



Roots and Shoots

January 2011

President's Message. . .

Happy New Year! I am so looking forward to another Master Gardening year. As we begin the New Year, please:

1. Mark those new 2011 calendars with the second Tuesday in every month for our monthly meetings
2. Get involved by signing up for a committee or two
3. Keep those hours reported
4. Sign up for the Speaker's Bureau.

When I first started attending Master Gardener's meetings, then-president, Harold Deason, stated he had had two goals when he became president. One was a Jefferson County MG logo (Yea!) and the other was the pictorial membership directory (Double Yea!)

With this in mind, I started thinking about goals for 2011. I would like to take the JCMG logo one step further and attach it to a specific, on-going community project that everyone can be involved in. This could be a project that is already underway – just so it is something that when they heard the project name, Jefferson County residents would immediately think – Master Gardeners! We need to get community recognition.

Since our November Banquet, I have spoken with many of you – gathering information, ideas, complaints, projects, etc. I would like to continue this throughout the year. 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.

Glenda
Glenda Dicks

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.

January Master Gardener Meeting

January 11, 2011

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Refreshments – 9:30 a.m.

Business Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

Presentation—10:30 a.m.

Don't miss our meeting on January 11th. "Dr. Kudzu," J. Michael Wyss, will discuss "KUDZU...ALABAMA'S NEW CASH CROP?" A professor in UAB's Department of Biochemistry, Dr. Wyss is involved in current studies exploring applications of kudzu in the treatment of blood pressure problems, alcohol addiction and other areas of interest. Perhaps our noxious alien invasive might have some redeeming social value after all!

Leaf and Petal at the Gardens will provide a door prize for this inaugural meeting of the New Year.

"TONY TALKS"

I hope all of you have had a very blessed Holiday season. It is hard to believe another year has come and gone. I started working at this office five years ago, but it seems like only a few months. I will be starting my 8th new MG class (2 years we had a day and night class) with 30 new interns. Roger Clarke, Ann McAdams and Karen Mitchell have agreed to help on a regular basis and some others have said they can help part-time. Check out the schedule for the class at www.jeffcomg.org and let me know if you want to attend a class as a refresher or possibly one you missed when you took the class.

Congratulations are in order for Master Gardener Karen Mitchell for being named the Birmingham United Cerebral Palsy Volunteer of the Year for 2010. She will be honored at a UCP luncheon later this month for the work she coordinated with other MGs on a gardening project at the Hand in Hand Children's facility. I was very impressed last summer at what they accomplished in their first year of gardening.

I am equally as excited about a new volunteer project in cooperation with UAB called "Harvest for Health." Master Gardener volunteers will mentor recovering cancer patients on basic vegetable gardening. UAB is coordinating the study/project with our help. I really think this is a worthwhile project deserving of our support. I think we will get some great PR down the road which can only help our program. If you want more details about how you can get involved let me know.

For those who are very interested in preserving and protecting trees, we are pleased to announce the workshop "Trees and Development" which is scheduled here at the BBG on January 11 (unfortunately the same day as our regular monthly meeting). This educational workshop is a cooperative effort between ACES, CAWACO RC+D and The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham. This multi-agency supported workshop responds to a growing need to preserve trees during development and construction. Trees and development are often at odds resulting in contention between cities officials, design and construction professionals, planners, arborists, and property owners. Our experience suggests there is a lack of knowledge in the design and construction industry as well as the general public on the techniques important to successful tree preservation.

This workshop will feature Alabama experts (Fred Spicer and Rip Weaver) as well as James Urban, a leading landscape architect and tree preservation specialist from Annapolis, Maryland. The goals of this one day workshop are to:

- * Educate the audience on the importance of green infrastructure in Alabama cities
- * Provide techniques for preserving trees during development
- * Present case studies on local and regional projects with successful tree
- * Facilitate networking opportunities for a multidisciplinary audience

For more information about the workshop and speakers, please refer to the agenda at: <http://www.aces.edu/trees> and register online at <http://www.aces.edu/trees/registration>

Have a great New Year and don't forget to start your new MG Reporting account and record your 2010 hours ASAP. Visit here for directions if you have not already done so:

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

January Gardener's Calendar

FRUITS AND NUTS -- Set out apples, peaches, pears, and grapes. Start grafting pecans. Prune dormant trees.

SHRUBS -- Plant shrubs and trees, including broadleaf, narrowleaf, and deciduous. Graft camellias in South Alabama. Spray all deciduous shrubbery with a dormant spray to control diseases and insects. Spray when weather is on warming trend.

LAWNS -- Soil test before setting up fertility program.

ROSES -- Visit nurseries and garden centers to select varieties. Start planting.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS - Plant hardy annuals.

BULBS - Late plantings of Dutch bulbs will flower if planted now. Lilies of all types, except Madonna, may be planted. Check stored bulbs and discard rotten ones. Make indoor plantings of amaryllis, callas, and gloxinias.

MISCELLANEOUS - Prune winter-damaged limbs. Give houseplants a bath in lukewarm water to remove dust. To keep poinsettias that have finished flowering, turn pots on their sides and let them dry completely. Cut them back lightly. Keep in a temperature of 55 to 60 °.

VEGETABLE SEED - Plant hardy vegetables, root crops, roots, and tubers in southern-most areas. Plant lettuce, cabbage, and broccoli in coldframes.

VEGETABLE PLANTS - Set out cabbage plants.

JCMGA Inducts Officers



Jefferson County Master Gardener Officers for 2011 are (left to right): Roger Clarke, Treasurer; Glenda Dicks, President; Fletcher Harvey, Vice-President; Anne Thomas, Recording Secretary.

New Master Gardener Graduates



Congratulations to our newest Master Gardeners who received their certificates at the banquet held November 9, 2010 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Members of the Class of 2010 include: Dana J. Atkinson, Deborah Baggett, Julieanna Brandino, Roger Clarke, Merrie Diehl, David Doggett, Tom Douglass, Cindy Fravert, Joseph Rene Germann, Angela Gomez, Mary Elaine Harris, David Harris, Lou Heck, Henry Lee, Ann McAdams, Meg Mosteller-Barnum, Jennifer Patterson, Deborah Ross, Katherine Rostand, Todd Russell, Taylor Steele, and Gary Walker.

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>

November 2010 Treasurer's Report

Submitted By: Blair Cox, Treasurer

Beginning balance 10-24-10:	11,818.39
Receipts	1,748.00
Disbursements	-1,358.98
Ending Balance 11-24-10:	12,207.41

Assistance Needed for Planning 2012 State Convention

Do you have special talents or interest in helping to prepare for a meeting of around 400 – 450 gardeners? If so we need you. As you know, the Jefferson County Master Gardeners will be hosting the 2012 Convention on 22 – 24 March 2012 at the Birmingham Marriott on Highway 280.

We have made good progress in getting the basic elements together for the Convention and have strong committee chairs. We will be needing around 125 people to help with the convention so please grab a Master Gardener friend and sign up to help.

The main committees have been established and are active and other committees will be activated in the near future. We have many committees and would like for you to join at least one and perhaps more. The question is: How can I be on more than one committee? Much of some committees' work will be done prior to the convention and several of the committees will be very active during the convention.

Below is a listing of the committees and a brief description of their duties. If you are interested, please send the information found on the volunteer signup sheet to Karen Larsen at the following address:

amg2012cvols@att.net

Program / Publicity: Tricia Farris, Chairperson. Development of the agenda and selection of speakers and breakout sessions. Selection committee full, but will need additional volunteers to assist speakers during convention.

Food Functions: Anne Thomas, Chairperson. All food functions including Thursday night at the BBG, and food for Friday and Saturday at the Marriott. Determine menus and service options.

Registration: Pat Bullock, Chairperson. Registration during the convention but will also be responsible for preparation of name badges and getting all the convention information and freebies together to hand out to the attendees.

Facilities: Fletcher Harvey, Chairperson. Liaison with the Marriott to ensure that the rooms are setup and organized according to the plan we develop and that the rooms and AV is setup for breakout sessions. Handle setups for all facets of the convention.

Hospitality: Nancy Nash, Chairperson. Work with Anne Thomas on the Food Functions, provide the guides and assistance for attendees to ensure that they get to where they need to be on time.

Finance: Edna Alderman, Chairperson. Manage the budget and approve any expenditure prior to it being sent to AMGA. Will maintain the records of expenses and assets.

Book Sales / Signing: Mitzi Owen, Chairperson. Will have the booth for book sales and book signing by speakers

Evaluation: Charlene Chadband, Chairperson. Historian for the convention from initial notification until we turn the records into AMGA.

T-Shirt / Product Sales: Susan Jackson, Chairperson. Will handle the sales of t-shirts and logoed items during the convention. Work with registration to order the required shirts for the attendees.

Silent Auction: Pat Palmer, Chairperson. Obtain door prizes and items for the silent auction and setup the displays for the auction.

Decorations: Whitney Saunders, Chairperson. Plan decorations for the Thursday night dinner at the BBG and the dinner on Friday night at the Marriott.

Vendors / Fundraising: Linda Systrom, Chairperson. Work with the AMGA fundraiser to secure vendors to display during the convention. The vendors will be local, regional and national.

Tour / Transportation: Mike Rushing, Chairperson. Working on garden tours for Thursday afternoon and maybe Saturday afternoon.

These are the committees that we have at this time and we will have additional committees to include printing, door prizes, awards and others as needed.

We are in the process of inviting the Master Gardener organizations from Shelby, Blount, Walker, Clanton, and St. Clair Counties to join us in putting on the convention. We welcome any master gardeners in the area to participate with us.

If you have questions please address sent them to me at chair2012@aol.com and I will get the question to the correct person.

-Harold Deason
Chair 2012 AMGA Convention

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are available at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. For additional information, contact Mary-Bestor Grant at mgrant@bbgardens.org or 414-3962.

Members Annual Dinner Volunteers Needed

January 20, 2011 from 5:30 -9:00 p.m. Join us as we host our Members. Volunteers needed for Registration table. You will be able to enjoy a scrumptious catered dinner.

Library Volunteer Needed

First Sunday of every month from 2-5 p.m.

Second Saturday of every month from 1-4 p.m.

Garden Docents

Looking for a way to give back while sharing a love for plants and people? Join The Garden's Docent Community! All you need is a willingness to learn and attend a monthly training session. Join us for our next training on Tuesday, January 18 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the BBG! Contact Mary-Bestor at 414-3962 or mgrant@bbgardens.org

Kaul Wild Flower Garden (KWG) Volunteers Workdays Have Expanded! Now Holding Sessions in the Bog Garden and Alabama Woodlands

Join John Manion, Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator, for his Volunteer Workdays!

UPCOMING DATES:

Thursday, Jan 6-Bog Garden

Thursday, Jan 13-KWG

Saturday, Jan 15 - KWG

Thursday, Jan 20 - Alabama Woodlands

Thursday, Jan 27 - KWG

TIME HAS CHANGED: 9:00-Noon. Meet at the garden where you will be working.

Be prepared to get dirty gardening! Contact John at jmanion@bbgardens.org or 414-3985.