extract certain properties from your tea using different temperatures.

~When to boil an herb, steep it, or do a cold infusion.

~What tasty herbals to blend for specific concerns and imbalances to boost your health and nourish your soul.

We will formulate a few tea blends to take home so that you will enjoy this class long after our time together. You will also receive class notes and recipes to give you the confidence to begin blending and brewing all on your own (or with lots of friends)!

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 Botany - the Science of Plants (core)

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

Saturday, May 7 | 8:30-4:30 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.

The Beauty of the Black Belt! (new overnight field trip)

Prairies, Perry Lakes Park, Barton's Beach, and Spencer Farm

Trip Leaders: Brian Keener, Ph.D., University of West Alabama; John Manion, Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator, BBG; and Greg Harber, Chair, Audubon Teaches Nature

Friday and Saturday, May 27 and 28 Location: Sumter, Dallas and Marengo Counties, AL

Members \$210 | Non-Members \$230

This overnight trip will begin at the University of West Alabama in Livingston, where we will be joined by Brian Keener. From there we will spend the morning exploring a fascinating and strange prairie and prairie woods near Epes, AL, whose soils contain so much chalk that it looks like someone painted the ground white. This distinctive landscape supports the growth of several special plants.

We will then lunch at the Touch of Home Bakery, a popular Mennonite bakery in Livingston, before travelling to an area near Old Port Bluff, which is rich in fossils (which we may collect) and many botanical curiosities.

Our next stop takes us to a location where we will see, among other treasures, a newly discovered species of *Clematis* sp. nov., leather flower—and a population of the stunningly beautiful *Delphinium alabamicum*, Alabama larkspur, listed as imperiled at both the global and state levels due to its extreme rarity.

After checking into our motel to freshen up we will enjoy a cook-out at the home of Brian and Traci Keener, overlooking the confluence of the Tombigbee and Black Warrior Rivers. The following morning we travel to Spencer Farm, where we will be hosted for a home-cooked breakfast and a glimpse into sustainable farming. Our last stop will be at Perry Lakes Park and Barton's Beach Cahaba River Preserve, where we will rendezvous with Greg Harber to traverse trails along its oxbow lakes rimmed by Spanish moss-draped *Taxodium distichum*, bald cypress. There will be a plethora of birds and plants to observe, as well as the innovative and unique structures designed by Auburn University's Rural Studio, including the 100-foot birding tower moved there from York, AL.

(and coming in June---look online at BBG website for full details):

The Coosa Valley Prairies (field trip) A Hotspot for Biodiversity!

Trip Leaders:

**Malcolm Hodges, Director of Stewardship, The Nature Conservancy in Georgia
John Manion, Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator, Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

Location: Floyd County, GA

Saturday, June 4 | full day

Members \$80 | Non-Members \$90

Volunteer Opportunities with John Manion

For information on upcoming volunteer opportunities with
Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion,
contact John at jmanion@bbgardens.org.

What are you bringing to the MG Plant Swap on May 10?

Be sure to join your fellow Jefferson County Master Gardeners
for the ever-popular
May Meeting Plant Swap!

Bring a favorite passalong plant from your garden, well-settled
in its new pot (no invasives please!), and labeled with
both its common and botanical names.
(If you need help with either, that will be available at the meeting.)

With MG Leonora Roberson leading the plant swap, we'll all learn a lot
and have a great time together.



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***