

## FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

The way all of you participated at the *Reach for the Stars* luncheon was a true testament to your commitment to the JCMGA. The quality and quantity of the food, along with the good will that was cooked into each dish, was apparent. Everyone deserves a pat on the back and a heartfelt *Thank You!*

A significant number of people received Stars this year. Congratulations again to Juanita Smith for her Platinum Name Badge, Dale O'Connor for his Gold Name Badge and Glenn Peoples, who had more than 800 hours, for his Gold Star. Dale and Glenn graduated only two years ago; their service illustrates a true commitment to the JCMGA.

I am really looking forward to the 20<sup>th</sup> Alabama Master Gardener Association's Annual Conference March 18-20, 2010, at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center. Last year was my first MG Annual Conference, and I loved it, so please try to attend this entertaining and educational event. You know one of the great things about JCMGA for me is that, finally, I am with a group of like-minded people who are not uninterested when I start talking about plants and horticulture. It took me 60 years to find y'all. What a valuable asset you are to me and to our community.

It's not too early to make your plans to work at the Spring Plant sale April 15-18, 2010, at the Old Bruno's location. Do you belong to a plant group? Think of the types of plants you love, and join that plant group. Then you can work with the plants you love and make a contribution to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. A contribution of your time equals a monetary contribution to the Gardens you love. We all win!

Lastly, when you see Harold Deason, ask him about the March 22-24, 2012, Conference to be held here at the BBG. Ask him which position he needs you to fill, or tell him what you would like to do. There are so many positions to fill and you are bound to find the right fit.

Thank You.

*Bruce*  
Bruce Steele

*Our prayers and sympathy are with Adrienne Bourland and her family. Adrienne's son Ken, a Major in the Air Force, died during the earthquake that hit Haiti in January 2010.*

## March 9<sup>th</sup> MG Meeting

Refreshments – 9:30 A.M.

Business Meeting – 10:00 A.M.

Speaker 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

The speaker for the March MG meeting will be Harold Deason.

THE THIRD ANNUAL  
*Botanical Bash*  
PRESENTED BY THE SHADES VALLEY  
ROTARY CLUB



The Shades Valley Rotary Club is extending an invitation to the Jefferson County Master Gardeners to the Third Annual Botanical Bash. Proceeds benefit the Botanical Gardens' Internship Program. Tickets are \$35 and include dinner, a silent auction and music by the Birmingham Heritage Band. The event will be held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on April 9, 2010, from 6 until 10 P.M. Reservations should be made by March 26<sup>th</sup>. For reservations or further information, please contact [becky@shadesvalleyrotary.org](mailto:becky@shadesvalleyrotary.org) or call 977-7270. John Meier, Karen Larsen or Fletcher Harvey will also be happy to answer any questions.

## "Tony Talks"

Despite what the weather was like in February, I believe spring will eventually arrive. Winter may be a slow time for gardening, but it is a busy time for garden meetings, and this year was busier than ever for me. Our Master Gardener class is already half over, and many of the interns are already plugged in to various volunteer efforts in our community. Please take time to welcome the interns when they attend our monthly meetings.

In addition to our monthly meetings each second Tuesday of the month, we have attempted to have an educational program available on a quarterly basis to those who can't come during the day. The next evening program will be on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:30 P.M., and the topic is organic gardening. I will be speaking along with Sallie Lee and Arnold Caylor, the director of the Auburn University Experiment Station in Cullman. Arnold has been researching organic farming systems, cover crop rotational systems and no-till gardening. This meeting is open to the public as a MG outreach program. Please invite anyone you know who might be interested. If this meeting time does not work for you, we will repeat a portion of this meeting (minus Arnold Caylor) on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, also at the BBG. This will be a BBG organized event, and there will be a small charge to attend. Registration information will be posted on their website:

[www.bbgardens.org](http://www.bbgardens.org).

The state MG conference will be in Montgomery March 18-20<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to consider attending this event. Registration details are at [www.alabamamg.org](http://www.alabamamg.org).

The GPIC area has a newly installed TV that has provided us a new educational tool and has improved the appearance of the GPIC area greatly. Stop by and take a look the next time you are in the building. Speaking of the GPIC area, our phones are starting to get busy, and we could always use new volunteers in that area. In addition to answering phone calls, we need volunteers willing to enter the phone call data in the computer. Doing this is a non-threatening way to learn as you enter the questions and answers in the computer, and you can do this from a home computer with an internet connection. Let me know if you are interested in helping with either of these needs, and I will help train you for the task.

## *Last Minute Volunteers Needed*

The Birmingham Home and Garden Show, being held at the BJCC on March 11-14<sup>th</sup>, has offered the Extension office a free booth to provide garden information at the show. The show hours are 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. on Thursday and Friday, 10 A.M. until 8 P.M. on Saturday (I already have someone for the 10-noon time on Saturday) and 11 A.M. until 6 P.M. on Sunday. I would like two volunteers present for as much of the time as we can fill. Let me suggest we have two four-hour shifts each day (except Sunday, which would be 3.5 hours each). We will call these the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shift for each date. If we have two volunteers for each shift, the volunteers can tag team and walk around the show while at least one person is at the table at all times. The volunteers will get in the show free, but may have to pay for parking if they park in the BJCC parking area.

I will haul the soil boxes and literature for volunteers to give away, but I could use some help bringing them in and setting them up on Thursday morning. If someone wants to meet me there or ride with me from the BBG, I can use the help. The last folks to work on Sunday will need to bring back the leftover soil boxes and literature because I will not be there on Sunday.

If you can help please **e-mail me ASAP**, and I will make a schedule based on your responses (first come, first assigned to shifts). Please tell me a first, second and even a third choice of time if you can be flexible. If you are *very* flexible, just tell me "anytime" will do, and I will plug you in where you are needed. This is a great way to highlight the services we provide and let folks know who you are as Master Gardeners. Contact me, Tony, at 205-568-0005 or [gloveta@aces.edu](mailto:gloveta@aces.edu).

## Alabama Master Gardener Conference 2012 Committees

Conference Chair – Harold Deason  
Co-Chair – Ann Rayburn  
Registration Committee – Pat Bullock  
Program/Publicity Committee – Camille Becker  
Facilities/Fundraising Committee  
Food Functions Committee – Anne Thomas  
Hospitality Committee – Nancy Nash  
Finance Committee – Edna Alderman  
Book Sales/Signing Committee – Susan Jackson  
Evaluation Committee  
T-Shirt Sales Committee

**The Registration Committee** will handle the registration of guests prior to, and at, the conference. They will print all the labels and name badges and provide bags containing the materials for the conference.

**The Program/Publicity Committee** will develop the overall program for the conference, keynote speaker, workshops and garden visits prior to, and after, the conference. They will work with local media to advertise the conference, and they will submit ideas for the logo and slogan for the conference.

**The Facilities/Fundraising Committee** will ensure the facilities are ready and the venue is ready for the conference including the audio/visual systems. We will have fundraising help from the State Master Gardener Association. One member will be appointed to coordinate the vendors.

**The Food Functions Committee** will handle all the meals and breaks for the convention, including the Thursday night meal at the BBG

**The Hospitality Committee** will make the facility a warm place for the guests and do the decorations.

**The Finance Committee** will keep tabs of the financial status of the conference and report it to state.

**The Book Sales/Signing Committee** will handle all book sales by the keynote speaker and presenters.

**The T-Shirt Sales Committee** will handle the additional sales of T-Shirts before and during the conference.

## Great Backyard

### Bird Count

Did you do the bird count on February 12-15<sup>th</sup>? How many different species did you count and what was your total bird count? I am happy to report that I had 21 species I could identify during my 4 reporting periods. If you get a chance, go to [www.birdsource.org/gbbc/](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/) to get the latest information about the bird count. As of February 21<sup>st</sup>, 88,136 checklists had been submitted, and 590 species had been observed with a total count of 10,258,022 birds. Now that is a lot of birds! You still have until March 1, 2010, to get your data entered. Keep watching the birds, and we will do it again next year at about the same time.

Harold Deason

## Turkey Creek Nature Preserve Needs Houses



You do not need to be a master builder to build a nice bird house. The Eastern Blue Birds are looking for homes, and now is the time to provide one for them. If you would like to provide a home at the preserve, contact Taylor Steele, Turkey Creek Preserve Manager (and 2010 MG Intern) at 205-370-6037. If you would like plans for a bluebird house, google "blue bird house".

By the way, if you have never been to Turkey Creek, plan a trip. The preserve is open every day except Monday and Tuesday.

## Reach for the Stars Awards

Congratulations to all the members who reported their volunteer and CEU hours and who have reached the next level. The following people received stars during the February meeting.

**Platinum Name Badge:** Juanita Smith

**Gold Name Badge:** Dale O'Connor

**Gold Star:** Charles Barber, Pat Bullock, Joanne Carnes, Blair Cox, Glenda Dicks, Patricia Farris, Bernadine Faulkner, Karen Larsen, Glenn Peoples, Mike Rushing, Bruce Steele and Sue Stinson

**Silver Star:** Dianne Brannon, Alberta Fields, Fletcher Harvey, Jean Land, Jeannine McElroy, Myron Pierce, Colette Scott, Jan Shultz and Nancy Willard

**Bronze Star:** Connie Barron, Jean Bearden, Kelly Boone, Marilyn Brooks, Kaye Carlisle, Angie Chastain, Betsy Cooper, Lyn Davis, Rachel Fowler, Linda Grissom, Carle E Jones Jr, Carol Kirkpatrick, Cecelia Latham, Michael Malone, Courtney McCrory, Jennifer Phillips, Maurice Picardy, LeAnne Porter, Harry Register, Whitney Saunders, Frances Thompson, M. J. Tucker, Sally Tyler and Claudia Wyatt.

The Platinum and Gold Name Badges will be presented at the State Convention next month.

Thanks for reporting your volunteer and CEU hours; these hours help us to justify the Master Gardener Program and keep our great Master Gardener Coordinator, Tony Glover.

NOTE: If you were not at the February meeting, see Anne Thomas at the next meeting to get your star.

## JCMG "Stars"



Recipient Fletcher Harvey Shows His Silver Star



Gold Name Badge Recipient Dale O'Connor

## Spicy Crackers

*By popular request, this month we offer Nora and Dale O'Connor's spicy crackers recipe, which was served at the February MG meeting:*

1 box saltine crackers  
2 pkg. ranch dressing mix  
1 ¼ c. oil  
2 T. red pepper flakes

Mix oil, ranch packets and pepper together. Pour the mixture over crackers in a large bowl and cover it. Invert the bowl several times to coat the crackers well. Let it sit over night if possible, but it's ok after several hours.



Gold Star Name Badge Recipients  
RIGHT TO LEFT: Patricia Farris, Bruce Steel, Glenda Dicks, Glenn Peoples, Mike Rushing and Sue Stinson



## Treasurer's Report

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

Balance Forward: 1-1-1-10 ..... \$15,418.84  
Received: ..... \$677.00  
Disbursements: ..... -\$3,179.94  
Ending Balance: 1-22-10. .... \$12,915.90

Please remember membership dues should be received on or before March 31<sup>st</sup>. After March 31<sup>st</sup>, you will be placed on the inactive roll if your dues have not been received. To pay your dues, make your check payable to JCMGA for \$17.00 and send it to Blair Cox, 4719 Old Leeds Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35213

## Junior Master Gardeners Need YOU!



The Junior Master Gardener classes at Aldridge Botanical Gardens have been going on for 4 years. The best classes are the ones that are visited by Master Gardeners and MG Interns. Groups meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month from 2:00-4:00 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 9:30-11:30. All you have to do is let the kids show you their gardens and give them some advice and help in ordinary garden tasks: planting, weeding, watering, and improving the soil with compost. Wednesday's group has 10 children and the Saturday group has 11. For more information contact Vasha Rosenblum (instructor) at [vashan1@bellsouth.net](mailto:vashan1@bellsouth.net), or on her cell phone at 910-3211. This is a great way to get those MG hours.



## EARTH DAY at THE GARDENS, SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2010

Join us in celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day! Earth Day at The Gardens is the annual premier educational event, drawing thousands of visitors to The Gardens in one Sunday afternoon. This year's celebration will be a global showcase of African, Australian and Asian performances amidst outreach by local environmental organizations. It is all free of charge, so we truly need the help of volunteers to make it a success! To volunteer contact Mary-Bestor Tickle, at 205-414-3962 or [mtickle@bbgardens.org](mailto:mtickle@bbgardens.org)

## Volunteer at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens has made it easier to volunteer at our Spring events. Volunteer applications for the **Spring Plant Sale (April 15-18<sup>th</sup>)** and for **Earth Day at The Gardens (April 25<sup>th</sup>)** are available online.

Spring Plant Sale Volunteers get first pick & a discount at the Volunteer Sale:

<http://www.bbgardens.org/spring-plant-sale.php>. Earth Day at The Gardens Volunteers will see performances by African, Australian and Japanese cultural groups: <http://www.bbgardens.org/earth-day.php>.

Get exclusive access to an event that only happens once every two years . . . **Glorious Gardens** is Birmingham's premier tour of residential gardens on May 8-9<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers receive a free ticket to visit all the gardens featured (a \$25 value). Contact Mary-Bestor Tickle at 414.3962 or [mtickle@bbgardens.org](mailto:mtickle@bbgardens.org) for information.

## Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2010

The JCMGA February meeting was called to order by President Bruce Steele at 10:05 A.M. in the BBG auditorium. The January minutes and Treasurer's report as printed in *Roots & Shoots* were approved.

There was a brief discussion of volunteer opportunities which will be afforded at the upcoming BBG Spring Plant Sale. Applications to serve as volunteers were made available. Mary Jo Quintana noted that she would need help in the annuals booth. Another volunteer opportunity will be the BBG rose pruning on March 16th. Contact Robert Eskew at 823-6621 for additional information. Karen Mitchell is looking for volunteers to help with gardening classes and maintaining gardens for United Cerebral Palsy. Contact her at 903-1987, or at [karen3521@bellsouth.net](mailto:karen3521@bellsouth.net).

The Northeast Alabama Gardening Conference will be held Saturday, March 27, 2010, in Fort Payne from 8 A.M. until 4 P.M. The cost will be \$20, including lunch and snacks. The deadline for applications is March 1st. If anyone is interested in attending and did not pick up an application, contact Jayne Ross at 256-845-3497, or at [jaynesattic@bellsouth.net](mailto:jaynesattic@bellsouth.net).

We were reminded that the Great Backyard Bird Count will be held on February 12-15th. Details on this event can be found in the February issue of *Roots and Shoots*.

As emphasized previously, 2010 dues are immediately payable. All members are urged to take care of this as soon as possible.

It is important for everyone receiving *Roots and Shoots* by e-mail to place [jcmganews@AOL.com](mailto:jcmganews@AOL.com) into their contact list. Some members have not received their newsletters, probably due to their server seeing the newsletters as spam.

2010 Membership Directories are now available. Harold Deason reminded everyone if they don't like their photo to get with him, and he will take another one for subsequent directories.

This year's awards were presented. 10 members were recognized by Tony Glover for their veteran service to the GPIC Hotline. The Reach for the Stars awards were presented by Bruce Steele as follows: 23 members received the Bronze Star for at least 100 hours of volunteer service; 8 members received the Silver Star for at least 300 hours of service, and 10 members received the Gold Star for at least 500 hours of service. In addition, one member received the Gold Name Badge for a minimum of 1,000 hours of service, and one member received the Platinum Name Badge for at least 2,000 hours of service. All of these awardees are listed by name in the 2010 Membership Directory.

The meeting was adjourned and a wonderful potluck luncheon was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Jackson  
Secretary, JCMGA

## EARTH DAY at THE GARDENS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2010

Six MGs are needed to serve at an informational table on Earth Day at the Botanical Gardens. The volunteers will give out Extension publications and tell folks about the MG program. We need two volunteers for each of the following shifts:

10:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

3:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Contact Tony Glover at [gloveta@aces.edu](mailto:gloveta@aces.edu) or at 205-879-6964 x 15 to volunteer.

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## Jefferson County Master Gardener Directory

The next printing of the directory will be in April, so if you have not paid your dues, or do not have a picture in the directory, please send Blair Cox the check and send Harold Deason a picture for the directory. E-mail your picture as an attachment to [vice-pres@jeffcomg.org](mailto:vice-pres@jeffcomg.org). Please remember to put your name in the e-mail so Harold will have your name correct. Thanks in advance for your help.

## Calendar of Events March 2010

*Editor's Note: To save space, information in the calendar this month is presented in the following order:  
Date/Event/Time/Location/ Description/Contact Information*

- 3/4 **District III Spring Flower Show** 11 A.M. – 5 P.M. BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/plant-group.php>
- 3/5 **Organic Gardening Workshop** 9 A.M. – 12N Jeff St Com Col, Pell City \$5 Fee Tony Glover at [gloveta@aces.edu](mailto:gloveta@aces.edu) or 205-338-9416
- 3/6 **Natural Urban Gardening** 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. Aldridge Botanical Gardens, Hoover Instructor: Michelle Reynolds, Board Member, Ruffner Mountain \$14 Members/\$18 Non-Members Class size is limited. Pre-registration suggested. 682-8019 or visit [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com)
- 3/6 **Plant Propagation Workshop** 10 A.M. – 12 N Calloway Gardens Instructor: Brian Kanotz, Fee: \$80.00, materials included <http://callawaygardens.org/foundation/info/education.workshop.aspx>
- 3/6 **Muscadine Pruning Workshop** 10 A.M. – 1 P.M. N Alabama Horticulture Substation, Cullman Arnold Caylor 256-734-5820
- 3/11-14 **The Birmingham Home and Garden Show** Thr & Fri 11 A.M. – 7 P.M. Sat 10 A.M.- 8 P.M. Sun 11 A.M. – 6 P.M. BJCC
- 3/13 **Tabletop Garden-Terrarium Workshop** 3:30 – 5 P.M Calloway Gardens Fee: \$50.00 <http://callawaygardens.org/foundation/info/education.workshop.aspx>
- 3/16 **BBG Rose Pruning** Call for Time BBG Robert Eskew at 823-6621
- 3/16 **Organic Gardening** 6 – 8:30 P.M. BBG Tony Glover will be speaking along with Sallie Lee and Arnold Caylor, the director of the Auburn University Experiment Station in Cullman. [www.bbgardens.org](http://www.bbgardens.org) or contact Tony Glover at [gloveta@aces.edu](mailto:gloveta@aces.edu) or 205-338-9416
- 3/18-20 **Alabama Master Gardener Association 20th Annual Conference** Montgomery Renaissance Hotel & Spa-Downtown Montgomery Will provide outstanding and exciting learning opportunities for both the seasoned and the novice gardener, but will also offer options to see and enjoy Montgomery. <http://www.aces.edu/montgomery> Jimmy D. Smitherman 334-270-4133 [smithji@aces.edu](mailto:smithji@aces.edu)
- 3/20 **Gardening With Small Containers** Petals from The Past, Jemison 205-646-0069 <http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>
- 3/25 **Red Mountain Garden Club Presents Famed Floral Designer Benny Campbell** 11 A.M. BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/plant-group.php>
- 3/25 **Annual Plant Fair and Sale** Calloway Gardens Free. [http://www.callawaygardens.com/Callaway/info/calendar/calendar.plant\\_fair\\_sale.event.aspx](http://www.callawaygardens.com/Callaway/info/calendar/calendar.plant_fair_sale.event.aspx)
- 3/27 **The Northeast Alabama Gardening Conference** 8 – 4 P.M. Fort Payne \$20, including lunch and snacks. Deadline for applications is March 1st. Jayne Ross at 256-845-3497, or at [jaynesattic@bellsouth.net](mailto:jaynesattic@bellsouth.net)
- 3/27 **Organic Gardening** Call for Time BBG Tony Glover will be speaking along with Sallie Lee Contact Tony Glover at [gloveta@aces.edu](mailto:gloveta@aces.edu) or 205-338-9416
- 3/27 **Early Bird Violet Club Show & Sale** 2 – 4 P.M. BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/plant-group.php>
- 3/27 **Managing Citrus in the Home Garden and Patio** - Dr. Arlie Powell 10:30 A.M. – 12 N Petals from the Past, Jemison, Alabama Variety selection, care and maintenance of a wide array of citrus plants for home gardeners 205-646-0069 <http://www.petalsfromthepast>
- 3/28 **"Square Foot Gardening"** 2 – 4 P.M Aldridge Gardens, Hoover Instructor: Dr. Vasha Rosenblum, Coordinator Children's Education at Aldridge Botanical Gardens \$14 Members/\$18 Non-Members 1 child age 6+ free with each adult, \$3 each additional child 6+ Pre-registration suggested. Square Foot Gardening is a simple system that adapts to all levels of experience including children or adults beginning a first garden. 682-8019 or visit [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com)
- 3/31 **"Handmade Stepping Stones"** 10 A.M. Aldridge Gardens, Hoover Instructor: Melanie Colvin, Artisan Total: \$35 Members/ \$42 Non-Members \$10 Materials fee included. Pre-ordered optional lunch \$7.50 or bring a sack lunch. Class limited to 15. Pre-registration required. Make three personalized 9" stepping stones for your garden. Learn from artisan Melanie Colvin how to create distinctive garden accents while recycling broken or unwanted household and personal, weatherproof items. 682-8019 or visit [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com)