

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .



Autumn to me is the best of seasons, the best time to be alive. John Donne says it best when he says, “no spring, nor summer beauty hath such grace, as I have seem in one autumnal face”. The beauty of Fall is in that

unmistakable change in the angle of the light, that sharp, crisp glow that makes all of nature look her best.

“Days decrease, and autumn grows, autumn in everything”, Robert Browning says. As the days decrease we mourn a little for the loss of light but that enchanting light is now reflected in the changing leaf colors all around us. So much has been written about the beauty and glory of spring, and all of it is true, but for some of us trees are the ultimate plant, and autumn trees are the most beautiful.

There are those who feel more somber when fall comes, knowing the more contemplative season of winter will soon come, too. Edward Fitzgerald said, “the leaves of life keep falling, one by one”, and so they do, giving us time to contemplate and grow for future seasons to come. When the beauty of autumn is over we have much from the fruits of our labor, vegetable soups, nuts to crack, jams and jellies to spread and seed catalogs to comb over for hours on end.

Then again, “there is no season such delight can bring as summer, autumn, winter and the spring”, as William Browne says. This has been a great year for me, no matter which season it has been, and I have enjoyed all of you, your knowledge, laughter, and friendship.

Thank You,
Bruce

All quotes are from “Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations”, John Bartlett, Justin Kaplan General Editor, 16th Edition, 1992

The 3D texture in the picture accompanying Bruce’s letter was created by Bryant Hardwick.

Cahaba River Fry-down

On September 25th Dale and Nora O’Connor volunteered to handout information on rain barrels and soil kits, along with other Extension information, at the Cahaba River Fry-down. While they were there, they took these pictures.



October 12th MG Meeting

Election of Officers for 2011

Refreshments – 9:30 A.M.

Business Meeting – 10:00 A.M.

Fall Plant Sale 2010

Saturday and Sunday

October 16th – 17th

Tailgate at The Gardens! Join your fellow plant lovers for an autumn weekend of raising funds for education. Volunteers are needed to work a variety of positions: cashier, plant loader, box builders, hospitality and more. To volunteer, contact Mary-Bestor Tickle at 414.3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org.

Get your just desserts, . . .

but bring one, too. Help ensure we have plenty of treats for our October MG meeting by bringing a dish when you come.

Congratulations, Anne!

Anne Bloomer, Master Gardener, Class of 2005, entered her bread in the fair held at the Shelby County Exhibition Center in Columbiana, Alabama. Her bread won several places:

First Prize: Whole Wheat - Tecate Ranch Whole Wheat Bread (1) and White - Golden Buttermilk Bread (1)

Second Prize:

Wheat Bread - Mom's Best Whole Wheat Bread (2); Other - Tomato Basil Bread (2); And Healthy Foods/Bread - 13-grain Harvest Health Bread (2)

Third Prize: Rolls - Oatmeal Sourdough
Now if only she would give us the recipes!

Bug Invasion Video

Check out this new video from the UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental sciences on the Kudzu (Stink) bug’s invasion of the South:

<http://www.youtube.com/>

“Tony Talks”

We are preparing to select a new group of participants into the Master Gardener program for 2011. If you know people who are interested, please encourage them to get their applications in by mid October because we will start the selection process at that time. We already have over 50 applications, but, as you know, we select based on their applications and recommendations, therefore it is not too late to apply.

The process for becoming a MG now involves more paper work that we have long hoped to avoid. Extension MG Program Coordinator, Kerry Smith, has informed us that during the last three years, we have become aware of three Master Gardeners and Interns with recent criminal convictions (none from JCMGA). With the first case, Kerry says, “I reacted like the ostrich, knowing that this was certainly a one-in-a-million incident, Master Gardeners are generous, civic-minded people. I’ll never see anything like this again.” However, the first was not the last, and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System was faced with a difficult reality. This is not unique to us; in fact, **all organizations** who work with the public directly or through volunteers deal with liability issues.

Many people, including MG’s, were consulted during the last year to develop procedures and policies to address this problem. Some MG’s recognized the need even before we took action. For example, Alice Pruitt, local MGA President and retired judge, said, “I have been very concerned about MG’s going into schools or to people’s homes and having access to vulnerable children and adults who assume these are nice people because they are MG’s. The old forms, unfortunately, did not protect us, and I was relieved when the new process was initiated. I think it is something we need.”

The result of conversations with many of you, our Extension Agents and legal professionals at Auburn University is a new portion to the MG Intern application. The application now reflects the serious view taken by ACES and Auburn University regarding liability issues. The new portion of the application requires that we obtain a criminal background check of all accepted applicants. The initial application will continue to be as in the past, but if a person is accepted, the additional process will take place before classes start. Therefore, I must complete the class selection process by early November in order to have completed background checks before January.

Although this will not impact you, I want all our members to be aware of this new procedure in case you talk with any new applicants and they have questions.

And now for something completely different. . .

Here’s a great idea from Wormfarm Institute: Roadside Culture Stands, “mobile farm stands designed and built by artists, which are used to display and sell fresh local produce as well as the work of local artists.” You can see a roadside culture stand and learn more about the program at <http://www.wormfarminstitute.org/WFRoadside.html>.

Treasurer’s Report

JEFFERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION
TREASURER’S REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2010
SUBMITTED BY: BLAIR COX, TREASURER
Balance Forward: 8-29-10 . . . \$12,028.19
Received: \$35.00
Disbursements:-\$173.40
Ending Balance: 9-27-10: . . . \$11,889.79

October Gardening Calendar

Fruits and Nuts: Planting season for strawberries starts in South Alabama. Clean up orchard area. Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

Shrubs: Shrub plantings can be made. Water when needed. Note varieties of camellias in bloom. Start mulching all shrubs that do not have mulch.

Lawns: Continue to mow lawns until no new growth is noticeable.

Roses: Continue insect and disease control practices. New rose catalogs will be coming in. Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

Annuals and Perennials: Visit flower shows and gardens. List desirable varieties of mums. Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost.

Bulbs: Plant tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, crocuses, Dutch irises, anemones, and ranunculuses. Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in warm place.

Miscellaneous: Renew mulch around shrubs and rose beds. Loosen mulches that have been packed down. Spray with oils before freezing weather to kill scale mites, etc. Remove all dead stems and trash from flower beds. Transplant into small pots any cuttings taken earlier.

Vegetable Seed: Plant turnips, mustard, kale, rape, spinach, and onion sets.

Measure Your Sunlight

Have you ever wondered how much clean electricity you could generate from the sun? If you have, try this solar calculator:

<http://www.wunderground.com/calculators/solar.html>

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2010

The JCMGA September meeting was called to order by President Bruce Steele at 10:00 A.M. in the gardens of the Anniston Natural History Museum. The minutes of the August meeting and the Treasurer's report were approved as printed in the September edition of *Roots and Shoots*.

Bruce requested volunteers to serve on the nominating committee to name a slate of officers for 2011. This committee will consist of Camille Becker, Mitzi Owen, and Ruth Reichwein. Karen Larsen will serve as alternate. The meeting was then adjourned so that Hayes Jackson could lead a tour of the Museum Gardens, followed by another tour of his home garden.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jackson
Secretary, JCMGA

Field Trip Report Gardens of Hayes Jackson and of the Anniston Museum of Natural History

What a trip! We had about 30 people who made the trip to Anniston to visit the gardens at the Anniston Museum of Natural History and then visit the private gardens of Hayes Jackson on September 14th.

Hayes is the local Calhoun County Extension Agent and a great plant collector. He refers to himself as "horticulturist with ADD". He has a very varied array of plants and yard art. There were several Garden Dinosaurs who brought attention to certain areas.

Hayes lives on a 7-acre garden that was handed down to him by his grandfather. Hayes at a young age planted many of the plants that are still there today. From his world-wide travels, he has brought many varieties of plants, especially gingers, to the Anniston area, and they have grown very well in the micro-climate that exists there.



Which was my favorite? I do not know, and I probably couldn't remember the name anyway, but the Chinese Box Turtles were really neat. We missed the chickens and guineas, but we did meet the two dogs. For those who missed the trip, you really missed a good one, and, maybe, someday, we will be able to return to Anniston to go through the new Botanical Gardens that is being created and visit with Hayes again.

Thanks to all who went and made it a great garden tour. **Harold**



October ACES Index

The index is composed of information found on, or accessed from, the ACES website during October. For web addresses contact editor@jeffcomg.org.

Average annual rainfall in Alabama (in inches): 55

Amount of this water (in inches) which actually recharges aquifers: 6

Amount of water typically used by a 4-house poultry operation in gallons: $1\frac{3}{4}$ – 2 million

Percentage of the U.S. population whose farming feeds the rest of the U.S. population, as well as much of the world: 2

Number of outputs U.S. farmers currently derive for each input, including seeds, chemicals, labor and other operating factors associated with farm production: $2\frac{1}{2}$

Number they derived in 1950: 1

Number of people in Florida who have died this year from EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis), a mosquito-born illness commonly associated with horses, which causes brain inflammation: 4

Percentage of Alabamians diagnosed with asthma, according to the CDC: 6

Average number of applications per season by which cotton farmers have reduced insecticide use due to IPM and the success of the Boll Weevil Eradication Program. (Farmers currently average one application.): 11-14

Number of fire-ant decapitating fly species, from Argentina and Brazil, which have been introduced into Alabama since 1998 as part of the Alabama Fire Ant Management Program: 4

Total U.S. population at 7:56 P.M. on September 26, 2010: 310,370,692

Total world population: 6,871,995,013

Median household income in New Hampshire expressed in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars using a 3-year average (2007-2009), according to the U.S. Census Bureau: 66,654

In Alabama: 42,652

In Mississippi: 36,650

Official poverty rate for the U.S. for 2009: 14.3%

For 2008: 13.2%

Year with the largest number of people in poverty since 1951 when poverty rates first became available: 2009

Percentage increase in the poverty rate for children under the age of 18 between 2008 and 2009: from 19.0 to 20.7

Percentage decrease in poverty rate for adults over 65: from 9.7 to 8.9

Volunteer Opportunities at a Glance

The information is listed in the following order: date of volunteer opportunity/ volunteer opportunity/ venue/ time/ contact person/ contact information

Turkey Creek Nature Preserve Pinson Weds – Suns 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. Taylor Steele 680.4116 or tsteele@bsc.edu

Junior Master Gardeners Aldridge Botanical Gardens Vasha Rosenblum 910.3211 or vashan1@bellsouth.net

GPIC Helpline BBG [contact for date and times] Tony Glover at 879.6964, x15 or gloveta@aces.edu

EPIC School MG Project EPIC School, Southside [contact for date and times] Whitney Saunders at whitneysaunders@gmail.com

Children's Garden at the United Cerebral Palsy Center [contact for details] Karen Mitchell karen35216@bellsouth.net

Oct 14 **Cocktails in the Gardens** BBG Mary–Bestor Tickle 414.3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org

Oct 16 **Fall Plant Sale** BBG [also Oct. 17th] Mary–Bestor Tickle at 414.3962 or mtickle@bbgardens.org

Calendar of Events for October 2010

The calendar information is presented in the following order: Date/Event/Time/Location/ Contact Information

"Blown Organics" Glass Exhibition Atlanta Botanical Gardens Atlanta, Georgia [through October; features glass works custom made for the Gardens] <http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/events/ListEvents.do>

Chilhuly at Cheekwood [through October 31st] Cheekwood Gardens Nashville, Tennessee http://www.cheekwood.org/Art/Chilhuly_at_Cheekwood.aspx [also, Chilhuly Nights, May 25th – October 29th, shows the exhibit lighted at night http://cheekwood.org/Art/Chilhuly_Nights.aspx View the slide show of the exhibit at http://www.cheekwood.org/Art/Chilhuly_at_Cheekwood.aspx]

Chocolate Seed to Sweet [Sept 4th through January 2nd] Atlanta Botanical Gardens Atlanta, Georgia <http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/events-classes/events>

Scarecrow Trail [through Oct. 31st; also see **Tremendous Treehouses** through Sept. 30th] Huntsville Botanical Gardens http://www.hsvbg.org/index.php?mainID=4&subID=7&sub2ID=&type=calendar&today=yes&nextMonth=yes&start_month=9&start_day=20&start_year=2010&end_month=10&end_day=18&end_year=2010&submit=See+Whats+Growing+On&viewMoreType=festival&typeID=6

Oct 5 **2010 JMG Specialist Training** [October 5th – 7th] Aldridge Gardens Hoover, Alabama <http://67.59.137.247/index.cfm?did=16169§ionID=15583>

Oct 7 **Contain Yourself: Fall Container Gardening** 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>

Oct 9 **Lawn Care: Fall Maintenance for Homeowners** 11 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>

Oct 9 **Grow, Create and Eat: Herbal Vinegars and Butters** 10:00 A.M. – Noon. BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>

Oct 9 **35th Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators Society, Southern Region** [through Oct. 13th; includes rare plant auction] Raleigh, North Carolina <http://www.ipps.org/southernna/>

Oct 9 **Gesneriad Show** 9:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. [also Oct 10th from 11:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.] Cheekwood Botanical Gardens Nashville, Tennessee http://www.cheekwood.org/Gardens/Garden_Shows_and_Lectures.aspx

Oct 13 **Cherokee Leaf Pounding** 10:00 A.M. – Noon. Aldridge Gardens Hoover http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,26/did,191/func,details/

Oct 16 **Fall Plant Sale** 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. [also Oct. 17th from 12:00 N – 4:00 P.M.] BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/fall-plant-sale.php>

Oct 16 **Planting Great Containers** 10:30 A.M. Petals from the Past Jemison, Alabama <http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>

Oct 16 **Let's Talk Plants Garden Walk with Tony Avent** [class may fill quickly] 10:00 A.M. – Noon. Plant Delights, Juniper Level Botanic Gardens Raleigh, North Carolina <http://www.plantdelights.com/About/edu.html>

Oct 19 **Native American Gourd Craft** 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Aldridge Gardens Hoover http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,26/did,192/func,details/

Oct 19 **Pumpkins, Parties and Paperwhites** 6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. Aldridge Gardens Hoover http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,26/did,193/func,details/

Oct 20 **Culinary Herbs – Cultivating and Cooking** 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. Aldridge Gardens Hoover http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,26/did,194/func,details/

Oct 21 **From Plastic Wrap to Fabulous: Creating Floral Arrangements from the Grocery Store** 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>

Oct 21 **Fall for Bulbs** 10:00 A.M. – Noon. Aldridge Gardens Hoover http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,26/did,195/func,details/

Oct 23 **Raising Urban Chickens** 10:00 A.M. – Noon. BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>

Oct 23 **Family Class: Let's Create a Bird Buffet** 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>

Oct 23 **Come Again . . . What was That? Translating Botanical Names for Great Results** 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. BBG <http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>

- Oct 24 **Citrus Walking Tour with Dr. Arlie Powell** 2:00 P.M. Petals from the Past Jemison, Alabama
<http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>
- Oct 24 **Whispers from the Past: A Native American Experience** 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Aldridge Gardens Hoover
http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,26/did,196/func,details/
- Oct 26 **Making Pine Needle Baskets: An Ancient Art** 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Aldridge Gardens Hoover
http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,26/did,198/func,details/
- Oct 30 **Pat Dye Live: Coaching Up Japanese Maples at Quail Hollow Gardens** 8:00 A.M. – 5 P.M. Aldridge Gardens Hoover
www.aldridgegardens.com
- Nov 6 **Moss Rock Festival** [also November 7th] Hoover Preserve Hoover, Alabama
http://www.aldridgegardens.com/index.php/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,26/did,196/func,details/
- Nov 12 **Kiku Matsuri Chrysanthemum Festival** [also Nov 13th] Bellengrath Gardens Asheville, North Carolina
<http://www.bellingrath.org/mum-festival-family-day.html>
- Nov 13 **Fine Crafts Classic** 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. [also Nov. 14th from 11:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.] BBG
<http://www.bbgbgarden.org/plant-group.php>

Last Minute Volunteer Opportunities and an Educational Event:

Bluff Park Elementary in Hoover has an immediate need for a Master Gardener or two (or even three) for a special day coming up very soon.

They need a response ASAP. If you can help with the request below please contact Nancy McGowan (nmcgowan@hoover.k12.al.us) before Friday and copy Tony Glover (gloveta@aces.edu) so he knows it was covered. Nancy can give you more details when you respond to her email address above.

We would greatly appreciate help from the Jefferson County Master Gardeners on Friday October 15th. This is an afternoon for our 2nd -5th grades and their teachers to hear from people in our community with specific talents. Students sign up for sessions so each child present really wants to be there.

The Master Gardener will have use of and can be stationed in our outdoor classroom if that is what they wish to do (it is fairly new with a walking path and raised beds). I would really like for them to talk about plants, identification of trees, or gardening in general. I would love their expertise in getting our raised beds ready for spring gardens as well...any help is greatly appreciated.

Here is our schedule:

If you will arrive between 11:45 & 12:00, we will get you situated in your room. Here is the schedule:

12:15-12:45 2nd/3rd

12:45-1:15 2nd/3rd

1:20-1:50 4th/5th

1:50-2:20 4th/5th

Each session is 30 minutes (total of 4), but we lose a little time in the switch. 2nd/3rd grade students are first hour and the second hour will be 4th/5th grade kids.

Thank you!

Nancy McGowan

nmcgowan@hoover.k12.al.us

BBG Classes: **Lawn Care: Fall Maintenance for Homeowners and Grow, Create and Eat** would be a great opportunity for the Master Gardener to participate in here at The Gardens. I'm offering a special discount to Master Gardener's only if they decide to sign up for either class. The discount amount for the Lawn Care is \$5 and \$15 for the Grow, Create and Eat.

Lunch & Learn

Lawn Care: Fall Maintenance for Homeowners

Instructor: Fred Kapp

Thursday, October 7 / 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ensure a healthy and uniform lawn in the spring of 2011 by preparing soil and turf grass this fall for the coming winter. This class will cover techniques of aerating, watering, fertilizing and controlling insects and diseases. The concept of integrated pest management, the methods of environmentally safe lawn care and the equipment needed will be presented. Bring your lunch and learn.

Grow, Create and Eat

Instructor: Wendy Ulrich

Saturday, October 9 / 10 a.m.-Noon

What a difference a sprig or two of herbs makes to a bottle of boring old vinegar! It looks much prettier and the hint of herbs gives it a more interesting flavor. In this workshop you will learn to make herbal vinegar and butter using fresh herbs from our garden or yours. You will learn how to store and preserve it for the holidays for entertaining or makes a great gift. Each participant will create their own flavor of vinegar and butter to take home.

www.bbgardens.org Contact Phylis Sutton for further details.

The Alice M. Leahy Lecture Series and the Donald E. Davis Arboretum present:

Doug Tallamy, author of the award-winning gardening book
"Bringing Nature Home"
October 19, 2010 at 5 p.m.

Dr. Tallamy will discuss why native plant species
are essential for supporting biodiversity.



COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
AND MATHEMATICS

The lecture will be held on
The Auburn University Campus
in the Sciences Center Auditorium.

A Reception & Book Signing will
follow the lecture.

For more information, including details on
parking, contact the
Donald E. Davis Arboretum
at 334.844.5770 or
www.auburn.edu/arboretum.

For more information on Tallamy's
book, visit the website at
bringingnaturehome.net.

