

Roots and Shoots

NOV/DEC 2015



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

President's Message

Fall back into the JCMGA! As the days grow shorter and holiday plans begin to take focus, the JCMGA will celebrate the great intern classes who joined us at the close of our 2015 year. We hope that you will continue to be active in the Association by paying your dues for 2016. For folks who may not have been active for a while, we welcome you back. A huge "thank you" goes out to current members. Here's hoping that all of you will join me in falling back into JCMGA membership in the next week or two, if you haven't already done so!

Banquet: We do not meet in December, so we look forward to seeing all at the closing and graduation Banquet on November 10: mark your calendars! Cost will be \$15 per person, payable to JCMGA. Send or give to Tom Douglass, our treasurer. Spouses and partners are welcomed! **Please make your reservations now!** I look forward to seeing you there.

Dues: 2016 dues are now "due"! The amount is \$35 and may be submitted with your banquet reservation. Interns, when you meet the requirements for the "Master Gardener" designation we invite and encourage you to join the JCMGA. We'd love to have all of you on the roster for next year!

As we close the 2015 year, I'd like to express thanks to the JCMGA officers, the folks who have worked with the Board in "at-large" and Committee Chair roles. Your leadership, humor and willingness to work makes this fun! To the membership, I am inspired by the work that you do and the contributions that you make to our region in your MG roles.

If you would like to become more involved in the organization in the next year, I'd love to hear from you. We have a lot of opportunities! Over the next month or two, we will be looking for folks to assume committee leadership roles. We will also be looking for folks for project work, as well.

Best wishes to you and yours for a safe and happily memorable holiday season.

Ann Gray

Ann Gray Harvey, President

JCMGA November Program Notes

CLOSE OF YEAR AND GRADUATION BANQUET

Tuesday, November 10, 6 p.m.
Brookwood Baptist Church
3449 Overton Road, Mountain Brook

Here we are just days away from the Jefferson County Master Gardeners 2015 Graduation! We have planned a nice dinner, certificate awards, door prizes, and entertainment. The only problem we had was the location. Inasmuch as the BBG Auditorium is undergoing renovation, the committee folks had to get busy and find a suitable venue. They did a very nice job.

The banquet will take place in Brookwood Baptist's Fellowship Hall. (Look for a sign to guide you outside the entrance to the Hall). For directions to the church, you can Google the address above, or follow this link to the church's website for a clear map and easy directions: <http://www.brookwood.org/im-new/>

We wanted the program to be entertaining and still follow **the primrose path. 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... She says the weeds are winning.

It has been a pleasure to "help" many of you interns in the plant information center and I hope you will continue to volunteer some of your valuable time in GPIC. What a smart group! You made it so easy for me: all I needed to do was say "go," and you all took off like a rocket...

See you all on November 10 at 6 p.m., at Brookwood Baptist Church. Before I forget, just wanted to say **CONGRATULATIONS** to each of you!

Pat

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

Bethany's Extension Extras

Welcome New MG Graduates!

Another 40 Master Gardeners are added to our association this month as our 2015 Winter and Summer interns graduate on November 10. You will see them actively participating in special events, working in various gardens, coming to Master Gardener meetings and workshops. Help me welcome them to our growing association! We need their enthusiasm and energy to join us in the on-going good work of our Jefferson County Master Gardener Association.

New Master Gardener Class to Begin in January

It's time for planting and it's time to sign up for the upcoming 2016 Master Gardener class. Maybe you have a friend or neighbor who has expressed an interest in becoming involved in community garden projects and learning more about best practice in home gardening. Direct them to our Master Gardener application at the link below.

They may download the application, attach it to an email, and return the completed application to [Annette Drummonds](#). Or they may print it and drop it off at our Extension Office at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, or mail it to Annette at Alabama Cooperative Extension System, C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and Environmental Center, 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, AL 35223-1082. Please direct any questions to Annette at (205) 879-6964, x10.

Here is the link to the [Master Gardener Intern Application](#).

Volunteer Opportunities in Plant Adventures

Interested in helping adults with special needs to learn valuable life skills while working in The Gardens? Contact Brooke McMinn, Plant Adventures Program Specialist for The Birmingham Botanical Gardens, at bmcminn@bbgardens.org or 205.414.3914 for more information on our volunteer opportunities!

Cumulative CEU Hours from 2015 Meetings

January 13 (Brooke McMinn)	1.0 CEU
February Reach for the Stars program	(no CEU)
March 10 (Sallie Lee and Sloss Group)	1.25 CEU
March 17 (Bethany O'Rear)	1.0 CEU
April 14 (Eleanor Craig)	1.25 CEU
May 12 (Plant Swap: Leonora, Linda, Melanie)	1.0 CEU
June 9 (Jim Jacobi)	1.0 CEU
June 16 (David Doggett)	1.0 CEU
July 14 (Fred Spicer)	1.25 CEU
August 11 (Henry Hughes, Maya Samuels-Fair)	1.0 CEU
September 8 (Taylor Steele and guest speakers)	1.0 CEU
September 15 (Jim Allen)	1.0 CEU
October 13 (Diane Remick, Bethany O'Rear)	1.0 CEU

(Extension Extras, continued)

Publications at Your Fingertips

ACES is committed to keeping gardeners well informed. Research-based publications on an ever-growing variety of topics are available, accessible through ACES website's Publications & Services [tab](#).

Two timely publications I recommend for this season are ready for reading and sharing. The first, [Tree Selection, Planting & Care](#), provides gardeners with planting and post-planting guidelines and resources. And just in time for the holidays, check out [Poinsettia Care](#) to make sure you get the most out of this holiday favorite.

New Workshops Ahead

What do you want to learn more about? What skills do you need sharpened? Let me hear from you so that we can find the experts and organize workshops centered on your interests for the coming year. [Email](#) me with your suggestions!



Treasurer's Report

October 2015

Beginning balance October 1, 2015	\$8,200.72
Deposits	\$1720.00
Disbursements	\$52.64
Ending balance October 31, 2015	<u>\$9,868.08</u>

---Submitted by Tom Douglass, Treasurer

October 2015 Minutes

Jefferson County Master Gardeners' Association Meeting – October 13, 2015

The regular meeting of the JCMGA was held on October 13, 2015 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). There were approximately 50 members present. Vice-President Pat Cosgrove called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

A member in attendance requested to speak from the floor. She stated she had not been attending meetings as she has difficulty hearing. She would like to continue volunteering and being an active participant in the Master Gardener program. She asked that members keep personal discussions to a minimum during meetings and to speak clearly and distinctly when speaking from the floor.

Pat thanked Maurice and Martha Picardy for the table décor and organizing the refreshments for today's meeting.

Secretary's Report: Vice-President Pat Cosgrove called on Alicia Hall, Secretary, to read the Minutes from the September meeting. Alicia stated that she did not bring a copy of the minutes. Minutes should be reviewed as published in the most recent issue of *Roots and Shoots*. **No action was taken.**

Treasurer's Report: Vice-President Pat Cosgrove called on Tom Douglass, Treasurer for the Treasurer's Report for September. Tom indicated that he did not bring a copy of the report and members should review the report as published in *Roots and Shoots*. **No action was taken.**

Membership: Linda Systrom asked that all members sign-in at the sign-in table. Linda asked that members needing replacement name badges see her at the conclusion of today's meeting. Tom Douglass is accepting membership dues. The cost for local dues is \$25.00 and state dues are \$10.00 per person. Linda made the suggestion that you write one check for local, state dues and the graduation banquet.

Graduation Banquet: The 2015 Graduation Banquet will be held at Brookwood Baptist Church on November 10, 2015. The cost of the banquet is \$15.00 per person. Maps are available at today's meeting.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Taylor Steele:

Antiques in the Gardens: Taylor announced that Antiques in the Gardens was a great success and made budget. The total gross proceeds were \$300,000.

Fall Plant Sale: Set-up is October 16, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The public sale is October 17 and 18. Volunteers are needed.

Central South Native Plant Conference: The Native Plant Conference is scheduled for October 29, 30, and 31. Volunteers are needed for registration and plant sales.

Fall Plant Sale Master Gardener Booth: Volunteers are still needed to staff the MG Booth at the Fall Sale.

Vegetable Garden: Hope Cooper and Kathy Connolly are coordinating volunteers to work in the vegetable garden, Forman Garden, Iris and Daylily Gardens. Please see Hope or Kathy if you are interested in volunteering. The vegetable garden is an important community asset.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Ian Hazelhoff came to spotlight the work being done at Red Mountain Park and Sims Ecoscape. Ian reported that they will soon be receiving 200 goats, with the plan being to section off areas of Red Mountain Park and to use the goats to remove invasive plants. After invasive plant species are removed, there are restoration projects planned. There are two major restoration projects planned:

1. They have recently received a grant to restore the stream banks. Species selection will be an important part of the design. Master Gardener volunteers are needed to oversee other volunteers. Ian suggested Master Gardener groups of 3-5 volunteers.

2. Ridge design will begin within six months. There is a valley at the top of the ridgeline that is a residual effect of strip mining. There are already many wildflowers and hydrangeas along the ridgeline. The design will focus on where to plant native grasses, snowflake hydrangeas, etc.

(continued below)

(October Minutes, continued)

Ian also reported that he is coordinating the renewal of the Sims EcoScape in Homewood. They are removing invasive plants and non-natives and replacing them with natives and edibles. They are also working on soil restoration, marrying old soils with new organically rich soils.

If you are interested in volunteering at Red Mountain Park or at the Sims Ecoscape, you may contact Ian at ihazelhoff@redmountainpark.org or (205)202-6043, Extension 22, or cell (205)807-0800.

Program: “All About Apps”

Diane Remick and Bethany O’Rear presented a useful and practical program about navigating the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association website and also learning about apps useful to us as Master Gardeners.

Two years ago, Roger Clarke, Diane, and Bethany met to discuss what could make the website more user friendly and useful for Master Gardeners. During today’s meeting, Diane went through the home screen of the site, which defines the mission of JCMGA and Alabama Cooperative Extension. The toolbar at the top of the screen allows you to choose from the following:

About Us: Lists current officers, an archive of *Roots and Shoots*, as well as an awards section, photo albums, and a link to the state newsletter, *Garden Pathways*.

Calendar: Gives you a month-long calendar of continuing education opportunities, upcoming events and information on the Certificate of Native Plant Studies.

Community Service Tab: Lists volunteer opportunities in the community, at the BBG, and with GPIC (Extension Office).

Master Gardener Tab: Includes photos of the last several MG classes, as well as an application to apply for the next MG Class.

Contact: Includes contact information for the Regional Extension offices, a link which allows you to request volunteers, and a link that allows you to submit website contributions.

Side Tabs: Includes a direct link to the Service Report login, *Roots & Shoots* archive, useful Apps, Alabama Cooperative Extension, and, lastly, to the Alabama Master Gardener website.

Facebook: Diane also asked that members “like” the JCMGA Facebook page and the Extension Facebook page. She stated that she posts everyday to the JCMGA Facebook page, so there is a wealth of information on these sites. There is also a link to the Fox “Ask the Gardener” segments. A “share” button allows you to share important information with your friends.

At the conclusion of the program, Bethany introduced her assistant, Mindy Bodenhamer. Mindy graduated the Master Gardener program this past November. If you receive correspondence coming from Mindy, this is under Bethany’s direction. Mindy was hired when Bethany picked up Blount and St. Clair Counties in conjunction with Jefferson County, the largest program in the state.

Door Prizes: Six door prizes were awarded along with the money pot.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

This activity is approved for 1 CEU credit.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia Hall, Secretary

Jefferson County Master Gardeners turn out to support the The Fall Plant Sale at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens

*(Here are just a few of the many who worked
to make the event a success.)*



Upcoming Event at Aldridge Gardens

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

Whimsical Woodland Sprites Workshop

Instructor: Joanna Cassady (featured in *Celebrate Fall*)

Tuesday, November 17, 2015 6 - 8 p.m.

Members: \$20; Non-Members: \$25.

Learn techniques to create your own fairy-like creatures from woodland materials.

Bring your clippers and mini hot-glue gun or borrow ours for the workshop.

You may want to bring sprite-making materials including dried leaves,

acorn caps, nutshells like pistachio halves,

dried money plant, mussel shells, and okra pods.

We will also provide lots of supplies for creating the sprites of your imagination.

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.

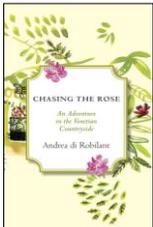
News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

The Junior Master Gardener program engages children in novel, hands-on group and individual learning experiences that promote a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind.

JMG also inspires youths to be of service to others. The next upcoming class, a make-up session, will take place on Saturday, November 21, 9 a.m. to Noon, with teacher Julie Danley.

Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, November 3, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Chasing the Rose: An Adventure in the Venetian Countryside* by Andrea Di Robilant.



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, December 8, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Down the Garden Path* by Beverley Nichols.

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 2nd Saturdays (10-1), 3rd Saturdays (1-4), 4th Saturdays (1-4), 5th Saturdays (10-1), 5th Saturdays (1-4), and 2nd Sundays (2-5). 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 and events at BBG - look online for more opportunities:

Herbal 1st Aid

Instructor: Antonia Viteri & Cameron Strouss

Saturday, November 28 | 10-noon

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Members \$15|Non-Members \$20

Come learn how to address first aid situations such as: bug bites, sun burns, shock, and sprains with herbal medicine.

Teachers Antonia Viteri and Cameron Strouss will guide you through the use of herbs in real life situations.

Certificate in Native Plant Studies Program

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

Central-South Native Plant Conference 2015

The Central-South Native Plant Conference 2015 took place October 29-31, with renowned botanists, landscape architects and authors offering dynamic talks and field trips exploring the biodiversity of Alabama and beyond.

Two pre-conference workshops: "The Nature of Drawing" by Preston Montague and "A Garden of Stories: Write Your Life" by Janisse Ray opened the event on Thursday, October 29, with an array of lectures and field trips continuing through October 31.

Among the many outstanding presenters were Lea Ann Macknally, Larry Mellichamp and Bill Finch. They were joined by The Gardens' own John Manion and Brooke McMinn and Birmingham locals like Gloria Clemmensen, Suzanne Langley, Zac Napier and Ken Wills, among many other notable speakers.

The conference honoree was Jan Midgley.

Volunteer Opportunities with John Manion

Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead volunteer sessions in the Kaul Wildflower Garden on November 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, and 24.

For more information on this and other volunteer opportunities, write John at jmanion@bbgardens.org.

Don't miss the JCMGA Banquet on November 10!

Members of the Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association
will be gathering on Tuesday, November 10 at 6 p.m.
at Brookwood Baptist Church
to celebrate the graduation of the 2015 intern class.

And as we welcome them to our ranks
we will also be celebrating
another year of active community service, learning, and fellowship
for our entire group.

Don't miss the fun of this very special event!
Make your reservations now!
For full details, see page one of this newsletter.



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.

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