Nominees for the 2026 Board of Directors



Beverly VonDer Pool – Nominee for Vice President

I have loved gardens and plants since I was a child. As an adult my relaxation from medicine has been designing and maintaining my home gardens. After my retirement in January 2023 from UAB Family Medicine, I began the JeffersonCounty Master Gardener's Program. Since then, I have volunteered at Jones Valley Farm, BBG, and several other sites.

Soon after arriving in Birmingham in 1992, I fell in love with orchids after a patient gave me a gift of a miniature phalenopsis orchid. Over 30 years I have been actively involved with the Alabama Orchid Society(ALOS).. I have held roles as active volunteer repotting orchids, President, Vice President, Alabama Orchid Society Show Chair, and co-chair.

With long Covid, I turned over my extensive responsibilities to others in the ALSO. I am now ready to accept the vice president nomination with help from colleagues and friends I have made at JCMGA.



Nelda Creel – Nominee for Member-at-Large

I completed the Master Gardener course in 2021. I had retired from a career in accounting in 2020, most recently managing the Operational Accounting Department at Sirote and Permutt (now Sirote Dentons). The Master Gardener course was a welcome change and a chance to advance in my life long love of gardening. I was introduced to the volunteer group called Herb Army through volunteer information provided through the Master Gardener course and it was a perfect fit. I have enjoyed the work we do propagating plants for the Spring and Fall plant sales, meeting fellow gardeners at the sales, and the friends I have made in the herb group.



Elizabeth Elliott Nominee for Member-at-Large

After 35 years in outside sales, I attended the master Gardeners class in 2024 to pursue my love of gardening.

I led the first summer children's tours of the BBG teaching the PTL educational materials before the BBG took over the tours for local school children.

I have volunteered with Grace Klein,Lovelady Rooftop Garden, Jones Valley Teaching Farm, Miss Sims' Garden, and manned Master Gardener booths at various local farmers markets.

My true love is being an avid gardener, seed saver and enjoy sharing my knowledge of plants and pollinators with neighbors, friends and fellow gardeners.

I presently serve on the Hospitality Committee and look forward to representing the Member At Large position in assisting Beverly VonDer Pool.