

## President's Message. . .

As we come to the half way mark of the year, the accountant in me surfaced. I took a look at the reported year to date volunteer hours for 2011 and compared them to the total for 2010. Here's what I found:

	2011*	2010
Volunteer hours	5,388.70	12,707.28
Total CEU's	508.25	2,075.00
Total Volunteers	153	153

\*through 05/25/11

I have a feeling hours, both volunteer and CEU's, have not been reported. I encourage each of you to report those hours. If you need assistance, I have members who have offered to enter your hours for you. Contact me and I will match you up. Remember, lump sum hours will not be accepted this year. Only electronically reported hours will be counted.

On another subject – if you have not signed up for a committee for the 2012 State Conference, please do so today. It is our goal to make this the best Master Gardener's Conference ever and we need everyone's help. Hope to see you at the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Bring a friend and snacks!

*Glenda*

Glenda Dicks  
[gmdicks@bellsouth.net](mailto:gmdicks@bellsouth.net)  
205.620.0758

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

Jan Meeting – Meeting Cancelled

Feb Meeting – Stars Award : 1 hour volunteer time if you brought food for the luncheon.

March Meeting - CEU 1 – Tony's Presentation

Spencer Lecture - CEU 1

April Meeting – CEU 1 -- John Manion

May Meetin — No CEUs

## June Master Gardener Meetings

June 14, 2011

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Hospitality – 9:30 a.m.

Plant Swap – 10:00 a.m.

Dr. J. Michael Wyss will be with us on June 14 to discuss "Kudzu...Alabama's New Cash Crop?" Don't miss his report on possible medical applications of by-products of this evil, aggressive invasive. A world-known research scientist, Dr. Wyss is a long time faculty member at UAB. We are delighted that he was able to reschedule after our January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Our June door prize will be donated by Charlie Thigpen's Garden Gallery.

Many thanks to Libby Rich's Plant Odyssey for our May door prize and special thanks to Linda Emerson for her usual award-worthy performance at our annual plant swap.

June 21, 2011

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

6:00—8:00 p.m.

Gary Gray will present an evening program from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on "My Favorite Fruits, Vegetables and Drip Irrigation." Join us in welcoming the newest addition to our extension team.

Don't miss Wendy Ulrich's presentation on "Herbal Vinegars and Butters" at our regular meeting on July 12.



# Conference Update

## June Gardener's Calendar

Greetings from Kenya and hope all is well in Birmingham area. The trip is going really well and we are about half finished with the work that we came to do. We have taken a few days off and are presently in Mombasa, on the Indian Ocean.

The flora and surrounds are very nice and I have taken very many pictures that I will share as soon as I can find a cable to connect the camera to the web book. My laptop died so I am using Nancy's web book and it does not have a secure digital card reader.

Thanks for the support that you have given the different committees for the conference in 2012. We will need more volunteers for some of the committees as we get closer to the actual time of the conference. One thing that everyone can do now is identify and ask for possible vendors or acquire items for the silent auction that we will have. We would like nice items that you would like to have and you would be proud to display and use.

Committees should have gotten budgets in to Roger Clarke. Thanks to those who have sent Roger their committee budgets.

- Harold Deason  
2012 Conference Chair

## HELP WANTED

for

### 2012 Master Gardener's Conference Silent Auction

If you know of a business that might be willing to donate an item(s) for the State Conference's Silent Auction, please send me their name, company name, address, phone number. The Silent Auction Committee will make the contact. Or better yet, offer to join the Silent Auction Committee. The Silent Auction is one opportunity for us to MAKE money.

-Glenda Dicks  
gmdicks@bellsouth.net  
620-0758

**FRUITS AND NUTS**--Layer grapes and continue spray programs. Thin apples and peaches if too thick.

**SHRUBS**--Lace bugs may be a problem on azaleas, pyracanthas, dogwoods, cherry laurels, and others shrubs. Water as needed. Fertilize now. Keep long shoots from developing by pinching out tips. Good time to take cuttings from semi-mature wood for rooting.

**LAWNS**--Follow a schedule of fertilization and watering. Lawns should be mowed weekly. Planting may continue if soil is moist. Continue weed spraying if necessary.

**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS**--Keep old flowerheads removed to promote continued flowering. Plant garden mums if not already in. For compact mums, keep tips pinched out. Watch for insects and diseases.

**BULBS**--Foliage may be removed from spring bulbs if it has yellowed and is becoming dry. Watch for aphids and thrips on summer bulbs.

**MISCELLANEOUS**--If scale insects continue on shrubs, use materials other than oils. Set houseplants on porch or outdoors in shade and pay close attention to the need for water. If desired, air layer houseplants.

**VEGETABLE SEED**--Plant beans, field peas, pumpkins, squash, corn, cantaloupes, and Watermelons.

**VEGETABLE PLANTS**--Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potato vine cuttings.

# Jefferson County Master Gardener Association

## May, 2011

The JCMGA met at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. President Glenda Dicks opened our meeting and welcomed everyone.

The Minutes and the Treasurer's Report were approved as printed in the April *Roots and Shoots*.

Sallie Lee, our ACES Extension Agent, announced that on May 19<sup>th</sup> a workshop will be held at the North Shelby Library on raising "Back Yard Chickens." The cost is \$5.00 per person and everyone is invited to attend.

Nora O'Connor announced the Alabama Hydrangea Society Symposium is being held on June 8<sup>th</sup> at Aldridge Gardens. Featured speaker is Erica Glasener. The charge for the Symposium is \$60.00 and registration forms are available today.

Wayne Boldin announced there were several tropical plants left over from the BBG Spring Plant Sale. He has these available today for sale at the marked down price from the sale.

Glenda Dicks reminded everyone that their JCMGA dues need to be paid in order to continue receiving JCMGA *Roots and Shoots*. Also, membership cards are available today for those who have already paid their dues.

Linda Grissom won the door prize donated by Libby Rich.

Fletcher Harvey noted that the Lunch and Learn on June 7<sup>th</sup> at Aldridge Gardens will feature Betsy Fleenot as the speaker.

Dianne Brannon, coordinator of the project at Glenwood Autism Center, thanked everyone for their help. She stated that the next workday will appear in the June *Roots and Shoots*.

Harold Deason announced that the 2012 AMGA Conference Steering Committee will meet immediately following our JCMGA meeting today.

There being no further business, Glenda Dicks adjourned our business meeting and turned the program over to our Vice President, Fletcher Harvey. Fletcher then introduced Linda Emerson who is leading our plant swap today. As always, Linda did a wonderful job identifying each plant including growing habits. Many plants were swapped and several plants were available for give away.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anne Thomas, Secretary  
Jefferson County Master Gardener Association

### May Treasurer's Report

Submitted by *Roger Clarke*, Treasurer

Beginning balance	\$13,891.92
Receipts	\$1,551.00
Disbursements	\$777.98
Ending balance May 26, 2011	\$14,664.94



You can bury a lot of troubles  
digging in the dirt.

—Author Unknown



How much water can a rain barrel collect?

For a rough estimate:  
From 1 square foot of roof, in a 1-inch rainfall you'll get 0.62 gallons of water.  
From a 1,000 square foot roof, in a 1-inch rainfall you'll get 620

gallons water.

Average rainfall in Alabama is 52-inches per year. That means that a 2,000 square foot roof could yield 64,480 gallons in an average year.

*Source: Alabama Rain Catchers*

Interested in finding more information about rain barrels and cisterns? Here are some additional sources:

<http://www.aces.edu/waterquality/raincatchers/manual/barrel.html>

<http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1359/ANR-1359.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1359/ANR-1359.pdf>

<http://www.harvestingrainwater.com/rainwater-harvesting-inforesources/>

## “Botanically Speaking”

John Manion, curator of the BBG's Kaul Wildflower Garden, invites all MGs to check out “Botanically Speaking,” for news about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities in the KWG. Check it out at: <http://bbgardens.org/BotanicallySpeaking.php>

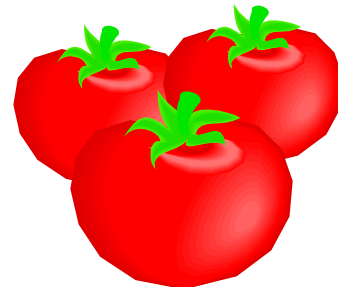
## Rain Barrel Workshop Planned for July

How can you capture rain water runoff from your house or garage for use in your garden or landscape?

Extension is partnering with Friends of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens to conduct a “Beyond Rain Barrels” workshop on July 9, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. – Noon at the BBG. The workshop will also demonstrate how to create a rain garden to enhance your landscape and capture excess amounts of rain water. Workshop fees will be tiered, per level of participation: \$10 - take home information; \$20 - take home information, list of parts and a barrel to build at your leisure; \$50 - build a barrel in class and take it home same day.

For additional information or to register for the workshop, contact Sallie Lee at [leesall@aces.edu](mailto:leesall@aces.edu) or call 879-6964/ext. 11. Deadline for registration is July 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Fifth Annual Great Tomato Festival and Contest



Tomato bragging rights will be up for grabs when Petals from the Past Nursery, located in Jemison, Alabama presents its Fifth Tomato Festival and Contest on July 9th. Participants can enter tomatoes in five categories, including: Roma or Plum, Cherry or Pear,, Hybrid or Slicing, and Heirloom (non-hybrid.) For more information and a contest entry form: <http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>.



Thanks to all the Master Gardeners who have volunteered their time or contributed plants to the garden at Glenwood Autism and Behavioral Health Center. Glenwood is a nonprofit agency dedicated to serving children, teens, adults and families affected by autism and mental health disorders. Among the goals for the project are: designing and installing a Sensory Garden, providing assistance to start and maintain a vegetable garden, and developing greenhouse projects for therapeutic and fundraising projects. For more information, act Dianne Brannon at 967-6636 or [dbrannon3553@charter.net](mailto:dbrannon3553@charter.net).



## Glenwood Autism and Behavioral Health Center Gardening Project



# Volunteer Opportunities

**Alabama Master Gardener Association 2012 Conference** volunteers needed. Jefferson County Master Gardener Association will host the 2012 Alabama Master Gardener Association Conference. To be held 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 [amg2012cvols@att.net](mailto:amg2012cvols@att.net) and request a volunteer application.

**Grapes, Grains, & Gardens: Thursday, June 9** - Wine, Beer & Food Pairing Class hosted by The Gardens' adult education program needs 20 volunteers to assist in set-up, wine & food serving, and clean-up. Volunteers receive complimentary food & beverage tastings! Preferred shift is 5 PM- 9 PM (shorter shifts may be arranged). Contact Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or [mgrant@bbgardens.org](mailto:mgrant@bbgardens.org).

**Birmingham Botanical Gardens Library:** Volunteers are needed for shifts every third Saturday (10 a.m.—1 p.m. and every fourth Sunday (2—5 p.m..)) Contact Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or [mgrant@bbgardens.org](mailto:mgrant@bbgardens.org).

- **Native Plants Group Volunteers:** Meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m., this group works to produce the thousands of native plants sold at the BBG plant sales. Sessions usually last from 1 ½ to 2 hours. Meets in the "potting shed" located immediately behind the Conservatory. Duties change throughout the year, with seed starting, taking cuttings, potting up seedlings and nursery-bought "plugs" and maintaining the plants. Other duties include data entry of records, participation in the plant sales, and use of organizational skills. Please wear clothes that are comfortable and that you don't mind getting dirty. The potting shed tends to be hot in the summer and cool in the winter, so dress accordingly. Volunteers need to be reasonably physically fit to work with this group. Contact Mary-Bestor Grant at 414-3962 or [mgrant@bbgardens.org](mailto:mgrant@bbgardens.org)

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## Mark Your Calendar

**June 12** Birmingham Area Daylily Show. 1-3 p.m. Ruth B. Strange Auditorium at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Free and open to the public.

**June 15** Birmingham Fern Society's 35 Annual Fern Show and Sale. 1-5 p.m. Ruth B. Strange Auditorium at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Free and open to the public. For more information, call Ginny Lusk at 988-0299.

**June 18** Black and Blue Berry Festival. 9 a.m.—5 p.m. Petals from the Past. Activities include live music with the Whistlestop Combo from 10 a.m.—Noon; pony rides and a petting zoo from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. and informational talks on growing blackberries and blueberries by Dr. Arlie Powell at 10 a.m. and Noon. Fee for the talks is \$3.00. Southern Sweets will be serving lunch from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. in the Barn. Hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as a taste of black and blueberry desserts will be available. For more information call 646-0069 or <http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>

**June 22** Lunch and Learn: Eddie Aldridge's Hydrangea Propagation Workshop. 10—11:30 a.m. Aldridge Botanical Gardens' Pavilion. Aldridge will teach the basic principles and techniques of propagating hydrangeas from seed and cuttings. He will have different species of hydrangeas on display, but will focus mainly on natives. Pot up your own hydrangea cutting to take home. Cost: \$12 members/\$15 non-members with optional \$7.50 box lunch. Class size limited. Pre-registration is suggested. To register, [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com) or call 205-682-8019/X3.