

President's Message. . .

March was a busy and exciting month. At our March meeting, we had 71 members and three visitors as we wished our friend and sponsor Tony Glover our best as he embarks on his new position as Cullman County Extension Coordinator. I join Tony in challenging each of you to continue practicing what Tony has taught us. We can continue to honor Tony by being the best we can be as the Greatest MG group in the State.

I really enjoyed the conference in Mobile. It was good to visit with other MGs and vendors, hear some really good speakers and enjoy Mobile's hospitality. Now it is time for us to really buckle down and concentrate on hosting the 2012 conference in Birmingham.

Points to remember:

- Volunteer hours for 2011 must be entered electronically.
- Volunteer hours must be identified and entered into a specific category.
- Lump sum hours at the end of the year will not be accepted.

I look forward to seeing everyone on April 12. Bring another Master Gardener, and as always, food is appreciated and enjoyed!

Glenda
Glenda Dicks

The following are the Volunteer/CEU Hours to date for this year's JCMGA meetings:

Jan Meeting – Meeting Cancelled

Feb Meeting –1 hr. volunteer time if you brought food for the luncheon.

March Meeting - CEU 1 hr. – Tony's Presentation

2011 Dues are Past Due

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 April meeting or mailed to him at 414 Norfolk Lane, Homewood, AL 35209. We currently have 62 members who were active last year who have not paid their 2011 dues.

April Master Gardener Meeting

April 12, 2011

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Hospitality—9:30 a.m.

Presentation—10:00 a.m.

Business Meeting – 11:00 a.m.

Join us as John Manion, Curator of the Kaul Wildflower Garden at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens gives us an intimate look at some of our spring ephemerals. In Alabama, we have a wealth of these interesting and often visually stunning plants. Over the years they have provided a many stories about their natural and cultural histories. This should prove to be an entertaining and informative examination of a profound and fleeting visual event. Our "agenda" will be slightly different on this occasion as we are pleased to have members of the Lawrence County Master Gardeners joining us for John's presentation.

Thanks again to Oak Street Garden Shop for the lovely hanging basket won by Susan Jackson at our March meeting.

This month's door prize is provided by Petals from the Past, our featured nursery for April. "Petals" graciously offers a 10% discount to Master Gardeners. Just present your card at checkout.

"TONY TALKS"

A BIG THANK YOU!

I am very grateful to the JCMGA for the wonderful send off and gift. It was been the highlight of my stay at the BBG to work with the Master Gardener's Program. Keep up the good work you all do.

Sincerely,
Tony

JCMGA Well-Represented at State Conference in Mobile



Speaker's Bureau

A word from Yvette Heath about the Speaker's Bureau. . .I have contacted many of you, either by phone or e-mail, requesting information needed to create an on-line directory of Master Gardener speakers. This will be a wonderful tool used to help us become more involved in reaching out to the community through speaking engagements. If you are currently doing presentations and I have not been in touch with you, or if you know of someone who would like to be involved, please call 988-8050 or e-mail me at yvette.heath72@gmail.com. Also, if you would like to serve on this committee, please let me know!

Solve Your Fire Ant Problems with Help from the Experts

Please join us at:

<http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/fireant>

Thursday, April 21st 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Central time.

Brought to you by The Imported Fire Ant Extension Community of Practice

This webinar will present the information that you need to know to control fire ants. It is actually easy to kill the fire ants that are bothering you, once you understand how they live. You will learn how to apply the integrated pest management tactics that are as economical and as environmentally friendly as possible.

Moderator: Dr. Kathy Flanders, Associate Professor, Auburn University.

Topics:

- How Can You Tell if You Have Fire Ants? Dr. Jason Oliver, Research Associate Professor – Entomology, Tennessee State University
- Understanding the Biology and Behavior of Fire Ants Makes it Easier to Control Fire Ants, Dr. Timothy Davis, Clemson University
- Managing Imported Fire Ants, Dr. Bastiaan Drees, Professor, Texas A&M University
- Biological Control of Fire Ants, Dr. Lawrence Graham, Auburn University

How to Participate:

Please log in as a guest at:

<http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/fireant>

For more information about fire ants, please go to:

www.extension.org/fire+ants



22 - 24 March Birmingham, AL

The 2011 AMGA Conference in Mobile is over and it is less than a year until we host the 2012 AMGA Conference in Birmingham. There is much work to be done in preparing for the conference and thanks to the many members that have volunteered to help with the project. We still need more members to step forward and bring a friend with you.

Thanks to Karen Larsen for sending an application out to each member.

We have invited master gardeners from the surrounding counties to also join with us to work the conference in 2012 and many have signed up to help and we are very appreciative. If you want a certain job ask early to avoid the rush.

We welcome your suggestions and comments and will be calling on you to help with the project.

Below is a listing of the committees and a brief description of their duties. If you are interested please send 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 --- FULL

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: Roger Clarke, Chairperson; will 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; will be the 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 for the 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 public garden tours for Thursday afternoon. Additional committees to be added as needed.

Thanks,
Harold Deason

Reserve Your Alabama Master Gardener Car Tag



If you pay attention to the cars that pass you on the highway or to the cars parked near yours in a parking lot, you will see many sport some type of vanity tag. You will see tags for various universities and different causes. There is even a tag for square dancers.

Now the gardeners of Alabama have a tag designed with them in mind. Kerry Smith, the state coordinator for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Master Gardener program, says people can pre-order a new Alabama Master Gardeners tag.

"Master Gardeners as well as people who want to support Master Gardener programs can complete a commitment form available now at Alabama county probate offices or wherever people buy their car tags," says Smith.

The specialty tag costs \$50 more than your current tag taxes and fees. That money will be divided between the Alabama Master Gardener program and the Alabama Master Gardener Association Horticulture scholarship at Auburn University.

"If you are interested in one, order your tag now even if it is several months before your current tag expires," says Smith. She explains that the Master Gardener tag must receive 1,000 commitments to purchase in the current year. If the tag doesn't get enough supporters, it won't be created.

For more information, listen to a podcast conversation with Smith that aired recently on Backyard Wisdom, a radio and podcast effort by Alabama Extension.

<https://sites.aces.edu/group/backyardwisdom/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=95>

HELP WANTED

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 contact Volunteers Chairman Karen Larsen at amg2012cvols@att.net

Plant Wish List for Glenwood Autism and Behavioral Health Center

- 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

See Volunteer Opportunities for more information on this project.

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association

March 8, 2011

The JCMGA March meeting was called to order by President Glenda Dicks at 10:00 a.m. First-time attendees were introduced. The minutes of the February meeting and the Treasurer's report were approved as printed in the February edition of *Roots and Shoots*.

Mary-Bestor Grant, the Volunteer Coordinator for Friends of BBG, presented her Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer for the Spring Plant Sale. Glenda Dicks notified the membership of two corrections to the Reach for the Stars awards: Ann McAdams and Madelon Rushing received the bronze and gold star awards, respectively.

Tony Glover noted that in reporting hours using the new system we must assign all hours to a category for them to be counted. He then reviewed the use of the web site to report hours. Glenda Dicks emphasized that Master Gardeners can no longer call at the end of the year to turn in their hours for the entire year. Hours will NOT be counted if reported in this manner. Glenda also stated again that she would like anyone with questions regarding any MG activities to submit them in written form in the box provided at the front of the auditorium for that purpose.

Several MGs reported on ongoing projects. Dianne Brannon, coordinator of the Glenwood Autism Center project, provided a list of perennials she would like to have and indicated that these plants could be brought to her at the April meeting. Karen Mitchell reported on the status of the Hand in Hand Children's Garden at the United Cerebral Palsy Center and mentioned that there would be a workday the next Saturday (March 12). Jennifer Phillips reported on the Snow Rogers Elementary School projects in Gardendale, including a Jr. MG project.

Wanda Kiel, who is the new JeffCoMG webmaster, discussed revisions of the web site and demonstrated changes she has made to date. She still has room on the site and is looking for additional material. Fletcher Harvey reported that those MGs who are interested in training to become docents at Aldridge Gardens should contact Laverne Martin at Aldridge. The meeting was then turned over to Tony Glover who presented a program on Debunking Gardening Myths.

At the end of Tony's presentation, he was presented a sawtooth oak seedling with a promise of a Toomer's Oak seedling to come later, along with a Lowe's gift card. These gifts were presented to recognize and honor his service to the Jefferson County Master Gardeners.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jackson for Anne Thomas
Secretary, JCMGA

Treasurer's Report

March 2011

Submitted by Roger Clarke, Treasurer

Beginning Balance: \$13,613.41

Receipts: \$656.00

Ending Balance (3/21/11): \$14,016.41

Volunteer Opportunities

BBG Kaul Wild Flower Garden For more information on volunteer needs as well as information on the new Certificate in Native Plant Studies visit the monthly KWG newsletter, *Botanically Speaking* at <http://bbgardens.org/BotanicallySpeaking.php>.

Aldridge Gardens needs volunteers to help with upcoming plants sales: April 8-9 at the Perennial and Annuals sale, and May 20-21 at the Hydrangea sale. The hours for each sale are Friday, Noon – 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 8:00 – Noon. For more information or to volunteer contact LaVerne Martin, Volunteer Coordinator at 682-8019 Ext. 2 or e-mail aldridgelm@bellsouth.net

Ruffner Mountain Nature Center needs volunteers for its first Native Plant Sale, April 9, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Help is needed on Thursday and Friday before the sale for set up, and on the day of the sale. For more information, contact Michelle Reynolds, 838-2370, coverings@bham.rr.com.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens needs volunteers for Spring Plant Sale set up on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12-13, and on the days of the sale, April 14-17. For more information, contact Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or e-mail mgrant@bbgardens.org.

Gardendale Farmers Market, June 16 (rain date June 23rd), 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to man a MG booth at the Gardendale Farmers' Market to hand out garden publications, soil test boxes, etc. to people at the market. To volunteer, please contact Jim Parola at 285-9170 or jimparola@charter.net.

Riverchase Elementary School's first-grade teachers have received a \$1,000 grant to create a student garden. Their first build will on on April 15th from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Need help with plant selection for the bird, butterfly and sensory garden areas, as well as which vegetables are better to plant from seedlings. For more information, contact Colleen Bedics (H) 987-1887 (C) 994-0888, ckbedics@gmail.com.

Pizitz Middle School sixth grade teacher needs assistance with 20 students who are interested in gardening. The plan is to beautify a courtyard area. They need assistance with planning, instruction in soil preparation and plant selection. For more information, contact Phillip E. VanderKamp, vanderkamppe@vestavia.k12.al.us.

Three Hots & a Cot, a center for homeless Veterans located at 2124 Old Springville Rd. in Center Point needs help with plant selection, teaching and installing a vegetable garden. For more information, contact J. D. Simpson 205/306-4761 [or jdjordan@cotsforvets.org](mailto:jdjordan@cotsforvets.org).

Glenwood Autism and Behavioral Health Center. 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. Bring gloves and trowels.** Directions are as follows: If traveling north on I-459 take the Liberty Park exit #23 and turn right off of the exit ramp. If traveling south on I-459 take the Liberty Park exit #23 and turn left off of the exit ramp. At the light turn right (Do not take the hard right onto Overton Road). Follow Liberty Parkway through Liberty Park (corporate and residential sections) past the elementary school, out of the subdivision. At the stop sign, turn left onto Sicard Hollow Road. Travel approximately ¼ mile. Glenwood is the 2nd driveway on the right. Go through the iron gates, continue straight ahead a short distance and turn right at a sign reading Adult Day Center. There will be a chapel at the turn. The road ends at the Day Center. The greenhouse is to right of the building and towards the back. We will meet at the greenhouse.

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Plant Sales:

Aldridge Botanical Gardens:

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, Old Food World location, Hwy. 31, Vestavia.

Ruffner Mountain Nature Center:

April 9, Native Plant Sale, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. First-ever native plant sale in partnership with Arnie Rutkis (Stoneshovel). Information booth hosted by local native plant experts, and guided wildflowers hikes and tours of landscape restoration project, fern glade and rain garden.

April 9 “Let me tell ya about the Birds and Bees with Greg Harber & Sallie Lee”, 10:00 a.m. – Noon, BBG. What would happen if chocolate was on a food “endangered” list? How about peaches, watermelon, or blueberries? How big an impact would there be if pollinators were out of business? This session will look at pollinators, the challenges they face, and what we can do to support their existence. This program is for gardeners, nature lovers, “foodies,” and anyone else interested in developing deeper knowledge about the birds, bees, flowers, and trees and their relationship with each other. Cost: \$10 members/\$15 non-members. Find more information and register online at <http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>

April 15 – 16 Antiques in the Garden, 9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m., Petals from the Past. View crafts and antiques in a beautiful setting of roses and spring flowers. For more information visit <http://www.petalsfromthepast.com> or call 205-646-0069.

April 21 – May 26 (Six Thursdays) Birding By Ear, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. BBG. The “unfair advantage” in birding is the ability to locate and identify birds by their vocalizations. Learn to distinguish the songs, calls, and even some alarm notes of a wide variety of bird species through this class. Weekly class sessions will highlight song “families” and teach you to recognize the individual species’ songs within those groups. Expect multiple field trips to locate birds and practice the techniques taught in the class. Cost: \$150. Find more information and register online at <http://www.bbgardens.org/adult.php>

April 21 Lunch and Learn: “Orchids Like Whoopee in the Morning,” 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Aldridge Gardens. Discover why orchids like “whoopee” in the morning and how you can be successful growing your own orchid for re-blooming for many years of enjoyment. In this seminar Phyllis and Earl Bailey, Owners, ORCHIDbabies, LLC of Brierfield, AL who for 10 years have hybridized and grown orchids from seed, will teach you what you need to know. Class members who register by April 20 will have the opportunity after class to purchase a blooming orchid from the Bailey's ORCHIDbabies, LLC nursery collection. Cost: Members \$11/Non-Members \$15 (Optional \$7.50 for box lunch) For more information, contact Audrey Ann Wilson, Aldridge aaw@bellsouth.net, (205) 682-8019 ext. 3.