

OCTOBER 2015

Roots and Shoots



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

President's Message

Japan. We have just returned from a visit with a friend in Kyoto and time on tour throughout the country. Water, wind, soil - nature's sculpting tools mold and inspire the exquisite, harmonious artistry that is the Japanese garden. The gardens—whether a small residential entryway or a large Buddhist temple site – all draw the viewer in for a deeper look. The techniques and principals for Japanese gardens have been cultivated for centuries, and while many garden elements are the same, each garden expression is different.

To paraphrase one of the masters, one looks not to emulate, but to find the inspiration! As the first tinges of fall color begin to appear in maple and ginkgo trees around Birmingham, I marvel at how many plants we share with Japan along with an abundance of water and hot, humid summers!

Back at home....

Plant Sale: We are getting ready for the fall plant sale at the BBG. If you would like to work and have not found an assignment, please contact Taylor Steele at the Gardens.

2018 SE Conference: Glenda Dix and others are beginning to work on the 2018 Southeastern MG Conference. Please see Glenda about opportunities and volunteer needs.

Banquet: Please mark your calendars for the closing and graduation banquet on Tuesday, November 10. 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.**

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!

Fall is a great time for planting trees, shrubs and perennials! Create something that inspires you or feeds your soul. Happy gardening!

Ann Gray

Ann Gray Harvey, President

JCMGA October Program Notes

**COME EARLY AND
BRING A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!**

Tuesday, October 13

**9 a.m. Social hour; 10 a.m. Meeting
Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium**

Speaker: Diane Remick,

Volunteer Website Manager, JCMGA

Topic: All About Apps

You may have already marked your calendar for 10-13-15@9 a.m., since we did a preview in last month's *Roots & Shoots*. Good! If not, do it now. Diane is going to cover old stuff, basic stuff, and new stuff in cyberspace. New material seems to appear weekly.

If you were among the lucky gardeners to attend the Tallapoosa Garden Extravaganza in Dadeville, you were introduced to "Homegrown." This app is sponsored by Bonnie Plants, and offers some unique features: 10-day local weather forecast; expanded variety info; ways to save notes, photos, and reminders; growing tips and information on companion planting; advice on choosing tomato and pepper varieties; hands-free dictation---and it's all free! So much data—and what's next?

Bring a family member, a friend, or neighbor...always welcome. We will miss you, and you will miss a great program by Diane Remick if you don't show.

See you on 10/13/15 @ 9 a.m.!

Pat

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

Hydock and Horton Return to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on November 1

A Sweet Strangeness Thrills My Heart: The World of Sallie Independence Foster, 1861-1887 is an upcoming program from the wonderful team of Dolores Hydock and Bobby Horton; it will be presented in the Lecture Hall at BBG on Sunday, November 1, at 2 p.m.

Sallie Foster was 12 years old and living in Florence, Alabama, in 1861 when the Civil War began. She was keeping a diary at the time, which she continued for the next 26 years. This performance from storyteller Hydock and music historian Horton is based on her diaries, papers, and letters from her brothers away at war, and creates a “poignant, powerful, humorous, and honest picture of a world of innocence turned upside down.”

General admission for this program is \$25. To secure your tickets now, go to: bbgardens.org/southerntales, or call 205-414-3950.

Need a Hand? Raise Your Hand!—A Reminder from our President, Ann Gray Harvey

For our Interns finding a way into this organization, please don't be shy about approaching officers or those who are doing something of interest to you.

For those who have projects or interests that need additional hands, please let Taylor Steele—our Community Services Chair, Bethany O’Rear, or me know of your need/interest.

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

BBG Girl Scout Fundraiser Ends October 9

The girls of **BBG Girl Scout Troop 1017** have now been volunteering at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens for a full year—and they love it! The girls have worked at BBG plant sales, summer camps, and at numerous other events at the Gardens. Most recently, the older Scouts volunteered as hostesses at Antiques at the Gardens.

In addition to giving their time to the BBG, the troop is planning to make a Scout trip to London, where they hope to participate in a service project at Kew Gardens.

As they work to make their dream a reality, our BBG Scouts are currently selling magazine subscriptions. If you would like to purchase a magazine or renew a current subscription, by doing this at the site below, the troop will earn 20% of your purchase. The link takes you to one of the girls’ pages - Perry - but your purchase will benefit the entire troop. If you’d like to lend a hand in this way, go to <http://www.girlscouts.qspgao.com/Login> and enter the code **23326LN**. But to participate in this effort, you’ll have to act quickly—the deadline for this particular Scout fundraiser is October 9.



Treasurer’s Report

September 2015

Beginning balance September 1, 2015	\$8,200.72
Deposits	\$180.00
Disbursements	\$75.00
Ending balance September 30, 2015	\$8,305.72

---Submitted by Tom Douglass, Treasurer

September 2015 Minutes

Jefferson County Master Gardeners' Association Meeting – September 8, 2015

The regular meeting of the JCMGA was held on September 8, 2015 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). There were 40-45 members present. President Ann Gray Harvey called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

President's Report and Routine Business:

President Ann Gray welcomed all members present and recognized first-time attendees. We had two members and two members of the 2015 Master Gardener class attending today. Ann Gray also reminded everyone to sign in with Glenda Dicks at the back sign-in table.

Ann Gray reminded everyone that September 16 will be our night meeting for Master Gardeners. Jim Allen will be our speaker, and his program is about succulents. Meeting time is 6 p.m., and everyone is invited to attend.

Ann also discussed that the 2018 Southeastern Master Gardener Conference is beginning to become more organized. We do need volunteers for different positions as outlined in the organizational chart. Please see Ann Gray or Glenda Dicks if you are interested in helping.

Secretary's Report: Ann Gray asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Minutes from our August 11, 2015 meeting as published in the *Roots and Shoots* newsletter. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as published. The motion was approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Gray asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Treasurer's Report as published in the *Roots and Shoots* newsletter. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as published. The motion was approved by the membership.

2016 JCMGA Officers: Ann Gray noted that the following 2016 Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Officers were elected at our August 11, 2015 meeting:

President:	Ann Gray Harvey
1st Vice President:	Pat Cosgrove
2nd Vice President:	Hope Cooper
Secretary:	Kathy Rostand
Treasurer:	Marie Robertson

Finance: Ann Gray reminded us that our JCMGA 2016 dues are now payable. The cost for State Dues (Alabama Master Gardener Association) and local dues (Jefferson County Master Gardener Association) are \$35 total.

Spring/Summer Master Gardener Classes Banquet: Graduation of both Spring and Summer Master Gardener Classes will be on the evening of Tuesday, November 10, at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The cost is \$15 per person, and you may write a check to the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association (JCMGA) for \$15. Plus if you wish to combine the \$35 for state and local dues and the \$15 for Banquet reservation, you may do so.

Community Service Projects: Ann Gray noted the Bethel Baptist Church Garden is opening today, September 8, and all are welcome to attend.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality: Martha & Maurice Picardy were unable to be here today. Ann Gray thanked everyone who stepped in to help out.

(Continued below)

(September 8, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, continued)

Program:

Pat Cosgrove introduced our speaker today, Taylor Steele. Taylor comes from the Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College and was the residential manager for the Turkey Creek Preserve. He was also the Director of Science Education for the Cornerstone Schools of Alabama. He also was a naturalist with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, plus many more activities. Taylor presently is the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Volunteer Coordinator.

Taylor reminded us of the Fall Plant Sale at BBG October 16 through 18. Help is needed in several positions, including a Master Gardener booth. He asked that we contact him to sign up and for further information. Please contact Bethany O’Rear if you would like to volunteer for the Master Gardener booth.

Antiques in the Gardens will take place October 1 through October 4.

Taylor also noted that October 28 through October 3, the third Central South Native Plant Conference will be held at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Registration and information is available online and through the Gardens, John Manion, and Taylor Steele. The Native Plant Group will hold a pre-sale for large quantities of native plants. The minimum order is \$300.00 and can be picked up at the Gardens. We can reach Taylor at tsteele@bbg.org.

Taylor then introduced guest speakers for today: Alex Dumont, Sharyn Gaston and Michele Colobrese. Alex is a graduate of Birmingham Southern College and was an Urban Environmental Intern. He is speaking today on the future of hydroponics—growing plants in a soil-less environment. He stated that since life began, water, oxygen and nutrients were necessary for growing plant life. Ever since the beginning of time, the process of hydroponics was used, as in ancient Babylon, i.e. in the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

During the Renaissance Period, many studies were released regarding plant nutrition. John Woodward in England was a naturalist, and he published the first recorded scientific experiments on plant nutrition, noting that adding a small amount of soil helped the health of the plant to improve. Before this time it was thought that water was “all in all” and the only purpose of the earth was to keep the plant upright.

In the early 1800s, Sir Humphry Davy isolated the fertility elements—Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium. The Father of Nutriculture, Joseph Priestley, demonstrated the ability of a plant to change carbon dioxide into oxygen. The 19-century dynamic duo Julian Von Sachs and W. Knop produced a standard formula for nutrients, putting it all together in a systematic process.

In the 1940s, during World War II, Victory Gardens became a vital source of food for many families. Large-scale production was enhanced by Dr. William Gericke, when he designed large hydroponic troughs, helping feed many soldiers during the war.

In 2015, the new generation hydroponics are designed for inside home and building structures, even submarines. Future development will be for space stations, desert and mountainous climates, and space itself. Aeroponics including tower gardens are one of the new trends, planting in a tower design with water and nutrients in the base. Multiple vegetables (excluding ground vegetables) can be grown in one tower. Alex, Sharyn and Michele demonstrated by Power Point the use and benefits of this system. They then fielded questions regarding upkeep, sizes, water and light requirements. Their website is <http://ad63564.towergarden.com> or alexjdumont@gmail.com.

Ann Gray thanked Taylor, Alex, Sharyn and Michele for their presentation today.

Door prizes were drawn .

Ann Gray reminded us of the Fall Plant Sale and to bring any seeds we might have to give away at the sale. She also mentioned that we can begin paying our 2016 dues and graduation banquet fees today: please see Tom Douglass. She also noted the State MG meeting will be held in Clanton. Please talk with Ann Gray if interested in attending.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. 1 CEU has been assigned for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Thomas for Alicia Hall, Secretary

(See August Evening Meeting Minutes below)

September 2015 Evening Meeting Minutes

Jefferson County Master Gardeners' Association Evening Meeting – September 15, 2015

The evening meeting of the JCMGA was held on September 15, 2015 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). First Vice President Pat Cosgrove called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. There were no reports or business items.

The program speaker, Jim Allen, was introduced and he spoke about succulents: the problems, the pests, the myths and misinformation, what to do, what not to do.

Growing succulents, especially from seed is a very, very slow process, requiring a goodly bit of patience and attention. However, once underway, succulents are not too picky. Don't drown them!

Humidity can be a problem, and although most like/need heat, many should not be put in full, direct sunlight—they will burn. If you are growing succulents from cuttings, Allen recommends starting them on pure sand, misting to start, and then misting again....after they have become dry and look shriveled. Mr. Allen grows most of his succulents in terra cotta pots.

Label, label, and label again. Then document what you do by listings and photos.

Asked about his collection and how he handles it in cold weather, he told us that it takes three days to bring the collection inside his greenhouse—and conversely it takes three days to get it back outside when the weather warms up. One of his pots weighs 300 pounds, and many of the plants seem to want to actively stick you.

We were advised that regardless of what you do and how careful you are, some of them are going to die. Don't worry about it.

Allen finished his talk with a demonstration on dividing a succulent. (BE CAREFUL OF THE SAP!) Roger Clarke went home with all three pieces.

1 CEU has been assigned for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope I. Cooper for Alicia Hall, Secretary

Upcoming Event at Aldridge Gardens

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

Creepy, Crawly Spiders of Alabama (Just in time for Halloween!)

Tuesday, October 27, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Rain Date: Tuesday November 10)

Instructor: Dr. Drew Hataway, Biology Department, Samford University

Members: Adult \$12. Child \$5. Family (parents or grandparents with children, \$22)

Non-Members: Adult \$15. Child \$7. Family (parents or grandparents with children, \$28)

Learn about the fascinating world of spiders from a scholar in the life sciences. Dr. Hataway will discuss his experiences with spiders both in the wild and in the laboratory, and bring some interesting arachnids to view up close.

Learn how to distinguish venomous from non-venomous spiders. Bring your flashlights for a fun-filled field trip after class in search of harmless wolf spiders on the grounds of Aldridge Gardens. Come join us for a spiderific evening in a great family-oriented seminar for young and old alike (but not for the faint of heart!).

Each child will receive a spider ring!

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.

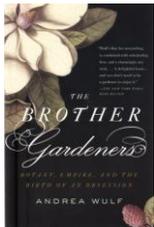
News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

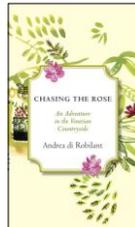
The Junior Master Gardener program engages children in novel, hands-on group and individual learning experiences that promote a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind. JMG also inspires youths to be of service to others. The next upcoming class, on Fruits & Nuts, will take place Saturday, October 17.

For more information on this and other classes in the series, see www.bbgardens.org/classes.

Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, October 6, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *The Brother Gardeners: A Generation of Gentlemen Naturalists and the Birth of an Obsession* by Andrea Wulf.



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.

For a full listing of book club selections for the coming year, visit the Library web site (see above).
Come join the group!

Don't miss the next Dolores Hydock/ Bobby Horton program at BBG!! Find full details on page 2 of this newsletter...

Huge Library Used Book Sale

Saturday, October 24, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

In the Blount Plaza (rain plan: In The Library)

We will have all kinds of used and new books, magazines and CD's. All money raised will directly benefit The Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

If you would like to donate books or magazines before the sale, please contact Elizabeth Drewry at 205.414.3932 or edrewry@bbgardens.org

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:

Lunch and Learn: Overgrown Out of Control – Mike Rushing tells us how and when to whack it back, cut it down, and clean it up. More information at www.bbgardens.org/classes. *October 7, 11:30-12:30 p.m. Free.*

Lunch and Learn: Let There Be Light! – Ginny Barr of the Nelson Team shows us how to enhance beauty, provide safety, and enjoy your outdoor spaces after dark. *October 21, 11:30-12:30 p.m. Free.*

How to Harvest

Instructor: Cameron Strouss

Saturday, October 10 | 10-noon

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Members \$15 | Non-Members \$20

Learn the method to the madness of wild harvesting medicine and food. We will cover identification, harvesting methods, tools, drying methods, and storage of herbs.

It's going to be a blast!

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.)

Register Now! Central South Native Plant Conference returns October 29-31

(from Blake Ellis, BBG Public Relations Coordinator)

Every 2-4 years since 1991, gardeners, botanists, landscape architects and plant enthusiasts have been treated to one of the most extensive seminars in the southeast, the Central South Native Plant Conference.

The symposium returns this year, October 29-31, to Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Three days filled with lectures, workshops and field trips include landscape architect and author Thomas Rainer, recent Georgia Writers Hall of Fame inductee Janisse Ray, educator and landscape designer Preston Montague, Plant a Row for the Hungry founder Jeff Lowenfels, retired professor and acclaimed author Larry Mellichamp, author, radio and television personality Bill Finch and Macknally Land Design President Lea Ann Macknally among many others.

Field trips will take participants to Bibb County Glades, Village Creek Canyon, Limestone Park, Ebenezer Swamp and the Kaul Wildflower Garden. Curator John Manion will thoroughly examine the native plant collections at BBG.

This year's conference is sponsored by Ace Tree Service, Alabama Wildflower Society, Jefferson County Master Gardeners, Izel Plants, Birmingham Audubon, Macknally Land Design, Petals from the Past and Overhill Gardens.

This year's honoree is Jan Midgley and a limited number of student scholarships will be awarded.

See the entire weekend schedule, learn more about our speakers and our honoree, find out more about special weekend hotel accommodations and reserve seats to the conference online at www.bbgardens.org/CSNPC.

Volunteer Opportunities in Native Plant Studies

Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead the next volunteer work session in the Kaul Wildflower Garden on Tuesday, October 6.

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

Volunteer Now for the MG Booth at the Fall Plant Sale!

Bulletin from Bethany:

It's that time again! As many of you know (and are probably working diligently on), the Fall Plant Sale for the BBG is just around the corner. We would like to have an ACES/MG info booth at this year's event. I have listed the dates and times below. As in the past, we will have numerous ACES publications, soil test boxes, etc., available for the public. Now, all we need are some smiling faces!! Please contact Bethany to reserve your spot today!



Saturday, October 17

9-11 – two slots available

11-1 – two slots available

1-3 – two slots available

3-5 – two slots available

Sunday, October 18

12-2 – two slots available

2-4 – two slots available



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 www.jeffcomg.org.

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