

## FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

"Welcome back to the United States of America."

As you know Calvin and I were in Scotland during the first two weeks of May. Our first four days we had rain, wind (70 mph), snow, hail and sleet. When I shared this with Tricia Farris, she said that it sounded like the weather in Alabama, with the exception of the snow and sleet. The nights were in the upper 30's and the days were in the 40's and low 50's. We put on our long johns, rain suits and rain boots and didn't let a lot rain or wind stop us.



*Gorse blooming in the Highlands of Scotland*

We traveled into the Highlands along the shores of Loch Lomond, then on across the bridge to the Isle of Skye, in the Hebrides. We visited the Inverewe Gardens, the most famous gardens in Scotland. Calvin was a trooper. He spent three hours in the gardens with me even though the temperature was 38 degrees, with 40 mph winds and rain. We traveled up along the northern coast and took a ferry over to the Isle of Orkney. The wild flowers (bluebells, gorse, wild Scottish Broom) were blooming everywhere. As we started down the east coast, we stopped at Dunrobin Castle. The gardens were beautiful. The castle has 189 rooms in it, but of course we headed to the gardens first. It was a good thing because within an hour the weather changed from sunny to rain to hail. We traveled along the shores of Loch Ness (no monster), then on to the Glenfiddich Distillery (beautiful gardens here also) and into Edinburgh.

The trip was absolutely wonderful. The places that we visited were very remote and wild. A lot of the roads were one lane roads. There was fresh snow on the mountains every day.

Calvin and I love to travel, but my favorite part of this trip (like any trip that we have taken outside the USA) was when we went through Customs in Newark and the official said, "Welcome back to the United States of America."

*Pat*

**Pat Bullock**

*For more of Pat's pictures from Scotland, see page 4.*

## June Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

Field trip to  
Dale and Nora O'Conner's  
daylily garden

7711 Happy Hollow Rd.  
Trussville

Anyone wanting to car pool please meet at the BBG. We will need to leave the BBG by 9:30 a.m. so make sure that you are there before that time.

Directions from the BBG:

Exit to the Right out of the parking lot.

At the red light continue straight across.

Merge Right onto Red Mountain Expressway.

Merge Right onto I-59 North toward Atlanta/Gadsden.

Take the Deerfoot Pkwy. exit, Exit #143. At top of the ramp turn Left onto Deerfoot Pkwy.

Turn Left onto Happy Hollow Road (there is a new Chevron service station being built on the corner). Go 1 mile. O'Connor home is on the Right. 7711 Happy Hollow Road. Phone: 205-655-4547.

## Hospitality Committee

The following people have signed up to bring refreshments to the June meeting:

Jennifer Phillips  
 Mitzi Owen  
 Nancy Nash  
 Thelma Stichweh  
 Glen Peoples  
 Mary Jo Quintana  
 Bruce Steele  
 Mabel Turner



**JUNE  
GARDENER'S  
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 pyracanthas, azaleas, 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 weed spraying if necessary.

**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS** - Keep old flower heads removed to promote continued flowering. Plant garden mums if 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.

**Deadline for the July issue  
of Roots and Shoots:**

**June 25.**

## "Tony Talks"

Does anybody remember the drought of "nought"7? With all the rain this spring it seems like a very long time ago and water conservation is again on the back burner. Master Gardeners know better than most that we may very well be needing rain by mid-summer. All the lakes and reservoirs have filled to capacity but the excess rain will continue to refill our depleted ground water aquifers and that is a good thing. It seems strange to plug a rain barrel program while I am listening to the pouring rain but I may wish later that I had caught some of the excess rain coming down now. I will be attending a training session next week with the intention to have a "rain barrel" workshop in July (I will give you more details next month).

This month I will be involved in a vegetable pest management and food preservation workshop on June 6<sup>th</sup>. This event will take place at the North Shelby County Library (Hwy 119 - 5521 Cahaba Valley Road) and you may get registration details here: <http://aces.edu/homegarden/HomeGrown.php>. If you want to attend just drop me an email ([gloveta@aces.edu](mailto:gloveta@aces.edu)) and let me know if you want a lunch (\$15) or not (\$8) and you may pay at the door. We plan to repeat this event in St. Clair County on June 12<sup>th</sup> if that location and time works better for you check out details at the same web address as above (you will need to send in a registration for this class in advance).

For those of you interested in tree care I want to give you a little teaser for a couple things coming up in the near future. First, I don't have dates settled yet but David Hubbard and I will be working with the Alabama Urban Forestry Association and others to put on an intensive tree care/pruning workshop on July 29<sup>th</sup> (details will be in next month's newsletter). Second, we will be conducting an Advanced Master Gardener training on "Urban Tree Care" beginning in September and going through November. This program will involve three full days of training (20 hours) with a combination of lecture and outdoor lab activities. There will be limited space available for this program so please let me know if you are interested. Just send me an email and say, "I am interested in the Advanced Class on Urban Tree Care and would like more details" and I will communicate back with you in the near future as dates and details are finalized.

Lastly, I want to thank the veteran MGs and those from the fall and spring class who have helped at the GPIC (phone center) this year so far. If you are from the Fall '08 or the Spring '09 class, I want to remind you that we ask you put in half of your first year volunteer commitment helping Extension in this important task. If you can't help during the week we have weekend time slots available. Drop me a note or give me a call to schedule a time to help.



"Kind hearts are the gardens;  
kind thoughts are the roots;  
kind words are the flowers;  
kind deeds are the fruits."

*English Proverb*

# Jefferson County Master Gardener Association

May 12, 2009

The Jefferson County Master Gardener Association met May 12, 2009 in the Hodges Room at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Vice President Bruce Steele called the meeting to order and awarded door prizes. Marion Cooper and Juanita Wilson were the lucky winners. The meeting continued with the Plant Swap. Members brought many beautiful plants as well as extras to share with members. Linda Emerson identified each plant and gave a brief narrative on each plant as to whether it was native, non-native or invasive. She is very knowledgeable as well as entertaining. Everyone was excited and went home with a beautiful plant.

All items to be included in *Roots and Shoots* should be in Tricia Farris's hands by May 25. There were no items of business for discussion.

Respectively submitted,  
Sue Stinson  
Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT

MAY, 2009

Balance Forward: 4-27-09

\$11,373.11

Received: -0-

Disbursements:

#1873 AMGA – Dues	\$ 215.00
#1874 ACES – Intern. Asses. Fee	1,550.00
#1875 ACES – TGlover's Fund Acct.	775.00
#1876 Auburn Univ. – Donation to Study Abroad Program	200.00
#1877 Anne Thomas – Postage	25.20

Total Disbursements: **\$2,765.20**

Balance Checking Account: 5-25-09 **\$ 8,607.91**

**Certificate of Deposit - \$5,000.00**

Current Active Membership: 156



## GARDENER'S BOOKSHELF

Take a look at these new DVDs at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Library.

-*The Compete Gardener Series: Annuals & Perennials, Great Gardening Tips, Planning & Maintenance.*

-*Your Beautiful Backyard & 90 Second Workshop: 29 great tips & projects for home, garden and landscape.*

-*Five Secrets of Great Gardening: All you need to know to create the garden of your dreams.*

-*A Man Named Pearl*

-*Bee: Tales from the Hive*

-Hope Long



## Horticultural Therapy Volunteers Needed

BBG Horticultural Therapy Coordinator Susan Grimes sends thanks to the following MGs for their help with the program: Martha Picardy, Maurice Picardy, Jenne Fallon, Myra Crawford, Margie Elam, Kim Wood, Wanda Sandlin, Annette Rodgers, Jeanne Bearden, Sheila Cooley, and Stephanie Melonas.

Horticultural Therapy is the use of plant and plant-related activities as a treatment for people with mental, emotional, physical or developmental limitations. Volunteers are needed to help with the upkeep of the Enabling Garden and other areas used by the therapy program. For addition information or to volunteer, e-mail Susan at [sgrimes@bbgardens.org](mailto:sgrimes@bbgardens.org) or call her at 873-9346.



## Fresh Produce Available from Jones Valley Urban Farm

You don't have to wait until Saturday to get a week's worth of produce. Drop by Jones Valley Urban Farm Monday - Thursday from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. and find farm-fresh inspiration for weeknight dinners at wholesale costs.

Jones Valley Urban Farm sells in-season, freshly-picked, organic produce at the Farm Center, located at 701 25th Street North. Produce, flowers, and herbs vary throughout the season.

The After Work Farm Stand is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Don't miss out on this convenient, sustainable community service -- where your produce shopping truly gives back. For more information, visit [www.jvuf.org](http://www.jvuf.org) or call (205)439-7213.

## More Photos from Pat's Scotland Scrapbook



*Dunrobin Castle Garden*



*Pat's husband Calvin (center) braves the cold and wind.*



*Inverewe Gardens*



*Seventy m.p.h. winds whip the waves.*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 10 Lunch & Learn: Tropicals--Cool plants for Hot Summers. Ellen Riley, former Southern Living garden editor, will demonstrate how to combine tropical plants for sizzling color or cools combos. 11:00 - 12:30 p.m. Aldridge Gardens. Cost \$22.50 non-members/\$17.50 members--includes lunch. Reservations and prepayment required by Tuesday, June 9. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit: [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com).

June 13 Eddie Aldridge's Propagation Workshop. Learn the basic principles and techniques of propagating hydrangeas from seed and cuttings. Pot your own Snowflake Hydrangea cutting to take home. Registration requested by June 12. Cost \$15 non-members/\$12 members. 9:00-11:00 a.m. Aldridge Gardens. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit: [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com).

June 13 Garden Conservancy Open Days Garden Tours. Includes gardens of: Troy and Randi Rhode, 921 Euclid Ave.; John and Louise Wrinkle, 2 Beechwood Rd.; Jeff and Linda Stone, 86 Country Club Blvd.; John and Diane North, 1423 Morningside Dr. Tickets are \$5 per garden or \$15 for all four. Tickets sold day of event at each garden. Directions to gardens and information available at [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org) or call 205-541-3740.

June 13 Black and Blue Festival. Petals from the Past, Jemison. For more information visit [www.petalsfromthepast.com](http://www.petalsfromthepast.com).

June 13 Alabama Hosta Society Hosta Sale. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. BBG Plaza. For more information, call 205-699-9826 or e-mail: [judyfeltman@windstream.net](mailto:judyfeltman@windstream.net)

June 20 Shade--A Blessing or a Curse? Learn how to have a marvelous shade garden from one of the most successful hands-on gardeners in Birmingham. Louise Wrinkel will offer her choice list of dependable plants through the seasons in a woodland garden. Reservations requested by June 19. Cost \$15 non-members/\$12 members. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Aldridge Gardens. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit: [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com).

June 27 Petals from the Past Greenhouse Plant Sale, 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more information, visit [www.petalsfromthepast.com](http://www.petalsfromthepast.com).

### *Volunteer Opportunities*

Volunteer needed to present a program on Thursday, June 11 on Planting/Growing Roses at the Shepherd's Center at Bluff Park United Methodist Church. For more information contact Tony Glover at 205-879-6964/ext. 15 or 568-0005 (cell).

BB Gardens Library. Volunteers are needed for the following shifts: Monday, 1-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 1-4 p.m.; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 2-5 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](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.

Teen volunteers needed to assist with BBG's Garden Explorations, June 15-19, and Children's Summer Workshops, July 6-10 and 27-31. Adult volunteers needed to serve as garden docents. For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, contact BBG volunteer coordinator Carolyn Snow at 414-3962.

Volunteers needed for BBG's Horticulture Therapy Program. See page 4 of newsletter.

Tony Glover  
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