



Roots and Shoots

February 2011

President's Message. . .

It seems like forever since we last met. Our February 8th meeting will be our Annual Pot Luck Lunch; therefore, we will not have a social time before the meeting.

Also, we will celebrate those Master Gardeners who have achieved a volunteer hour milestone. As part of the Reach for the Stars Awards, we will be recognizing those individuals who will receive a Bronze, Silver or Gold Star. Gold and Platinum Name Badge recipients will receive their badges at the State Convention in Mobile.

New this year is the addition of the Advanced Hours Recognition Program. In addition to the current Stars and Badges, recognition will be given to those Master Gardeners who complete more than 2,000 volunteer hours. Following is the breakdown for the new Silver Star with Gem Stone which can be attached to the Platinum Badge:

- 4,000 – 5,999 Ruby
- 6,000 - 7,999 Emerald
- 8,000 – 9,999 Diamond
- 10,000+ Lifetime membership in AMGA with Lifetime Membership Badge

I mentioned in last month's *Roots and Shoots* that I would like to have your input on information, ideas, complaints, comments, projects, requests, report volunteer hours, etc. One of the ways you can let me know your thoughts is writing these down and placing them in the box that will be at the sign-in table at each meeting. Of course, you can always call or e-mail me. Your input is vital to the success of our organization.

I hope everyone is planning to attend the February 8 meeting. We have lots to talk about, awards to be presented and food to be eaten!

Glenda
Glenda Dicks

February Master Gardener Meeting February 8, 2011

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Business Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

Presentation—10:30 a.m.

Potluck Luncheon to follow

Don't miss our meeting on February 8th. This is the annual and eagerly anticipated "Reach for the Stars" Potluck Awards Luncheon. Members will be recognized for their many hours of volunteer service and continuing education. Kerry Smith will be here from Auburn to give us a brief "State of the State" Report. Kerry is State Program Coordinator for Master Gardeners and is always a great presenter. The bring-your-favorite-dish lunch is always spectacular, and stars will be shining mid-day. Join us for a triple dose of excellence.

Leaf and Petal at the Gardens will provide a door prize.

2011 Dues are Now Payable

If you have not already done so, please remit your 2011 MG dues of \$17 (\$12 local, \$5 state). Checks made payable to JCMGA can be given to Treasurer Roger Clarke at the January meeting or mailed to him at 414 Norfolk Lane, Homewood, AL 35209. Dues should be received before March 31, 2011.

"TONY TALKS"

We are off to a great start with our 2011 MG intern class. We are bursting at the seams with 33 students but they seem to be enjoying the camaraderie and the food. When you see interns at the monthly meetings be sure to give them a word of welcome and tell them about volunteer activities you are involved in or know about.

I hope you all enjoyed our snow last month. It was the gift that kept giving at my home because we had ice and snow for over a week. Thankfully my sweet sister Pat allowed me to stay at her home or I likely would have missed the first MG intern class. Hopefully we won't be snowed out for our February Pot Luck Awards Lunch. Many of you will be recognized for achieving various award milestones. However, the new reporting system may have impacted the number of hours recorded which were down about 200 hours from last year. I never want to see us backup and I believe we have a lot more unreported hours than normal. Please get on the new system and set up an account today. Visit this site for directions on getting started:

<http://www.aces.edu/~gloveta/documents/NewRecordSystemUsersGuide.pdf>

It seems like forever since we have met as a group. Kerry Smith our state MG coordinator will be making the trip from Auburn to give a program update and to help us recognize your accomplishments. Please make plans to come if at all possible. I want Kerry to see what an active, enthusiastic group we have in Jefferson County.

One of the areas that Kerry has encouraged and challenged us to become more involved in is reaching out to the community through speaking engagements. We get numerous requests from civic groups and garden clubs to conduct short presentations and with a little promotion I am sure we would get many more. We have had a loosely organized Speaker's Bureau for some time but I would like to see us increase our outreach efforts in this area. Yvette Heath (Class of '05) has agreed to help organize our Speaker's Bureau. The first thing she will need is a list of all of you who currently do speaking engagements and those who wish to become involved. I know who some of you are but I am sure there are some I do not know.

Contact Yvette and let her know who you are and the topics you can do presentations about. I know she is planning to put biographies together and ultimately develop an online directory as well as a handout to provide to groups who need speakers.

If you have thought about this in the past but felt you needed some help I will be working with Yvette to provide some speaker training later this year. Please let me know if you would be interested in attending a speaker workshop by sending me an email (gloveta@aces.edu). The more interested people we have the sooner we will have this training. To contact Yvette Heath you may call her at home (205-988-8050) or if you prefer you may email her at Yvette.heath72@gmail.com .

February Gardener's Calendar

FRUITS AND NUTS-Planting season continues for dormant trees. Fertilize fruit trees. Apply half of the fertilizer

recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets. Continue dormant pruning and grafting. Start strawberry plantings.

SHRUBS-Planting season continues. Visit camellia shows to learn of hardy varieties in your area. Graft camellias in Central and South Alabama.

Spray all shrubs with a fungicide before new growth starts. Good time to prune all shrubs before new growth starts. Don't prune early-blooming species because flower buds will be removed.

ROSES-Prune hybrid tea roses in South Alabama; delay pruning for a few weeks in North Alabama. Continue planting.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS-Replant early plantings of hardy annuals. Prepare beds for summer annuals.

BULBS-Plant cannas, amaryllis, gladiolus, and zephyranthes in South Alabama; delay planting for a few weeks in North Alabama.

VEGETABLE SEED-Plant some vegetables listed for January in Central Alabama plus collards, salsify, and Swiss chard. Add tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts to coldframes.

VEGETABLE PLANTS-Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.

ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE 2012 VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association will host the 2012 Alabama Master Gardener Association Conference to be held on March 22-24 at the Birmingham Marriott and other area venues. Committee chairpersons have been selected and are looking for volunteers. If you would like to help, please e-mail the information below to amg2012cvols@att.net

Your full name:

Local Master Gardener Association:

Contact number(s):

Email address:

Describe any relevant experiences/skills/offices held:

To help place you on the appropriate committee please rank your top three committees (#1 being your first choice):

- ☐ FINANCE COMMITTEE
- ☐ EVALUATION
- ☐ PROGRAM/PUBLICITY
- ☐ TOUR/TRANSPORTATION
- ☐ REGISTRATION
- ☐ FACILITIES
- ☐ FOOD FUNCTIONS
- ☐ HOSPITALITY/HOSTS
- ☐ DECORATIONS
- ☐ BOOK SALES/SIGNING
- ☐ T-SHIRT/PRODUCT SALES
- ☐ SILENT AUCTION
- ☐ VENDORS
- ☐ DOOR PRIZES

We appreciate your support and will follow-up on your request.

2012 Master Gardener Conference Update

The 2012 Master Gardener Conference will be held in Birmingham at the Marriott on US 280 on 22- 24 March 2012. It is time for you to volunteer before all the great volunteer jobs are grabbed up. Please send your application to Karen Larsen at amg2012cvols@att.net and she will arrange a great position for you. It is going to be fun, yet a lot of work, to ensure that we have the best conference possible.

During the recent Steering Committee Meeting, the decision was made for the theme of the meeting. "The Magic of Gardening" will be the theme and the logo is near completion.

Much work has been done toward the overall program and the Program Committee, headed by Tricia Farris, has done a great job in developing the overall program for the conference and the speakers. You will be pleased with their choices.

While the conference is still 15 months away we need your support and ideas to ensure that everything has been covered.

We are in the process of inviting the five surrounding Master Gardener Associations to join us for the 2012 Conference.

If you have any ideas or comments please send them to me at chair2012@aol.com

Thanks,
Harold Deason

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting information for the March issue of *Roots and Shoots* is Feb 28. Please send your information to newsletter editor Tricia Farris at news@jeffcomg.org.

Mark Your Calendar JEFFCOMG Programs for 2011

January 11	Cancelled Due To Weather
February 8	Reach for the Stars Potluck Awards Luncheon/Kerry Smith, "State of the State' Report"
March 8	Business Meeting; Program - Tony Glover, Gardening Myths Debunked
April 12	To Be Announced
May 10	Business Meeting; Annual Plant Swap conducted by Linda Emerson
June 14	Business Meeting; Program - J. Michael Wyss, PhD (UAB), "Kudzu ...Alabama's Next Cash Crop?"
July 12	Business Meeting; Program - Wendy Ulrich, Herbal Vinegars and Butters
August 9	Business Meeting; Program - Update on 2012 State Meeting, Harold Deason and Guests from AMGA
September 13	Field Trip to Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College, Roald Hazelhof, Director. Lecture and Museum and Garden Tour; Brief Business Meeting for Selection of Nominating Committee
October 11	Business Meeting/Election of Officers for 2012
November 8	Graduation Banquet for Master Gardener Class of 2011, Installation of 2012 JCMGA Officers; Special Speaker
December	No Meeting...Seasons Greetings

Night Meetings:

March 15	Rain Harvest Workshop
June 21	Drip Irrigation Workshop
September 20	To Be Announced

We are exploring the possibility of hosting additional workshops and possible day trips to points of interest such as Jim Scott's gardens at Lake Martin, Pat Dye's Japanese maples at Owl Hollow Nursery near Auburn, Jack Warner's museum and gardens in Tuscaloosa and Ebenezer Swamp in Montevallo. Watch *Roots and Shoots* for updates.

Please send any ideas or suggestions for meetings or programs to Fletcher Harvey (vice-pres@jeffcomg.org or twoharveys@aol.com).



AMGA 21st Annual State Conference "Gardening for Life" March 24-26, 2011 Mobile, Alabama

The 2011 Alabama Master Gardener Conference will be held in Mobile this spring. You can register now at <http://mobilemastergardeners.org>

Please use the hotel code AMGAMGA when booking rooms at the Renaissance for your Master Gardener rate. Rooms need to be reserved before **March 1** in order for AMGA to get credit for them.

Mobile has a lot to offer anytime, but the Festival of Flowers will also be held that same weekend. For more information:

<http://www.festivalofflowers.com>

December 2010 Treasurer's Report

Submitted By: Roger Clarke,
Treasurer

Beginning Balance: \$12,207.41
Receipts: \$566.00
Disbursements: \$44.00
Ending Balance: \$12,729.41
1/20/2011

Volunteer Opportunities

BBG Kaul Wild Flower Garden, Bog Garden and Alabama Woodlands - Join John Manion, Kaul Wildflower Garden(KWG) Curator, for his Volunteer Workdays, 9 a.m. – noon. Meet at the garden where you will be working. Contact John at jmanion@bbgardens.org or 414-3985

UPCOMING DATES:

Thursday, Feb. 3 Bog Garden

Thursday, Feb. 10-KWG

Thursday, Feb. 17 – Alabama Woodlands

Thursday, Feb. 24 - KWG

Camellia Show – Volunteers are needed to help with the 61st annual Camellia Show, Feb. 12-13 in the BBG Auditorium. They need six volunteers on Saturday from 8-12. They will be placing blooms on tables and following along with judges and placing the award ribbons. Free lunch is included at noon. Please contact: Tena Holcombe tenah@bellsouth.net or 205-933-2168 to volunteer.

BBG Garden Docents - Looking for a way to give back while sharing a love for plants and people? Join The BBG Garden's Docent Community. All you need is a willingness to learn and attend a monthly training session. The next training is Tuesday, February 15 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the BBG. Contact Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or mgrant@bbgardens.org.

Irondale Community Garden needs help setting up their new garden. Saturday February 19, 9:00-3:00 and Saturday March 26, 9:00-3:00. For more information contact Malia Hughes, maliah@bham.lib.al.us or 444-7843.

Plant Dig - The Keep Birmingham Beautiful Commission (KBBC) needs up to 10 volunteers for their annual plant dig at the New Georgia Landfill at 2800 Lewisburg Road on February 19th from noon until 4:00 PM. They will have plenty of help digging the plants but could use some Master Gardeners to help identify the good plants from the invasive plants. If you are interested in helping please contact Brenda Dent-Russell with KBBC at 205-254-2798 or cell 254-2819 or e-mail bjdent@ci.birmingham.al.us.

Urban Forestry Fair - Join the Friends of BBG Educational Outreach Program at this Annual Event with hands-on activities for Birmingham City schoolchildren. Help children make a forestry-related craft. Date: Wednesday, Feb 23; Location: Boutwell Auditorium; Shift Times: 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For more information, contact Birmingham Botanical Gardens Volunteer Coordinator Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or e-mail mgrant@bbgardens.org.

Rose Pruning - The Birmingham Rose Society's annual pruning of the Dunn Formal Rose Garden at the BBG will be held on Saturday, March 5, from 8:00 – 11:45 a.m. Volunteers should bring their own pruning tools. Coffee and donuts will be served. For more information and to confirm attendance contact Robert Eskew at 823-6621 or e-mail daddybobsq@aol.com.

BBG Library Volunteers - No experience necessary. Training provided. Various weekend shifts available. For more information, contact Birmingham Botanical Gardens Volunteer Coordinator Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or e-mail mgrant@bbgardens.org.

Volunteer Opportunities (continued)

Glenwood Autism and Behavioral Health Center - JCMGA member Dianne Brannon reports that the Glenwood Autism and Behavioral Health Center is in need of plant donations and volunteers to help with planting. The hardscape has been installed at the center. Crushed rock paths were laid courtesy of volunteer attorneys and a composter and arbor constructed by a Boy Scout earning his Eagle Scout rank. The Sensory Garden design is prepared and now it's time for the Master Gardeners to get to work. Their plant wish list includes:

- Lantana
- Purple coneflower
- Rudbeckia
- Daffodil
- Coreopsis (C. verticillata)
- Lamb's ear
- Shasta daisy
- Ox-eye daisy
- Yarrow
- Salvia greggii
- Indigo spires salvia
- Black and Blue salvia (S. guarantica)
- Mexican sage bush (leucantha)
- Russian sage (perovskia atriplicifolia)
- Jerusalem sage (phlomis fruticosa)
- Stokesia
- Phlox (P. drummondii)
- Irises – purple and yellow
- Daylilies

Please e-mail Dianne at dbrannon3553@charter.net or call her at 967-6636 to let her know if you have plants to share. Please bring your plant donations to the April 12 meeting. If you are not able to attend the meeting contact Dianne and she will make arrangements to collect the plants. Volunteers will also be needed to help with the planting on Thursday, April 28 at 9:00 a.m.

Glenwood plans to raise funds for their organization by having a daylily sale. A Vestavia Girl Scout troop has volunteered to dig up any daylilies at your home that you wish to donate and will plant them along some of the paths and will assist the individuals with autism in potting the daylilies for the daylily sale. They would like to begin collecting daylilies in March. Glenwood's daylily sale will most likely be scheduled for May. Let Dianne know if you are interested.

Mark Your Calendar

February 12 and 13 - The 61st Annual Camellia Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 12-13. Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium. Open free to the public Sat, 2-5 and Sun., 1-4. Camellia blooms can be entered in the show by the public Sat. 9-11. Judging begins at 11:00. For more information about the show call 205-408-5756.

February 20 - Make Your Own Terrarium," 2:00-3:30 p.m. Instructor: Hope Long, Master Gardener & Director of Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens \$16 Members/\$20 Non-Members (includes all materials but container) Class limited to 20. In the bleak mid-winter, come lift your spirits by designing and planting your own terrarium. Terrariums, which have been popular since Victorian times, are glass enclosed containers for growing small plants. You will learn about proper soil mixes, moisture, light, temperature, fertilizing, plant selection, and maintenance. Bring to class a clear container of your choice (with or without a lid.) Suggestions include a wide-mouth bottle, an old aquarium or pickle jar, large brandy snifter, fish bowl, or glass cylinder. Check out the craft stores and pet store fish areas for container ideas. All other supplies including plants will be provided. Location: Aldridge Botanical Gardens, 3530 Lorna Road, Hoover
For more information, call 682-8019 or visit www.aldridgegardens.com

February 27 - "Butterflies of Alabama: Glimpses into their Lives" 2:00-3:30 p.m. Q & A to follow.
Instructors: Paulette Haywood and Sara Bright, Authors. \$11 Members/\$15 Non-Members
Children 8+ may attend free with one adult. Alabama's butterflies are full of surprises: from possum-playing escape artists to Trojan horse aphid-eaters, their adaptive survival strategies never cease to amaze. We will begin by looking at basic butterfly biology and end with glances at a few of Alabama's most common as well as one of its rarest species. Join us as we take an up close and personal peek into the everyday lives of Alabama's butterflies. Paulette's and Sara's recent book will be available for purchase and signing. Location: Aldridge Botanical Gardens, 3530 Lorna Road, Hoover For more information, call 682-8019 or visit www.aldridgegardens.com

March 10 - Virginia Beeland Spencer Lecture, Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The 12th annual Virginia Beeland Spencer Lecture will be held on Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Linn-Henley Lecture Hall. This free annual event brings celebrated botanist Dr. Allan Armitage to Birmingham Botanical Gardens for an intriguing talk titled "Legends of the Garden." You will learn about the people behind the plants who bear their names and get the 411 on what's hot in horticulture this year. Guests will have a chance to meet Dr. Armitage at a reception in the Hodges Room at 5:30 prior to his lecture. Seating is limited. For more information or to reserve a seat, please contact Special Events Coordinator Shelly McCarty at 205-414-3965 or e-mail smccarty@bbgardens.org.

Upcoming Plant Sales:

Aldridge Botanical Gardens:

March 6 – Trees and Shrubs, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

March 11 – 12 - Native Plants, Shrubs and Ground Covers; Friday, Noon – 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – Noon

April 8 – 9 – Annuals and Perennials; Friday, Noon – 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - Noon

May 20 – 21 – Hydrangeas: Friday, Noon – 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – Noon

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

April 15 – 17 – Spring Plant Sale, Location to be announced.