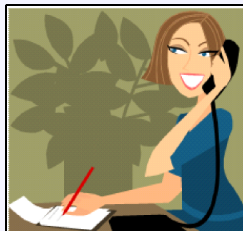


FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

April was filled with "variable weather" and lots of MG activity. We had so many volunteer opportunities in April that everyone could have logged all of their annual volunteer hours in just one month. Speaking of logging your hours, are all of your volunteer and educational hours logged? If the answer is yes, good for you. If no, why not log in today and record your activities? Just go to www.aces.edu/mg. Click on "Volunteer Area". Then click "Service Report". Or you can go to www.jeffcomg.org and click on "Links". Then click on "MG Service Reporting".



The April meeting was fantastic. Our program on "Hummers" was presented by Bob & Martha Sargent. We had about 140 members and guests present for the program.

It is getting into the busy time of the year for the GPIC office. We need volunteers to staff the help lines, preferably two per shift, and there are lots of spots open. To see the staffing needs go to www.localendar.com and put in the user name and password. Don't know the user name and password? Contact Tony at 879-6964 ext 15 or email him at gloveta@aces.edu.

The BBG Spring Plant Sale was once again a huge success. There was a large turnout of people buying plants and asking gardening questions. Many MG's were on hand to help and deserve a real thank you for the hours and hours of dedicated service before, during, and after the sale.

By the time you are reading this I will be on my way to Scotland. I am very sorry to be missing the May Plant Swap with Linda Emerson. She knows more about plants in her little finger than I know--period. If you are participating in the Plant Swap please remember to bring only plants that you would like to bring home. If you are not going to participate in the Swap, I would have to ask you to reconsider. This is the most fun meeting of the year and everyone deserves and needs a new plant or two.

If I don't see you before, I will see you on June 9th at the home of Nora and Dale O'Connor.

Pat

Pat Bullock

May Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

9:30 a.m. - Hospitality

10:00 a.m. - Meeting

Annual Plant Swap

BBG Horticulturist Linda Emerson will educate and entertain us with her vast knowledge about a variety of plants. Please bring two plants that you would like to receive, labeled with Latin name (if known) and care instructions. There will also be a "freebie" table if you have extra plants to share.

Members Signed Up to Bring Snacks to the May Meeting

Nancy Nash

Patsy Straka

Mary Hooper

Janet Andres-Smith

Anne Parrish

Courtney McCrory

Madge Wilson

Connie Barron

Joyce Lawler

Carolyn Wynn

Nora O'Conner

Additional contributions are welcome. Members of the Hospitality Committee, please remember to come early to set up and make coffee and stay after to help clean up.

Corrections and Clarifications: The date of the June meeting, a field trip to visit the day lily garden of Nora and Dale O'Connor, is incorrectly listed in the *Jefferson County Master Gardeners 2009 Directory of Members*. The correct date is **June 9th**.



MAY GARDENING CALENDAR

FRUITS AND NUTS-Continue spray program. Keep grass from around trees and strawberries. Peaches and apples can still be budded.

SHRUBS-Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks. Don't spray with oil emulsions when temperature is above 85 °F.

LAWNS-Now is the best time to start lawns from seed. Water new lawns as needed to prevent drying. Keep established lawns actively growing by watering, fertilizing, and mowing. Spray weeds in lawns with proper herbicide.

ROSES-Spray or dust for insects and diseases. Fertilize monthly with complete fertilizer or rose special. Container-grown plants in flower may be planted. Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Late plantings of bedding plants still have time to produce. Watch for insects on day lilies.

BULBS-Summer bulbs started in containers may still be planted. Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs. Do not let seedheads form on tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.

MISCELLANEOUS-Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done. Avoid drying out new shrub, tree, and lawn plantings.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant heat-loving and tender vegetables. Start cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery in coldframe for fall garden.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potatoes.

*"Out of gardens grow
fleeting flowers, but lasting
friendships."*

-- Beverly Rose Hopper

"Tony Talks"

The April meeting was a treat with the Sargents talking about their hummingbird research. I counted over 130 attendees which I believe is a new record for a monthly meeting. I would estimate about half of the attendees were guests. I think having a meeting or two a year open to guests is a good way to promote the Master Gardener program and reach out to the public with great educational programs.

Another opportunity to reach out to the public is coming up at our night Master Gardener meeting on August 18th. Last month at the state Master Gardener conference, I attended a workshop conducted by Herb Lewis on Backyard Wildlife (mostly birds) that was great. I invited Mr. Lewis, who is an Honorary Master Gardener, to speak to us here at the BBG. He agreed to come for our night Master Gardener program on August 18th at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in attracting birds and other wildlife or have an interest in photography you will enjoy this presentation. Mark your calendars now and bring along a friend to the August night meeting. I have reserved the auditorium so we should have plenty of room.

We have just completed another Master Gardener class of 30 excited new interns. Many of them have already plugged in to various volunteer opportunities. You have already met some of them at the monthly meetings and I hope all of them will come to the plant swap this month. The plant swap is always a lot of fun and is a good meeting to get to know each other better.

I have had a number of people ask me about an e-mail circulating in the gardening world that says something like this:

"Dear Readers,

*Correspondence I have received regarding HR 875 (Food Safety Modernization Act) says it has the potential power to eliminate organic farming and **home grown food** as legal activities.*

*The bill will require organic farms to use specific fertilizers and toxic insect sprays dictated by a newly formed agency to "make sure there is no danger to the public food supply". **This will include backyard gardens that grow food only for a family and not for sales.**"*

The comment that most concerns gardeners is the part about backyard gardens being regulated. I have contacted our Auburn University farm policy expert, Dr. James Novak, and asked for his opinion on the legislation and want to pass along the relevant comments he made to me. Dr. Novak said, "This legislation does seem to present some hurdles for all farmers related to production of food for **interstate commerce**." However, the legislation, according to Dr. Novak, does not require home gardeners to register, nor does it impact their home production methods in any way.

It seems to me that the food safety scares such as the tomato and jalapeno pepper issue last year, and the peanut butter products more recently, are the driving force behind this legislation. I do not know enough about the specifics to say if the legislation is good or bad for farmers or the public and that is not my job. However, I did want to clear up the part about the effect on home gardens this legislation would have and I think I can safely say it will not affect home food production in any way. I hope this clears up any erroneous information you may have received on this subject.

If you want to learn more about the issues surrounding this legislation visit: Food and Water Watch website at www.foodandwaterwatch.org/food/foodsafety/background-on-h-r-875 or go directly to the bill at <http://thomas.loc.gov> and search by HR875.

JCMGA Business Meeting Minutes**April 14, 2009**

President Pat Bullock welcomed members and guest to the April JCMGA meeting. About 80 members and 60 guests were in attendance. Pat explained that the monthly program would be presented first and the business meeting would follow. Guests were invited to stay for the business meeting that followed the program.

VP Bruce Steel introduced our speakers, Bob and Martha Sargent. They gave a very informative presentation on their experiences studying and banding hummingbirds.

The business meeting was called to order. We had one first time attendee, Carol Kirkpatrick, who is from Shelby County.

The minutes were approved as written, as was the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer- Anne Thomas reported that the Audit Committee would be meeting in May to work on a budget and to audit our books. She reported that we purchased a \$5,000 CD.

Hospitality- Pat asked members to let Nancy Nash know if they could bring a dish for the May meeting.

Scrapbook/Historian - Connie Barron asked for pictures from the Jan. and Feb. meetings. You may send them to conniebarron@verizon.net. She will be happy to take pictures of any MG related projects.

Newsletter- Pat announced the deadline for information for the May newsletter is April 27th. If you can get your information in earlier, please do so.

Past President- Harold Deason announced that the *2009 Member Directory* has been reprinted and is now available. If your picture is not in the directory, please see Harold to have your picture made.

Membership - Sally Tyler announced that there is a new type of sign-in sheet that seems to have worked well. Several members said that it made signing in go faster.

There were no other officers or committees reporting.

Old Business:

Tony Glover gave out remaining "Stars" from the Feb. Meeting. If you have not received your Star yet, please call Tony.

New Business:

We had a request from Dr. Jeff Sibley, Director of the Auburn University Horticulture Study Abroad Program in England for a donation to assist two Jefferson County horticulture students to attend the program this summer. After a lively discussion, a motion was made and seconded to make a one-time donation of \$100, from the General Fund to each of the two students. The motion passed with a verbal vote. It was noted that any individual could also make a donation. The board will discuss how to handle any future request for donations at their next meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities: Pat said to see the *Roots and Shoots* Newsletter.

CEU's: 1.0 CEU was awarded for the April "Hummer" program.

Door prizes were awarded by Bruce Steel. Winners were Nora O'Connor, Donna Martin and Joanne Carnes.

Everyone was reminded to bring one or two plants for the "Plant Swap" next month.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectively submitted,
Sue Stinson

JCMGA MEMBERS ENJOY STATE CONVENTION

by Harold Deason



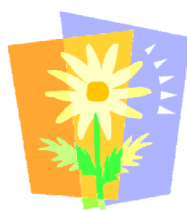
The AMGA State Convention in Huntsville, held the first weekend in April, was exceptional. Everything was exceptional from the great welcome (plus a memorable rain storm), to the great presenters. Patricia Lanza, the Lasagna Gardening guru, was worth the price of admission with her stories and presentation. The presentation by J. Paul Moore regarding light and its effect on the garden and the art of photography, to presentations regarding the use of the color wheel when doing plant selection were all excellent.

With the attendance at 425+, the convention was well-attended and represented Master Gardeners from throughout the state. This convention was a good indicator of what we will be facing in 2012 when we host the convention in Birmingham.

I wish all could have attended, but the ones who did attend all agreed that it was well worth the time and effort, and it was a real learning experience.



photos by Harold Deason



Can You Give a Plant a Happy Home?

Everyone loves our annual Plant Swap, but many of our members have plants they would enjoy sharing with their fellow MGs throughout the growing season. Webmaster Debra Burrell has designed a "Plant Swap" section on our JCMGA web site, <http://jeffcomg.org>, for members to list the extra plants they have available or request plants they would like to have for their own gardens. E-mail Debra at webmaster@jeffcomg.org and she will post your information to the web site.



photo: Connie Barron

Madelon Rushing (on right) was among the JCMGA members assisting with the Garden Conservancy Tours on April 13th. Another tour is planned for June 13th, from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Featured gardens will include the estate garden of Louise Wrinkle, 2 Beechwood Road, and the cottage garden of Todd and Randi Rhone, 921 Euclid Ave. Public gardens open both days are the Birmingham Botanical Garden, Aldridge Gardens, the Birmingham Southern Ecoscape, and Jones Valley Urban Farm.

TREASURER'S REPORT

APRIL, 2009

Balance Forward: 3-28-09 **\$11,110.16**

Received:

AMGA Due	\$ 40.00
Local Dues	96.00
Growing Fruits Class	30.00
Home Garden Class	358.00
Miscellaneous	60.00

Total Received: **\$584.00**

Disbursements:

#1870 MG Class Exp.	\$256.66
#1871 Workshop Exp.	29.39
#1872 Speakers' Fee	35.00

Total Disbursements: **\$321.05**

Balance Checking Account: 4-27-09 **\$11,373.11**

Certificate of Deposit - \$5,000.00

Budgeted Items & Expenditures:

MG Class Expense	\$256.66
Home Workshop	29.39
Speakers' Fee	35.00



GARDENER'S BOOKSHELF

Check out these books at the BBG library:

- Easy Gardens for the South* by Harvey Cotton
- Complete Idiot's Guide to Vegetable Gardening* by Daria Bowman
- Junk Beautiful: Outdoor Edition* by Sue Whitney
- Landscaping with Fruit* by Lee Reich
- Rain Gardening in the South* by Helen Kraus
- Field Guide to Poison Ivy, Poison Oak and Poison Sumac: Prevention and Remedies* by Susan Hauser
- Plan Bee: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Hardest-Working Creatures on the Planet* by Susan Brackney
- The Family Kitchen Garden: How to Plant, Grow, and Cook Together* by Karen Liebreich

The Spring issue of *Garden Pathways*, the state MG newsletter, is available online at http://209.133.251.124/newsletters_2009/Spring_2009_Pathways.pdf

- Hope Long

Name That Plant

Thanks to Hope Long and Melanie Johns, Curator of the BBG herbarium, for sharing this great web site: <http://southeasternflora.com>. By clicking on "Identify Specimen" you can enter information such as flower color, plant form, leaf type, leaf arrangement, etc.

"I think this will be a wonderful tool for all of us who have ever been asked to identify a plant or ever asked someone else to identify a plant for us." Hope says.

Aldridge Gardens To Host Spring Hydrangea Sale

Aldridge Gardens will host a hydrangea sale on Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. More than 50 varieties of hydrangeas will be available, including the Snowflake Hydrangea patented by the garden's founder Eddie Aldridge. Those attending can check out the garden's "Top 10 Hydrangeas List" and get advice from Alabama Hydrangea Society Members who will be on hand. Other popular trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals will also be available. For more information, visit www.aldridgegardens.com or call 682-8019.

BBG Spring Plant Sale Sets New Record



BBG Volunteer Coordinator Carolyn Snow sends thanks:

Hi all!

I hope all of you have had a chance to rest some after working so hard at the Spring Plant Sale. In case some of you have not heard, the sale was a huge success!

We counted 7,393 people walking through those entrance doors this year, which, according to Shelly McCarty, our special events coordinator, is 1,000 more people this year than last year.

The sales totals for Spring Plant Sale 2009 were our highest ever! This year we went over \$265,000 in sales, topping last year's sales by about \$50,000.

It took teamwork to make this happen. Please know how much we value you and appreciate all of your hard work. Without our volunteers, especially Master Gardeners, this would not be possible.

I look forward to all opportunities to work with Master Gardeners again.

With greatest appreciation,
Carolyn

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 8-9 *Spring Hydrangea Sale*, Aldridge Gardens 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. See newsletter for details.

May 16 *Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces*. Instructor: Vasha Rosenblum. Building a raised garden bed and planting by the square foot lets gardeners practice math and harvest fresh produce right in their own yard. This gardening method reduces weeding and increases the yield in available space. Class suitable for children and adults. A small raised bed garden will be the door prize. 10:00 a.m. - noon, Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Register on-line at <http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php> or call 414-3950.

May 16 *A Renewable Approach with Native Plants*. Sculptor and landscape designer Arnie Rutkis will discuss the use of native plants in a 'whole'istic approach to landscaping and the interesting qualities and characteristics of some of our indigenous Alabama plants. Site assessment, preparation and plant selection are some topics for discussion. *Petals from the Past*, Jemison, AL. Visit www.petalsfromthepast.com or call 205-646-0069.

May 20 *Lunch & Learn: "Essential Herbs--Basil and Beyond"*. Ellen Riley, former Southern Living garden editor, will discuss what to grow, tips for success, and ideas for using herbs. 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Aldridge Gardens. Cost: \$22.50 non-members/\$17.50 members -- includes lunch. Reservations and pre-payment required by May 19. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit: www.aldridgegardens.com.

May 21 *Taming Your Turf*. Larry Quick, Executive Director, Aldridge Gardens, will discuss selection, establishment, fertilization, weed control, watering and other turf maintenance tips. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Aldridge Gardens. \$15 non-members/\$12 members. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit: www.aldridgegardens.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

ACES office, Beaty-Hannah Center, BBG. Volunteers needed to help answer phones, file, etc. For information contact Annette Drummond at 879-6964.

Aldridge Gardens Spring Hydrangea Sale, May 8-9 Volunteers are needed to help with all aspects of the sale. For more information, contact LaVerne Martin, 682-8019, ext. 2.

Docents needed at Aldridge Gardens and Birmingham Botanical Gardens. For more information, contact: Aldridge Gardens - Colleen Bedics, 682-8019; BBG - Carolyn Snow 414-3962 or e-mail csnow@bbgardens.org.

Deadline for the June issue of *Roots and Shoots* is May 25th.