

## FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

Mornings are such great times for reflection. Calvin and I are usually up by 5:00 a.m. I really should be saying that Calvin is up by then. I wait until I smell the coffee before my feet hit the floor. But this morning is a little different. It is almost 6:00 a.m. and Calvin is still in bed. I have slipped out of bed, made coffee, and am now sitting on the glider outside waiting for the sun to come up.

It is 32 degrees here on the deck so I am wrapped up in a blanket and have my hands wrapped around my coffee cup. My cat has jumped up beside me and is sleeping on part of my blanket. I can hear the cows starting to move through the pasture, and the chickens are starting to cluck. For the moment, everything is peaceful.

I want to thank each of you for your support as I served as JCMGA President for the past year. I have enjoyed each and every one of you. It was very difficult to turn down the invitation to possibly serve a second term, but my life at the moment is not mine. As I told the members who were at the October meeting, we have had to place my Mother-in-law in a dementia facility. For the past year-and-a-half we have struggled with caring for her in her home. The last few months have been very difficult and the decision to take her out of her own home and place her anywhere else has been the hardest decision I have ever had to participate in. I pray that none of you will ever have to face this. She is not adjusting very well and calls me 20 to 30 times a day and begs me to come and get her. So you can see, this is where I have to devote my time for now.

It is now about 6:30 a.m. The sun is starting to peek through the trees. Calvin is in the kitchen getting a cup of coffee. The cat has jumped down; the cows are bawling to be fed, and the hummingbirds are dive bombing each other. The telephone is ringing. The peaceful part of my day has ended and the rest has begun.

Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you this past year.

*Pat*

Pat Bullock

## November Meeting

**Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009**

Graduation Banquet and  
Installation of Officers

6:00 p.m.

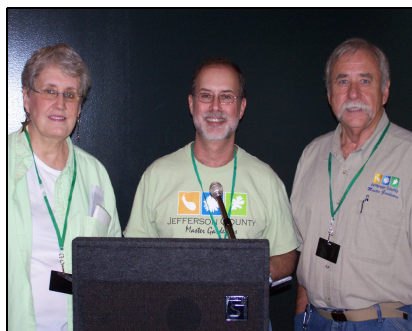
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Please join us for the annual banquet celebrating the graduation of a new class of Master Gardeners and the installation of our 2010 officers. Dinner will be catered by Char-House at a cost of \$10.50 per person. Spouses and guests are welcome to attend.

Our speaker will be Urban Regional Extension Agent Hayes Jackson. Hayes graduated from Auburn University in Landscape Design and Ornamental Horticulture. After working in southern California with Armstrong Nurseries, he returned to Alabama to work on his masters in Environmental Biology at Jacksonville State University. Now, Hayes is currently seeking his Ph.D back at Auburn University. Hayes is the urban agent with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in Anniston where he works with local community based programs concerning urban horticulture and environmental issues. A self-proclaimed plant geek, Hayes has created and maintained a seven acre garden where he experiments and trials many plants.

Reservations are required and due by Nov. 6. Checks can be mailed to JCMGA Treasurer Anne Thomas at 1487 Jones Road, Springville, AL 35146 or dropped off to Annette Drummonds in the ACES office at the BBG.

## JCGMA Elects Officers For 2010



*Congratulations to new officers (l to r) Susan Jackson, Secretary, Bruce Steele, President, and Harold Jackson, Vice President. Not pictured: Blair Cox, Treasurer. The new officers will be inducted at the JCGMA banquet on November 10th.*



## NOVEMBER GARDENER'S CALENDAR

**FRUITS AND NUTS**--Select sites for plantings. Start mulching strawberries, blackberries, and grapes.

**SHRUBS**--Plant shrubs, trees, and vines.

**LAWNS**--Some homeowners like lawn paints. Have you thought about having a green lawn this winter? Use proper herbicide to kill germinating winter weeds.

**ROSES**--Get rose planting underway. Use a soil test as a basis for fertilization. Look for new varieties.

**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS**--Plant hardy annuals such as larkspur, poppies, pansies, anchusa, and candytuft. Get sweet peas into the ground.

**BULBS**--Continue spring bulb planting. Put lilies of the valley in a shady place.

**MISCELLANEOUS**--Plant screen plantings for privacy on the patio.

**VEGETABLE SEED**--Plant cabbage and lettuce in the coldframe.

## "Tony Talks"

It is hard to believe another MG graduation is upon us again. I hope you have made plans to celebrate with our interns who are becoming full-fledged MGs with all the privileges and responsibilities thereof. This graduation will include two classes – the fall class of 2008 and the spring class of 2009. I believe the MG association is so successful because we continue to add new members each year. However, to take full advantage of this attribute of the program we need veteran MGs to welcome in these new members and encourage their involvement. Please take this opportunity to show your support and encouragement of these new folks while visiting with old friends at this year's banquet.

I want to thank each of you who have taken the time to log your volunteer and CEU hours online. Reporting volunteer hours has always been critical but during this time of extremely tight budgets it is more important than ever. Programs that can document their benefit to the community in an easily reportable fashion such as the MG program generally fair better. The reports you submit are compiled by Kerry Smith, state MG coordinator and shared with decision makers and can directly affect our budget. Also, on a more personal level you make me look good when we have a high rate of reporting taking place and I greatly appreciate your efforts.

Glenda Dicks has volunteered to help anyone who wants to learn how to log hours over the computer. Glenda is listed in the directory or you may contact me and I will put you in touch with her. However, if you are not currently entering your hours online you may visit [www.aces.edu/mg](http://www.aces.edu/mg) and click on the volunteer area and go through the online tutorial that explains the system in detail. You will need the MG passcode when you set up your account and I can provide that to you if you email or call ([gloveta@aces.edu](mailto:gloveta@aces.edu) or 879-6964 x15). Also, we will continue to accept hand written reports because we know not everyone has access to a computer. Please submit these by the first week or two of the New Year if not sooner.

Volunteer hours and CEU hours are totaled according to the calendar year. The current requirement to remain an active member in good standing is 25 volunteer hours and 10 CEU's each calendar year. Remember, that the "Star Awards" are now a cumulative total of your volunteer hours and CEU hours. The following levels are awarded based on the total hours over your entire MG career: Bronze, 100-299 hours; Silver, 300-499 hours; Gold, 500-999; Gold Name Badge, 1000-1999; Platinum Name Badge, 2000 or more hours.

If you are having a hard time due to work schedule or due to other extenuating circumstances in getting the required CEU's please let me know because I have seen some good online opportunities you could do from home. Likewise, I have some immediate need for volunteer help to accumulate some data that could be done from home as well. It is also possible to return phone calls to the GPIC office from your home. If you are interested just let me know.

Again, thanks for all you do and I hope to see you at the banquet. You are in for a treat from our speaker, Hayes Jackson, and a great meal from The Char House.

Happy Holidays to each one of you from me and the entire Extension family – we sincerely appreciate all you do. Finally, I want to express special appreciation to our MG officers from this past year and to Tricia Farris our wonderful newsletter editor. I think we have made great strides this past year thanks to these leaders.

## JCMGA Minutes October 13, 2009

The Jefferson county Master Gardeners Association met in the Ireland Room at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. President Pat Bullock called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### Business Meeting:

Pat welcomed first time attendees Becky Evans and Margariette Hoomes. Both the September minutes and the Treasurer's report were approved as published in the newsletter. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

### Officer & Committee Reports:

Treasurer : Anne Thomas announced that the MG Board had approved the budget for 2010. She also spoke to the fact that the audit had been completed.

Hospitality: Nancy Nash thanked everyone who brought snacks and announced that Char House would again be catering the 2009 Master Gardener Banquet/Graduation on November 10, 2009. The cost remained the same at only \$10.50/person. The deadline to register is November 4, 2009. This is also the last date to cancel and receive a refund. Pat announced that you must be registered and have paid for your meal to attend. She also reminded everyone that there will be ten paid 2010 memberships given out as door prizes. (You must have already graduated from the MG program and be present to win.).

Scrapbook/Historian: Connie Barron asked anyone taking pictures during the Red Mountain Park hike to please send them to her.

Newsletter: Tricia Farris- The deadline for the November newsletter will be Oct 26th.

Membership: Sally Tyler announced that 2010 dues are now payable. She also asked everyone to check the membership records and make sure their name, address, phone number and e-mail address are correct.

Past President-Harold Deason asked that anyone who does not currently have a picture in the MG directory or would like to have a different one to contact him

Tony Glover - Asked for volunteers to review the applications for the 2010 MG class. Four MGs signed up to help. He then announced that MG Intern Whitney Saunders had applied for and received a \$1,000 State MG Grant for an Epic School Raised Garden Program.

OLD Business: A vote has taken on the proposed changes in the bylaws as approved at the September meeting. The proposed changes to Article IV Section 2 were passed.

The proposed changes to Article VIII Section 1 were passed.

NEW Business: Fletcher Harvey, Chairman for the Nominating Committee presented the proposed slate of officers: President-Bruce Steele, Vice-President-Harold Deason, Treasurer-Blair Cox, and Secretary-Susan Jackson. There were no nominations from the floor. The membership voted and elected the above listed officers to serve in 2010.

Volunteer Opportunities: Pat stated that members could find current volunteer opportunities in the Oct. *Roots and Shoots*.

Educational Opportunities: 24th Annual Southern Gardening Symposium will be held at Callaway Gardens on Jan. 29-31, 2010. Contact information is 1-800-225-5292 or. Also the Alabama Master Gardeners Association 2010 State Conference will be held March 18-20, 2010 at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center. Registration will begin in January. Rooms can be reserved now by going out to the state MG web site at and clicking on "Conferences".

Debbie Evans was the lucky winner of the Door Prize. Mitzi Owen won the prize for wearing her name badge.

Bruce Steele introduced our speaker Ellen Davis, the Education Developer for Red Mountain Park. She gave a short introduction to the park

Volunteer hours: .75 for today

CEU's: .25 for the short introduction to the Park

CEU's: 2.0 if you went on the hike.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Bullock

President

## TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER, 2009

**Balance Forward:** 9-28-09 ----- \$9,578.75

**Received:**

2010 Dues (State) ----- \$155.00

2010 Dues (Local)----- 372.00

Grad. Banquet ----- 589.00

2009 Spring Class ---- 170.00

Total Dues & Banquet ----- \$1,286.00

Alabama Master Gardener Assoc. Grant\* - \$1,000.00

Total Received----- \$2,286.00

**Disbursements:**

Ck. #1890 – Pat Bullock ----- \$45.05

(Postage)

Ck. #1891 – Whitney Saunders -- 36.98

(Grant Expenses\*)

Ck. #1892 – Tony Glover -----73.54

(MG Night Meeting Exp.)

Total Disbursements ----- \$ 155.57

Balance: 10-26-09 ----- \$11,709.18

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

**\*Note:** Grant from Alabama Master Gardener Association will be handled as a separate section of our General Funds Account, with expenses being designated from this account.



*In 1863, Abraham Lincoln, declared the last Thursday of November to be a National Day of Thanksgiving.*

## Treasurer's Note

Thanks to all of you for sending in your reservations and 2010 dues. We already have over 50 reservations with more coming in everyday, and you still have until Nov. 6th to make your reservation. You may mail them to me: Anne Thomas, Treasurer, 1487 Jones Road, Springville, AL 35146 or if you are in the vicinity of BBG and it would be more convenient for you, Annette at the ACES office at BBG said she would be glad to help receive these too. We are keeping in touch with each other. We are really looking forward to welcoming our two graduating intern classes – Fall of 2008 and Spring of 2009 – to the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association. We hope you will join with us as a vital and active Association. We are also excited as we install our new officers for 2010.

Dues for 2010 can now be paid also - \$12.00 for our local Jefferson County Assoc. and \$5.00 for our State Alabama Master Gardeners Assoc. for a total of \$17.00. Just make your check out to JCMGA.

Last of all I want to thank each of you for your support of me as Treasurer of the Jefferson County Association for the past 3 years. I have learned so much, and most of all I have found that every single Master Gardener is a treasure. You have taken on the task to take care of God's beautiful earth. You each have blessed my life and for that I will never forget you or this wonderful group of people. Thank you.

Anne Thomas,  
Treasurer



## BBG Holds Fall Plant Sale

Unseasonably cool temperatures couldn't stop determined gardeners when the Birmingham Botanical Gardens held its annual Fall Plant Sale on October 17-18. JCMGA members were among the volunteers who donned hats, coats, and gloves to share their knowledge and offer advice to shoppers. The sale raised almost \$30,000 for BBG projects.



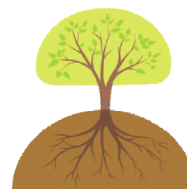
*Photos by Connie Barron*

## Volunteer Opportunity at Ruffner Mountain Nature Center

Volunteers are needed at Ruffner Mountain Nature Center to help restore the landscape directly surrounding its new Tree Top Visitors Center. The Tree Top Visitors Center and Mountainside Pavilion Complex are in their final stages of construction, but are not yet open to the public. Native plant gardens anchored by a community art project reflecting the history and use of the mountain will be a part of the educational component of the completed project.

The center will host two Native Garden Volunteer Weekends on Nov. 13-15 and Nov. 20-22. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. - noon on Friday and Saturday, and from 1 - 3 p.m. on Sunday. Activities will include site harvesting native plants and planting and transplanting. For more information and to volunteer, contact Michelle Reynolds at 838-2370 or e-mail [coverings@bham.rr.com](mailto:coverings@bham.rr.com).

## Name that Tree



Test your knowledge of trees of Alabama and the Southeast with this series of on-line dendrology quizzes from Auburn University: <https://fp.auburn.edu/sfws/samuels-on/dendrology/>

## Grant Will Help Create Handicapped-Accessible School Garden



JCMGA Treasurer Anne Thomas (right) presents Whitney Saunders with a grant check from the Alabama Master Gardener Association.

Master Gardener intern Whitney Saunders has received a \$1,000 grant from the Alabama Master Gardener Association.

The goal of this project is to provide the population of EPIC school and the G.A.T.E. city students served at EPIC school a handicapped-accessible community garden which will allow the students various hands-on learning opportunities. EPIC school serves a wide spectrum of students, including those with severe physical disabilities, mainstream students and students who are identified as gifted.

The project will present all of these students continued opportunities to maintain all aspects of the garden from seed selection/propagation to harvest. Under this plan, volunteers will create three raised beds allowing for four-foot pathways between each bed, which will allow access to all students. Additionally, fruit plants will be planted along the fence line adjacent to the garden area.

## Hanna Center Office Volunteer Update from Annette Drummonds

"They came, they saw, they conquered ..." Accurately quoted or not, these words describe what MG volunteers have accomplished recently in the Hanna Center Office.

A team of office and double-duty GPIC volunteers researched Extension publication dates online and identified expired items. This detective work was transitioned to the MG precision team who spent three days in the office revitalizing the "Literature Library" in the big closet, formerly known as "The Big Ugly." After years of vital use and some unintended slight abuse, publications had curled, leaned and sagged. Thanks to monstrous volunteer efforts which included straightening, purging, recycling and taking work home, we now have publications standing at attention, an updated index and additional shelf labels, making everything easier to find and creating lots of additional floor space. Come by and take a look! And ... if you are wondering what the "Literature Library" is, come by and we'll give you a mini-tour!

In related opportunities, MG volunteers also: organized office items and meeting supplies; washed dishes; supervised an Altamont School 8th grade team who inventoried and organized the supply cabinet and Master Gardener t-shirts; shredded documents; updated postage logs; combined label files; created Jefferson County Beekeeper Association and Master Gardener Class of 2010 spreadsheets; merged files into labels; organized documents; made follow-up calls to MG interns; answered phone lines; assisted horticulture clients; proofread news articles and suggested titles; processed mail-outs; assisted Tony with Advanced Master Gardener classes; and MORE!

Thanks to all of you! We appreciate you more than we can say!



### GARDENER'S BOOKSHELF

Check out these new books from the BBG library:

-*Huntleyas and related orchids*/  
Patricia A. Harding

-*Book of nature projects*/  
Elizabeth P. Lawlor.

-*The Old farmer's almanac*  
2010

-Hope Long

### Editor's Note

This is my final issue as the Editor of *Roots and Shoots*. I have enjoyed serving in this position for the past two years. Communication is vital to the success of the JCMGA and the newsletter is our primary vehicle for sharing information with fellow Master Gardeners about upcoming classes, events and volunteer opportunities. Jan Smith will take over as Editor with the January 2010 issue. Please send information to her at [editor@jeffcomg.org](mailto:editor@jeffcomg.org).

Thank you,  
Tricia Farris



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

November 8 Walking Field Trip: Fall Color for Landscapes. Henry Hughes, Director of Education, Birmingham Botanical Gardens will lead a hike through Aldridge Gardens and around the lake during the peak of fall color. The various fall pigments of leaves will be explained physiologically and as identifying characters of specific trees and shrubs. Henry has degrees in forestry and horticulture from Sewanee and Texas A&M. Aldridge Gardens, 2-4 p.m. Cost: Members \$12/Non-members \$15. Rain date: Sunday, November 15, 2-4 p.m. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com).

November 8 Repotting Orchids Instructor Shelley Powell will demonstrate how easy it is to repot and rejuvenate orchids, and discuss the best material to plant them in and how to care for them. Petals from the Past, 2:00 p.m. For more information, call 646-0069 or visit [www.petalsfromthepast.com](http://www.petalsfromthepast.com).

November 10 Lunch and Learn: Simple Holiday Greenery Arrangements sponsored by Norton Florist. Instructors Gus Pappas and Ken Keister will demonstrate how to use holiday greenery from your yard with a few extra flowers, etc. to make a beautiful centerpiece for your table. Workshop will include lecture/demonstration as well as hands-on construction with personalized assistance from instructors. Upon registration, you will receive a list of greenery to bring from your garden. Aldridge Gardens 10 a.m. - noon Cost: Members \$30/Non-Members \$36 Optional lunch-\$7.50 Class size limited. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com).

December 5 - 6 Christmas Open House, Petals from the Past For more information, call 646-0069 or visit [www.petalsfromthepast.com](http://www.petalsfromthepast.com).

### *Volunteer Opportunities*

Ruffner Mountain Nature Center Volunteers needed to help with planting of Native Gardens. See page 5 of this newsletter for more details

BB Gardens Library. Volunteers are needed for the following shifts: Tuesday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 1- 4 p.m.; 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 1- 4 p.m.; 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.; 2<sup>nd</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 Drummonds at 879-6964.

There will be no December issue of *Roots and Shoots*. Happy Holidays to All!