

Roots and Shoots

May 2017



Kathy Rostand, Editor

President's Message

Mother's Day is May 14th
Be sure to mark the date

One of my favorite meetings is the yearly plant swap and it is just around the corner. Everyone is a winner, you bring a plant and you pick a plant to take home. Hope you had time to pot up something special from your garden. It is such a pleasure to see what our fellow gardeners have been doing in their gardens.

While on this happy note I still have good news regarding the green up in my yard and gardens. A month ago it appeared I had lost dozens of plants and shrubs - well, I did as I was told, wait...wait...and everything put out flowers, buds, green leaves and new growth. The entire area was in full bloom all at one time. There were cherry blossoms on the cherry trees and strawberry plants with fruit. The iris have flowered and the lilies are up about a foot. What a Spring indeed!!!! Only one tree, a small magnolia, did not make it through the 2016 drought. So much for Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. We had a wonderful "every season" in February through April and we look forward to what Mother Nature will do in the months to come.

Hope you were able to attend the MGA Annual State Convention in Huntsville, Alabama.

Remember to bring a plant and your favorite snack to our monthly meeting on May 9th. Come early (9:00) and also bring a friend or family member as a guest. We hope to see the 2017 interns as well as all of you loyal JCMGA members. We send out a warm welcome to our plant swap speaker Leonora Roberson.

Pat Cosgrove
President

Board meeting will follow the monthly meeting.

JCMGA May Program Notes

Tuesday, May 9
9 am Social Hour, 10 am Meeting
BBG Auditorium

PLANT SWAP
Leonora Roberson

You bring a plant and you take one home. Bring one or two healthy plants to swap. Label your plant with both its common and botanical name. If you know only the common name we can help. Plants that are not in good condition will not be accepted. No invasive plants please. With those two exceptions, bring anything! If you have extra sharing plants, bring those as well, and we will have an area for free plants.

Taylor Steele
First Vice President

Bethany's Extension Extras

Kudos to Plant Information Booth Volunteers!

A BIG thanks goes out to Master Gardeners who so capably staffed our *Plant Information Booth* at two recent events -- BBG's spring plant sale and Earth Day celebration. You represent our organization at its best by providing printed publications along with your sage advice and shared experiences. Thank you for this important work in our community.

2017 Master Gardener Interns Complete Classes

Our most recent group of 38 interns wrapped up their classes in April with a day of outstanding group project presentations. Projects from this year's class included a curriculum on Alabama wildflowers developed for elementary students; development of a presentation on gardening in small spaces to share with community organizations; a "Fun with Herbs" program at an area homeless shelter underscoring the culinary and health benefits of harvesting fresh herbs; renovation and revitalization of an elementary school garden; the creation and installation of a new community garden as well as renovation and restoration of an existing community garden. Their projects reflect energy, inspiration, and dedication among our newest class of Master Gardeners! Help me welcome these new interns to our growing organization.

Sloss Walk and Talk at Grandmother's Garden

May 13th

Free lecture sponsored by the Birmingham Historical Society

Presented by herbalist, *Antonia Viteri*

10:30 -11:30 am

"Maypop and Mulberry: Spring Super foods"

Meet at *Grandmother's Garden*

Sloss Furnace Historic Park

JCMGA Minutes April 11, 2017

The April 2017 meeting of the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association was called to order by President Pat Cosgrove. New members, 2017 interns, and guests were welcomed and door prize tickets were distributed.

March minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The treasurer’s report was presented by Tom Douglass and approved. Membership is up to close to 180 dues paying members. Out next big expenditure will be the Fall banquet.

A request was made to send any pictures from the plant sale to Diane Remick.

Bethany O’Rear brought candy bars to sell as a fundraiser for her child’s school. They are on the information table.

The Picardys were given a hand for their pretty decorations. Fletcher Harvey, “for once”, had nothing to say.

Sign-in sheets reflect only paid-up members. If you are not on the sheet, please see E.W. Phillips or Tom today to pay your dues. If you have not received your membership card, and have paid your dues, please see Linda Systrom at the sign-in table. Diane advised there is a link on the website to pay with PayPal or a credit card.

Earth Day at the Gardens is Saturday, April 22. Volunteers are needed for two shifts, 11am-1pm or 1pm-4pm. See Bethany to volunteer. She also needs us to sign up for the Community Service Committee, which will provide a pipeline for signing up volunteers as folks in the community request our assistance in areas such as outdoor classrooms, community gardens, etc.

Taylor Steele is working with three school gardens in conjunction with Better Basics, about 100 kids, and desperately needs volunteer help on Mondays after school in Fairfield. Please give him a call for more information. He thanked Gene Martin for his continuing support at Turkey Creek.

Cont’d.

The field trip to Longleaf Gardens in Anniston had to be rescheduled due to a conflict with Hayes Jackson’s schedule. Watch for more information.

Taylor introduced Jeannie Sherlock, expert in the Plant Sale’s trees and shrubs booth, and more specifically hydrangeas. Jeannie shared her wealth of knowledge with a ‘behind the scenes’ look at what it takes to plan for a successful plant sale, from forecasting varieties and quantities, ordering, logistics, selling, tracking sales and data analysis to provide information for future sales.

May 9 is the next meeting and is our annual plant swap. Pot your plants in advance and NO INVASIVES. Up to two plants can be swapped. You are welcome to put any extra plants you have that are needing a home on the giveaway table.

Door prizes were awarded, as well as the cash drawing. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie O’Bannon
 Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

April 2017

Beginning balance April 1, 2017	\$16,877.12
Deposits	-
Disbursements	-
Ending balance April 30, 2017	<u>\$16,877.12</u>

Upcoming Events at Aldridge Gardens

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

Hydrangea Propagation Workshop

Saturday, May 20, 2017

9:00 am - 11:00 am (Rain Date June 3)

Location: Aldridge Gardens' Hydrangea Garden, Dirr Garden

Cost: \$20 Members/\$25 Non-Members.

Instructors: David Doggett and Willie Edmiston, Hydrangea Propagators

Hydrangeas are a major component of Southern gardens and the hallmark of Aldridge Gardens. This hands-on workshop will teach you an easy way to propagate hydrangeas for yourself. Class fee includes a pot, soil, 3 hydrangea cuttings, and handouts. Class members may root up to three fresh hydrangea cuttings to take home. Please bring a clear 2-liter soda bottle, pruners and scissors for trimming leaves.

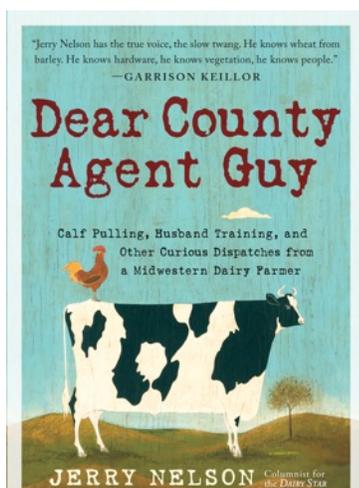
Please preregister at aldridgegardens.com.

For more information, contact Debbie McDonald at dmcDonald@aldridgegardens.com, (205) 682-8019 ext. 104.

To volunteer at Aldridge Gardens, contact Phyllis Giles at 205-682-8019 or volunteer@aldridgegardens.com.

News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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



Thyme to Read

Tuesday, June 6 at 6 PM
Library at the BBG

*Dear County Agent Guy:
Calf Pulling, Husband Training and Other Curious
Dispatches From a Midwestern Dairy Farmer*
by Jerry Nelson

No registration required

For more information contact Hope Long, Library director, at 205-414-3931 or hlong@bbgardens.org

Educational Opportunities at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

Garden Essentials: The Science, History and Uses of Plant-Derived Essential Oils

Instructor: Teresa Pitts

Saturday, May 6|10-noon

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Members \$15|Non-members \$20

Essential oil use is “growing” as people are discovering the effectiveness of various oils for stress, mood, and health issues management. This class introduces you to some science behind the molecules, a little bit of history, and some common modern uses. We will walk about/visit a few specimens in the garden (weather permitting) or view them in the classroom.



The Birmingham Fern Society

Presents the annual Lecture

Garrie P. Landry

Ferns: The Rest of the Untold Story

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

5:30 Reception

6:30 Lecture

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

2612 Lane Park Road

Birmingham, AL 35223

Free and open to the public

Community Service /Volunteer Opportunities

For more community service opportunities go to <https://jeffcomg.org>

Southern Environmental Center is the largest educational facility of its kind in Alabama, dedicated to showing individuals how they can protect and improve their local environments. They are in need of Master Gardeners help. In Edgewood they are creating a pollinator garden EcoScape. For more information visit their [Facebook Page](#) or [website](#). You can contact Roald Hazelhoff, the director, by phone 205-226-4934 or by [email](#).

Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve has several needs for Master Gardeners. They have started a garden club for people with limited mobility. They meet every Tuesday from 9 am to noon. They connect with the natural world by collecting seeds and cuttings. If you are able to help, bring gloves, sunscreen and water. You can see more opportunities on their [website](#), especially on the [calendar](#)

Taylor Steele is looking for volunteers to help establish **Fairfield School Community Gardens after school on Mondays**. They are working in the different schools with about a hundred kids. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach kids to garden. If you are interested please contact Taylor at 205-370-6037 or by [email](#). He'll be glad to help you find a spot.

The **Birmingham Botanical Gardens** would like to thank all of the volunteers that make events like Spring Plant Sale and Earth Day possible. We couldn't do it without you!
Would you like to join our team of volunteers? Contact Volunteer Coordinator Alice Moore at amoore@bbgardens.org or 205.414.3962. There you'll find all current volunteer opportunities.

Master Gardeners

We now have a page on the website: <http://jeffcomg.org/community-service/great-things-our-master.html> that showcases what we are doing this year
Send pictures of your activities to Diane Remick at dmremick@charter.net.

A picture goes a long way.

Certificate in Native Plant Studies Program

Find more information or register for classes online at <http://www.bbgardens.org/native-plant-studies.php>.

Field Trips***Fossils and Flora of the Black Belt***

Dana Ehret, Ph.D.

Curator of Paleontology,
Alabama Museum of Natural History

John Manion

Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, May 20 | 8:30-4:30 p.m.

Location: Dallas County, AL

Members \$90 | Non-Members \$100 (lunch included)

The Botanical Lost World - Bibb County Glades & Cahaba Lilies

Trip Leader: *John Manion*

Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, June 3 | 8:30-3:30 p.m.

Location: Bibb County, AL

Members \$75 | Non-Members \$85

Ongoing Kaul Wildflower Garden volunteer sessions***Kaul Wildflower Group***

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. John says: "If you are not a 'regular' participant in these volunteer activities, it's best to let me know you plan to attend in case we cancel."

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

Save the Date

Central South Native Plant Conference

Native Plants - At Home and Afield

New Views and New Uses

October 26-29, 2017 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens



JEFFERSON COUNTY
Master Gardeners

Bethany A. O'Rear
Regional Extension Agent
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and
Environmental Center
2612 Lane Park Road
Birmingham, AL 35223-1082

We're on the Web! Visit us at <https://jeffcomg.org>

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