



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

## President's Message

Thank You - Thank You - Thank You.

Where do I even start?

I write my last presidents message the day after our 2014 class graduation banquet. For those who were unable to attend, you missed a real treat. The room was beautiful! The table decorations were absolutely fantastic! The speakers were great, the banquet was delicious, and we graduated a record setting 45 new master gardeners! Can you tell I enjoyed the evening?

Thank You to all who helped to put the evening together.

Thank You to all the plant societies who created, and donated, the wonderful table decorations.

Thank You to the 2014 officers and board members for all your hard work during the year. You made my part easy! A Special Thank You to Ann Gray Harvey for all your hard work, to Carol Hagood for all the hours you spent creating our monthly newsletter "Roots and Shoots," to Pat Cosgrove who seemed to be everywhere, and to Diane Remick for moving our electronic communications into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank You to Bethany O'Rear for all your help and support during the year.

Thank You to the members of the nominating committee, a job no one really wants, for all your work.

Thank You to all the 2015 officers! President Ann Gray Harvey, First Vice President Pat Cosgrove, Second Vice President Hope Cooper, Secretary Alicia Hall, and Treasurer Tom Douglass. These outstanding master gardeners will do a great job, and I look forward to working with them in 2015.

And finally Thank You for allowing me to be your president for 2014, it has been a blast!

**Roger**

Roger Clarke, President

## Vice President's Message

I so enjoyed our November banquet/graduation and am very grateful to the teams of people who worked to make it possible. This year was extra special because of the anniversaries that are happening and because of the large classes from last summer and this winter/spring that finished their internships this year. Also, I hope many of you were able to meet some of the wonderful plant groups and societies which include many of our members.

Our November meeting speakers were Kerry Smith, our state Master Gardener Coordinator, Fred Spicer from the BBG, and Mayor William Bell from the City of Birmingham. Each of them shared a bit of history about their organization's origins and how the synergy of having all three entities under one roof has created a very unique resource for this community. We celebrate 100 years of ACES, 50 years of the BBG and hope for many more years of collaboration with the City of Birmingham allowing future generations to enjoy what we have, today!

We also celebrate all of our new MG colleagues and look forward to their continuing involvement in our organization and in the community. Bethany challenged them a little differently this year with their volunteer projects. As the pictures at the banquet and the numbers quoted show, there were great projects and many hours of service completed by this special group! Welcome to the JCMGA—we are glad to have you join us!

As I close my time as Vice President, I want to thank Roger Clarke and Fletcher Harvey and the other officers for their guidance and suggestions throughout the year. And many members shared wonderful suggestions for speakers and made my job of recruiting much easier. I also want to thank our members who said "yes" when asked to speak or host an event. We have many talented people in our midst, and I continue to learn from these colleagues.

My deepest thanks for a good year go out to all of you. May the holiday season be all you hope, and I'll look forward to the New Year with you.

**Ann Gray**

Ann Gray Harvey, First Vice President

## Bethany's Extension Extra

Here are some interesting opportunities coming up in the months ahead:

### Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Friday, December 5, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Mark your calendars now, as the Gardens welcomes its volunteers to the annual Volunteer Luncheon on Friday, December 5.

The event will again mark our milestone of being one of Birmingham's premiere attractions for over 50 years! All volunteers of The Gardens are welcome!

If you have questions about the event or need to RSVP, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Taylor Steele at 205.414.3962 or [tsteele@bbgardens.org](mailto:tsteele@bbgardens.org).

#### Added Request!

Besides each volunteer bringing their pride covered dish, we would like you to bring something to share with a fellow volunteer (seated at your table). A symbolic gift of your own garden heritage! This could be anything from a funny garden hat, heirloom plants, old trowel, gardening calendar, watering can, seeds, etc...I know gardeners pick up small garden trinkets during travels, or receive as gifts from time-to-time.

### Getting JCMGA and Other ACES News from Facebook

If you use Facebook, remember that ACES in Jefferson County maintains two active Facebook pages, the [Jefferson County Master Gardener page](#) and the [Jefferson County Cooperative Extension page](#).

You can click on these links and "Like" the pages, and if you are on Facebook, you will then automatically receive updates being posted on these two pages.

### Cumulative CEU Hours from 2014 Meetings

January 14 (James Horton)	1.0 CEU
March 11 (Fred Spicer)	1.0 CEU
April 8 (David Doggett)	1.0 CEU
May 13 (Plant Swap with Linda Emerson and Leonora Robertson)	1.0 CEU
June 10 (Japanese Gardens, Robert Wendorf)	1.0 CEU
June 17 (Charlie Thigpen's Garden Gallery)	1.0 CEU
July 8 (UAB speaker and Leonora Robertson)	1.0 CEU
August 12 (Michelle Reynolds)	1.0 CEU
September 9 (Don Ehrett)	1.0 CEU
October 14 (Lois Trigg Chaplin)	1.0 CEU

## The Junior Master Gardener Program at BBG— A Great Opportunity for Your Children or Grandchildren

The Junior Master Gardener program is an international youth gardening program of the University Cooperative Extension network. JMG engages children in novel, "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that provide a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind.

JMG also inspires youths to be of service to others through service learning and leadership development projects, and rewards them with certification and recognition.

Children can get involved in exploring their world through meaningful activities that encourage leadership development, personal pride and responsibility, and community involvement. Youth involved in the program develop critical thinking skills and the ability to identify community concerns and take action to address them through individual group projects.

### Junior Master Gardener classes

Teacher: Julie Danley

First class: Saturday, January 24 | 9 - noon

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens,

Exploration Classroom

\$45 per class

\$320 package

Ages 6-12 years old

For more information or to register, visit

<http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>

## Treasurer's Report

### Sept. 2014/ Nov. 2014

Beginning balance Sept. 30, 2014	\$9,134
Received	\$2,401
Disbursements	-\$1,896
Correction from September	-\$10
Ending balance November 6, 2014	\$9,629

---Submitted by Roger Clarke

## October 2014 Minutes

### Jefferson County Master Gardener's Meeting – October 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Clarke. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. The Treasurer's report was approved as printed in the newsletter.

#### Nominating Committee Report

The report was presented by Glenn Peoples for Chair Fletcher Harvey. The slate presented was:

President - Ann Gray Harvey  
Vice President - Pat Cosgrove  
2nd Vice President - Hope Cooper  
Secretary - Alicia Hall  
Treasurer - Tom Douglass

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was passed by acclamation.

#### Announcements and Upcoming Event

We have two Facebook Pages: Jefferson County Master Gardeners and Jefferson County Cooperative Extension. Volunteers are needed for the Banquet. Please meet at the end of this meeting.

Remember to pay your dues and purchase your ticket for the Banquet. \$22 and \$12 respectively.

11/1 - There will be cleanup day at the Alabama Veterans Park on Liberty Parkway. Bethany O'Rear announced that the area is being renovated and they need help, especially with the Hall of Honor.

11/9 - Program on Daylilies will be presented by Scott Elliott, who hybridizes day lilies. Becky Parr stated that the program will be in the East Room at 2:00pm in the afternoon.

Danielle Dowell of the Girl Scouts spoke of the Junior Master Gardener Program that is being established. They are looking for a troop leader. The program is a pilot project, "Girls in the Garden," teaching/learning: Courage, Confidence and Character. The class will be at the Gardens on six consecutive Tuesdays. Both Scouts and non-scouts are welcome. There are six scouts already enrolled in a Junior Gardeners Club. ACES (Sallie Lee) and Friends of the Botanical Gardens will be assisting with water quality studies. Contact information will be in the next newsletter.

#### Program

Ann Gray Harvey introduced Lois Trigg Chaplin of Bonnie Plants, formerly of *Southern Living*, and the author of *The Southern Gardener's Book of Lists*. Her program today was on "Edible Landscaping."

Ms. Trigg explained that she is not a Master Gardener, but she does do a lot of gardening and growing. She spoke on what we can do and plant now through the fall, winter and into spring. Growing in a confined and/or urban space is very possible. She has mostly plants and some pavement, but virtually no lawn. For her and many others, edible landscaping is about the quality of the food we eat.

She referenced *In Defense of Food* by Michael Pollan and *Folks, This Ain't Normal* by Joel Salatin.

You don't necessarily need to 'landscape'...there are edible houseplants. Edibles is growing area of interest. The "slow food" movement is growing. Nowadays "fast food" is really slow food. The influence is global and growing. There are now 225 food shows on television!!!

More and more emphasis is being placed on local and artisanal foods. There are more and more urban and community gardens. There are national initiatives for producing and eating good, healthy food.

This is a growing trend, not a fad. Bonnie Plant's "Third Grade Cabbage" program was cited as one piece of evidence. It has expanded every year.

We were urged to "pass on" the information and the assistance to others.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope I. Cooper, Secretary

## *November JCMGA Banquet and Graduation*

On November 3, 2014, The Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association members met to enjoy our annual banquet and to welcome 45 new members, graduates of the 2014 Master Gardener classes, to our group. Photographs of many of the service projects these new members have participated in during the past year gave us all an exciting look at what they have already accomplished in our community, and of the many things they may accomplish going forward.

Speakers at the event were Kerry Smith, our state Master Gardener Coordinator, Fred Spicer of the BBG, and Mayor William Bell from the City of Birmingham. Together, we celebrated some important anniversaries: 100 years of ACES, 50 years of the BBG, and a long and fruitful collaboration with the City of Birmingham.

Diane Remick, creator of the JCMGA Web site, shares some of her fine photos of the event here. For much more about JCMGA, visit the website often, at [www.jeffcomg.org](http://www.jeffcomg.org).



## Upcoming Events at Aldridge Gardens

Find more information at <http://aldridgegardens.com>.

### HOLIDAY GREENERY WORKSHOP

Wednesday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Come get inspired for the season—join award-winning floral designers Carol Harris and Rickey Whitley as they decorate areas in Aldridge House and out in the Gardens. Using Alabama greens such as yew, magnolia, holly, and nandina mixed with pine cones and berries, Carol and Ricky will demonstrate how you can transform your own house into a beautiful Southern home for the holidays. Register at <http://aldridgegardens.com>

### HOLIDAY GREENERY SALE

Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Find bundled greenery for all your holiday trimmings! There will also be a limited selection of Christmas trees available from the Mountain Scouts Christmas Tree Sales Association. The sale will be held behind Aldridge House, on the patio of Roots, Aldridge's Garden and Gift Shop. In case of rain, sale will be held under the Pavilion.

## Volunteer Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

For information on how to volunteer at Aldridge Gardens, send an email to [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).

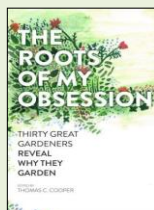
Director of Library Services and Master Gardener Hope Long has special interest in the Junior Master Gardener program that is beginning in January at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

If you'd like information about this program, which could be a wonderful opportunity for some young person you know, you can learn more about it from Hope at [hlong@bbgardens.org](mailto:hlong@bbgardens.org).

### Main Art Gallery:

The work of artist Charlotte Holder will continue on display and for sale in the Art Gallery during the month of December.

### Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, December 2 at 6 p.m., in the Library at BBG, to discuss *The Roots of My Obsession: Thirty Great Gardeners Reveal Why They Garden* by Thomas Cooper. Come join the group!



### Library Volunteers Needed

Jason Kirby notes that The Library at the Gardens has an immediate need for additional volunteers.

Current openings are as follows:  
1st Saturday (10-1), 2nd Saturday (10-1),  
3rd Saturday (10-1),  
and 5th Saturday (1-4).

Please contact Taylor Steele, Volunteer Coordinator, at 414-3962 or email him at [tsteele@bbgardens.org](mailto:tsteele@bbgardens.org) for an application.

## 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.

*Among upcoming classes at BBG - look online for additional opportunities:*

### **Photography Class: Memorable Images**

Instructor: Hank Siegel

December 6 & 13 | 9 – noon

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens – Adventure Classroom

\$100 members | \$120 non-members

This class is designed to introduce the student to basic concepts in photography and digital camera operations including:

- Image Capture - understanding the light, know your camera, develop techniques
- Image Transfer - set up the computer, manage your image files, accessories
  - Image Processing - software available, capabilities, techniques
  - Image Sharing - E-mailing, Web sites, printing

Whether you've got a simple “point and shoot” digital camera or a more complex Digital SLR, you can gain skill and confidence in your ability to create memorable images.

Need to bring:

- your digital camera
- your camera's user's manual

### **Kitschy Christmas**

Instructor: Bradley Gilbert

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens – Adventure Classroom

Sunday, December 14 | 2 – 4 p.m.

\$15 Members | \$20 Non-Members

In this blast from the past class we will take a stroll down memory lane and revisit the soft tones and cheekiness of the 60's. Create small but interesting vignettes throughout the house using ordinary household objects.

This will be a fun class indeed.

### **A Few of My Favorite Things**

Instructor: Bradley Gilbert

Location: Birmingham Botanical Garden – Adventure Classroom

Sunday, January 11 | 2 – 4 p.m.

\$15 Members | \$20 Non-Members

In this class we will create a tablescape that defines who we are using our favorite containers, favorite flowers and the objects we surround ourselves with. Participants are encouraged to bring a small cherished item from home to display during the class.

## 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 these, or any other CNPS events.)

### **Understanding Botanical Names (elective)**

Instructor: John Manion

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, December 6 | 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

\$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members

Many people avoid using botanical names for a variety of reasons. Because these names are in a foreign language, they can be intimidating and overwhelming, hence they are often avoided. Learn how fascinating, enlightening and humorous botanical names can be! You'll be surprised how much you can discern about a plant based only on its botanical name.

Botanical nomenclature topics to be discussed will be their history, formatting, pronunciation, common prefixes and suffixes, recommended references and much more.

### **Introduction to Botany (core)**

Instructor: Tom Diggs, Ph.D.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, December 13 | 8:30 - 4:30 p.m.

\$80 Members | \$90 Non-Members

This class will introduce students 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 Dynamic Autumn Forest (elective)**

Instructor: Henry Hughes

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, November 15 | 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

\$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members

During this class, which includes a field trip, we will explore the fascinating transition of a forest from summer to winter. Topics to be covered range from seed dispersal and conditions necessary for germination, to the mechanisms of fall foliage color change. Participants will learn how all these processes lead to the onset of winter dormancy - and ultimately to forest regeneration in spring.

**Check online periodically for other upcoming CNPS classes and events;  
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 most Tuesdays and Thursdays and will offer additional volunteer opportunities with the Native Plant Propagation Group on as scheduled. For more information and to offer your help, email John at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org).

***HAPPY HOLIDAYS!***



JEFFERSON COUNTY  
*Master Gardeners*

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**We're on the Web! Visit us at [www.jeffcomg.org](http://www.jeffcomg.org).**

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