

FROM THE PRESIDENT...



What excites you about your garden? What do you take pride in? What do you enjoy sharing with others? I like for people to notice the varied and interesting leaf designs, as well as the beautiful fall color of my Japanese Maples, but the big deal this time of year is the vegetable garden.

How does your garden grow? Do you grow okra, watermelons, squash or eggplant? Let's face it, the tomato is King. You may have Silver Queen corn or Giant Globe eggplant, but to a southern gardener, tomato is King.

I called a few of our JCMGA members to get their point of view: Anne Thomas planted her tomatoes a month or so ago and now has fist-size green tomatoes. She has full sun until five o'clock or so. Then, after supper, she goes out and works in her garden until the sun sets, or the farm light comes on. Blair Cox said he has one tomato plant, and it looks kind of pitiful; however, his blue hydrangeas and his elephant ear hostas look terrific – the best in three or four years. (The hostas are almost four feet across.) Glenda Dicks loves tomatoes, but does not have the free time needed to grow them. She does have time to plant begonias, vinca and other bedding plants for her mother so her mother's yard looks like it always did. Madelyn Rushing says that, between the two of them, she and Fred have eleven tomato plants; his are in a topsy-turvy planter and doing well, while hers are in the ground being eaten by squirrels.

Now we get down to my tomatoes: I have twenty-five tomato plants and four hours of sun, so, if I am really lucky, I will have about one basket of tomatoes. But, oh, how wonderful those tomato sandwiches will taste!

Thank You.

Bruce

June 8th MG Meeting

Presentation at the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve – 9:30 A.M.

No Refreshments or Business Meeting

Take a Hike

Fieldtrip to the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve

For our June 8th MG meeting, we will meet at the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. Our fieldtrip begins at 9:30 A.M. We will start at the education building with a short presentation, and then walk or drive down to the falls to the EcoScape area.

Please remember to bring a drink and snack, as none will be provided this month.

Directions to Turkey Creek Preserve from Downtown Birmingham:

- Take I-20 E/I-59 N
- Take the Tallapoosa Street exit (#128)
- Keep RIGHT at the fork to merge onto Hwy. 79/Tallapoosa St.
- Continue on Hwy. 79 for approximately 11.9 miles
- Turn LEFT onto Narrows Road (at the intersection of Hwy 75)
- Turn RIGHT onto Turkey Creek Road

Printable directions:

[http://www.aces.edu/~gloveta/documents/Directions to Turkey Creek.pdf](http://www.aces.edu/~gloveta/documents/Directions%20to%20Turkey%20Creek.pdf)

Turkey Creek Preserve
3906 Turkey Creek Road
Pinson, AL 35126

“Tony Talks”

Spring was great while it lasted, but I am sure summer is here to stay for a while now. This has been a very busy meeting season for me, but meetings are starting to slow down just a little. I do want to make you aware of a Rain Harvest workshop coming up on June 30th. Sallie Lee, Nelson Wynn (REA – Shelby County) and I will be at the North Shelby County Library on Highway 119 from 9:00 – Noon. If you did not attend our meeting last year, you may want to come to this event. We hope to have barrels for anyone who wants them at a reasonable cost. Sallie is working on finding a sponsor to help provide the barrels, and I still have some 330-gallon recycled tanks available. Contact Sallie Lee (leesall@aces.edu) for registration details and barrel prices; let me know if you are interested in a large tank.

The UAB professor, Dr. Wendy Demark-Wahnefried, who is doing cancer-nutrition research has come up with enough funds to pilot a garden-mentoring project with a small number of patients. We hope to begin this program in time for the fall gardening season. I am very excited about the volunteer opportunity this program presents to our Master Gardeners. Dr. Demark-Wahnefried hopes to take this program into a much larger area (possibly nationwide) if the pilot program is successful enough to impress the National Institutes of Health (the granting agency). I will keep you informed of what the plans are as they develop over the summer.

Several of you have done programs for various community groups representing Extension. We greatly appreciate these efforts, and we want to help supply you with the items you need to be successful. In addition to our general horticultural information, we have some nice brochures that explain who Extension is and what we do, as well as another one just about the Hanna Center. They are called, “How Extension Works for You” <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/E/EX-0038/EX-0038.pdf> and “C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture and Environmental Center” <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/E/EX-0041/EX-0041.pdf>. Although many of us take knowledge of these resources for granted, there is a large population who will welcome learning about Extension services and benefits. When you plan to make a community presentation, consider taking a bundle of these brochures with you. The ACES office has a good supply on hand. Call Annette at 879-6964 x 10 to reserve a quantity of brochures for your presentation.

Learn to BEE Smart with Sallie Lee June 22nd Evening MG Meeting (at 6:00 P.M.)

"Without bees, we cannot survive. Over the past three years, more than 50 billion honeybees have died." – REESE HALTER, PhD.*

As gardeners we are concerned about the status of our pollinators, the birds, bees, butterflies, bats, etc. The most efficient of them – honey bees – are in decline worldwide. While we need their pollination services, they also provide us with honey, beeswax, royal jelly, and propolis, ingredients in products we use on a regular basis.

Honey bees are important to us. Imagine what our world would be like without them. Come and learn more about our relationship with "sister bee" and her role in our environment and our gardens. Learn what is happening to her world, and how we can support her survival. This class is not aimed specifically at beekeepers, but for “bee folks”, those who want to become better acquainted with *Apis mellifera* and her sisters. Contact information for those who wish to learn more about becoming a beekeeper will also be available.

*Reese Halter is a scientist/visiting professor from the University of Alabama.

And now for something completely different. . .

Check out this link to the posh Chelsea Flower Show in the United Kingdom:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/chelseafloowershow>

Don't miss the video about the controversial decision to ban garden gnomes:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/video/2009/may/20/chelsea-flower-show-gnome-controversy>

What Are We Working On?

The Rooftop Community Garden at Energen Plaza

With the help of Jefferson County Master Gardener Tonya Drake, Sheila Cooley, an employee at Energen, began a rooftop community garden, growing vegetables and herbs on the third level of the Energen Plaza parking deck in Birmingham. Tonya



Drake helped plan the garden, prepare the beds and organize gardening classes by Roald Hazelhoff, Director of the Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham-Southern College and Edwin Marty, Director of Jones Valley Urban Farms.

The ten volunteers working in the garden are growing such vegetables as cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes and zucchini, along with herbs, such as cilantro and basil. They are also growing flowers, including zinnias and yarrow, which will attract pollinators.

IPM for Master Gardeners

2010 Master Gardener Training via Computer Link at the BBG

Tired of being stumped in the field? This series of six Master Gardener training modules (over a 3-day period) is designed to improve your trouble-shooting and problem-solving skills as you apply IPM (Integrated Pest Management) to landscapes and gardens. Through this course, team taught by experts from throughout the Southeast, you will learn IPM techniques and approaches from experts in the field. Morning lectures and afternoon hands-on activities will impart knowledge which will enable you to answer questions, whether on the helpline or from your neighbor. The dates for this series of training modules are September 1st, 8th and 15th; the location is the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

This training is a collaborative effort between the Cooperative Extension and Master Gardener programs in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, S Carolina, and N Carolina. Visit this link for details and a registration form:

<http://www.aces.edu/~gloveta/documents/IPMtraining2010-promo.pdf>

Whose Tomato Will Wear The Crown?

Petals from the Past is holding a Tomato Contest on Saturday, August 7th as part of their Tomato Festival. 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

Volunteers Needed Trussville Farmers' Markets

Master Gardeners in the Trussville area are needed to answer questions at two Farmers' Markets in that area. The markets will provide a canopy, a table for displaying literature, and chairs.

At least two volunteers are needed for each date. To sign up and help, please contact Tony at gloveta@aces.edu.

Location and times:

Trussville Springs Market

Address: Hwy. 11

Trussville Springs Community

Requested date: Saturday, June 12th

The market is from 8 A.M. – Noon

Trussville Fresh Market

Address: North Mall, Trussville

Requested date: Tuesday, June 22nd or
June 29th

The market is from 2:30 – 5:30 P.M.

For details contact Mopsy Forsee at 205
910-0155, or at mopsyforsee@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed Helena Farmers' Market

The Helena Farmers' Market is looking for Master Gardener volunteers to work at an information booth on Saturday mornings from 8:00 – Noon. Volunteers will greet customers, sell shirts and bags and answer basic questions about the market. If you would like to bring ACES gardening information and answer gardening questions, that would be great, too.

If you would like to teach a 30-minute lesson on an aspect of gardening (for adults or children), we will work with you to promote any teaching opportunities.

Time: Each Saturday from 8:00 – Noon

Dates: June 5th – September

For details contact Jan Holliday at 663-
7700 or gardenerjan@bellsouth.net

Volunteers are scheduled 2 to 3 weeks in advance.

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2010

The JCMGA May meeting was called to order by President Bruce Steele at 10:00 A.M. in the BBG auditorium. First-time attendees were welcomed. The April minutes and Treasurer's Report as printed in *Roots & Shoots* were approved.

Nancy Nash requested volunteers to sign up for refreshments next month. Anyone with ongoing projects are urged to send details to Jan Smith so the information can be printed in *Roots & Shoots*. Jan is also developing an online landscape course to supplement the MG class. She would love to receive photos of landscaping examples, both good and bad.

Connie Barron, our scrapbook editor, requested that anyone who attended the Glorious Gardens Tour who can provide her with photographs of the gardens visited or master gardeners volunteering, please do so.

Ann Katholi announced that the UAB Faculty Women's Club will hold a raffle on May 18th of a flower quilt; proceeds will provide college scholarship funds for women over the age of 25 without a college degree. Aldridge Gardens and the Alabama Hydrangea Society will sponsor a Hydrangea Garden Tour on June 5th from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. There will be four gardens at a cost of \$5/garden. If all four gardens are visited, the cost will be \$15. Those interested in taking the tour should contact Aldridge Gardens for details.

The Jones Valley Urban Farm will host its 3rd annual Slow Food Fair on May 23rd from 2-6 P.M. A variety of musical acts, food samples provided by local restaurants and gardening workshops will be offered. The cost is \$20, and all proceeds benefit the educational programs of the JV Urban Farm. For further information contact Bruce Steele or www.jvuf.org. In addition, Tony Glover mentioned that he has been asked to recruit master gardeners to man a table at the food fair to answer gardening questions. Anyone interested should contact Tony.

Tony announced a one-hour training session to be held after the present meeting for GPIC helpline volunteers; he also reminded us of a link he recently sent to a survey regarding the potential interest of master gardeners in participating in a cancer research project with UAB. Tony needs about 40 more respondents to the survey to make it statistically valid.

Harold Deason announced that the program for the June meeting has been changed to a fieldtrip to the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. We will meet there at 9:30 AM. Additional information and a map will be forthcoming. The July and August meetings will be on rain gardens and hummingbirds, details of these also TBA. Harold also mentioned that he needs a volunteer to act as exhibitor area chairperson for the 2012 AMGA meeting.

Bruce Steele announced that 1 CEU could be awarded for each of the January, March, April, and May meetings. The business meeting was then adjourned, and our annual plant swap with Linda Emerson began.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jackson
Secretary, JCMGA

Treasurer's Report

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

Balance Forward: 4-26-10. . . \$12,046.47
Received: \$157.00
Disbursements: -\$00.00
Ending Balance: 5-26-10: . . . \$12,203.47

Garden Docents Needed

If you are looking for a way to give back while sharing a love for plants and people, join JCMG President Bruce Steele as a garden docent. All you need is a willingness to learn and attend a monthly training session. Join us for our next training session on Tuesday, June 15th from 9:30 –11:30 A.M. at the BBG. Contact Mary-Bestor at 414.3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org for more information.

Kaul Wild Flower Garden Volunteers Needed

We welcome John Manion, the new curator of the Kaul Wildflower Garden.

John will hold the first of his several volunteer sessions on Thursday, June 10th from 8:00-11:00 A.M at the gazebo. You are guaranteed to learn much about such topics as pruning, propagation, plant history and folklore. . . and, of course, to get dirty gardening. For more information, contact John at either 414.3985 or jmanion@bbgardens.org. You may also find more information at <http://www.aces.edu/~gloveta/documents/KaulWildflowerVolunteerOpportunities.pdf>.

WANTED: Plant Lovers

If you need . . . o.k., *want* . . . new plants, check out the plant swap site on the JCMG website at <http://www.jeffcomg.org/plantswap.shtml>

May Plant Swap

Photos by Connie Barron



Linda says, "No invasive plants!"



Choices, choices. . . .



Norma and Kelley talk it over.

June Garden Calendar

FRUITS AND NUTS: Layer grapes and continue spray programs. Thin apples and peaches if too thick.

SHRUBS: Lace bugs may be a problem on azaleas, pyracanthas, dogwoods, cherry laurels and other shrubs. Water as needed. Fertilize now. Keep long shoots from developing by pinching out tips. Good time to take cuttings from semi-mature wood for rooting.

LAWNS: Follow a schedule of fertilization and watering. Lawns should be mowed weekly. Planting may continue if soil is moist. Continue spraying weeds if necessary.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS: Keep old flower heads removed to promote continued flowering. Plant garden mums if they are not already in. For compact mums, keep tips pinched out. Watch for insects and diseases.

BULBS: Foliage may be removed from spring bulbs if it has yellowed and is becoming dry. Watch for aphids and thrips on summer bulbs.

MISCELLANEOUS: If scale insects continue on shrubs, use materials other than oils. Set houseplants on porch or outdoors in shade and pay close attention to the need for water. If desired, air layer houseplants.

VEGETABLE SEED: Plant beans, field peas, pumpkins, squash, corn, cantaloupes and watermelons.

VEGETABLE PLANTS: Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and sweet potato vine cuttings.

Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Here are a few resources if you are seeking information about the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill:

For up-to-date, reliable information on the spill:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/deepwater-bp-oil-spill/>

For information about the spill specific to Alabama:

<http://www.governor.alabama.gov/oilspill/> and <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com>:

If you wish to volunteer, register at <https://agencytools.uwca.org/oilvolunteers/> or call either 211 or 1-888-421-1266. (Individual and groups may volunteer.)

If you wish to donate funds or goods to the *Governor's Emergency Relief Fund In Response to the Gulf Oil Spill*: <http://www.servealabama.gov/2010/OilSpill/Response.aspx>.



Photo of Gulf Oil Spill from ACES' homepage

Calendar of Events June 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>
- June **Southern Institute of Photography Classes** BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/photography.php>
- June 12 **Tropicals are Hot!Hot!Hot! Hayes Jackson** 10:30 A.M. Petals from the Past, Jemison
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>
- June 12 **“Wanted: Special Ferns for Special Places, Sun or Shade”** 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. Aldridge Gardens
http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,166/did,161/func,details/
- June 12 **Plant Identification Walk** 11:30 Huntsville Botanical Gardens
<http://www.hsvbg.org/index.php?mainID=2&subID=2&type=events&viewMoreType=classesAdults&typeID=30>
- June 16-20 **Daylily Sale (16th -18th) and Festival (20th)** Huntsville Botanical Gardens
<http://www.hsvbg.org/index.php?mainID=2&subID=2&type=events&viewMoreType=events&typeID=40>
- June 19 **Black and Blueberry Festival** 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Petals from the Past, Jemison
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>
- June 22 **“Beekeeping” by Sallie Lee** JCMG Night Meeting 6:00 P.M. BBG
- June 24 **Perennials for Weekend Gardeners** 6:00 – 7:30 P.M. Huntsville Botanical Gardens
<http://www.hsvbg.org/index.php?mainID=2&subID=2&type=events&viewMoreType=classesAdults&typeID=31>
- June 2 **St. Clair County Farmers’ Market Grand Opening** 2:00 P.M.
<http://www.aces.edu/gwcal/day.php?yearID=2010&monthID=6&dayID=2&messageID=55644dbe991a320a1d4cf007855d8624#55644dbe991a320a1d4cf007855d8624>
- June 8 **Summer Landscape Workshop** 9:00 A.M. – Noon ACES, Dothan
<http://www.aces.edu/gwcal/day.php?yearID=2010&monthID=6&dayID=8&messageID=34f4fc6b8f6316af9d43f941f5a9cbd8#34f4fc6b8f6316af9d43f941f5a9cbd8>
- June 11 **Blackberry Spotlight Workshop and High Tunnel Fruit Production** 3:00 – 6:00 P.M. Chilton Research and Extension Center
<http://www.aces.edu/gwcal/day.php?yearID=2010&monthID=6&dayID=11&messageID=c20b8c7d47e8bc7d700424af590329b7#c20b8c7d47e8bc7d700424af590329b7>
- June 24 **Canning Workshop** 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. ACES, Pike County
<http://www.aces.edu/gwcal/day.php?yearID=2010&monthID=6&dayID=24&messageID=51e2d8a31398b0a4ceb54211d5d38cbd#51e2d8a31398b0a4ceb54211d5d38cbd>
- June 27 **Seminar: “Utilize Your Yard”** 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. Aldridge Gardens
http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,166/did,162/func,details/
- June 30 **Rain Harvest Workshop** 9:00 – Noon. North Shelby Library. Contact Sallie Lee at leesall@aces.edu
- June 30 **Seminar: “Hypertufa Containers for Beginners”** 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. (2-day course, also on 7-1) Aldridge Gardens
http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,166/did,163/func,details/
- July 1 **Farm City Tour (Blueberry Farm)** 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. ACES, Talladega
<http://www.aces.edu/gwcal/day.php?yearID=2010&monthID=7&dayID=1&messageID=c5ad6e97778298f2c9001c178864f957#e5ad6e97778298f2c9001c178864f957>
- 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 10 **Cooking Demo: Chef Chris Hastings** 10:30 A.M. Petals from the Past, Jemison
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>