



Roots and Shoots

JULY 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

When I was a child, my family lived in Homewood. Now you have to understand that when you grow up in Homewood, you do not see Vulcan's best assets. On the evening of the Fourth of July, as the lightening bugs were beginning to come out, the excitement would build because near Vulcan is where the city launched its fireworks.

Before the fireworks began, a few neighbors would walk up the street, kids hopping along in tow, to a spot between two houses with a clear view, and they would sit on the ground as the fireworks began. This holiday was very exciting, one of the best events of the year and over all too soon. We, as children, did not understand the seriousness, the importance of this holiday.

Today in America, with our young men and women fighting in two wars, the seriousness, the importance, is very clear. How fortunate we all are to live in this great country and enjoy the freedoms and liberties that we possess. When we go about our daily activities, we don't have to worry about our freedom or even think about our safety because we know that someone is fighting to protect us. Instead, we think about the men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan because we are the type of people who think about others, enjoy doing for others and enjoy making a difference in the lives of others.

Being Master Gardeners, we do for others in areas we know and enjoy. For this reason, Tony and I have discussed allowing the association to give small grants to encourage and help members with their projects. One special way of making a difference is to be a garden docent. As garden docents at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, we can make a contribution while we learn and spend time in the gardens. Each month we docents have a class on a gardening-related topic or an area of the gardens. We have speakers like James Horton, Jim Jacobi, Susan Grimes and Henry Hughes, and then we go out into the gardens to see what we've learned put into practice. (Did I mention we also have refreshments?)

This Fourth of July we might make a red, white and blue flower arrangement, or a red, white and blue cake, eat a barbeque or just boil a hot dog – how we celebrate does not matter. Being with those we love, being thankful for the quality of our lives and appreciating our great country is good enough. Let's remember the seriousness, the importance, of this summer holiday.

I hope you all have a great, happy, safe Fourth!

Thank You,
Bruce

July 13th MG Meeting

Refreshments – 9:30 A.M.

Business Meeting – 10:00 A.M.

Presentation – 10:30 A.M.

July Presentation

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are gardens ecologically designed to withstand drought, deluge and everything in between. During this presentation by Fred Spicer, you will learn some practical ways of designing your own small scale rain garden.

SHOW OFF *Your Cooking*

. . . or just your doughnut-buying skills. To help ensure plenty of treats for our July MG meeting, please bring a dish when you come.

Treasurer's Report

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

Balance Forward: 5-26-10. . . \$12,203.47
Received: \$51.00
Disbursements: -\$92.00
Ending Balance: 5-26-10: . . . \$12,162.47

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes for June 2010

There are no Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes for the month of June 2010 since no business meeting was held.

“Tony Talks”

I heard the trip to Turkey Creek was both interesting and fun. I am sorry I missed it, but I was suffering in Virginia Beach. Actually, I really was suffering because the crowds were terrible. I think the Gulf oil leak caused more tourists to head to the Atlantic beaches. My family was there for a debate tournament in which my daughter was participating. She did not win anything, but I was very proud of her making it to the national finals as 15-years-old – an accomplishment many high school seniors never achieve. (She learned all of her great speaking skills from her father, but she is much more modest than he.) I appreciate Harold allowing me to swap programs with the Turkey Creek trip. I planned to give the Rain Garden presentation this month for our regular monthly meeting, but I accidentally double-booked, and Fred Spicer has graciously agreed to help me out. I hope you will make plans to attend and feel free to invite a friend.

While in Virginia, I visited the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, and I was blown away. If you are ever in the area, I highly encourage you to visit. I think it is the only BGs in the country you can tour via boat, as well as on foot. It was very hot when we arrived, but the day I visited the gardens the high temperature was 72 degrees.

The recent heat here makes the cold winter we had seem like a distant memory. The changing weather greatly impacts us, as well as our

management of the pests we face in the garden. Learning to understand which weather conditions are likely to cause which problems is a big part of “Integrated Pest Management” (IPM). With that thought in mind, I want to remind you about a wonderful CEU opportunity coming up in September. We are one of the host sites for a multi-state interactive video training on IPM techniques especially for MGs. This training will be of interest to all MGs who want to learn to diagnose pest problems and to use the most environmentally sound way to control pests. It will be especially helpful to those of you who help at the GPIC phone center.

If you are interested in attending, please visit the link below for registration details, along with a form to complete and send to Auburn with the \$25 registration fee. This class will last most of the day, with the first half being broadcast from various locations: Clemson, UGA, Mississippi State, NC State and Auburn University. After a lunch break, we will have some hands-on activities in the diagnostic lab and in the gardens here at the BBG. A three-day commitment in September (on the 1st, 8th and 15th) is required. The fee covers the incidental cost of the training and materials, but does not cover the lunch each day. Let me know (by email please) if you register so I will know how many people to expect for this training. To register go to this link: <http://www.aces.edu/~gloveta/documents/IPMtraining2010-promo.pdf>

Another opportunity, coming up on August 10th, is the Auburn Master Gardener School at Auburn University. This is an all-day event you may want to consider attending. The cost is \$40 which includes your lunch. The event is worth 5.5 CEUs, and the program looks very good. You may find program details and registration information here:

<http://www.aces.edu/mg/documents/AUMGSchool-Aug102010.pdf>

Email me (gloveta@aces.edu) and let me know if you want to work out a ride with someone or share a room with another MG, and I will pass the information along to others looking for the same.

I hope your summer is pest free (but I doubt it) and I hope to see you soon.



AMGA CEU WORKSHOP

An AMGA CEU Fall workshop will be held at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, Alabama, on August 11th. Come learn about beneficial insects, mason bees and hummingbirds.

To view the syllabus for the workshop and download a registration form, go to <http://www.aces.edu/mg/documents/AMGACEUFALL-9-11-10-Hanceville.pdf>

If you need additional information, contact Cheryl Jones at 205.429.2931 or e-mail her at cjones@otelco.net.

And now for something completely different. . .

Did you know some of the weirdest plants come from the islands of Madagascar and Borneo? If your garden is becoming humdrum, or you just need something different to show off to your friends, check out this article on weird plants at the National Geographic News website:

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/08/0827_030828_weirdplants.html

Volunteer Opportunities at the BBG

The BBG is offering three volunteer opportunities this month:

Cocktails in The Gardens volunteers are needed for Thursday evening, August 12th, September 9th and October 14th. . . Volunteers will receive two free tickets. Volunteers are also needed to hang posters around town prior to each event.

The BBG is also looking for garden docents. The next monthly training session for garden docents will be held on Tuesday, July 20th from 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. John Manion will speak on wildflowers. Contact Mary-Bestor Tickle at 414.3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org.

Volunteers are also needed for the Kaul Wildflower Garden. Volunteer workdays will be held on July 8th, 17th and 22nd from 8:00 – 11:00 A.M. Volunteers will meet at the gazebo. These workdays are a good opportunity to learn about pruning and propagation, as well as plant history and folklore. Contact John Manion at 414.3985 or jmanion@bbgardens.org.

What Are We Working On?

Aldridge Botanical Gardens' Junior Master Gardeners



At Aldridge Botanical Gardens our Saturday morning class of Junior Master Gardeners has grown to twenty children, ages 8-15! That's about 10 more than one Master Gardener teacher can manage! We need experienced gardeners to help children one-on-one to plant seeds, tie up vines, stake plants, mulch plants, identify weeds from veggies and so on. You do NOT need to plan lessons – just show up! The kids love to show off their gardens, and they definitely need guidance knowing what to do in them.

The group meets at the gatehouse at Aldridge Botanical Gardens at 9:30. Then we go to the Field Trip Garden where each

child has his or her own raised bed for planting veggies, herbs and flowers. The class ends at 11:30. We have plenty of tools, seeds, drinking water (although most bring their own) and equipment. All we need is YOU! Here is the schedule of meetings: July 10th and 24th, August 14th and 28th, September 11th and October 9th.

If you would like to know more about this Junior Master Gardeners program, please email Vasha Rosenblum at vashan1@bellsouth.net or call 205.910.3211, but you do not need to call before you come! Just come!

Write on Our Wall

JCMGA is Now on Facebook

The JCMGA has a brand new profile on Facebook, and as you will see when you visit it, we need you to write on our wall and help us get a good conversation going. This is a new opportunity for us to interact with members of the community and share with each other.

If you're not familiar with Facebook, it's a social networking site that connects friends and organizations. Our Facebook profile has several pages, accessed by the following tabs: Wall, Info, Photos and Discussions. The Wall is similar to a bulletin board, a place for us to leave messages, comment or provide other information. The Info section is used to provide contact information about the organization, such as addresses and phone numbers. The Photos section displays photos, and the Discussions section is a place for discussing topics of interest to gardeners.

If you've never visited Facebook before, go to <http://www.facebook.com> to sign up and create an account. You can, not only visit the new JCMGA profile, but also create your own so you can connect with your friends and fellow gardeners on Facebook. To find the JCMGA profile, logon to Facebook, search "Jefferson County Master Gardeners" and select the profile with our logo.



HOT Topic

Are You Worried about How the BP Gulf Oil Spill Will Affect Your Air, Food and Water?

If you are concerned, here are a few government websites providing up-to-date, reliable information:

For information on how the BP Gulf oil spill is affecting the air, go to <http://airnow.gov/>. This site also offers information on air quality for the rest of the country. For example, you can type in a zip code and find up-to-date air quality information for that area.

For information about how the oil spill is affecting our seafood, visit this website: <http://www.fda.gov/Food/ucm210970.htm>. You can also find more general information. Click the Oil Spill Cam link listed under Maps and Images (at the bottom of the webpage) to watch the live video feed of the oil spill.

For additional information about how the spill is affecting our seafood, and for more information about how it is affecting water quality, visit this NOAA website: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>



Click the link in this map to connect to an enlarged view of the fishing areas closed by the gulf oil spill.

July Garden Calendar

FRUITS AND NUTS: Protect figs and other ripening fruit from birds.

SHRUBS: Continue to root shrub cuttings until late in the month and mulch to keep soil moist. Remove faded blooms promptly from crape myrtle and other summer-blooming plants.

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

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS: Water as needed to keep plants active.

BULBS: Iris and spider lilies may be planted late this month.

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

VEGETABLE SEED: Plant beans, field peas, rutabagas, squash, New Zealand spinach, and Irish potatoes. Plant cabbage, collards, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery for the fall crop.

VEGETABLE PLANTS: Plant tomatoes in Central and North Alabama.

Volunteer Opportunities at a Glance

Here's a quick list of some of the opportunities for volunteering that we currently have open. The information is listed in the following order: date of volunteer opportunity/ volunteer opportunity/ venue/time/contact person/contact information

Turkey Creek Nature Preserve Pinson Weds – Suns 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. Taylor Steele 680.4116 or tsteele@bsc.edu

Helena Farmers' Market Sats 8:00 A.M. – Noon [through Sept.] Jan Holliday 663.7700 or gardenerjan@bellsouth.net

Junior Master Gardeners Aldridge Gardens Weds 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. Vasha Rosenblum 910.3211 or vashan1@bellsouth.net

Jul 8 **Kaul Wildflower Garden Workday** BBG 8:00 – 11:00 A.M. John Manion 414.3985 or jmanion@bbgardens.org

Jul 17 **Kaul Wildflower Garden Workday** BBG 8:00 – 11:00 A.M. John Manion 414.3985 or jmanion@bbgardens.org

Jul 20 **Garden Docents Training** BBG Mary–Bestor Tickle 414.3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org

Jul 22 **Kaul Wildflower Garden Workday** BBG 8:00 – 11:00 A.M. John Manion 414.3985 or jmanion@bbgardens.org

Aug 12 **Cocktails in the Gardens** BBG 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. Mary–Bestor Tickle 414.3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org

Sep 9 **Cocktails in the Gardens** BBG Mary–Bestor Tickle 414.3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org

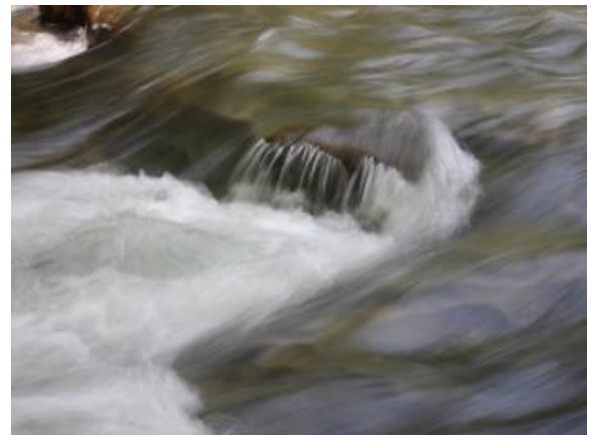
Oct 14 **Cocktails in the Gardens** BBG Mary–Bestor Tickle 414.3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org

Trip Report

with Photos, by Harold Deason

These pictures were taken during the June JCMGA visit to the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. Twenty-eight MGs took this trip, and we had a great time while learning about the preserve. Our host was Taylor Steel, a 2010 MG intern and manager of the preserve. When we arrived, Taylor gave an introductory presentation, and then we toured the house near Bull Frog Bend, the creek and the falls.

If you missed this trip, or would just like to go again, the Preserve is open every day except Monday and Tuesday. If you are looking for an opportunity to volunteer, Taylor is always looking for MGs to help. Ned Boggins and Deborah Baggett, are both working with Taylor and would love for others to help.





Will Your Tomato Wear The Crown?

There's still time to register your tomato for Petals from the Past's Tomato Contest on Saturday, August 7th. The contest is part of their annual Tomato Festival, and rumor has it the prizes are great. Prizes will be given for such categories as biggest tomato and ugliest tomato. For an entry form go to http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/fourth_annual_great_tomato_contest.htm

Also at the festival will be tomato dishes to try, as well as information on growing tomatoes. At 10:00 A.M. Arnold Caylor, Director of the North Alabama Horticulture Research Center will reveal his secrets about how to grow the best tomatoes. Mr. Caylor has been director of the research center, which conducts research on sweet potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, watermelons, cantaloupes, sweet corn, asparagus, blueberries and blackberries, grapes, muscadines and ornamentals, for twelve years, so he offers years of tried and true experience.

Calendar of Events *for* July 2010

The calendar information is presented in the following order: Date/Event/Time/Location/ Contact Information

Chilhuly at Cheekwood [through October 31st] Cheekwood Gardens, Nashville
http://www.cheekwood.org/Art/Chilhuly_at_Cheekwood.aspx

“Blown Organics” Glass Exhibition Atlanta Botanical Gardens [through October; features glass works custom made for the Gardens] <http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/events/ListEvents.do>

Edible Art Atlanta Botanical Gardens [through August 31st]
<http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/events/ListEvents.do>

Herbal Vinegars Workshop [Wednesdays through August 4th] Calloway Gardens
<http://www.callowaygardens.com/gardens/education/workshops.aspx>

July 6 **Back to Basics Canning Workshop** 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. ACES, Bibb
<http://www.aces.edu/gwcal/day.php?yearID=2010&monthID=7&dayID=6&messageID=b2887ff135ea94bf98bbd60ef579cede#b2887ff135ea94bf98bbd60ef579cede>

July 8-9 **Hosta on Parade** Huntsville Botanical Gardens
<http://www.hsvbg.org/index.php?mainID=2&subID=2&type=events&viewMoreType=events&typeID=47>

July 10 **Cooking Demo: Chef Chris Hastings** 10:30 A.M. Petals from the Past, Jemison
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>

July 15 **Create a Floral Painting with Darcy Walker** 9:00 A.M. – Noon Aldridge Botanical Gardens
www.aldridgegardens.com

July 17 **Leaf Mulch Loading** [free mulch!] Huntsville Botanical Gardens
<http://www.hsvbg.org/index.php?mainID=2&subID=2&type=events&viewMoreType=calendar&typeID=42>

July 18 **Salsa Day** 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Atlanta Botanical Gardens
<http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/events/ListEvents.do>

July 22 **Gardens to Attract Butterflies and Hummingbirds** Huntsville Botanical Gardens
<http://www.hsvbg.org/index.php?mainID=2&subID=2&type=events&viewMoreType=classesAdults&typeID=34>

July 24 **Walking Tour of the Figs** 10:30 A.M. Petals from the Past, Jemison
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>

July 24 **Tomato Tasting Contest** Huntsville Botanical Gardens
<http://www.hsvbg.org/index.php?mainID=2&subID=2&type=events&viewMoreType=events&typeID=41>

August 6 **Founder’s Day/Mr. Bellengrath’s Birthday** [free admission] Bellengrath Gardens, Mobile
<http://www.bellingrath.org/founders-day-celebration.html>

August 7 **Tomato Festival** 10:00 A.M. Petals from the Past, Jemison
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>

Aug 10 **Auburn Master Gardener School** Auburn U [contact Tony Glover for details]
<http://www.aces.edu/mg/documents/AUMGSchool-Aug102010.pdf>

Aug 11 **AMGA CEU Fall Workshop** Wallace Com Col, Hanceville [contact Cheryl Jones at 205.429.2931 or [cijones.otelco.net](mailto:cijones@otelco.net)] <http://www.aces.edu/mg/documents/AMGACEUFALL-9-11-10-Hanceville.pdf>

Sept 1 **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** [session 1] BBG [also on Sept 8th and 15th; contact Tony Glover for details] <http://www.aces.edu/~gloveta/documents/IPMtraining2010-promo.pdf>