

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

As gardeners, we all remember the difficult times we had keeping our plants alive during the droughts of 2007 and 2008. We gained a better perspective then on the value of water as we had to endure the severe water usage restrictions.

In 2008 some of us took an Advanced Master Gardener class. In this class the issues of water sustainability were more clearly defined. We learned to save rain water and air conditioning condensate and to flush less and save shower water.

In 2009 we had a very informative class on water sustainability during which we were taught how to make and install rain barrels to be used as simple water collection systems.

Now 2010 has begun, and a lack of water is affecting the lives of thousands of people in Haiti. The people of Haiti live on an island that is over-populated, poorly farmed and largely deforested, which has led to erosion and loss of water. Now their infrastructure, along with their homes, has collapsed because of additional stressors that no one foresaw. Since the earthquake, these beleaguered people have gone days – and even weeks – without adequate drinking water. At present they cannot address the problem of water sustainability until their infrastructure is rebuilt. They must be concerned with establishing a readily available source of water to sustain their lives. What a lesson for us to protect the environment, practice good stewardship and conserve this valuable resource, water. We can let Haiti be a poignant reminder of what blessed lives we have and of how we do not want to waste a drop of water or a morsel of food. On February 9th, while we attend our “Reach for the Stars Awards Luncheon” with our Master Gardener friends, we can remember our blessings as we enjoy all the wonderful food we will bring to share with each other.

Bruce

Bruce Steele

February 9th MG Meeting

Refreshments – 9:30 A.M.

Business Meeting – 10:00 A.M.

Awards Luncheon . – 10:30 A.M.

Don't Forget Your Covered Dish February 9th

Please remember to bring a covered dish to share at the February 9th MG potluck awards luncheon.

Herb Lewis's Suet Recipe

<i>Corn meal</i>	<i>4 parts</i>
<i>Flour</i>	<i>1 part</i>
<i>Peanut Butter</i>	<i>1 part</i>
<i>Crisco</i>	<i>1 part</i>

Mix and refrigerate. Cut into pieces, and place in your feeder as desired.

Coming Next Month

The first night meeting of the JCMGA for 2010 will be held March 16th from 6-8:30 P.M. The topic for this session will be Organic Gardening. The speakers will be Tony Glover plus two more to be named.

Alabama Master Gardener Convention 2012

The *Alabama Master Gardener Convention 2012* is scheduled for March 22nd – 24th in Birmingham, Alabama, and we Jefferson County Master Gardeners will be hosting this convention. The convention will be held at the Marriott Grandview on U.S. Highway 280 with other facilities also being used. We are currently in the planning stage and looking for volunteers to fill the committees that we need to make the convention a success.

The following committees are established. Others will be created if they are needed.

Registration	Program/Publicity
Facilities/Fundraising	Hospitality
Finance	Book Sales/Signing
Evaluation	Logo/T-Shirt Sales
Food Functions	

The work of organizing a convention has many facets, and I welcome your comments and suggestions. For one thing, we will need a logo and slogan for the convention.

Please send me an e-mail listing your top three (3) committees and any suggestions to hdeson@aol.com. Please put "2012 Convention" in your message's subject line so I will be sure to save your request.

Thanks in advance, and I will see you in Montgomery March 18th – 20th for this year's State Convention.

Harold Deason
2012 Chairperson

"Friends of the BBG" *Volunteer Opportunities*

2010 Spring Plant Sale Pre-Event Set-Up

Volunteers are needed to help move tables and plants on these dates:

Wednesday, April 7th from 9:00
A.M. until 3:00 P.M.

Thursday, April 8th from 9:00 A.M.
until 3:00 P.M.

Tuesday, April 13th from 8:00 A.M.
until 3:00 P.M.

Wednesday, April 14th from 8:00
A.M. until 3:00 P.M.

2010 Spring Plant Sale

Thursday, April 15th through
Sunday, April 18th

Volunteers are needed to help raise money for The Gardens' Education programs.

Volunteers are needed to serve as a cashier, hospitality helper, plant loader, or plant sale booth worker. Contact Mary-Bestor at 414.3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org to sign-up.

Marketing & Membership Department

Volunteers are needed to work with our Marketing & Membership Department. Contact Rona Walters at 414.3950 or rwalters@bbgardens.org for more information. This is an ongoing volunteer opportunity.



Gardening for Birds

by Harold Deason

Herb Lewis was our guest speaker for January, and he presented a great program. The meeting was open to the public, and we had 147 members and guests attend.

Herb is a Master Gardener from the Huntsville area who for years had a beautiful yard full of plants, but little wildlife. Then, in 2004, after he

retired, he decided he wanted birds in his yard, so he began studying and redoing his garden and backyard to create a haven for birds. Over the years he added many features that provide birds with shelter, protection and safety, as well as food sources and water features to provide necessary water. The water features are main attractions for the birds. Herb will soon have a website up providing the public with great pictures of his yard and birds. The website will be www.herbsbirds.com. If you missed Herb, plan on attending the Alabama Master Gardener Convention in Montgomery on March 18th – 20th when Herb will be presenting another program on *Gardening for Birds*.



The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon. This year the count will occur on February 12th – 15th. It will be the 13th annual count. The count is simple and fun for all ages, and it is interesting to see which birds people see near you and around the United States. What do you think is the most reported bird from the 94,165 checklists that were submitted in 2009? There were 11,558,638 individual birds counted, which represented 620 species. The count is fun and requires as much, or as little, time as you wish to contribute. The address for information is www.birdsource.org, or you may simply google "Great Backyard Bird Count". Enjoy and get others involved.

Library at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Volunteer Opportunity

The Library at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens is looking for someone who can translate its garden brochures into Spanish.

If you are interested in doing these translations, please contact Hope Long at 205.414.3931 or at hlong@bbgardens.org

Volunteer Opportunity at the Hanna Center ACES Office

The Hanna Center ACES Office has volunteer opportunities on the following days in February:

Thursday, February 4th from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 Noon and/or from 12:00 Noon until 2:45 P.M.

Wednesday, February 10th from 11:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

Thursday, February 11th from 12:00 Noon until 2:45 P.M.

Thursday, February 18th from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 Noon and/or from 12:00 Noon until 2:45 P.M.

Tuesday, February 23rd from 2:00 P.M. until 4:30 P.M. (You may leave 'early' before 4:00 if you need to beat the traffic.)

Thursday, February 25th from 12:00 Noon until 2:45 P.M.

Duties include performing general office tasks, answering horticulture-related questions and assisting clients. For more information about these tasks and for the dates and times volunteer are needed in March and April, please contact Annette Drummonds:

205 879-6964 x10

205 414-3906 - FAX

Email: ahd0001@auburn.edu

February Garden Calendar

FRUITS AND NUTS – Planting season continues for dormant trees. Fertilize fruit trees. Apply half of the fertilizer recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets. Continue dormant pruning and grafting. Start strawberry plantings.

SHRUBS – Planting season continues. Visit camellia shows to learn of hardy varieties in your area. Graft camellias in Central and South Alabama. Spray all shrubs with a fungicide before new growth starts. Good time to prune all shrubs before new growth starts. Don't prune early-blooming species because flower buds will be removed.

ROSES – Prune hybrid tea roses in South Alabama; delay pruning for a few weeks in North Alabama. Continue planting.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS – Replant early plantings of hardy annuals. Prepare beds for summer annuals.

BULBS – Plant cannas, amaryllis, gladiolus, and zephyranthes in South Alabama; delay planting for a few weeks in North Alabama.

MISCELLANEOUS – Houseplants are beginning to show signs of activity. Fertilize with liquid or soluble fertilizer according to manufacturer's directions. Remember Valentine's Day. Why not send roses or a potted plant?

VEGETABLE SEED – Plant some vegetables listed for January in Central Alabama plus collards, salsify, and Swiss chard. Add tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts to coldframes.

VEGETABLE PLANTS – Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.

JEFFERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY, 2010 SUBMITTED BY BLAIR COX, TREASURER

Balance Forward: 1-1-10 \$13,562.28
Receipts: \$2,268.00
Disbursements: - \$411.44
Ending Balance: 1-22-10: \$15,418.84

Please remember membership dues should be received on or before March 31, 2010. After March 31st, you will be placed on the inactive roll if your dues have not been received. Make your check payable to JCMGA for \$17.00. Mail it to Blair Cox, 4719 Old Leeds Road, Birmingham, AL 35213

Volunteers Needed for the February 20th Plant Dig

Ten volunteers are needed to identify plants at the annual plant dig to be held at the New Georgia/Northside Landfill on Saturday, February 20th from 12 Noon until 4:00 P.M.

If you wish to volunteer, please contact:

Ms. Atrie Robinson
787-5222

arobins@ci.birmingham.al.us

Volunteer Needed for the Glenwood Adult Day Program

A volunteer is needed to work at the Glenwood Adult Day Program from February through July to give hands-on demonstrations on raising daylilies and other bulbs and on growing herbs. This volunteer is also needed to help with the Tranquility Garden landscape project. The volunteer will be working with adults.

Glenwood asks that the volunteer commit to working one hour per week for five weeks (flexible hours). For more information, please contact:

Martha Loukotha
205.970-1212
205.410.1035

mloukotha@glenwood.org

“Tony Talks”

January has been an eventful month for me. We started a new MG class which we filled to capacity (30 total). I am excited by their enthusiasm and I hope they will join us for the monthly meeting as many did last month. Please introduce yourself as you see new folks and welcome them into the MG association. The early impression they have will often determine how active they become in our local association. By the way, this is the first class to use our new and revised MG handbook. Several folks have asked if they can buy this new version and the answer is yes, but the price is \$40 per copy. Let me know if you want to look it over.

A couple weeks back I broke my foot, so I am hobbling around for the next few weeks. To avoid telling the story a couple dozen times to you individually, I thought I would tell you all at once: My knee collapsed going down my front steps, and I landed in such a way as to fracture a bone in my foot just above my big toe. I will know if you read my column or not based on whether or not I get asked, “What happened to you?” My month will end with an overnight trip to the hospital for some tests – I am falling apart in front of you.

I will be gone to Orlando for a work-related meeting from February 5th until the evening before our monthly meeting on February 9th. I am not sure how chipper I will be after a late evening flight from Orlando with a stopover in Atlanta while walking on crutches, but I plan to be here to enjoy the awards luncheon. Extension appreciates all you do in our community, and I hope you know how much I appreciate each one of you as well.

On February 10th the Greater Birmingham Area Landscape Professionals will have an educational program here at the BBG which you may be interested in attending. The program is designed for commercial landscape folks, but they have some great speakers and topics. If you are interested, click or type in this link to get more information:

www.aces.edu/~gloveta/documents/GBALP2010ProgramRegistration.pdf (Carol Reese is speaking twice, and she is an excellent and entertaining speaker worth the registration cost by herself – not to mention our own Jim Jacobi, Fred Spicer, some Auburn University faculty and a great BQ lunch.)

We will have a night meeting on Organic Gardening here at the BBG on March 16th from 6:00 – 8:30 P.M. for MGs and their guests. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting at no cost although we will take up a donation to cover the night guard expense (about \$50 total). The BBG has asked Sallie and me to give a reprise of this program here on Saturday, March 27th from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon. This one will have a cost (\$10, I think), and I am sure you will need to pre-register. (Visit www.bbgardens.org for details).

Also, don't forget about the state MG annual meeting in Montgomery on March 18th – 20th. You may visit the state MG website for registration and program details: www.alabamamg.org. I hope to see many of you at this year's meeting. Let's help make it a success in 2010 and hope they will return the favor in 2012, when Jefferson County is the host.

Finally, thank you very much for reporting your volunteer hours to our office or to the online reporting system. If you have not reported yours, please do so ASAP. Of course, they will be too late for the award totals for our February awards luncheon, but they can still be used in the state report and towards your cumulative totals. Call me or Glenda Dicks if you need help because it is better late than never.

Calendar of Events January 2010

Month of February. Free Admission to Callaway Gardens. For more information visit <http://www.callawaygardens.com>

2/6 "Hummingbirds Galore" 10:00 A.M until 11:30 A.M. Aldridge Gardens, 3530 Lorna Road, Hoover. Instructors: Martha and Bob Sargent. \$12 Members/\$15 Non-Members. Class size is limited. Pre-registration is suggested. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit <http://www.aldridgegardens.com/> or visit on Facebook.

Through a dazzling Power Point presentation, our nationally renowned instructors will tell you all you need to know to make your yard a haven for hummers as they migrate back to our area in next month in March. You'll find out about the best feeders and plants, as well as how to discourage those pesky ants, wasps and bees. Participants will also take a look at all the North American nesting species and learn which have occasionally spent the winter in Alabama. Q and A to follow.

2/13-14 "Birmingham Camellia Show". Birmingham Botanical Gardens. For more information visit <http://www.bbgardens.org/index.php>

2/13 "Tree Fruits in the Home Garden". Petals from the Past. Jemison, Alabama. 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 Noon. (12:30 Walking tour of tree fruit gardens and pruning clinic.) Instructor: Dr. Arlie Powell. Pre-registration. For more information visit <http://petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>

2/20 "Home Garden Design 101". Petals from the Past. Jemison, Alabama. 10:30 A.M. Instructor: Tracey Britnell. For more information visit <http://petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>

2/21 "Sustainable Vegetable Gardening Series for Central Alabama". 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. Aldridge Gardens. Instructor: William Cureton, Captain Compost. \$34/\$28 for Garden Members. Class size is limited. Pre-registration suggested. (Part 1 of 2. Part II of the series will be held on 3/7.) For more information visit <http://www.aldridgegardens.com/>

Session 1. Revive the Victory Garden! For beginner to intermediate gardeners, this session is focused on everything you need to know to start growing your own tasty vegetables. Whether urban or rural, from large to small plots, to simple container gardening, learn how to lay out your design and understand your vegetable garden needs. Learn details of planting spring and summer vegetables and fruit that most Alabamians love including tomatoes, squash, beans, corn, lettuce, cucumber, okra, and others.

Session 2. Go to the next level and learn how to maintain, sustain, and feed your vegetable crops all season. Learn about natural safe pest and disease control and soil building techniques for home gardeners. Think globally. Grow locally.

2/27 "Arbor Day Celebration". 9:00 – 12:00 Noon. Aldridge Gardens. <http://www.aldridgegardens.com/>
Sponsored by the Hoover Beautification Board.

2/27 "Plant Like the Pros! Free Arbor Day Member Class". 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. Instructor: Carolyn Snow, ABG Horticulturalist. Members Free/\$15 Non-Members. Pre-registration requested for members and non-members. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit <http://www.aldridgegardens.com/> or visit on Facebook.

2/27 "Antique Roses". 10:30 – 12:00 Noon. (12:30 P.M. "Pruning Techniques".) Petals from the Past. Jemison, Alabama. Instructor Jason Powell. Pre-registration. For more information visit <http://petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association January 12, 2010

The JCMGA January meeting was called to order by President Bruce Steele at 10 A.M. in the BBG auditorium. Board members (Bruce Steele, Harold Deason, Susan Jackson, Blair Cox and Pat Bullock) were introduced to the assembly. Two visitors from St. Clair County were in attendance and introduced themselves. Because this meeting was open to the public, a number of other visitors were present as well. The October minutes and Treasurer's report as printed in *Roots & Shoots* were approved. Bruce reminded everyone that 2010 dues are due now and should be paid immediately.

Harold Deason gave an update on plans for the 2012 AMGA conference, which will be hosted by JCMGA (March 18 - 21, 2012) at the Marriott Grandview Hotel on Highway 280. Harold asked for volunteers for the many committees which will be required to carry off such a big undertaking. In addition, he will notify surrounding counties and ask them to participate as well.

Volunteer hours are due by January 15th. If they are not turned in by that time, they cannot be counted for next month's volunteer recognition luncheon. We were reminded that volunteer hours can be earned by helping out in the ACES office in a number of different ways.

The Board has approved \$1,500 to go toward the purchase of a large flat screen television set to be placed in the GPIC area. The remainder of the cost for this TV will be furnished by the BBG. This equipment will be used in a variety of educational ways to further the mission of the GPIC.

The 2010 JCMGA class begins on January 14th at 9 A.M. and will meet every Thursday. Members are welcome to the attend classes if they feel the need to "brush up" on a given topic. For specific information on classes, members can just check the schedule on the JCMG web site (jeffcomg.org) under *Meetings and Events* or call the ACES office.

This year's AMGA meeting will be held in Montgomery at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center on March 18-21. Anyone wishing to register for this meeting online can go to alabamamg.org. Additionally, registration information was included in the last AMGA newsletter. The deadline for receiving the conference rate at the Renaissance Hotel is February 16th.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the JCMGA newsletter *Roots and Shoots* should be aware that all material must be submitted to the editor (news@jeffcomg.org) on or before the last Monday of the month prior to newsletter publication (e.g., deadline date for the February newsletter is January 25th).

There are a number of AMGA state awards, including Master Gardener of the Year. These awards are outlined at alabamamg.org and are due by January 31st. It was pointed out that if any member would like to nominate someone for one of these awards, he or she is encouraged to do so, and if there are any questions or if assistance is needed in making a nomination, contact a JCMGA Board member.

Volunteers are needed to assist at the annual dinner of the BBG to be held on January 21st. These volunteers will be given free tickets. The January issue of *Roots and Shoots* has more information. Tony Glover mentioned that another volunteer opportunity will be the February 20th plant dig at the New Georgia landfill. Those interested may contact Tony for details. In addition, Wayne Bolden is looking for assistance in the Tropicals Booth at the BBG Spring Plant Sale.

The first night meeting of the JCMGA for 2010 will be held March 16th from 6 - 8:30 P.M. The topic for this session will be Organic Gardening. There will be three speakers: Tony Glover plus two more to be named.

President Bruce Steele recognized Ann Rayburn for her 19 years of service to JCMGA.

The February meeting of the JCMGA will be a pot luck awards luncheon. The meeting will start as usual with refreshments at 9:30 followed by business at 10, with the awards luncheon to follow.

Harold Deason introduced our speaker, Herb Lewis, who gave a presentation on Creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30. 1 CEU can be recorded for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jackson
Secretary, JCMGA



Roots and Shoots

FEBUARY 2010

Tony Glover
Jefferson County Master Gardener Association
2612 Lane Park Road
Birmingham, Al 35223