

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

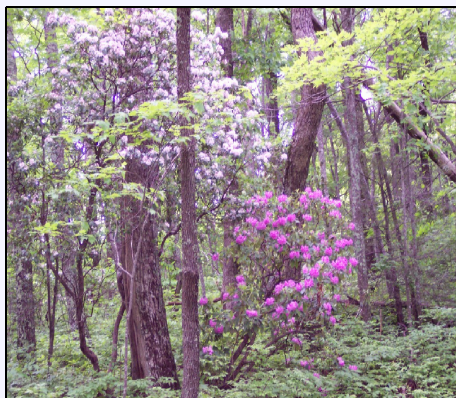
July has been an uneventful month at my house. No trees were blown down so there were no trees to cut up or fences to be repaired. I actually got to work in my flower beds without feeling guilty. My brother Mike gave me two big baskets of peaches that I fixed and put in the freezer. I got two gallons each of blueberries and blackberries from my bushes. These also went into the freezer. I had enough of both of them mixed together to make Calvin a cobbler. Of course, I then had to make home-made ice cream to go with the cobbler.

We did go to Tennessee and did some hiking. The rhododendrons, mountain laurels and native azaleas were still in bloom. We hiked the Cone Mountain fire tower trail. It was a twelve mile round trip hike from where we got on the trail. It was cool and overcast, so we didn't have to worry about the heat. We didn't see another person on the trail. Wonderful!!

We have two wonderful meetings in August. I think that everyone will want to attend both. At our regular meeting on Aug. 11, Ruth Reichwein will be talking about Ferns. At our night meeting on Aug. 18, Herb Lewis will present "Backyard Birding". This meeting is open to the public, so bring your friends and neighbors. Refreshment are at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. (No business) We still need volunteers to bring refreshments to the Aug. 18 meeting. Please contact LeAnne Porter at steveleanneporter@gmail.com or 824-8090 if you can bring a dish.

Pat

Pat Bullock



August Meetings

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009

9:30 a.m. - Hospitality

10:00 a.m. - Meeting

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Ruth Reichwein will talk to us about "The Propagation of Ferns from Spores," followed by a field trip to the BBG Fern Glade with Ginny Lusk.

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009

5:30 p.m. - Hospitality

6:00 p.m. - Meeting

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Herb Lewis will present a program on "Backyard Birding". If you are interested in attracting birds or other wildlife or have an interest in photography, you will enjoy this presentation. There will be no business meeting and the meeting is open to the general public. There is no charge for the meeting, but a donation will be appreciated to offset the cost of the night guard required by the BBG.

August 11th Hospitality

The following people have signed up to bring refreshments:

Martha Picardy

Harold Deason

Anne Thomas

Linda Grissom

Kelly Boone

Anne Parrish

Mary Jo Quintana

Jean Land

Nancy Nash

"Tony Talks"

There are always questions about volunteer hours and I know I can't clear them up in one article, but I would like to answer a few and make you aware of some recent changes.

Question: *What is the current requirement to remain an active member of the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association?*

Answer: The total volunteer activity hours needed to remain as an active MG is now 25 hours per calendar year. The CEU requirement is 10 hours per calendar year. The annual dues are \$17 per year, of which \$5 goes to the state association and the rest remains in the local association.

Question: *How do I count the monthly meeting time?*

Answer: This question has received a lot of attention statewide because of the inconsistency from location to location. Some folks did not allow their members to count this time at all and others allowed counting all of the time as volunteer time. The following compromise was recently reached and all associations are using this information to count hours.

In the past we have only allowed the CEU (educational) part of the program to count towards your 10 hour CEU requirement. However, now you may count the remaining meeting time towards the volunteer activity time commitment. We have made this change statewide to encourage attendance at the monthly meetings. However, drive time for monthly meetings is excluded - except for members who have a specific volunteer duty at the meeting: ie, officers, committee member, historian, presenter, refreshment committee, etc. The reason the drive time is not counted for all members is to encourage you to participate in some way such as serving as an officer or bringing refreshments. If you want to count the drive time, just bring refreshments to share or consider helping at the meeting in some other way. Also, we don't want members depending solely on the monthly meetings to get all their volunteer time without getting involved in other activities.

Question: *How do we count drive time for other volunteer activities?*

Answer: Drive time for other approved activities counts as volunteer time. The only exception is the one explained above related to monthly meeting attendees.

Question: *Does the volunteer time and the CEUs get combined to go towards the "Reach for the Stars Award" program?*

Answer: Yes - to give further credit for volunteer time dedication, CEU hours and volunteer activity hours are combined for a **gross total of volunteer time** for the year (For example: In 2009, Susie accomplished 20 CEU's and 180 volunteer activity hours for a total of 200 total volunteer hours. This total will be used in the "Reach for the Stars Award" program).

Question: *Why do I need to record mileage on the on-line reporting form?*

Answer: The mileage column is for your records if you need them for IRS purposes. The time is counted as volunteer hours but the actual mileage can be used as a deduction on your itemized tax return. Mileage expense for volunteers, as defined by the IRS, is deducted as a direct expense OR at the mileage rate of 14 cents per mile (in 2008). Mileage is a deduction for the vehicle on the owner's itemized tax form (see IRS publication 526).

Please e-mail me with your questions and I will try to answer them in a future newsletter in addition to replying to your personal e-mail.



**AUGUST
GARDENER'S
CALENDAR**

FRUITS AND NUTS - Cut out old blackberry canes after fruiting and then fertilize and cultivate for replacement canes. Remember to order new catalogs for fruit selection.

SHRUBS - Layer branches of hydrangea.

LAWNS - Watch for diseases. Mow regularly. Water as needed.

ROSES - Keep roses healthy and actively growing. Hybrid teas and floribundas may need slight pruning to prevent scraggly appearance.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS - Water as needed. Plant perennials and biennials.

BULBS - Divide old iris plantings and add new.

MISCELLANEOUS - Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task during this month. This means close observation for insects and diseases. Water.

VEGETABLE SEED - Plant turnips, rutabagas, beans, and peas in South Alabama.

VEGETABLE PLANTS - Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, and celery.

The deadline
for the next issue
of *Roots and Shoots*
is August 24.

Urban Tree Care Class to be Offered In Fall



A new Advanced Master Gardener class focusing on tree care in the urban environment will begin on September 24. The class will also meet on October 8 and

November 12 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Each class meeting will include a half day indoors and another half outdoors or on a field trip. The program is open to MGs who have completed their internship year and have at least 100 hours of volunteer service.

The course will cover everything from tree biology, common pests, identification, installation, and pruning, to construction issues and protection. The instructors will include tree experts from Huntsville, Birmingham and Tuscaloosa, as well as local Extension personnel. The program will be coordinated between the three locations with speakers being both locally live or live via video. In the mornings participants will interact with the other MGs at the remote sites. However, all the afternoon activities will be conducted independently on a local level.

In order to complete the program a 20 hour volunteer commitment in the area of tree-related projects will be required. These hours can be part of the annual 25 hours MG commitment. This may be in your own community helping with Arbor Day, helping your city arborist, a school tree project, a BBG project or an Aldridge Garden project.

In order to offer this course Tony Glover needs a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 people. Please e-mail Tony at gloveta@aces.edu or call him at 879-6964, ext. 15 for registration details and forms.



Our July speaker was ACES agent Angela Treadaway, who presented an informative program on preserving fruits and vegetables, with an emphasis on canning methods.

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association

July 14, 2009

The JCMGA met at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. President Pat Bullock called the meeting to order and welcomed every one to the meeting.

The minutes for the June meeting were approved as written. The Treasurer's report from June was approved and will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Anne Thomas, Treasurer, announced that we have 155 members.

Hospitality - Pat Bullock announced that if you volunteer and make food to bring to the MG meetings, you can count your cooking time as volunteer time. Be sure to see Nancy Nash to sign up to volunteer to bring something.

Connie Barron, Scrapbook/Historian, asked that everyone let her know of any projects they are doing related to MG. She would like to get information and pictures.

Tricia Farris, Newsletter, reminded everyone that the deadline for information to be included in the Aug. newsletter is July 27th. Anyone belonging to Plant Societies that have news, please let us know.

Sally Tyler, Membership, voiced that several MG's were asking questions concerning how volunteer hours are counted. The question was referred to Tony Glover. He suggested that due to time constraints we table this question until next month. He did say that he would address the question in the August *Roots and Shoots* newsletter. He also suggested that anyone having a specific question send him an e-mail.

Nora O'Connor, Community Service Projects, noted that Ruffner Mountain has made a request for assistance. Please see Nora if you can help.

Tony Glover announced that Project Learning Tree will be held July 29th at Oak Mountain Middle School and that the Advanced Urban Tree Tract will begin Sept. 24th. Anyone who is going to take the Advanced Urban Tree Tract should consider attending the Project Learning Tree class.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business:

The next night MG Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 18th in the BBG auditorium. Snacks will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 6:00 p.m. The speaker will be Herb Lewis who will present a program on "Backyard Birding." This meeting is open to the public so bring your family, friends and neighbors. LeAnne Porter is coordinating the food for this event. If you can help, please contact her at 824-8090 or e-mail her at steveleanneporter@gmail.com Already signing up to bring food are Karen Mitchell, Fran Hopkins, Mike Rushing and Pat Bullock.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Ann Wilson, Aldridge Gardens, need various herbs for the "Making Herbal Vinegars" class that will be taught at Aldridge Gardens on Aug. 12th. If you can help contact her at 823-4298.

Educational Opportunities:

On Aug 3 - 4, 2009 "Auburn Master Gardener School" will be held at Comer Hall, Auburn University.

On Aug 5, 2009 the Alabama Master Gardeners Association "2009 Fall CEU Workshop" will be held in Montgomery.

The meeting was turned over to VP Bruce Steele. Door prize winners were Carl Jones and Lacey Poore. Bruce introduced our guest speaker Angela Treadaway. She is a Regional County Agent. Ms. Treadaway presented a very informative program on food preservation. Methods covered included using a pressure cooker, water bath method and freezing. If you have any question for Ms. Treadaway you may contact her at treadaway@aces.edu.

CEU's for the July meeting - 1.0.

Respectively Submitted,
Sue Stinson,
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Forward: 6-25-09 **\$8,662.32**

Received:

T-Shirts - 50.00

Rain Barrel Workshop - 455.00

Total Received: \$505.00

Disbursements:

Ck. #1882 - Anne Thomas (Speaker's Gift) 35.00

Ck. #1883 - Pat Bullock (Postage) 44.00

Ck. #1884 - Tony Glover (Workshop Expense) 212.50

Ck. #1885 - Leaf/Petal (Door Prize) 4.35

Total Disbursements: \$295.85

Balance Checking: 7-27-09 **\$8,871.47**

Certificate of Deposit - \$5,000.00

Budgeted Items:

AMGA Dues Owed -\$ 15.00

Workshop Expense - 212.50

Postage - 44.00

Door Prizes- 4.35

Speakers Fee - 35.00



GARDENER'S BOOKSHELF

Check out these new books from the Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens:

-Gardens in China by Peter Valder
712.0951 VAL

-How to raise chickens: everything you need to know by Christine Heinrichs
636.5 HEI

-1001 ideas for better gardening by Pippa Greenwood
635 GRE

-Garden anywhere: how to grow gorgeous container gardens, herb gardens, kitchen gardens and more, without spending a fortune by Alys Fowler
635 FOW

-Hope Long

Ruffner Mountain Nature Center Seeks Volunteers for Garden Project

Michelle Reynolds, a member of the Ruffner Mountain Nature Center Board of Directors and Chair of the center's Education Committee has requested Master Gardener assistance in planning and executing a GREEN garden project at Ruffner Mountain to complement the still-under-construction GREEN visitor center. The aim of the project is to add educational components to the landscape by developing areas that reflect the mountain's plant communities and their conditions, as well as evoke a sense of place and history in a concentrated area of a garden.

According to Reynolds, "We envision education based, native plant gardens anchored by a community art project (a sculpture that would reflect the history and use of the mountain). The gardens would provide our visitors with hands on knowledge about native plants of our area while creating a portal for understanding concepts and issues in environmental education.

"We are working on the design of the gardens now to include areas that mimic the community types and rock formations found on Ruffner Mountain and to include a pollinator section, an edible plant section and a rain garden. Ruffner's education staff will utilize the gardens as a resource for education programs (which align with the Alabama Course of Study for grades K-12). Another important goal is to encourage the public to consider native plants for their own gardens and property. The possibilities for programming and community building are endless."

The center is scheduled for completion in mid-August, with planting of the gardens to begin this fall. Volunteers are needed to provide ideas, plant materials, financial support and assistance in installing the gardens. For more information or to volunteer, contact Reynolds at 205-838-2370 or e-mail coverings@bham.rr.com.



Ruffner Mountain GREEN Visitor Center

Rain Harvesting Workshop Draws Large Crowd



More than 80 people attended the Rain Harvesting Workshop held on July 14 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. BBG Executive Director Fred Spicer gave an overview of the new Master Plan for the Gardens which will include a supplemental rainwater catchment system. Tony Glover discussed the advantages of collecting rainwater and illustrated various types of rain collection systems available. Following his presentation, Tony and Harold Deason demonstrated techniques for constructing a rain barrel using a 55-gallon plastic barrel.

Tony has worked out several options for those who are interested in making their own rain barrel or purchasing a ready-made barrel or the 275-gallon tank on display at the workshop. Additional information and an order form are available at <http://www.aces.edu/~gloveta/barrelorderletter.htm>.



Photos by Connie Barron



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 9 Gardening with Japanese Maples Learn how to grow Japanese maples from seed, care for them, and grow them to a size suitable for planting in your yard. Instructor Danny Tomlin will also demonstrate summer grafting techniques. Class members will have an opportunity to purchase rare Japanese maples. Aldridge Gardens 2 - 4 p.m. Cost: Members \$12/ Non-members \$15. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit: www.aldridgegardens.com.

August 11 JCMGA meeting, 10:00 a.m., Hannah Center, BB Gardens

August 12 Lunch and Learn: Making Herbal Vinegars Instructor Becky Crum will demonstrate six recipes; participants will take home three. Bring three clean pint canning jars with lids. Aldridge Gardens 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Cost: Members \$22.50/\$15 without lunch; Non-Members \$27.50/ \$20 without lunch. Cost includes a \$5 materials fee. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit: www.aldridgegardens.com.

August 16 Butterflies for Beginners. Find out how to provide nectar sources for adult butterflies and host plants for caterpillars to attract more species to your landscape. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the life cycle (particularly as it relates to gardening) of butterflies commonly found in the Birmingham area. Aldridge Gardens 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Cost: Members \$12/Non-members \$15. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit: www.aldridgegardens.com.

August 18 JCMGA evening meeting, 6:00 p.m. Hannah Center BB Gardens.

August 22 Apples, Pears, and Muscadines. Dr. Arlie Powell will show how to pick varieties, maintain and care for them. 10:30 a.m. Petals from the Past, Jemison, AL. For more information, call (205) 646-0069 or visit: www.petalsfromthepast.com.

August 22 Birmingham Area Iris Society covered dish meal and iris auction. 11 a.m. 325 Grandview Drive, Odenville, AL. For more information, call Glenda Duncan at 205-629-5614.

Volunteer Opportunities

Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church Community Garden. Volunteers needed to help weed, mulch, and pick vegetables which will be donated to Magic City Harvest. For more information, visit the church's garden website at www.mbpccusa.org/garden; call the church office at 967-5037, or e-mail coordinator Sally Speaker at sarah.speaker@gmail.com.

Ruffner Mountain Nature Center needs volunteers to assist with the planning and installation of a garden at its new Visitor's Center. For more information, see page 5 of this newsletter.

BB Gardens Library. Volunteers are needed for the following shifts: Tuesday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.; Wednesday, 1 - 4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 2nd Saturday, 1-4 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Drewry at 414-3932, or Jason Kirby at 414-3967.

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

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

BB Gardens Volunteers are needed to help with the following BBG events: Cocktails in the Gardens, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.; Fall Plant Sale, Oct. 17 - 18. For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, contact BBG volunteer coordinator Carolyn Snow at 414-3962.