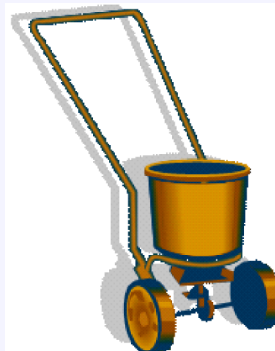


## FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

Can you believe that March is almost gone? I look out the window at my yard and flower beds and wonder what I have done this month.

Last month I told you about my new "favorite tools." Well, this month I have to demote one of them. My husband has officially been moved to the bottom of my list. Let me tell you how this came about . . .



We own a small farm and have five cows and a bull that belong to Calvin. That means that we have to have several pastures so we can control how much the fields are grazed. March happens to be one of the months when Calvin has the pastures fertilized and limed. Notice the word "has." Usually he orders fertilizer and lime mixed and then has the farm supply store spread it on the pastures. Well, this time he decided that he would do it himself. Don't ever volunteer to help anyone, not even your husband, put out two tons of fertilizer and lime. This did not make for a fun day.

Last summer I participated in the fire ant bait demonstration. In the garden area I went from 21 active mounds to one active mound in 12 weeks. Calvin was so impressed with the results that last week he decided to apply the bait that I used to our 10-acre front pasture. We put out 25 lbs. with a hand-held spreader. Five hours after we started, we were finished. And because of the infestation we will probably get to do this again in 12 to 16 weeks.

Now you know why Calvin has been moved to the bottom of the list. He decided that if he helps me then I have to help him and his jobs are much more difficult than mine.

See you the 14<sup>th</sup> of April and until then don't work too hard.

*Pat*

Pat Bullock

## April Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

9:30 a.m. - Hospitality

10:00 a.m. - Meeting

Bob and Martha Sargent will present a program on "Hummers." The Sargents are well-known in birding and the founders of The Hummer/Bird Study Group, dedicated to the preservation of hummingbirds and migrating songbirds.

## Members Signed Up to Bring Snacks to the April Meeting

Linda Systrom  
 Thelma Stichweh  
 MaryJo Quintana  
 Karen Mitchell  
 Anne Thomas  
 Bruce Steele  
 Fran Brandon  
 Sue Stinson

Additional contributions are welcome. Members of the Hospitality Committee, please remember to come early to set up and make coffee and stay after to help clean up.



## Clarifications and Corrections

Due to an error in JCMGA records, Deane Cook's name was misspelled in the listing of "Reach for the Stars" awards recipients in the March newsletter. The records have now been corrected.



## APRIL GARDENING CALENDAR

**FRUITS AND NUTS**-Season for strawberry planting continues. Start spray program for all fruits. Plant raspberries and blackberries and continue budding apples and peaches.

**SHRUBS**-Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering. Fertilize azaleas and camellias. When new growth is half completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

**LAWNS**-Planting continues. New lawns may need supplementary watering. Also, fertilize at 3- to 6-week intervals. Keep ryegrass cut low, particularly if overplanted on bermuda lawns.

**ROSES**-Watch for insects and diseases. Keep old flower heads removed. Plant container-grown plants from nurseries or garden centers.

**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS**-Plant early started annuals or bedding plants from nurseries or garden centers. Divide mums or root cuttings. Dig and divide dahlias.

**BULBS**-Plant gladiolus, fancy-leaved caladiums, milk and wine lilies, and ginger and gloriosa lilies. Feed bearded iris with superphosphate and spray for borers. Avoid cutting foliage of narcissus or other bulbs until it has turned brown naturally.

**MISCELLANEOUS**-Spray camellias, hollies, etc., for scale insects. Carefully water new plantings of shrubs and trees. Pinching out tips of new shoots promotes more compact shrubs.

**VEGETABLE SEED**-Plant tender vegetables such as beans, corn, squash, melons, and cucumbers. Plant heat-loving vegetables in lower South Alabama.

**VEGETABLE PLANTS**-Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet potatoes, and parsley.

## "Tony Talks"



Charlene Chadband, left, and Richard Healy, right, were among the Jefferson County Master Gardeners assisting with the "Home Grown" workshops.

I want to thank several Master Gardeners who helped make the "Home Grown" workshops a great success. The ones in Pell City and Shelby county were both filled to capacity with a combined audience near 100. Harold Deason and Charlene Chadband pulled double duty and helped at both events, and Mike Rushing and Richard Healy participated in the Pell City and Shelby county events, respectively. These Master Gardeners did a great job and the participants really enjoyed the program. Interestingly, a large percentage of the audience (especially Shelby county) had never attended an Extension educational event. Also, most had never tested their soils. I just had a phone conference with other agents across the state and they report similar turnouts and stories. I expect this increased interest will be reflected in the number and types of phone calls we will be getting this year.

In a related way, the other thing I want to mention is our need for help in the GPIC (phone helpline). The phones have been busy already and they will get much busier in the next few months. If you have not helped in a while (or never helped) please consider contributing to this very important service. Let me know if you can help a few hours and I will sign you up. Those MG interns from the fall and the current spring class need to start helping ASAP because you need the hours to meet graduation requirements. Let me know if you need help viewing the calendar to see available time slots. The calendar web address is: <http://www.localcalendar.com/elsie> and you may e-mail at me at [gloveta@aces.edu](mailto:gloveta@aces.edu) to get the login or password to view. If you have never volunteered on the helpline, I will meet with you the first day or team you with an experienced volunteer.

Lastly, I would like to do a fire ant treatment demonstration with up to five MGs. We did this last year and got some very good results and we have the funds to repeat the study with five new people. I will provide fire ant bait to those who participate in quantities up to enough to treat one acre of area. Your requirements will involve picking up the material (at the BBG) and attending a short (less than an hour) training on fire ants and how to collect information for the demonstration. Please let me know ASAP if you are interested because I would like to have my five people identified and ready to train this month. Give me a call (879-6964 x 15) or drop me an e-mail soon.

## **JCMGA Business Meeting Minutes**

### **March 10, 2009**

President Pat Bullock called the meeting order. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. There were three first time attendees.

The minutes were approved as written and the treasurer's report was filed for an audit.

#### **Officer and Committee Reports:**

Anne Thomas announced plans to produce a budget for the Association. The Board of Directors approved a motion for Anne to buy a CD so we could be earning interest on our fund. Blair Cox will be Auditing our books. The audit will cover the past three years. Anne reported that we currently have 137 active members.

Nancy Nash asked for volunteers to sign up to bring snacks for next month's meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

Pat Bullock apologized for a misspelled name in the March newsletter due to incorrect information on the MG records. She announced that there were 18 members present for the first night MG meeting. The next night meeting will be held May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Robert Eskew thanked everyone for coming out to help prune the Rose Garden. Twenty-five gardeners came out to help.

#### **New Business:**

Tony Glover announced several volunteer opportunities:

Green Valley Middle School is starting a garden for teaching purposes. They would like a MG there to offer advice and answer questions.

A National Speech & Debate Tournament is being held at Trussville High School. Judges were needed and a sign-up sheet was sent around.

The Garden Conservancy needs volunteers an April 18<sup>th</sup> and on June 13<sup>th</sup> to conduct tours. Call June Mays @ 324-7476 if interested.

Pat Bullock announced that we need someone to volunteer to keep the MG history and scrap book. Anyone who is interested, please see Pat. Pat also reminded everyone of the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Alabama Master Gardener State Conference that will be held April 2-4 in Huntsville. Early registration has been extended until March 15<sup>th</sup>. She also reminded us about the BBG's Spring Plant Sale, April 16-19th. Help is needed working with annuals. Call Carolyn Snow at 414-3962.

Nora O'Connor announced these volunteer opportunities:

A request from Joan Keagy at Spring Valley School. They are planting a Butterfly Garden and need any extra perennials that will attract butterflies. Call or e-mail if you can help 423-8660 or [jkeagy@springvalleyschool.org](mailto:jkeagy@springvalleyschool.org).

Naomi Buklad, a docent from the Birmingham Zoo is requesting that our group reconnect with them.

Riverchase Middle School is doing a kitchen garden and needs help.

Tricia Farris requested that everyone have their information for the newsletter to her by the posted deadlines.

Bruce Steel, vice-president, presented the door prizes. He introduced our speaker Henry Hughes, who gave a very interesting talk and slide presentation on "The Winter Forest: How to Identify Trees." He then led a walking tour in the gardens.

CEU opportunities for the March meeting were: .5 CEU's for the inside slide presentation; .75 CEUs for the walking tour. If you attended both parts, please record 1.25 CEUs.

- Sue Stinson,  
Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### MARCH, 2009

<b>Balance Forward: 2-23-09</b>	<b>\$15,435.65</b>
<b>Received:</b>	
AMGA Dues \$175.00	
Local Dues 420.00	
T-Shirts 250.00	
For Room Rent 17.00	
Overpymt. Dues 12.00	
<b>Total Received:</b>	<b>874.00</b>
<b>Total Disbursed:</b>	
#1865 – Tony Glover - \$ 39.99	
#1866 - AMGA Dues - 70.00	
#1867 – Pat Bullock - 42.00	
#1868 – Henry Hughes - 35.00	
#1869 – Ruth Sedwick - 12.00	
<b>Total Disbursed:</b>	<b>198.99</b>
<b>Checkbook Adjustment:</b>	
Checkbook entry #1860 entered incorrectly	.50
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$16,110.16</b>
<b>Checking Acct. Funds Transfer</b>	
<b>3-20-09 for Certificate of Deposit</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>
<b>Balance Checking Account: 3-28-09</b>	<b>\$11,110.16</b>
AMGA Dues Owed - \$ 175.00	
Sp. Education Fund - \$1888.00	
Cert. of Deposit - \$ 5000.00	
Active Members - 135	

#### Budgeted Items – Expenditures

Dues Pd. To AMGA -	\$70.00
MG Class Exp.	39.99
Pres. Exp. (postage)	42.00
Speaker's Fee	35.00

### Treasurer's Notes

With the approval of your Jefferson Co. Master Gardener Association Board, we have purchased a Certificate of Deposit in the name of the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association in the amount of \$5000.00 with Regions Bank. This is a 9 month CD with an interest rate of 2.25% and will expire in December, 2009. We will have the option to renew the CD at that time. We did explore other options including a money market account and an interest-bearing checking account but these did not offer as much as a 9 month CD. The funds for this CD were transferred from our checking account which still maintains a balance of \$11,110.16 after the transfer was made. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

-Anne Thomas



### GARDENER'S BOOKSHELF

Check out these new books at the BBG library:

*Headwaters: A Journey on Alabama Rivers.* Photographs by Beth Maynor Young. Text by John C. Hall

*P. Allen Smith's Bringing the Garden Indoors*

*Carefree Plants: 200 Beautiful, Low-Maintenance Plants Anyone Can Grow* by Reader's Digest

*Robbing the Bees: A Biography of Honey-The Sweet Liquid Gold that Seduced the World.* By Holley Bishop

*The New Terrarium: Creating Beautiful Displays for Plants and Nature.* By Tovah Martin

-Hope Long



### *flowercamp* Scheduled for May

Brown's Cut Flower Farm in Pell City is hosting a day-long *flowercamp* on Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. with grower Becky Henderson of Brown's Cut Flower Farm and floral designer Kim Jennings. They will share their experience and provide helpful hints on growing your own flowers and using them to create beautiful arrangements. Cost for the morning and afternoon sessions will be \$50 each. Lunch is available for \$10. For more information call 205-410-5330 or e-mail [rhender@centurytel.net](mailto:rhender@centurytel.net). Deadline for registration is May 2, 2009.



Eighteen JCMGA members attended the first-ever night meeting on February 24th.

**Next Quarterly Night MG Meeting**

May 26, 2009 @ 6:00pm

1st Floor Conference Room at BBG

Presenter: Richard Healey

Topic: The Basics of Herb Gardening

**Tuscaloosa County MGs  
Present Workshop**

Dr. William Welch, noted Professor of Landscape Horticulture at Texas A&M will be the featured speaker at "A Diverse Garden Workshop", April 20-21, sponsored by the Tuscaloosa County MGs. His topic on Monday evening will be "The Roots of Our Gardens." On Tuesday, he will present a workshop on "Antique Roses for Alabama, and will speak at lunch on "Colorful Gardens: Near and Far."

Other workshop presenters include: Larry Quick of Aldridge Botanical Gardens, "An Introduction to Hydrangeas"; Tony Glover, Jefferson County ACES agent, "Backyard Buffet"; and Theresa Johnson, owner of The Plant Lady, "Containers for Everywhere."

Cost for the April 20<sup>th</sup> session is \$10 and includes a dessert buffet; the April 21<sup>st</sup> workshops are \$20 and include lunch. The registration deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. For additional information and a session schedule, contact Sybil Phillips at 205-349-1873.



**Hydrangea Society Sets Symposium**

The American Hydrangea Society will present its Third Annual Hydrangea Symposium benefiting Aldridge Gardens at Aldridge Gardens on Thursday, May 14, 2009. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with the symposium from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Speakers include Tara Dillard, Lisa Bartlett, and Martha Aldridge. The program will also include lunch, shopping, and guided garden tours.

An award winning author and speaker, Dillard lives in Stone Mountain, Georgia and has been a landscape designer for over 20 years. Her topic will be "Vanishing Threshold: Combining Life, House & Garden." Bartlett is the owner of Gardens to Go, an Atlanta-based company specializing in container gardening and the host of a radio gardening show. Her topic will be "Jekyll and Hydrangea—the many faces of one of the South's favorite plants." Martha Aldridge and her husband Arthur established Snowflake Nursery on a family farm near Boaz, Alabama where they cultivate more than 30 varieties of hydrangea, and specialize in cut and dried flowers. Martha will demonstrate her unique method of drying and dyeing hydrangeas.

To register, contact Ruth Reischwein at 979-8419 or e-mail her at [reichwein@charter.net](mailto:reichwein@charter.net). You may also a check for \$60 made payable to the Alabama Hydrangea Society to her at 3233 Colesbury Circle, Birmingham, AL. Please include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and the total enclosed. Reservations must be received by May 12, 2009 so that lunch orders can be made.

For additional information, call 979-8419 or 682-2019.

Birmingham Botanical  
Gardens

**Spring Plant  
Sale**

April 16 -19

Location: former Bruno's  
Supermarket at  
Brookwood Colonial  
Village

**Hours:**

**Thursday, April 16**

Preview Party: 5–6:30 p.m.  
\*\$45 in advance/\$50 at the  
door

Members only sale:  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Friday, April 17**

9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Saturday, April 18**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Sunday, April 19**

11 a.m. – 3. p.m.

To volunteer contact  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Carolyn Snow at 414.3962  
or [csnow@bbggardens.org](mailto:csnow@bbggardens.org).



Following his presentation on *The Winter Forest* at the March meeting, BBG Education Director Henry Hughes led a walk through the Hulsey Woods.



The 2009 Master Gardener class made a field trip to *Petals from the Past* in Jemison for a lesson on Antique Roses taught by Jason Powell.

### Scrapbook Photos Needed

Our members take part in a variety of activities throughout the year. Don't forget to take pictures and e-mail them to JCMGA historian Connie Barron at [conniebarron@verizon.net](mailto:conniebarron@verizon.net) or bring them to the next MG meeting.

**"The sun was warm but the wind was chill.  
You know how it is with an April day.  
When the sun is out and the wind is still,  
You're one month on in the middle of May.  
But if you so much as dare to speak,  
a cloud comes over the sunlit arch,  
And wind comes off a frozen peak,  
And you're two months back in the middle of March."**

- Robert Frost, *Two Tramps in Mud Time*, 1926

### Auburn Department of Horticulture To Hold Plant Sale

The Auburn University Campus Club, Dept. of Horticulture, and student honorary group PLANET will hold their annual plant sale on April 17-18, at the parking lot on the corner of S. College and Samford Ave., across from the President's Home. Sale hours are 9 a.m. – dark on April 17, and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on April 18.

All proceeds benefit the Campus Club's First Ladies Scholarship Endowment, and PLANET's academic enrichment programs. The First Lady scholarships are awarded to horticulture students through the Ag Scholarship Committee. To date, fifteen endowed scholarships have been funded toward the current goal of nineteen.

The combined sale will offer a huge variety of plant materials: A detailed list of sale items is available by e-mail. Contact Mary Lou Matthews at [mandml@att.net](mailto:mandml@att.net).

### Interest in Home Gardens Grows



Last month, First Lady Michelle Obama announced plans to install a vegetable garden on the White House grounds. The 1,100-square-foot garden, the first of its kind since Eleanor Roosevelt planted a victory garden during World War II, will grow dozens of vegetables, berries and herbs. The collection of crops, a wishlist from White House kitchen staff, will include lettuces, squash, fennel, rhubarb, cucumbers and sweet and hot peppers. White House chefs will use the produce to prepare meals for the family and for official functions, and some of the produce will be donated to Miriam's Kitchen, a soup kitchen near the White House. There will also be a beehive near the garden.

The White House garden reflects a growing trend toward home gardening. More and more Americans are planting home vegetable gardens to stretch their food dollars and add fresh produce to the family dinner table.

In 2008, the number of people growing vegetables increased 10 percent over previous years. The National Gardening Association (NGA) anticipates that number will increase by 20 percent in 2009. Home vegetable gardens average 600 square feet in size. NGA estimates that a garden of this size can generate, on average, more than \$600 of organic produce. Multiplied by the number of food gardeners in the country (36 million households), NGA estimates that American food gardeners are producing more than \$21.6 billion of produce a year.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 16 - 19 Birmingham Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale, Colonial Brookwood Village, old Bruno's location. See newsletter for details

April 17-18 Antiques in the Garden, Petals from the Past, Jemison, AL. Visit [www.petalsfromthepast.com](http://www.petalsfromthepast.com) or call 205-646-0069.

April 17 - 18 Auburn University Horticulture Dept. Plant Sale. See newsletter for details.

April 18 Garden Conservancy Tour, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Information available at the BBG or contact June Mays at 324-7476.

April 21 - 22 Tuscaloosa County MG present "A Diverse Garden Workshop. Keynote speaker: Dr. William Welch. See newsletter for details.

April 22 Container Gardening: The Basics and Beyond. Join former Southern Living Garden Editor Ellen Riley for demonstrations into the practical and whimsical world of containers. Aldridge Gardens, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Registration and prepayment required by April 21. Cost is \$22.50/\$17.50 for garden members – includes lunch.

April 25 Well-dressed plants. Instructor Melinda Hollinsworth will demonstrate technique to arrange compatible plants in recycled containers such as old shoes, boots, purses, and hats. Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 10 a.m. - Noon. Cost is \$30/\$20 for garden members. For more information and to register: [www.bbgardens.org/adult.php](http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php) or call 414-3900.

### *Volunteer Opportunities*

Gary Gerlach Plant Information Center HelpLine. MG volunteers are needed to man the help line and answer gardening-related questions from the public. For information, contact Tony at 205-879-6964/ext. 15 or e-mail [gloveta@aces.edu](mailto:gloveta@aces.edu)

ACES office, Beaty-Hannah Center, BBG. Volunteers needed to help answer phones, file, etc. For information contact Annette Drummond at 879-6964.

Susan Grimes, the BBG Horticultural Therapist, needs help cleaning up, moving plants and planting the garden behind the BBG library and education hallway. This garden will be used for the Horticultural Therapy program. April 11, 10 a.m. For more information, call S. Grimes at 873-9346 or e-mail [sgrimes@bbgardens.org](mailto:sgrimes@bbgardens.org).

BBG Spring Plant Sale, April 16-19. Volunteers are needed to help with all aspects of the annual plant sale. For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator Carolyn Snow at 414-3962 or e-mail [csnow@bbgardens.org](mailto:csnow@bbgardens.org).

Docents needed at Aldridge Gardens and Birmingham Botanical Gardens. For more information, contact: Aldridge Gardens - Colleen Bedics, 682-8019; BBG - Carolyn Snow 414-3962 or e-mail [csnow@bbgardens.org](mailto:csnow@bbgardens.org).

Deadline for the next issue of *Roots and Shoots* is April 27th.