

# Roots and Shoots

NOV/DEC 2016



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

## President's Message

As 2016 winds down, November brings a season of reflection and of counting blessings. So it is for me as I close my time as President. Thank you for the honor of leading this group and for the care and support so many of you have extended as I ventured into this role. I have to say a deep thanks to Bethany O'Rear for her professionalism, and ongoing leadership and support of the JCMGA.

Counting more blessings will include my fellow officers and those who have served in committee chair jobs. You gave the JCMGA structure and purpose and we are grateful for your leadership. This organization is too large for one person; it takes a team. I have been fortunate to be part of a team of people who are committed to the organization. I send a special thanks to Fletcher Harvey and Roger Clarke, along with past and present officers, for helping me understand both the organization and what needed to be done. Many thanks!

Most importantly, I am humbled by the talents, skills and the work that many in this organization are completing. The results are all around the county, from Turkey Creek and Ruffner Mountain to Aldridge and the Botanical Gardens. They can be seen at schools and churches. The "fruits" of your labor are seen in the faces of children and other garden visitors and in the health of cancer survivors. Thanks for all that you do.

Please enter those hours and those success stories into the ACES volunteer site. Your volunteer hours are important to grant solicitations, employee work load and to you, the worker! We want to recognize those hours! (Note to myself.....get on it!!!!)

I look forward to seeing you at the November Banquet where we will celebrate the new MG Graduates and the accomplishments of this organization. Please register as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

This is also the time of year when dues are paid for 2017. Checks and cash (\$35) may be directed to Tom Douglass, our Treasurer, or left with Annette Drummonds in the ACES office at the BBG. There is also a Paypal option for payments at:

<http://www.jeffcomg.org/about-us/about-us.html>.

The team that you have elected for next year is a very good one. Please give them your support as they define the work that they want to accomplish.

## JCMGA November Program Notes

### Close of Year and Graduation Banquet

**Tuesday, November 15**

**6 p.m.**

**Location: BBG Auditorium**

Here we are just days away from the Jefferson County Master Gardeners 2016 Graduation! We have planned a nice dinner, certificate awards, door prizes, and a great return engagement with our entertainment speaker, Dolores Hydock.

We wanted the program to be entertaining and still follow along the lines of our gardener folks. Dolores Hydock was just the ticket. She is a storyteller and actress. Her one-woman shows and stories have been featured at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, at Birmingham's Terrific New Theatre, and at other festivals and special events throughout the U.S.

In her spare time, she tends a garden that includes a pomegranate bush, muscadine vines, a 20-foot jujuba tree, and a family of slugs the size of cheap cigars...

So make plans now to join us for our end of year and graduation dinner, and your guest (or guests) will be most welcome, too. The cost is \$15 per person, and can be included, if you like, in the Master Gardener dues check (or cash) now due to our treasurer, Tom Douglass (see more about dues in Ann Gray's message at left.) Your dinner reservation and payment may also be left with Annette in the ACES office at BBG, but either way, **must be received by Friday, November 4.**

It has been my pleasure to instruct many of you interns in the Gerlach Plant Information Center (better known as GPIC). We hope you will continue to volunteer some of your valuable time with us in GPIC.

See you all at the November 15 th graduation, and want to say "Congratulations!" to each of you.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all of the Gardens staff here...BBG, ACES, and the Library, including all of the building staff, for all of the assistance you gave to me. You made it all happen without a hitch.

**Pat**

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

(Continued on page 2)

### Bethany's Extension Extras

#### Welcome to our new Master Gardeners

On November 15, we celebrate the graduates of our latest summer and winter classes of Master Gardener interns. As you see new faces at our monthly JCMGA meetings and at volunteer opportunities, please join me in saying welcome to our newest members!

#### Gardening Apps and Books

At our October meeting, I talked about some helpful apps that I recommend to home gardeners. At our Jefferson County Master Gardeners webpage, you'll find a [quick link](#) to the list of apps I referenced, along with a few books available in a digital format. The apps and books are available for free downloads to Apple and Android devices.

#### Nothing says "Fall" like leaves

If your fall garden clean up involves raking fallen leaves, you have a great opportunity to make the best of a bad situation! Your leaves are Nature's mulch, and can provide an important addition to your compost pile. [Recycling Leaves](#), a publication of Alabama Cooperative Extension System, provides good sense information about composting and mulching with leaves. Let's all get started raking!

#### A new class of Master Gardeners ahead in January

Applications are now being accepted for our upcoming Master Gardener class in Jefferson County. Classes will meet Thursdays (8:30 - 2:30), from January 12 through April 20. An [application](#) is available to complete online. Or applicants may print an application and either return it to the Extension Office at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, or mail it to Annette at Extensions Office, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, AL 35223.

For questions, please call Annette at (205) 879-6964 x10 or email Bethany O' Rear.

#### 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
May 10 (Plant Swap)	1.0 CEU
June 14 (James Horton)	1.5 CEUs
June 21 (Mike Rushing)	1.0 CEU
July 25 (Jim Jacobi)	1.25 CEUs
August 9 (David Doggett)	1.25 CEUs
September 13 (tour of Turkey Creek Preserve)	2.0 CEUs
September 20 (Henry Hughes)	1.25 CEUs
October 11 (Bethany O'Rear)	1.5 CEUs

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

As I reflect on the past two years, the fun and friendships that have emerged from the work are probably what I will value most. This is a very special group of people. If you are not already involved with the JCMGA group, wade into a single event or jump into one of the community projects. The people that you meet and the work that is done will bring smiles at the end of the day.

Thank you for trusting this organization to me for the last two years. I look forward to enjoying the JCMGA from the "back benches" for the next few years!

This is our last newsletter for the 2016 year. And brings someone else who has been a true blessing: Thank you, Carol Hagood for your years of capable, creative editing.

I hope to see all of you at the Banquet and then in January!

**Ann Gray**

Ann Gray Harvey, President

#### Treasurer's Report

##### October 2016

Beginning balance October 1, 2016	\$14,590.83
Deposits	\$2,822.00
Disbursements	2,100.18
Ending balance October 31, 2016	<u>\$15,312.65</u>

--- Tom Douglass, Treasurer

## October 2016 Minutes

### Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association Meeting – October 11, 2016

The Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association held its regular monthly meeting in the Auditorium at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Ann Gray welcomed new members, visitors, and members of the 2016 Master Gardeners Class. Yaminah Muhammad, a 2016 intern, was present, and Cathy Delozier from the 2004 class was a returning member. Everyone was reminded to pay his/her \$35 dues to Tom Douglass and to pay \$15 for the Graduation Banquet if attending it.

**Secretary's Report:** Ann Gray asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the August meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously

**Treasurer's Report:** A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as published in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

#### President's Report

*AMGA Fall Meeting:* Gail Pless thanked all who worked to make the AMGA Fall Meeting at the BBG a success. She encouraged everyone to record his/her hours.

Ann Gray encouraged all to educate themselves on Amendment 2 concerning our state parks. The amendment will be on the ballot in November.

Ann Gray reported that a replacement still is needed for Carol Hagood as editor for the newsletter. Help also is needed for the Fall banquet. Pat Cosgrove is the chair of the banquet committee. Two members volunteered. There are openings for officers/board members at the state level and if interested contact Roger Clarke.

Ann Gray thanked the members of the nominating committee – Roger Clarke, chair, Fletcher Harvey, Bruce Steele, Rick Cybulsky, Kathy Connolly – for the slate of next year's JCMGA officers. The slate is: President, Pat Cosgrove; First Vice President, Taylor Steele; Second Vice President, Christopher Pugh; Treasurer, E.W. Phillips; Secretary, Bonnie O'Bannon.

#### Committee Reports

##### *Membership*

Linda Systrom reported that requests for name badge and/or star replacements must be turned in by October 31.

##### *Community Service*

Ann Gray reported that Christopher Pugh has agreed to chair the Intake/Review Committee. Several volunteers still are needed to help with this new process for responding to requests from the community. Three areas of interests have been identified: 1)Vegetables & Herbs 2)Ornamentals & Others 3)Public Education. Lists were available for members to sign up in their area of interests. The Speakers Bureau will continue as separate from these groups.

**Community Presentation:** *What Is Harvest for Health* was presented by Renee Thompson. They have a new grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that will allow them to expand the program. More Master Gardeners will be needed to partner with cancer survivors. The program provides garden kits at a cost of \$400 each and welcomes contributions for these kits.

**BBG Report:** Ann Gray introduced the new Volunteer Coordinator at the BBG, Alice Moore. This position is no longer part of the Education Department but is a separate department. Alice reported that volunteers still were needed for the Fall Plant Sale on October 22 and the 5K Dirt Dash on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer forms were available.

**Extension Liaison Report:** Bethany O'Rear – Eco Creative Festival in Hoover on November 5 & 6.

**Speaker:** Bethany O'Rear reviewed a number of Apps which are garden related. Many are free and most are available in both iOS and Android forms. Most of these are now reviewed on the [www.jeffcomg.org](http://www.jeffcomg.org) website. Bethany also reviewed the ACES volunteer website and asked that members enter their activities under the "success stories" tab.

The next meeting will be the Graduation Banquet on Tuesday, November 15. Door prizes were given, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

This meeting is approved for 1.5 CEUS.

Kathy Rostand, Secretary

## It's Time to Celebrate

This Year And Past Years of Fun, Fellowship,  
Learning, and Service  
For The Jefferson County Master Gardeners

What new adventures will the JCMGA take on in 2017? Be sure to share your photos of upcoming Master Gardeners events and service projects with Bethany O'Rear and Diane Remick for ACES records and for the JCMGA website



## Upcoming Events at Aldridge Gardens

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

### Holiday Greenery Workshop

Monday, November 28, 2016 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Eddie and Kay Aldridge Arts and Historical Collections Museum

\$30 Members/\$40 Non-Members

Learn how to turn your house into a beautiful Southern home for the holidays! Watch award-winning floral designers, Carol B. Harris and Ricky Whitley, as they decorate areas in the house and Gardens using local greener.

They'll show you how to liven up mantels, mailboxes, lamp posts, and entry halls using Alabama greenery such as yew, magnolia, holly, and nandina mixed with pine cones and berries.

Then take that experience with you and reproduce the look in your own home for the holidays!

Bring your camera, join the fun, and learn new techniques. Bring a roll of your favorite ribbon,

And our designers will help you get started making bows and suggest appropriate containers.

Participants will receive a discount at Roots Garden and Gift Shop on the day of class.

For more information, contact Audrey Ann Wilson at [aawilson@aldridgegardens.com](mailto:aawilson@aldridgegardens.com).

To volunteer at Aldridge Gardens, contact Phyllis Giles at 205-682-8019 or [volunteer@aldridgegardens.com](mailto:volunteer@aldridgegardens.com).

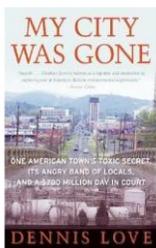
## News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

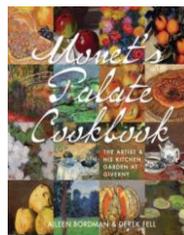
### Art Gallery News

In November and December, the Art Gallery will feature the work of artist Gillian Furniss in a show entitled *The Beautiful Changes*.

### Thyme to Read Book Club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, November 1 at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *My City Was Gone* by Dennis Love.



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, December 6 at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Monet's Palate Cookbook* by Aileen Bordman.

The **2016 Southern Tales at the Gardens** program *Starch in Their Petticoats* with Dolores Hydock and Bobby Horton will take place Sunday, November 6, at 2 p.m. in BBG's Linn Henley Lecture Hall. General admission is \$20. Get your tickets now at <http://www.bbgardens.org/southern-tales.php>.

### Library Volunteers Needed

The Library at The Gardens currently has volunteer opportunities available on the following days of each month: Thursday (9 a.m.-1 p.m.), 1st Saturday (1-4 p.m.), 2nd Saturday (10 a.m.-1 p.m.), 3rd Saturday (10 a.m.-1 p.m.), 3rd Saturday (1-4 p.m.), 4th Saturday (10 a.m.-1 p.m.), 4th Saturday (1-4 p.m.), 5th Saturday (1-4 p.m.), and 3rd Sunday (2-5 p.m).

If you're interested in volunteering at The Library, please contact Alice Moore at [amoore@bbgardens](mailto:amoore@bbgardens).

## 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.

### **50 Years at The Gardens (Members Only)**

**Instructor: Jason Kirby, Archivist**

**November 3 | 6-8 p.m.**

**Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Members-Only class**

This three part presentation explores the history of our land (dating back over 200 million years), the formation of the Birmingham Botanical Society, and lastly the Birmingham Botanical Gardens by decades. Come see how we were from our humble beginnings, to what you see today and everything in-between.

**Instructor: Brooke & Nathan McMinn**

**Thursday, November 3 | 6-8 p.m.**

**Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

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

Back by popular demand! 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. A tasting of a selection of each style will be included in the program.

### **Pruning: Techniques, Outcomes, & Design Influences**

**Instructor: Fred Spicer, Garden Designer & Public Gardens Professional**

**November 19 | 9-11 a.m.**

**Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

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

Dissatisfied with dozens of pruning lectures he had seen, garden designer and public garden professional Fred Spicer created a new type of presentation: one that not only talks tools, techniques and timing, but shows “the how and the where” of plant responses to pruning over short- and long-terms. Beyond that, he explains how plant selection, pruning and training have been used with distinct purpose in his home garden. Participants learn how to prune correctly (from the plant’s point of view) but also get deep insight into using pruning creatively as a design tool (not to see it as mundane work). Attendees report feeling much greater confidence as gardeners, and say they were inspired to try new plants and new techniques.

### **Winter Floral Crowns**

**Instructor: Meagan Wunningham of Alabama Eden**

**Saturday, December 10 | 10-noon**

**Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**\$15 general admission**

Several European cultures celebrate the arrival of winter and the holiday season with St. Lucia crowns adorned with greenery, red ribbons, and tiny candles. This Holiday Floral Crown Class will be a festive morning of ushering in winter by crafting unique floral crowns using fragrant evergreens and other seasonal elements uncovered after the last of autumn’s leaves fall. Meagan will provide an overview of floral crown construction and provide a hands-on demonstration. Then, participants will use pre-gathered materials to construct their own evergreen crowns. Meagan Wunningham is owner of Alabama Eden, a farmer florist startup combining locally-grown cut flowers, native plants, and edibles to create floral designs that reflect the distinct beauty of Alabama.

*Special Note:* Participants are responsible for bringing a variety of flowers and foliage to use in designing their flower crowns. Suggested materials: evergreen branches with stems at least 3” (pine, cedar, juniper, spruce, fir), holly and holly berries, ivy, small pine cones, mistletoe, kumquats, cranberries, ribbons.

Floral wire, floral tape, and scissors will be provided.

## 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 these, or any other CNPS offerings.)

#### **The Beauty of Autumn on Lookout Mountain:**

**Waterfalls, Hemlock Forests, Glades and Bogs (field trip)**

**Trip Leaders: Tom Diggs Ph.D., Asst. Professor, University of North Georgia  
John Manion, Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator, Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Location: Near Mentone, AL**

**Friday, November 4 - Sunday, November 6.**

**\$175 Members | \$195 Non-members**

Two of Alabama's most spectacular destinations are adjacent to each other, making exploration of both convenient. These locations feature spectacular waterfalls, easily-navigable woodland trails, rock outcrop glades, several rare plants – including a population of rare pitcher plants. We have timed this trip when autumn color is usually at its peak. Both DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon National Preserve sit atop Lookout Mountain. In addition to traversing the beautiful woodland trails of DeSoto State Park, we will make several stops along Little River Canyon Rim Scenic Drive to visit sandstone glades, scrubby woodlands and bogs.

We will begin the trip on Friday evening with a welcome reception dinner and drinks prepared by your trip leaders at one of the chalet's at Desoto. Also included is breakfast Saturday morning at the historic Mountain Inn Restaurant, located in the original Lodge built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the mid-1930s, and nestled on a canyon-edge overlooking the West Fork of Little River. Other meals are on your own; there are several affordable choices in-and-around the park.

Participants are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements. The 3,502-acre DeSoto State Park provides a variety of lodging facilities, including mountain chalets, log and rustic cabins, motel rooms, campgrounds. Learn more about accommodations and make reservations at <http://www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park>.

Trip difficulty: Moderate (short to moderate walks through occasionally uneven or muddy grasslands and woodlands). Carpooling is encouraged. Trip details sent upon registration.

### *And, looking ahead:*

#### **Winter Identification of Native Woody Plants (elective)**

**Instructor: Fred Spicer, Garden Designer, Horticultural Consultant, Lecturer**

**Saturday, January 7 | 12:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

**Members \$45 | Non-Members \$50**

Identifying plants in winter, many of which have lost their foliage for the season, can be a challenge. Using The Gardens' extensive living collections as a hands-on resource, we will focus on attributes and identification features of woody plant species found naturally or in cultivation in Alabama. Attendees will examine and learn to identify at least 20 woody plants (trees, shrubs and vines) whose key traits are evident in winter.

woody plant species found naturally or in cultivation in Alabama. Attendees will examine and learn to identify at least 20 woody plants (trees, shrubs and vines) whose key traits are evident in winter.

*Remember to check online for more opportunities coming up in the new year. CNPS classes and events often fill early, so it's a good idea to plan ahead.*

## Volunteer Opportunities with John Manion

**Volunteer Workdays:** For information on upcoming volunteer opportunities, contact Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org).

***Don't miss the Jefferson County Master Gardeners  
Close of Year and Graduation Dinner on November 15!***

*Deadline for reservations is **Friday, November 4**—see the first page  
of this newsletter for more information.)*



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 [www.jeffcomg.org](http://www.jeffcomg.org).**

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