

# Roots and Shoots

SEPT 2014



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

## President's Message

I always think of September as the start of our transition into fall. Per Wikipedia, September is from the Latin "septem" or seven and used to be the seventh of a ten-month year in the Roman calendar. When January and February were added at the beginning of the year, September became our ninth month, but kept the "seven" name—pretty neat. September 1 is also the meteorological start of autumn. Plus our Alabama Gardeners Calendar tells us to start thinking of falling leaves and to get ready to plant fall vegetables. That's another thing I love about gardening in Alabama – it is truly a year round activity.

With very mixed feelings, I have to announce our treasurer Lisa Ennis has accepted a "fabulous" new position in Dothan and will be leaving us. For all of you I congratulate Lisa and wish her the best. She will be missed. We will be electing a nominating committee at the September meeting, and their first task will be to find a worthy replacement for Lisa.

Bethany has issued a call for volunteers to man the help line. Apparently all help line calls statewide will be coming into our office starting September 1. That should be interesting with calls from all over. I am throwing out the challenge as well. Let's see if we can really staff up the help line, and have some fun doing it. I am going to volunteer on Tuesday mornings starting September 9 – why not join me and get used to the set up, then pick your own day.

Our program for September is by our own Don Ehrett on "Dahlias." It should be great – see you there!

**Roger**

Roger Clarke,  
President

## JCMGA September Program Notes

**September 9, 9:30 a.m.  
Dahlias with Don Ehrett**

As August bakes into September, we have timely and special opportunities for our program offerings. Because weather may play a role in the location of the Sept. 9 program, please pay special attention to the notes on its location, below! Also, see the notes on our Nov. meeting.

**Don Ehrett has agreed to host our regular meeting on Sept. 9.** If weather permits and the heat doesn't destroy his dahlia blooms, we'll meet at BBG at 9:30 a.m. to carpool to his garden in Vestavia. If the weather does not allow the visit, he'll be our speaker at BBG. We will make a final judgment on Mon., Sept. 8 and will do our best to get the word out to all. Either way, if you arrive at the BBG by 9:30, you will be ready for either option! And regardless of location, this will be a special opportunity to learn about the care, feeding, and propagation of dahlias.

**Mark your calendars for our third evening meeting on Tues., Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. Karen Mitchell has a timely program on Irrigation.** She agreed to share her "journey" in irrigating her garden and helpful lessons she has learned in that process. I'm really looking forward to hearing her and hopefully applying some of her ideas to the woeful-looking plants around my own garden! We will be meeting at the BBG for this program.

**Finally, about our November meeting:** We were unable to get the BBG for our usual second Tuesday evening meeting. The Executive Committee agreed to move the meeting to the first week, but that Tuesday is Election Day. So, our final evening meeting and 2014 Master Gardener graduation celebration has been tentatively set for Mon., Nov. 3, at the BBG. Please note this date change and watch for confirmation. We plan a special evening commemorating 100 years of ACES service, 50 years of the BBG, and its special partnership with Birmingham that our Gardens such a unique place.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the September meetings and have my fingers crossed that we will be able to visit Don Ehrett's special garden for our program!

**Ann Gray**

Ann Gray Harvey,  
First Vice President

## Bethany's Extension Extra

Here are more interesting educational and service opportunities coming up for you in the months ahead:

### From Bethany –

Hello Jefferson County MG's. We need your help! The number of volunteers staffing the MG helpline has dwindled significantly over the last year or so. I know that the volume of calls has decreased as well, and who wants to sit at a computer with no calls coming in.

However, I think that is about to change. As of 9/1, ALL helpline calls will be routed to Birmingham. We will be the only helpline operational between September and the first of February. And, yes that means we will be answering questions that we may not be familiar with, but there are many reliable resources available for our use.

We do have a few regular volunteers, and for them, we are truly thankful!! But, we have several open slots. I know that several of you have helped with the MG helpline in the past, and we would love to see you return. If you have never helped with the helpline (other than your intern requirements), give it some thought. I will be happy to provide a training session to any folks who are interested. This would be a great way to get your volunteer hours during times when the weather may be less than ideal.

If you are willing to help us out and give it a shot, please contact Bethany at [bethany@aces.edu](mailto:bethany@aces.edu) or 205-612-9524 (cell). Feel free to contact me with any questions!

### Save the date!

**September 19-21** at BBG –The Alabama Orchid Society's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale. For more information, see the group's Facebook page.

**September 25** – Blount County Master Gardener Association Fall Conference, "Special Gardens, Special Places," at Palisades Park in Oneonta. For more information, contact ACES office or [sherilynosborne@bellsouth.net](mailto:sherilynosborne@bellsouth.net).

### 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

## Volunteers Needed at Norwood Learning Garden

**Date:** Saturday, September 6

**Time:** 9 a.m.—Noon

**Location:** Norwood Learning Garden on the Circle, 3400 13th Ave. N., Birmingham, AL, 35234

**Details:** For September's First Saturday Garden Day, volunteers are needed for landscaping the front slope of the Norwood Learning Garden on the Circle. Prepare for a day of digging, planting, and mulching, as continue work to beautify the street view of our hidden gem of a garden.

As always, we will provide gloves, tools, water, and snacks, but feel free to bring your favorite shovel, pitchfork, or mattock. Volunteer sign in will start at 8:45 a.m., with work beginning at 9.

Contact Sarah at [s\\_bettinger@hotmail.com](mailto:s_bettinger@hotmail.com) with questions or for more information.

### Sign up for an ACES Seminar on Sustainability:

*Putting Down Roots: Creating a Sustainable Landscape*

Date: September 16, 8:30 a.m. – Noon, at BBG

Learn more about creating sustainable outdoor spaces: getting started by planning before you plant, creating waterwise landscapes, choosing the right plant for the right place, and much more.

Registration fee is \$10; please register by Friday, 9/12. For more info, contact Sallie Lee [leesall@aces.edu](mailto:leesall@aces.edu) or Bethany at [bethany@aces.edu](mailto:bethany@aces.edu); or 879-6964, ext. 10.

## Treasurer's Report

### July 2014/ August 2014

Beginning balance July 1, 2014	\$9,526.59
Deposits	\$22.00
Disbursements (including State dues 560.00 and toner for GPIC 117.12)	\$150.00
Ending balance August 28, 2014	\$8,720.87

---Submitted by Lisa Ennis, Treasurer

## August 2014 Minutes

### Jefferson County Master Gardener's Meeting - August 12, 2014

Meeting was called to order by President Roger Clarke. The Minutes of the July meeting and the Treasurer's Report were approved. Motion by Fletcher Harvey, second by Bruce Steele.

#### Announcements

September 9 - JCMGA - Don Ehrett will present the program, on Dahlias. (At Don's, weather permitting, at BBG if it is raining). Get to BBG early and car pool.

**We will elect a nominating committee at this meeting. BE THERE.**

September 16 - The AMGA Fall Seminar, Guntersville State Park Lodge, from 9:00am to 2:30pm. Registration is \$25.

Date TBA - JCMGA Night meeting - Karen Mitchell on Irrigation.

September 25 - Blount County Fall Seminar, "Special Gardens, Special Places," Palisades Park in Oneonta. Registration is \$20 and includes lunch. Attendance limited to 75, so don't wait.

#### Upcoming State Conferences:

March 23 - 25, 2015 - Hosted by Blount and Cullman Counties. Conference will be held in Cullman.

May 12-14, 2016 - conference in Dothan.

#### Program

Michelle Reynolds, Vice-President and President-Elect of the Birmingham Audubon Society, presented a program on bird habitats.

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A JCMGA **Board Meeting** was held immediately following the regular meeting, with these board members present: Roger Clarke, Ann Gray Harvey, Pat Cosgrove, Tom Douglas, Bruce Steele, Fletcher Harvey, Martha Picardi, and Hope Cooper.

Pat Cosgrove reported that the State information/help line will now be answered at GPIC; their 800# will move here.

We discussed the need for permanent signage to identify the Jefferson County Master Gardeners at meetings, conferences, etc. Alabama Graphics can provide such a sign. Roger will contact them and others concerning style and cost. A motion was made to spend up to \$300 for the sign, motion by Ann Gray Harvey, seconded by Hope Cooper. Approved.

Roger Clarke brought up the subject of JCMGA becoming a 501-C-3 organization. There is a \$400 registration fee, and an annual return must be filed with the IRS. That filing can be done with a post card/online if revenue is less than \$50,000. The benefit of such a designation would be the ability to solicit donations. Hope Cooper made a motion that Roger Clarke be instructed to investigate JCMGA becoming a 501-C-3. Ann Gray Harvey seconded. Approved.

Next topic was Bylaws and Committee appointments and structure. We have some named, standing committees, and some that are ad hoc, and some that just 'are.' Named in the Bylaws: Audit, Community Service (Karen Mitchell), Newsletter, Scrapbook/History, and Telephone/Communications. These need review. We also have: Hospitality, Awards (Ken & Alicia Hall, Anne Thomas), Speakers' Bureau. There are also de facto Banquet Committees each year. This year Food will be chaired by Martha Picardi, Decorations by Fletcher Harvey, and Program by Ann Gray Harvey. The annual banquet is traditionally held the first week in November.

Roger is to check about monthly recognition of accomplishments, .i.e., service hour goals. Stars are local and could be awarded each month, instead of at the annual banquet. Badges are awarded by the state and that is done once a year.

It was decided that the Board, ACES, and the Director of the BBG should meet to develop some short term and long term goals for our organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope I. Cooper, Secretary

## Summer Scrapbook

In Summer 2014, Jefferson County MG's were busy gardening—  
at home, in all sorts of interesting volunteer efforts, and, for some, at work!

Here are just a few glimpses MG's have shared: let these pics  
remind you of the fun we've all had gardening  
this beautiful summer!



Did you have a favorite plant this year? Thelma Stichweh loved this beautiful plumaria.



Alicia Hall sent photos of Steve Cooper and Jenny Lusk (above) and Ken Hall and Helen Martin (at right) volunteering at BBG. Members of the Fern Society meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays to maintain the Fern Glade at the Gardens. Thanks to them and to all the volunteer groups who do such wonderful work both at BBG and in the surrounding communities!



As you go in and out of the outer door of the Library at the Botanical Gardens, you've no doubt stopped to admire the potted Meyer lemon plants that grace the entry. MG and Director of the Library Hope Long received the first one (purchased at Petals from the Past) some years ago from her mother, and later added the second. Since then, she has lovingly cared for them, and gamely seen them through scale attack, hot summers, and long days in winter quarters, and this summer she—and we—were rewarded with the chance to see them in lovely fruit.

The Library entrance also features straw bale gardening producing beautiful tomatoes and peppers. Thanks to Hope, at our Library, you can not only "read all about it," you can actually see how it's done!



Dale O'Connor is surrounded by giant plants in these great pictures from this summer—daylily blooms taller than he is, and a huge Limelight hydrangea at left—and just take a look at the incredibly beautiful and lush pepper plants and eggplant below ...

No wonder the gardens he and Nora have created at their lovely home are such an inspiration to their fellow MG's.



## Upcoming Events at Aldridge Gardens

Find more information at [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com).

### BEES UP CLOSE

Tuesday, September 16, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Find out what all the buzz is about in this Family Nature Program. Through a webcam, participants will see a beehive up close, and will learn about the ins and outs of the hive. From the comfort of Aldridge House, beekeepers will take the class through a hive inspection, explaining a worker's daily chores, discussing drones and telling what it really takes to be "queen."

Instructors are Sallie Lee, Extension Agent, Beekeepers Association and Beekeeper; Liz Alosi, Beekeeper at Aldridge Gardens and Beekeepers Association; and Loyd Mehaffey, Alabama Master Beekeeper and member of Alabama and Shelby County Beekeepers Associations

Members: Child \$5, Adult \$10, Family maximum: \$20; Non-members: Child \$7, Adult \$13, Family maximum \$26

## Volunteer Opportunities at Aldridge Gardens

For information on how to volunteer at Aldridge Gardens, contact Peggy McVay at [pmcvay@aldridgegardens.com](mailto:pmcvay@aldridgegardens.com) or follow the link on the Aldridge Gardens website to volunteer online.

## News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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

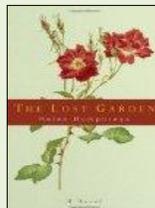
### Director of the BBG Library Hope Long announces two upcoming special events at the BBG:

First, an **Author Talk on Thursday, Sept. 25, at 6 p.m. in the Ireland Room by Tom Cox**, author of *Landscaping with Conifers and Ginkgo for the Southeast*, who will present a talk entitled "Conifers in the Landscape—A Native Son Returns." The event is free, but preregistration online at [www.bbgardens.org/events](http://www.bbgardens.org/events) is required. Following the presentation, Cox will sign books, which may be purchased at the event or in Leaf & Petal before the event.

#### Main Art Gallery:

The work of artist Debbie Reese will be displayed and for sale in the Art Gallery during the months of September and October.

#### Thyme to Read book club:



The **Thyme to Read** book club will meet Tuesday, September 9 at 6 p.m., in the Library at BBG to discuss *The Lost Garden: A Novel*, by Helen Humphreys. Come join the group!

Second, on **Sunday, November 16, at 2 p.m., in the Linn Henley Lecture Hall, *Southern Tales at the Gardens* presents Dolores Hydock**, appearing in "The Lady With All the Answers" by David Rambo, drawn from the life and letters of Ann Landers with the cooperation of Margo Howard.

Tickets may be purchased by phone at 204-414-3050 or online at [www.bbgardens.org/southerntales](http://www.bbgardens.org/southerntales).

This presentation is not suitable for children.

#### Library Volunteers Needed

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

Current openings are as follows:

Monday (9-1), 1st Saturday (10-1), 2nd Saturday (10-1), 3rd Saturday (10-1) & (1-4), and 5th Saturday (1-4).

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

## Educational Opportunities at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Register online at [www.bbgbgarden.org](http://www.bbgbgarden.org), for more information, call Dawn Coleman at 205-414-3958.

### *Among upcoming classes at BBG:*

#### **Zentangle**

Instructor: Darla Williamson

Monday, October 6 | 9 a.m. – noon, repeated 1 – 4 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Members-Only (Limited to 10 per class)

Zentangle is an easy to learn method of creating beautiful images from repetitive patterns. It is fun, relaxing and anyone can use it to create beautiful pieces of art! It is enjoyed by a wide range of ages and skill levels across the world. It's fun for anyone, anytime, anywhere!

Anyone can create a Zentangle. Even if you have never drawn a line, you can pick up the pen and make a beautiful piece the very first time. People who are sure they are not “creative, artistic, or talented” are always delighted and surprised to see what they can create.

#### **Painting Impressionistic Landscapes**

Instructor: Scott Thompson

Location: Birmingham Botanical Garden – Adventure Classroom

Friday, October 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 6 - 8 p.m.

\$135 Members | \$150 Non-Members

Using a limited palette of acrylics, learn how to paint spontaneous landscapes from photographs. This course focuses on color mixing, lighting, simple shapes and editing photos to develop a good painting.

A supply list will be sent upon registration.

WEEK 1- Usage of supplies and color mixing. Also tutorial on landscape painters.

WEEK 2 - Value studies (landscapes) and photo editing

WEEK 3 - Value studies (color harmony). Landscape painting from a photograph.

WEEK 4 - Landscape painting—harmony between the landscape and subject matter.

#### **Creepy Creations**

Instructor: Bradley Gilbert

Location: Birmingham Botanical Garden – Adventure Classroom

Sunday, October 12 | 2 – 4 p.m.

\$15 Members | \$20 Non-Members

In this class we will explore the vibrant jewel tones that explode during the fall season.

Learn to make a creepy centerpiece using sticks, rocks, dried flowers, vines, cotton, gourds and tiny little skeletons.

#### **Kokedama**

Instructor: Hope Long, Library Director & Master Gardener

October 25 | 10 - noon

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens - Adventure Classroom

General Admission \$20

Meaning ‘moss’ (koke) and ‘ball’ (dama), kokedama is a Japanese art form that offers a whole new way of displaying house plants. In this hands-on workshop you’ll have access to all the materials needed to make your own beautiful kokedama and will be taken step by step through the unique process.

This is a messy class so please dress appropriately.

*Limit 15 people, so sign up early.*

## 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.)

### **September Service Madness (volunteer opportunity)**

Event Leaders: Taylor Steele & John Manion

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Saturday, September 6 | 9 - 3 p.m.

Registration required

This special volunteer opportunity will be held in conjunction with students and faculty from UAB. We will work on a variety of tasks and only ask that if you participate, you commit to at least three hours. Tools and refreshments will be provided.

### **Autumn at Moss Rock Preserve (field trip)**

Trip Leaders: Arnie Rutkis & John Manion

Location: Homewood, AL

Saturday, September 27 | 8 - 1 p.m.

\$40 Members | \$40 Non-Members

With the golden light and plants revealing their fall color, autumn is a beautiful time of the year to visit Moss Rock Preserve. One of the most fascinating natural areas in the Birmingham region, this preserve is a distinctive ecosystem that is home to some of Alabama's rare plants. The walk to the glades will take us through boulder fields, across streams and into forests and meadows. This is a moderate walking experience with uneven and rocky terrain.

### **Village Creek Canyon (field trip)**

Trip Leaders: Zac Napier & John Manion

Location: Jefferson County, AL

Saturday, October 4 | 8 - 2 p.m.

\$45 Members | \$50 Non-Members

Village Creek Canyon, a little-known Freshwater Land Trust property to the west of Birmingham, is distinctive in several ways, not least of which is being the southernmost population of *Tsuga canadensis*, Canadian hemlock. In this scenic and botanically rich 300 acre parcel of land, a microclimate exists (due to high north-facing bluffs) which supports a variety of plant species normally found farther north. The parcel offers a wide variety of habitats from cool and wet bottomland floodplains to high and dry south facing shale ridge tops. Visits to the site this year have revealed three species of plants never-before documented for Jefferson County; who knows what other treasures exist therein?

## Volunteer Opportunities in Native Plant Studies

**Volunteer Workdays – Volunteer Workdays: Volunteer Workdays:** Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion will lead volunteer sessions in the Kaul Wildflower Garden on September 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25 and 30. For more information, write John Manion at [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org).

## *Get Into the Gardens—and learn!*

**Get IntoThe Gardens** is a terrific series of free demonstrations taking place at BBG on Saturdays. Plan now to “get into the Gardens” and take advantage of these exciting opportunities to learn:

*September 6, 1 p.m. – Composting and vermiculture demonstration.* The art of composting has been part of our global culture since ancient times. The basic principles are quite simple, and adhering to them will result in an efficient and successful outcome. Studies have shown that home composting can divert an average of 700 lbs. of material per household per year from the waste stream. Municipal composting carries a greater environmental cost, but not nearly as high as if leaf and yard waste are disposed of by conventional means. Vermicomposting is the easiest way to recycle food wastes and is ideal for people who do not have an outdoor compost pile. Composting with worms avoids the needless disposal of vegetative food wastes and enjoy the benefits of a high quality compost. Worms process food quickly and transform food wastes into nutrient-rich “castings.”

*September 20, 1 p.m. – Planting Fall trees and shrubs demonstration.* The success or failure of trees and shrubs to grow and produce the desired effects begins with planning and proper planting. Learn planting techniques to ensure your trees and shrubs purchased at our fall sale will survive and thrive in your landscape.

*September 27, 1 p.m. – Jefferson County Department of Stormwater – “Step away from the spray!”* Learn how to manage mosquitos and other backyard pests using birds, bats and other natural methods. Free mosquito prevention kits and other helpful items will be available to assist you in controlling these bugs in an environmentally friendly way.

And, while you’re in the Gardens, stop by our marvelous **Library at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens** for a look at its ever-growing collection. Librarian Elizabeth Drewry sends word of exciting new books now available: *Beginner’s Guide to Beekeeping: Everything You Need to Know*; *About Flowers: Floral Design*; *Southern Fruit and Vegetable Gardening: Plant, Grow, Harvest*; *Peterson Field Guide to Medicinal Plants and Herbs*; *Organic Manifesto: How Organic Food Can Heal Our Planet*—just a few of the many new titles you might enjoy. Come in and check them out!



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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***