

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

I have always enjoyed the rain. I don't like gully-washers. I like a slow, steady rain without any thunder or lightening -- the kind that you don't mind getting out in to walk to the mailbox, the barn or the chicken pen. The drops of rain that hit you are actually reviving. I like to sit on the deck when its raining. The grass, trees and other plants seem to enjoy a slow rain also. They seem to perk up during and after a slow rain.

Calvin and I went to our place in Gatlinburg a couple of weeks ago. Our plans were to start tearing off our old deck and at least get up new columns for the new deck. I was helping unload the truck and grabbed the suitcase to take it to our bedroom. I walked into the bedroom without turning on the light and immediately stepped on something in the floor. About the same time, I noticed that a slow, steady "rain" was hitting my head. I looked up and the "rain" was hitting me in the face. "Rain" in the house is not a good thing.

I turned on the lights and noticed that this "rain" was hitting onto a floor that was raised about six inches. I turned the light off and went to find Calvin. I told him that I had found us a different project. Instead of working outside on the deck we would be working inside on a water problem.

We always cut the water to the house off when we leave, but the cutoff valve outside failed and a washer in the commode in the bathroom above our bedroom also failed. Due to the two failures it had been "raining" in the chalet for a couple of weeks.

As I write this, it has been almost a week since the "rain" in the house event. ServePro is still trying to dry the chalet out. They think that it might take a few more days. Due to the amount of damage I will be getting both a new bathroom and new bedroom.

All I can say is thank goodness that we had only had a slow, steady "rain" and not a gully-washer.

Remember you will be electing three members to serve on the Nominating Committee at the September meeting. Also, I will be appointing an alternate, so if you would like to serve, please let me know.

See you at the September meeting.

Pat

Pat Bullock

September Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009

9:30 a.m. - Hospitality

10:00 a.m. - Meeting

Birmingham Botanical Gardens



ACES Agent Sallie Lee will present a program on bees. Sallie is a member of the Jefferson County Beekeepers Association. We will also discuss the upcoming October election of JCMGA officers, and select a Nominating Committee.

September Hospitality

If you signed up to bring snacks for this months' meeting, please contact Nancy Nash to confirm.

Hospitality committee members, please plan on coming early to help set up, and remain after the meeting to assist with cleanup.



SEPTEMBER
GARDENER'S
CALENDAR

FRUITS AND NUTS-New catalogs will be arriving soon. Start plans for future selection and plantings. Take soil test for new planting areas. Fertilize established strawberry plantings.

SHRUBS-Study landscape to determine plant needs. Check early varieties of camellias. You may want to replace those damaged in spring by late freezes. After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

LAWNS-Plant seed of winter grasses where situation prevents planting permanent grasses. Winter seeds will appear soon. Stop fertilization three weeks before frost.

ROSES-Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips. Keep plants healthy.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Last chance for planting perennials and biennials. Old clumps of perennials may be divided. Plant peonies.

BULBS-Spring-flowering bulbs may be planted late this month in North Alabama. Delay planting in South Alabama.

MISCELLANEOUS-Cleanup infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc. If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather.

Build compost bin or box; leaves will be falling soon. Move houseplants indoors.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant hardy vegetables and root crops.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, celery, Brussels sprouts, and onion sets.

"Tony Talks"

I still need a few more folks to sign up for the Advanced MG Urban Tree program that will start September 24th and also meet on October 8th and November 12th. If you are interested in the class please go to this website or call me for more details: www.aces.edu/~gloveta/documents/AdvancedMasterGardener.pdf.

Kerry Smith has asked me to explain the Advanced MG program. She says, "Both ACES and AMGA offer CEU opportunities to Master Gardeners. This is an important part of your success as a Master Gardener and as an ACES partner. While some of you may be interested in continued learning opportunities for the pure enjoyment of learning, we want to take this opportunity to explain a few details about the Advanced MG program."

The purpose of creating an advanced level for Master Gardener:

- To train certified Master Gardeners in specialized areas of horticulture.
- To invest in motivated volunteers. The ACES wants to provide opportunities for MG's to focus on their interests as an incentive for them to stay involved in the program.
- To develop partnerships for program delivery. This specialized group of volunteers becomes valuable partners with the ACES Home Grounds.
- To enrich other community projects with specialized, knowledgeable volunteers.

Specific requirements and expectations:

- An MG applying for any Advanced MG Certificate must be an active MG and must have reported a minimum of 100 volunteer hours.
- An MG can achieve multiple Advanced Certificates.
- All Advanced MG Certificates begin with a meeting between the interested MG and an ACES Home Grounds Agent.
- A study outline may already be available for a particular study focus such as the one for Advanced MG Urban Tree care, or a new study outline may be created during this MG/Agent meeting.
- Training offered as CEUs may count toward the Advanced Certificate if listed in the approved study outline. A maximum of 10 hours prior instruction may count toward a single certificate.
- All study outlines must be approved by an ACES Agent.
- All study outlines must include a list of planned outreach by the MG.
- Part of the volunteer commitment includes conducting or assisting with public outreach/workshops.
- Instructional requirements range from 20 to 40 hours (the Urban Tree program is about 20).
- The volunteer activities required to achieve the advanced certificate will relate to the topic of specialization.
- The number of volunteer hours needed for each certificate is equal to the hours of instruction.

Please keep these details in mind while you continue as a MG volunteer. Advanced certifications are not of interest to all MG's, but any MG can set the goal of becoming an Advanced Master Gardener in one or more areas. As mentioned earlier, I hope a few more MGs decide to sign up for the Urban Tree Advanced classes. I need to fill this class by mid-September.



GARDENER'S BOOKSHELF

-Green Flowers: Unexpected beauty for the garden, container or vase / Alison Hoblyn

-Growing Chinese Vegetables in Your Own Backyard: A Complete Planting Guide for 40 Vegetables and Herbs, from Bok Choy and Chinese Parsley to Mung Beans and Water Chestnuts / Geri Harrington

-Backyard Bird Secrets for Every Season: Attract a Variety of Nesting, Feeding, and Singing Birds Year-Round / Sally Roth

-Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's botanical legacy / Bonnie J. Gisell

-The Backyard Vintner: An Enthusiast's Guide to Growing Grapes and Making Wine at Home / Jim Law

-Shed Chic: Outdoor Buildings for Work, Rest and Play / Sally Coulthard

-A Short History of the Honey Bee: Humans, flowers, and bees in the eternal chase for honey / E. Readicker-Henderson

- Hope Long



Landscaping Photos Needed

In January 2010 an on-line course on residential landscape design will be offered to supplement regular course material and for current MGs to use as a refresher. This course will teach the basics of landscape design, such as how to analyze a site, how to develop a landscape plan, and how to implement the plan. To help with the creation of the course, MGs are asked to contribute pictures of both successful - and unsuccessful - residential landscaping projects. For the course, a wide range of pictures are needed. Pictures can be of a complex residential landscaping project or of a simple grouping of plants which demonstrates the use of texture, scale, form, color or shape. Even pictures of good and bad examples of yard art or hardscaping are needed. You may wish to contribute pictures of a well-designed shrub or flower bed that you particularly like. If it is not your property, make sure the owners don't mind you taking photos.

We are especially interested in any pictures which show the step-by-step development of a successful landscape project from start to finish. If you have pictures of your landscape you wish to contribute, please e-mail them to bobcat2@bellsouth.net in a compressed (zip) file.

In sending photos you are by that act giving the Alabama Cooperative Extension System the right to use the photos for educational purposes. If you have questions about contributing pictures, or do not know how to compress them, please contact Jan Smith at the above e-mail address.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Forward 7/27/09 ----- \$8,871.47

Received:

Rain Barrels Sold	\$1,245.00
2009 Dues – State	5.00
2009 Dues – Local	12.00

Total Received: ----- \$1,262.00

Disbursements:

#1886 - Drew Glover (Rain Barrels)	\$1,050.00
#1887 – Herb Lewis (Honorarium)	50.00

Total Disbursements: ----- \$1,100.00

Balance 8/24/09 ----- \$9,033.47

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

AMGA Dues Owed - \$20.00

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association

August 11, 2009

The Jefferson County Master Gardener Association met in the Hodges Room at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. President Pat Bullock called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Pat announced that Treasurer Anne Thomas's husband had knee surgery and has had complications with other health problems. Please remember them in your prayers.

Business Meeting:

Pat welcomed Cindy Martin, a first time visitor from Blount County. Both the July minutes and the Treasurer's report were approved as published in the newsletter. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Officer and Committee Report:

Treasurer: No report due to Anne's absence.

Hospitality: Nancy Nash thanked everyone who brought snacks and encouraged members to sign up for the September meeting.

Newsletter: Tricia Farris noted the deadline for the September newsletter is August 24. Send any information on volunteer opportunities to Outreach Coordinator Nora O'Connor who will forward the information to Tricia.

Yearbook: Harold Deason asked for show of hands for those who need yearbooks. Tony Glover was able to get them printed and distributed at end of meeting.

Tony Glover, Regional County Agent: The Ruffner Mountain Nature Center is in need of volunteers to help with Education programs. Tony answered questions about the accrual of volunteer hours in the recent newsletter. Anyone with additional questions can e-mail Tony at gloveta@auburn.edu. He announced that he has a few unfinished blue rain barrels available for sale, as well as a few of the larger tanks. An Advanced Master Gardener class in Urban Tree Care will begin in September. It is open to MGs who have finished their first year and have 100 volunteer hours. The cost is \$75.00 for three days, and includes lunch and field trips. This will require 20 volunteer hours in the Urban Tree area. These hours may be counted as part of your Volunteer hours. Jan Smith is working with Tony to develop an on-line learning module for MGs to review some of the more popular classes in the MG program. They hope to have a "Landscaping" module on-line early next year. She requests that members send pictures of good or bad landscaping. Please send to Tony at gloveta@auburn.edu.

Old Business: Blair Cox thanked everyone for the birthday card from last month.

New Business:

Ashley Tucker, a graduate student in horticulture at Auburn, has asked that we participate in a "Deer Repellent Survey." Members were asked to complete and turn in surveys by the end of the meeting.

We have also received a request from Kathie Bass, AMGA Fund-raising Chairman, to assess the interest in a specialty license plate with a gardening theme. At her request, Pat posed two questions to the members: 1) If the AMGA were to pursue the development of a "Distinctive License Plate" with a gardening focus, would you purchase one? In a show of hands, four members expressed interest, while 32 voted "No." 2) Do you think this plate should be strictly sold to MG or be made available to the public, which would open our field of sales possibilities? Two members voted to make the plate available only to Master Gardeners, and 31 voted to make it available to the general public.

Nominating Committee: Next month we will elect a Nominating Committee of three members. If you are interested in working on the nominating committee, please let Pat Bullock know.

Possible Changes to Bylaws: The Board is considering a few changes to the bylaws. These will be presented next month.

Pat noted that members could find current volunteer and educational opportunities in the August issue of *Roots and Shoots*.

ACES secretary Annette Drummond sent thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with secretarial duties.

Bruce Steele introduced our speaker Ruth Reichwein, a MG who volunteers with the Fern Society. She gave a very detailed and interesting program on growing ferns from spores. She said the main ingredient for success is patience as the process may take several weeks to months. A tour of the Fern Glades followed adjournment of our meeting.

Pat Bullock was the lucky winner of the Door Prize. Robert Eskew won the prize for wearing his name badge.

CEU's for today's presentation: .5; CEU's for the Fern Glade tour: .5.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Stinson
Secretary

Duties and Responsibilities of JCMGA Officers

At the regular meeting in October the Nominating Committee will submit its slate of nominees for officers of the Board. These officers are: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The following is a summary of duties for each office:

President:

- Preside at all meeting of the Board, Advisory Council, and Association.
- Appoint all standing and special correspondence
- Coordinate the work of the Association
- Be ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee
- Write monthly article for *Roots and Shoots*

Vice President:

- Be an aide to the President
- Presides in President's absence
- Submits a program package for the year at the January Board meeting for the Boards' approval
- Serves as Host to the speakers and makes arrangements for any equipment that they need such as sound, screens, projectors, etc.
- Writes monthly article for *Roots and Shoots*

Secretary:

- Record the minutes of all meetings of the Association, Board and Advisory Council.
- Conduct the Association's correspondence as directed.
- Maintains a file of all previous meeting minutes
- Submits minutes for publication in the *Roots and Shoots*

Treasurer:

- Be custodian of all the Association's funds
- Maintains records, receipts and acknowledgments of donations as proscribed by 501 (c) (3)
- Collects dues and distributes annual membership cards
- Disburse funds by direction of the Association
- Notify the President and Extension Liaison of delinquent members.
- Prepare a budget to be adopted by the Board and membership at the January meeting.
- Submit a monthly financial report for *Roots and Shoots*

All:

- Since most of the Association's correspondence is now conducted by computer it is imperative that all Board members and committee chairpersons be computer literate. They should be able to create a document, convert it into a usable file and send it by e-mail for publication.

Rain Barrel Workshop Scheduled for Vestavia Library



A Rain Barrel Workshop will be held on Thursday, September 3, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Vestavia Hills Library, 1112 Montgomery Highway. The workshop will include a presentation on harvesting rainwater, and a demonstration on how to make a rain barrel. One lucky person will win the completed rain barrel by a random drawing to be held at the end of the program. There is no cost for this workshop, but registration is requested to ensure sufficient material for all attendees. To register, call Sallie Lee at (205) 879-6964, ext. 11 or Leslie West at (205) 978-3684 (Vestavia Hills Library).

Annette Drummond Sends Thanks to Volunteers

Bouquets of thanks to Master Gardener Hanna Center office volunteers! The entire staff appreciates having professional assistance while Annette is away from the office ... and Annette appreciates help while she is in the office working on banking and special projects that require extra focus and concentration. Office volunteers are helpful in: taking phone messages and directing calls; answering horticulture questions from phone and walk-in clients; assisting clients in completing Plant Problem Submission Forms for the plant pathology lab; organizing Master Gardener information; assisting with mail-outs; compiling postage records; and more. GPIC volunteers also contribute greatly in getting the work out by doing double duty: working the Plant Information Hotline *and* performing office tasks.

Volunteer Judges Needed for Shelby County Fair

ACES Regional Extension Agent Angela Treadway has requested volunteers to act as Judges at the Shelby County Fair. "We usually have lots of plants and vegetables that need to be judged and could use some folks to judge canned foods and baked foods, too. We could use about four to six people. The date is September 21 at 8:30 a.m., at the Fairgrounds in Columbiana which is on Hwy. 70 right in front of the Shelby County Extension Office. It's lots of fun and lunch will be provided free of charge as a thank you for volunteering. It takes about 4 hours to judge," Treadway said.

To volunteer, call Treadway at (205) 669-6763 - office, (205) 410-3696 - mobile or e-mail her at treadas@aces.edu.

Nomination Form for 2010 JCMGA Officers

Nominations are currently being sought for 2010 Officers of the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association. If you wish to nominate a member for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer, with permission of the nominee, please complete the information below and submit this form to a member of Nominating Committee (to be selected at the September meeting).

Name of Nominee: _____

Office: _____

Telephone Number/E-mail of Nominee: _____

Your Name: _____

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 10 *What's That Bird? Birding 101* Instructor Greg Harber, Director of Audubon Mountain Workshop and Past President of Birmingham Audubon will reveal the secrets of how to use field marks, voice, behavior and habitat to recognize the many birds that pass through our area during fall migration. A field trip will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 at Aldridge Gardens Seminar: Sept. 10, Aldridge Gardens 6:30 - 8 p.m.; Field trip: Saturday, 7 a.m. Cost: Members \$12/ Non-members \$15. One child age 8+ free with each adult. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit: www.aldridgegardens.com.

September 13 *Medieval Insects--A world of Dragons and Damsels* Instructor Steve Krotzer, author of several scientific and popular articles about dragonflies and damselflies will share his expertise about these colorful insects. Discussion will include best methods for photographing the insects. Afterwards, Krotzer will lead a walk around Aldridge Lake and grounds. Bring binoculars. Aldridge Gardens 2 - 4 p.m. Cost: Members \$12/Non-members \$15. 1 child age 10+ free with each adult. \$3 for each additional child, age 10+. For more information, call 682-8019 or visit: www.aldridgegardens.com.

September 19 *Compost Yourself: Turn wasteful into useful.* "Captain Compost," William Cureton will demonstrate how to select and set up a compost bin or pile. Discover what materials are suitable for composting and the techniques to produce great compost. Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Cost: Members \$20/ Non-members \$25. For more information and to register: www.bbgardens.org/adult.php or call 414-3900.

September 23 *Lunch and Learn: Easy Care for Trees* BBG Director of Education Henry Hughes will discuss the basics of planting, pruning, and protecting trees against diseases. Bring your own lunch. Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Cost: Members \$10/Non-members \$12. For more information and to register: www.bbgardens.org/adult.php or call 414-3900.

September 29 *Perennial Color for Every Season* Instructor Jon Culver, Owner of Sweet Peas, Homewood, will discuss how to select plants for your garden to have color in every season. Aldridge Gardens 6:30 - 8 p.m. Cost: Members \$12.50/ Non-Members \$15 For more information, call 682-8019 or visit: www.aldridgegardens.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Extension agent Angela Treadway needs volunteers to serve as judges at the Shelby County Fair. For additional information, see page 6 of this newsletter.

Ruffner Mountain Nature Center needs volunteers to assist with the planning and installation of a garden at its new Visitor's Center. For more information or to volunteer, contact Michelle Reynolds at 205-838-2370 or e-mail coverings@bham.rr.com.

BB Gardens Library. Volunteers are needed for the following shifts: Tuesday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.; Wednesday, 1 - 4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 2nd Saturday, 1-4 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

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

Deadline for the next issue of *Roots and Shoots*: September 28

Roots and Shoots is the monthly newsletter of the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association. To submit information, contact newsletter editor Tricia Farris at editor@jeffcomg.org.