

## President's Message

As I advance in age my enthusiasm for backyard gardening is beginning to wane, while my passion for helping people continues to grow. And community service programs through Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association are high on my list for opportunities to serve.

This year I volunteered to serve in the UAB/ACES Harvest for Health study of how vegetable gardening impacts the body, mind, and spirit of cancer survivors. This is an exciting five-year study that will surely return a progressively positive outcome.

The Harvest for Health study is one of many opportunities to give back to our communities. Master gardeners, though not always in the spotlight, are actively serving their communities in various ways. I think of them as "Hidden Heroes", and to all I say, "Thank you!!"

The year 2019 has been another stellar year for master gardeners. We have enjoyed great fellowship at our monthly meetings and the monthly programs have been outstanding learning experiences.

Lastly, it's Fall, it's hot, the ground is dry, and my 2019 garden has become a disaster. But I will not despair. Instead, I am encouraged by Winston Churchill's words of wisdom: "*Success in not final and failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts*".

It will rain again. It always has...

Happy Fall.

*Charlie Faulkner*  
President

## JCMGA Program Notes

### Tuesday, October 8

Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
9:00am Social Hour  
10:00am Program  
Annual Business Meeting

#### *Explore the world of Herbs*

with Phyllis D. Light

Phyllis D. Light has studied and worked with herbs, foods, and other healing techniques for over 30 years. Her studies in Traditional Southern and Appalachian Folk Medicine began in the deep woods of North Alabama.

#### *Coming in November*

### Tuesday, November 19

Birmingham Botanical Gardens 6PM  
**Banquet & Intern Graduation**  
*With Verna Gates*  
*Wildflower Folklore*

Come celebrate the Intern Graduation and meet the new board for 2020. Tickets for the banquet are \$20 apiece. For more information go to the [Dues and Banquet page](#).

### Master Gardener Meetings

#### CEU Hours for 2019

|                     |                  |          |
|---------------------|------------------|----------|
| <b>January 8</b>    | Stephen Knop     |          |
|                     | Renee Thompson   | 1.25 CEU |
| <b>March 12</b>     | Bethany O'Rear   | 1 CEU    |
| <b>April 9</b>      | Intern projects  | 1 CEU    |
| <b>May 14</b>       | Plant Swap       | 1 CEU    |
| <b>June 11</b>      | Lindsey Barclift | 1 CEU    |
| <b>June 18</b>      | June Mays        | 1 CEU    |
| <b>July 9</b>       | Jason Powell     | 2 CEU    |
| <b>August 13</b>    | Peggy Hill       | 1 CEU    |
| <b>September 10</b> | Arnold Caylor    | 1.5 CEU  |

## Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association Meeting Minutes September 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Charles Faulkner at 10:00am. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as published in the September “Roots & Shoots”. If there are questions about the Treasurer’s Report, as published, please contact Kate Musso.

**Hope Cooper reported for Gail Pless concerning the Nominating Committee.** Gail, Ann Gray Harvey, and Hope Cooper have agreed to serve. Volunteers from the floor were requested. Linda Massey and Charlene Chadband volunteered.

**Hope Cooper also reported for Gail Pless regarding grants.** Grants (forms are available online) are available for community gardens and intern projects. The grant amounts are from \$500 to \$2000. There also are specific grants available for raised bed kits at \$250 each. Requests must be submitted by October 1, 2019.

**Martha Picardy of the Hospitality Committee** requested flowers for the Reunion Cocktail Party. Please bring the flowers to the Gardens by 10:00am on Monday, September 16. Linda Systrom reminded everyone to RSVP for the party. A head count is needed for food preparation.

**Bethany O’Rear** announced that Advanced Master Gardener classes/certification will be offered with training focusing on a field of your choice. Bethany also asked for suggestions for Intern Projects for the coming year. Mentors also are needed.

**The Gerlach Help Line** here in Jefferson County is the only one that operates twelve months out of the year and volunteers are needed. There will be a training class after our October meeting. Please consider volunteering.

Our meeting adjourned. Arnold Caylor presented a program on “Tasty Tomatoes”.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Hope I. Cooper, Secretary*

| <b>JEFFERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION<br/>FINANCIAL REPORT<br/>September 2019</b> |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Regions Checking Account Starting Balance 9/1/19</b>                                      | <b>\$4723.84</b>   |
| <b>Deposits</b>  | <b>\$477.00</b>    |
| Dues (\$340)   |                    |
| Banquet tickets (\$120)  |                    |
| Cash box (\$17)  |                    |
| <b>Expenditures</b>  | <b>(\$515.88)</b>  |
| September party expenses (\$418.88)  |                    |
| Honorarium (\$75)  |                    |
| Door prizes (\$22)   |                    |
| <b>Regions Checking Account Ending Balance 9/30/19</b>                                       | <b>\$4736.38*</b>  |
| *Balance reflects \$30 uncleared item originating in 2017                                    |                    |
| <b>Regions MM Account Reserve Balance 9/30/19</b>  | <b>\$13,039.61</b> |
| (No transactions in this period except accrued interest)                                     |                    |
| <b>Regions MM Account Grant Balance 9/30/19</b>  | <b>\$10,786.71</b> |
| (No transactions in this period except accrued interest)                                     |                    |

## Bethany's Extras

### *The Arc of Central Alabama*

It's so gratifying to see a Master Gardener intern project thriving several months after completion. To me that means the project was well-executed by the interns, their Master



Gardener mentor gave helpful guidance, and the project recipient valued their work and makes an effort to maintain it. I visited The Arc last week to discuss future projects which benefit people with intellectual and development disabilities and saw **raised beds full of herbs**, pollinator plants, and the last of summer's harvest. Better yet, there was a **Jefferson County Master Gardener sign** prominently displayed. We're finalizing a roster of group projects for next year's

intern class so please let me know if you have any thoughts.

### *The Lovelady Center*

Master Gardener work at The Lovelady Center, a residential recovery center for women, continues to expand. The raised bed rooftop garden was launched on April 20<sup>th</sup> and one of the first improvements after planting was installation of a drip irrigation system, provided by a generous board member. As you would expect, the rooftop is in full sun and with no measurable rain since the second week in August, all of the crops would long be gone without daily irrigation. Instead, the gardening class members continue to pick almost daily and log their harvest after weighing. Cherry tomatoes, round Italian squash, okra, beans, and an assortment of herbs appear on the roster. In addition, class members



have learned to collect flower seeds from beds of zinnias, sunflowers, coneflowers and Black-eyed Susan. Tomato transplants which were planted in mid-July are now setting fruit and this week class members potted up and transplanted well-rooted rosemary cuttings they propagated in early August. Transplants were moved to a dedicated herb garden bed filled with **top quality soil donated by Scott's through a grant from the Cawaco Resource, Conservation & Development**

**Council.**

***Integrated Pest Management and Pollinators***

Pollinators such as bees and butterflies are important assets to a productive garden. When



I first saw the rooftop garden space at *The Lovelady Center* in late winter, I worried that the concrete parking deck, four stories above ground, would be too desolate to support vegetable crops. By late May, however, all of the zinnias, sunflowers, Russian Sage and coneflowers had worked their magic and the garden was full of bees, butterflies, dragonflies and well, just, flies. With that as a demonstration classroom, it was easy to teach the

principles of ***Integrated Pest Management (IPM)***. IPM can reduce, but not entirely eliminate, pests through a variety of control methods. First, plant pest-resistant varieties and make sure to rotate crops each growing season to reduce the soil-borne diseases and insects which are specific to a particular plant family. Use mechanical pest controls such



as row covers and traps. Use companion plants, which can either repel pests or fall on the proverbial sword as a sacrifice target for more valuable vegetables. Pesticides are the last step in IPM and are used discreetly and strictly by instruction so as to avoid impacting pollinator populations. Simply choosing the right time of day to apply (and avoid pollinators while they're out doing their work) can make all the difference. One of the best

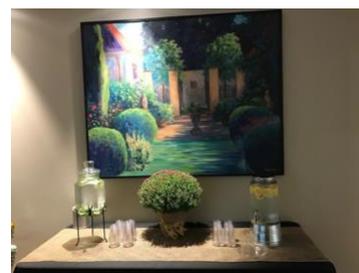
things about IPM is that it requires the gardener to be observant and to know the daily conditions of the garden and its visitors but, to me, that's the pleasure of a garden.

**Calling all potential, current and former GPIC volunteers!!  
We need your help!!**

**Mark your calendar for Thursday, 10/17, from 9-11 in the East Room.**

As many of you know, Gerlach Plant Information Center is the name that we have affectionately given the Master Gardener Helpline housed on the first floor of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. If you have ever thought about working the help line or have worked in the past and want a refresher, have we got the class for you! We will be hosting a refresher course for all interested MG volunteers. Also, if you currently work in GPIC, please join us. Your input is vital to this training. I apologize that I could not schedule this training to follow the October monthly meeting. I just could not make it work on my end. Please RSVP to Bethany ([bethany@aces.edu](mailto:bethany@aces.edu)) so we will know how many plan to attend.

## Master Gardener Reunion Cocktail Party September 17, 2019



### VODKA, LIME, ROSEMARY, AND MINT - WITH SPARKLING WINE

**2 parts simple syrup (made with rosemary and mint and lime zest)**

**1-part lime juice (to save time for large group I just used limeade but I think the fresh lime juice is better)**

**1-part vodka**

- Put ice in the glass... muddle mint and rosemary over ice
- Add simple syrup, lime, vodka and stir (I guess all this could be done in a cocktail shaker)
- Pour sparkling wine on top to fill glass

**Simple syrup** - dissolve 1 cup sugar in 1 cup water with heating - add rosemary, mint and lime zest from 1 lime to the warm mixture. After it cools put in the refrigerator at least overnight. Before making cocktail strain simple syrup mixture

### WATER CHESTNUTS WITH BACON

**1-pound bacon, cut in half**

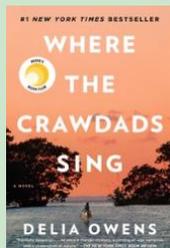
**2 (8oz) cans whole water chestnuts (found recently at Winn-Dixie)**

Wrap bacon around chestnut and secure with a toothpick. Place on grille pan so fat can drain and bake 45 min in a 350C oven. When finished and cooled, move chestnut-bacon pieces to a 9 X 13 casserole dish. Mix up following sauce and cover all pieces well: **1 cup brown sugar 1 cup Miracle Whip (do not substitute), 1/2 cup Heinz chili sauce**. Bake at 350C for 20 min. Shake off excess sauce as you move to a serving plate. Serve while warm.

## Thyme to Read Book Club

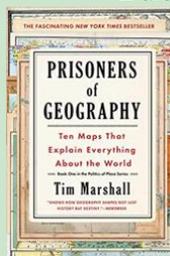
The Library  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**Tuesday, November 5**



Where the Crawdads Sing  
by *Delia Owens*

**Tuesday, December 3**



Prisoners of Geography:  
Ten Maps That Explain  
Everything About the World  
by *Tim Marshall*

*No registration required*  
For more information contact *Hope Long*,  
Library Director, at 205-414-3931 or  
[hlong@bbgardens.org](mailto:hlong@bbgardens.org)

## Membership Dues

Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association annual dues are \$35. Dues are payable by January 1st and are delinquent after January 31. You can pay by credit card (PayPal) online at the JCMGA website [Dues and Banquet page](#). Dues are also payable by check (payable to “JCMGA”) mailed to:

Kate Musso, JCMGA Treasurer  
c/o Alabama Cooperative Extension  
System  
C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture &  
Environmental Center  
2612 Lane Park Road  
Birmingham, AL 35223

Or drop it off with Kate’s name on the envelope at the ACES office upstairs at BBG.  
Or pay in person at the October 8th meeting.

## ? Do You Know Someone Who Would Like to be a Master Gardener ?

Applications are now being accepted for the Master Gardener Intern Class that will begin in January 2020.

Classes are held every Thursday (8:30 - 2:30), beginning the second week in January and wrapping up the second week in April.

You can fill out the application [online](#) by clicking on the link and then scrolling down the page that comes up until you see the application. Please note that if you find the online application unavailable, or if you would rather fill out a paper copy, you can pick up an application at the Extension’s Office at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, fill it out and drop it off or mail it to Annette Drummond at:

Alabama Cooperative Extension Office  
C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture & Environmental Center  
2612 Lane Park Road  
Birmingham, AL. 35223

For questions, please call Annette at (205) 879-6964 x10 or email [Bethany O’Rear](#)  
Please note that if you are using the online application, our website is listed incorrectly. There is no “www”. It is just [jeffcomg.org](http://jeffcomg.org).

## Classes at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Register at <https://www.bbgardens.org/>

### Essentially Seasonal Design Series Pt IV

#### Essentially Seasonal | Fall: Transition

Instructor: Holly Carlisle

**Sunday, November 3 | 2-5 p.m.**

Single class—Members: \$185 | Non-Members: \$200

A seasonally focused floristry demonstration, workshop, and discussion series led by the Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Holly Carlisle of [Rosegolden](#) in the spirit of local floristry legend Beth McReynolds and her iconic "Birmingham Style." The classes will focus first on how to approach designing with a seasonally specific concept. Holly will demonstrate, then participants will get to create their own arrangements with Holly's guidance. All materials will be provided. To see more of Holly's work, click [here](#). **Fall: Transition** Embrace change as you learn how to prominently feature fall's transitioning foliage as nature enters its fully ripened state and begins the descent into dormancy. Create a structural arrangement using woody materials as identified during a walk through the Southern Living and McReynolds Gardens. These will be built in a vessel prepared with a flower frog and chicken wire.

### Saturdays in the Gardens

#### December: Care for Tools!

Led by Friends Staff and Bog Garden Volunteers

**Saturday, December 21, 2019 | 9 a.m. –Noon**

Orientation Room (near the entrance to the Gardens)

General Admission | \$10

Join the Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Saturdays in The Gardens! John Nabors, Executive Director of the Alabama Green Industry Training Center and Green Industry Training Coordinator for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, will cover the proper way to care for your garden tools and ensure they work their best season after season. Participants will work with experts to prepare tools for winter storage. Participants may bring some of their own tools or practice their skills with the Gardens' tools.

## 2019 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series

Please join these last two webinars for information you can use about good and bad insects. Webinars are on the first Friday of each month at 1 p.m. Central time. Click on the title for more information.

This very informative webinar series is a good way to add CEU's. Each webinar is worth 1 CEU. You can go back to view topics any time after they have aired.

November 1

[Spiders Commonly Found in Houses](#)

Presented by [Vicky Bertagnolli, Clemson Extension](#)

December 6

[Reintroduction of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker](#)

Presented by Mark Pavlosky Jr., MPJ Wildlife Consulting, LLC



**Mary Katherine Connolly**  
**October 8, 1956 - August 31, 2019**

Kathy Connolly was an active member of the Glen Iris Neighborhood, a poll worker at the Glen Iris Elementary Precinct, a Master Gardener and among other activities, a truly active volunteer for the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (Tiffany's Garden Group, whose motto is "Have Shovel Will Travel"), not to mention a member of the Fern Society, and an officer for the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association. She died on August 31 after a battle with bile duct cancer.

Kathy's family wrote in her obituary that "donations could be made to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens". Many of us who worked with her at the Gardens would very much like to see something significant and permanent in her memory.

After several discussions, there are two options, and the choice is yours:

- A scholarship to the Master Gardener Program, or
- A bench in the Rhododendron Garden, overlooking the Curry Pool, one of Kathy's favorite places
- ...or...both.

If you are so inclined to remember this very special redhead, write a check to the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association (Scholarship) or to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens with a *written notation "Kathy Connolly Bench"*. Either check should be mailed to the BBG, 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, AL 35223. The JCMGA and the BBG will let the family know about your donations.

Bethany has said that a scholarship should not be 'in full', because people need to have a financial stake in what they are undertaking...so...know that you can help someone afford the cost of a Master Gardener class, but they will also have to be invested in both time and funds.

As an FYI - Benches in the BBG are specified and the cost (which includes an engraved marker) is \$2,500. Please give to either.

Kathy's birthday was October 8. It would be wonderful if by that date, the Gardens and/or the JCMGA could notify her family about donations made in her name.

*Hope Cooper*

[https://www.timesdaily.com/obituaries/mary-katherine-connolly/article\\_69994900-00ac-56cc-8aeb-cb7e5a60dbbe.html?fbclid=IwAR1rHAXyathgM30AoyynR2CI90R835fGnBRwpVf1IVZOZeB89KwwHH1HyOg](https://www.timesdaily.com/obituaries/mary-katherine-connolly/article_69994900-00ac-56cc-8aeb-cb7e5a60dbbe.html?fbclid=IwAR1rHAXyathgM30AoyynR2CI90R835fGnBRwpVf1IVZOZeB89KwwHH1HyOg)

**Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association  
Officers, Board Members, and Committees 2019**

|                           |                  |                                     |                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>          | Charles Faulkner | <b>Webmaster &amp; Social Media</b> | Diane Remick                       |
| <b>1st Vice President</b> | Carol Melton     | <b>Newsletter Editor</b>            | Kathy Rostand                      |
| <b>2nd Vice President</b> | Mary Foy         |                                     |                                    |
| <b>Treasurer</b>          | Kate Musso       | <b>ACES</b>                         | Bethany O’Rear                     |
| <b>Asst. Treasurer</b>    | Rick Cybulsky    | <b>Hospitality</b>                  | Maurice & Martha Picardy           |
| <b>Secretary</b>          | Hope Cooper      | <b>Membership</b>                   | Ken & Alicia Hall<br>Linda Systrom |



**JEFFERSON COUNTY**  
*Master Gardeners*

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