

Roots and Shoots



Carol Cook Hagood, Editor

President's Message

Our Jefferson County Master Gardener Association bylaws tell us: *The object of this Association shall be the continued horticultural education of the Master Gardener (MG); to promote accepted horticultural practices and techniques to residents, schools, churches, and other public institutions of the Jefferson County area, all within the standards established by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) and the Board of Directors of this Association.*

Thanks to so many of you, we can say that this organization is working hard to fulfill our chartered purpose. I'd love to feature some of your favorite moments or projects as you volunteer in this newsletter. Whether it's goofy moments with other MGs, fabulous gardens toured or hard-won garden results, we'd like to see and hear about where you have been and what you have been doing! I'll check for material that is being entered on the ACES Volunteer Site, and hope some of you—including Interns who've completed your required project—will post both descriptions and pictures of your work! You may also email me (anngrayh@gmail.com) with the information.

Current Happenings and Opportunities:

Officers: 2016 Officers were elected (see August minutes below). I send a heart-felt thank you to the membership for your support of the existing officers, to the officers and committee chairs for their ongoing work and to those who have agreed to serve next year!

Plant Sale: The BBG Fall Plant Sale is scheduled for October 17-18. Most groups will be setting up on October 16, as plants are delivered. If you're not yet affiliated with the Sale and want to be, contact Taylor Steele (tsteele@bbgardens.org) and let him know of your interest.

Speakers: Pat Cosgrove will be planning **next year's programs** soon. Please share with her if you know of an interesting speaker or program. Fletcher Harvey and Hope Long are our Education and Speakers Committee Chairs and if you are **willing to speak to groups** please let them know.

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JCMGA September Program Notes

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

**Tuesday, September 8
9 a.m. Social hour; 10 a.m. Meeting
Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium
Speaker: Taylor Steele,
Volunteer Coordinator, BBG
Topic: Aquaculture**

In September, our regular first Tuesday meeting features Taylor Steele speaking on *Aquaculture*. Taylor is the volunteer coordinator for BBG and a friend and advisor to all.

Having had flood-level rainfalls a few weeks ago, some of you may have inadvertently experienced some aquaculture in your own gardens! Taylor will cover this subject from the *scientific* level—not puddle by puddle. You could call it good clean gardening fun. No joke—you really want to be there for this meeting to learn more about this process.

At our Tuesday, September 15 evening meeting, at 6 p.m., we'll have a new voice for our area, Jim Allen from Decatur. Jim is the director of public relations and advertising for the Alabama Farmers Cooperative. You may have seen his succulent landscape article in the February issue of *Alabama Gardener*; he will speak to us about succulents.

We were fortunate to have met Jim at the State Advisory meeting last year. We may also be fortunate enough to go on a field trip to Decatur to see his gardens.

Try to work both of these September meetings into your schedule: we'll count on your being there!

Now a quick preview of October—in place of our usual JCMGA business meeting (pre-empted by schedule changes), Diane Remick has agreed to do another “apps” program—with the latest cyberspace info—at our usual morning meeting on October 13. Plan to bring your iPad, phones, tablets, and other tools for some hands-on practice. And feel free to bring a friend or neighbor—the more, the better.

Pat

Pat Cosgrove, First Vice President

September Events for Your Calendar

Alabama Master Gardener 2015 Fall Seminar

When: September 9, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Where: Clanton, AL Clanton Conference & Performing Arts Center

Topics will include bulbs, seed saving & propagation, pollination permaculture and much more!

Registration is \$25.00 and includes lunch.

For more information and to register visit:

www.alabamamg.org/2015-fall-seminar/ .

Save the Date: Tallapoosa Co. MG Event

The **Fall Gardening Extravaganza** will return to Tallapoosa County in September.

After much success last year, the Tallapoosa County Extension office and Tallapoosa County Master Gardeners will host another grand event this year.

The 2015 event will be Friday, **September 18th** at Central Alabama Community College in Alexander City. All details can be found at www.aces.edu/Tallapoosa.

September is Blue Morpho Butterfly month at **Callaway Gardens**; this month the Butterfly Center will be filled exclusively with these brilliant blue beauties. For information on Blue Morpho visit packages (with special hotel rates, etc.) available during September, visit <http://www.callawaygardens.com/packages/Blue-Morpho-Special>.

Tours are scheduled on the 3rd Thursdays of September and October at the **AU Medicinal Plant Garden**. The tours are free (though donations are welcome to support this ongoing project.). For more information, contact Tia Gonzales at aumedicinalplantgarden@gmail.com.

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

(President’s Message *continued from previous page*)

Contact Information: We are trying to consolidate the various membership lists for the JCMGA. Currently, we work from a variety of lists for various purposes. I’d like to consolidate into a single source: our **ACES volunteer site** (<https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/mgmanager/login/>). In anticipation of this, click on the “my page” tab at the top of the site and check to **see that your information is current**. If not, please edit! We are currently working with the state ACES staff to program our needs.

2018 Southeastern MG Conference: I am hoping to have Kerry Smith attend our October JCMGA meeting. If you are interested in working with the conference, check back here next month to confirm. That will be a great opportunity to connect with her and let her know of your interest. Glenda Dicks and Bonnie O’Bannon are coordinating the conference from the JCMGA. You may contact them, as well.

Fall MG Seminar: Information for the September 9 Fall Seminar in Clanton may be found at: <http://alabamamg.org/2015-fall-seminar/>. Good speaker list; come learn, and earn those CEUs!

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.

I look forward to seeing you at the September 8 meeting.

Ann Gray

Ann Gray Harvey, President

Treasurer’s Report

August 2015

Beginning balance August 1, 2015	\$8,344.72
Deposits	\$56.00
Disbursements	\$200.00
Ending balance August 31, 2015	<u>\$8,200.72</u>

---Submitted by Tom Douglass, Treasurer

Looking Ahead to October Fun...

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

Aldridge Gardens Family or Individual Seminar

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!

To register on-line, go to aldridgegardens.com

Central South Native Plant Conference returns to Birmingham Botanical Gardens October 29-31

(Notes 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 the Bibb County Glades, Village Creek Canyon, Limestone Park and Ebenezer Swamp and Kaul Wildflower Garden. Curator John Manion will thoroughly examine the native plant collections at The Gardens.

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.

August 2015 Minutes

Jefferson County Master Gardeners' Association Meeting – August 11, 2015

The regular meeting of the JCMGA was held on August 11, 2015 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). There were 60-65 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 a number of first time attendees from both the winter and summer classes.

Ann Gray reminded us that all attendees should sign-in at the membership table.

Ann Gray asked that you see Linda Systrom if you are in need of a replacement name badge. A group order will be placed in the next several days. Remaining stars that have not yet been picked up are available at the sign-in table.

Advisory Council: The Advisory Council was attended by Ann Gray Harvey, Fletcher Harvey, Pat Cosgrove, and Roger Clarke. The 2016 Annual Spring Master Gardener Conference will be held May 12 – 14, 2016 in Dothan. The 2017 Conference will be held in May 1 – 3, 2017 in Huntsville.

Other educational opportunities: The 2015 fall seminar will be held in Clanton on September 9, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Some of the featured speakers include Jason Powell and Sallie Lee. Registration is \$25.00 and includes lunch. Registration forms are available through the JCMGA website at <http://www.jeffcomg.org>. The Fall Gardening Extravaganza will be hosted by the Tallapoosa County Extension Service and Tallapoosa County Master Gardeners on September 18. For registration information, go to www.aces.edu/Tallapoosa. The Blount County conference is full.

Nominating Committee: The committee consisting of Gary Walker, Karen Mitchell, Roger Clarke, and Nancy Poyner presented the slate of officers for 2016. The recommendations from the committee include:

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

A motion was made from the floor to accept this slate of officers. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

Secretary's Report: Ann Gray asked if there were changes or corrections to be made to the July Minutes as published in the August newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as published. The motion was unanimously approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Gray asked if the membership had any concerns regarding the Treasurer's Report as published in the August newsletter. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as published. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

Committee Reports:

Extension report: Bethany O'Rear sent her regrets at having to miss today's JCMGA meeting. She is attending a mandatory meeting in another county.

Hospitality: No report

Education: No report

Communications / Media: No report

Membership: Linda Systrom reminded members to please sign in.

Directory: Natalie Lee said the directory is complete and that Diane Remick has her camera and is available to take pictures for the directory. Please see Diane or Natalie at the conclusion of the meeting if you need a picture for the directory.

(Continued below)

(August 2015 Minutes, continued)

Community Services Report: Taylor Steele announced that the **BBG Fall Plant Sale** will be held on October 17 and 18 at Blount Plaza. Set-up will be on October 16. Volunteer registration forms are available at the sign-in table.

The Central Alabama Native Plant Conference will be held October 29 – 31. Native plants will be for sale on the October 30 and 31. Volunteers will be needed to sell the plants.

Oak Grove Elementary School is looking for a Master Gardener to teach kindergarten children about plants. Taylor has the teacher's contact information for interested volunteers.

Red Mountain Park is putting in a community garden. Volunteers are needed.

Lunch & Learn is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19. Leaf and Petal will present plants to give your house curb appeal.

Ruffner Mountain Preserve is hosting Flutter and Flight on September 19. Plants will be available to attract birds and butterflies. Volunteers are needed to sell plants.

2018 Conference: Ann Gray announced that Glenda Dicks has agreed to coordinate the 2018 Conference. We will be hosting 500 – 700 Master Gardeners from around the southeast. Please see Glenda to talk about areas where you can lend your support.

Program: Pat Cosgrove introduced our speaker for today. **Henry Hughes**, Director of Education for the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, presented a program on the Centennial Tree Program. He introduced his summer intern, **Maya Samuels-Fair**. She is a senior at the School of Fine Arts and recently placed 4th in a National Competition in Utah.

The Garden Clubs of America approached two of our local garden clubs about a five-year project with the goal being to reforest areas with trees that previously grew in the area, but have been lost to the landscape. Henry became involved in 2008, and has been collecting seeds from the areas to be replanted, growing the trees, and planting in the same area where the seeds were collected. Approximately 1000 trees have been planted in George Ward Park.

Henry described the different types of forest, including the Great Boreal Forest, dominated primarily by conifers. Other types of forest include Temperate Deciduous Forest and Tropical Forest. Alabama forests are temperate and primarily composed of hickory, oak and pines. Alabama's geological and soil diversity lead to great vegetative biodiversity.

One hundred years ago, with the introduction of the steel industry, Birmingham hired Olmstead to design a park system for the area. Olmstead believed that parks should be accessible to the common man. The flagship park in Birmingham was George Ward Park. Over the years, George Ward Park has lost many of its older trees from lightning strikes and wind. The soil structure has also suffered with the loss of the trees and subsequent leaf litter that replenished the soil. Using this same technique of collecting seeds from specific areas and replanting seedlings grown from these seeds into the same area, trees have been planted in Avondale Park, Pleasant Grove Park, North Smithfield and Red Mountain Park. After the 2011 tornados, there were a number of areas that required replanting. Survival rates for the trees vary greatly from 16% to 92%. Planting native trees along the Cahaba River is preventing soil erosion, attracting wildlife, and encouraging other native plants to grow.

Ann Gray thanked Henry and Maya for their presentation. Henry and Maya assisted with the door prizes. Two door prizes were awarded and the money pot winner announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

This activity is approved for 1 CEU.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Hall, Secretary

Upcoming Event at Aldridge Gardens

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

Sensational Succulents

Tuesday, September 29, 2015. 6 – 8 p.m. Members: \$20/Non-Members \$25

Instructor: Michelle Reynolds, Gardener, Native Plant Enthusiast, and Environmental Educator

Succulents are moisture-retentive plants that have, over time, adapted to harsh living conditions and the limited availability of water. Participants will see slides of the journey of succulents native to the Americas. Explore the tropics, four deserts, alpine rock outcrops, and local glades. After the program, everyone will have the opportunity to pot up different varieties of winter-hardy Sedums in peat pots to take home and plant in pots or in your own garden. As a contributing writer for *Alabama Gardener* magazine and DIY Network's *Made + Remade*, Michelle strives to weave together lessons in sustainability and appreciation for the natural world.

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@aldrigegardens.com. For more information, visit the Aldridge Gardens website.

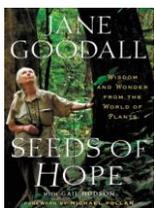
News from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

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 Life Skills and Career, will take place Saturday, September 19.

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, September 1, at 6 p.m. in the Library at BBG to discuss *Seeds of Hope* by Jane Goodall.

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

Come join the group!

Art Gallery in September/October features works by Pat Carroll



Victory Garden

Come celebrate the installation of the Sept/Oct show at an Art Opening event at the Library on Friday, September 11, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

You're invited to an Author Talk and Book Signing,

The Passion for Native Plants:

A Journey and a Journal,

on Thursday, September 15 at 6 p.m.,

Ireland Room at BBG,

with Lida Inge Hill, author of

Journal of a Cottage Garden.

Free to the public.

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), 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: Tools of the Trade— Lee Higginbotham shows you what tools the pros use and how to maintain them for peak performance. More information at www.bbgardens.org/classes. *September 2, 11:30-12:30 p.m. Free.*

Lunch and Learn: Backyard Habitats – Michelle Reynolds of the Audubon Society and Audrey Ann Wilson of Aldridge Gardens show you how to create a sanctuary for the birds and bees—start by adding flowers and trees. *September 16, 11:30-12:30 p.m. Free.*

Herbal Plant Walk

Instructor: Antonia Viteri & Cameron Strouss

Saturday, September 12 | 10-11 a.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

\$10 per person

Join herbalists Cameron Strouss and Antonia Viteri for a medicinal plant walk at the BBG. During this walk they will be discussing Southern herbs: their traditional and medicinal uses.

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.)

The World of Carnivorous Plants and Bog-in-a-Bowl (elective)

Instructor: Kevin Turner, Research Technician, University of Georgia - Plant Biology Dept.

Saturday, September 5 | 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Location: Birmingham Botanical Garden

\$50 Members | \$60 Non-Members

The southeastern United States is a hotspot of diversity for carnivorous plants, which obtain their nutrients by attracting, capturing, and digesting living animals. They inhabit some of our most unique and imperiled wetland habitats. This course will examine their life history and explore some of the plant communities that support them. Our instructor will cover the identification, cultivation, and propagation of several species of carnivorous plants. He will also profile conservation efforts being taken to conserve many of these species, as well as their endangered and species-rich habitats. In addition to visiting the bog in the Kaul Wildflower Garden, each participant will have the opportunity to create a "bog in a bowl" to take home.

**Check online for other upcoming CNPS classes and field trips;
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 on September 1, 3, and 8.

For more information, write John Manion at jmanion@bbgardens.org.

Support the Upcoming Fall Plant Sale at BBG



On October 17 and 18, The Birmingham Botanical Gardens will host its annual **Fall Plant Sale** in its Blount Plaza – welcoming patrons with opportunities to purchase herbs, sustainable trees, fall annuals, shrubs, natives, perennials and more, while benefiting The Gardens’ mission to promote public knowledge and appreciation of plants, gardens, and the environment.

On Saturday, The Gardens’ Fall Plant Sale will be open to the public 9 - 5 p.m. On Sunday, hours are Noon - 4 p.m.

Proceeds from the sale benefit The Gardens’ mission to promote public knowledge and appreciation of plants, gardens and the environment.

We fulfill our mission through programs such as [Discovery Field Trips](#), [Plant Adventures](#), [Adult and Family Classes](#) and many, many more.

Autumn is the best time to plant trees and shrubs!

Trees available for purchase at this year’s Fall Plant Sale have been selected especially for Birmingham’s climate and condition. They have proven easy-to-grow, free of injurious insect and disease pests, and both heat and drought tolerant.

Available natives add to local biodiversity and most will live for several generations, while available exotics are not known to be invasive.



Bethany A. O’Rear
Regional Extension Agent
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and
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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*